EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LEGAL DEPOSIT LAW IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL COLLECTION IN KENYA

By

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ABSTRACT

In many countries legal deposit law plays an important role in the development of the national collection. Although Kenya has a legal deposit law, it has not been effective. No empirical study has been conducted to determine the extent to which the law has contributed to the development of the national collection.

Therefore, the aim of this study was to evaluate the legal deposit law in Kenya to ascertain the extent to which it has contributed to the development of the national collection.

The objectives of the study were to: analyze the legal deposit law and its administration in Kenya; evaluate the state of the legal deposit collections in the recipient institutions; determine the level of awareness about legal deposit law among depositors and the recipient institutions; ascertain the level of compliance with the law by producers of information materials; and propose solutions to improve the legal deposit law in Kenya.

The theoretical framework of the study was based on Ranganathan’s Five Laws of Library Science which state that; books are for use, every reader his/her book, every book its reader, save time of the reader and the library is a growing organism. Survey research method was adopted. The study population included publishers, recipient institutions and the Office of the Registrar of Books and Newspapers. Non-probability sampling method was used through the purposive sampling technique. The study was based in Nairobi. The respondents selected comprised 33% of the study population. Interviews were the main data collection method. Face-to-face interviews were employed with the aid of semi-structured interview schedules. In addition, documentary analysis was used to collect data from relevant documentary sources. Data collected was analysed using various qualitative techniques and presented in tables, descriptions and percentages.

It was found that the legal deposit law in Kenya was ineffective. Among the reasons cited were: poor administration and enforcement of the law; lack of awareness of the benefits of the law; various other limitations in the law that do not facilitate comprehensive collection of publications.

The study recommended, among others, the enactment of a new legal deposit law, the establishment of a national library to administer the law, proper record-keeping, regular evaluation of the law and sensitization efforts.

It is hoped that the findings of the study will be of theoretical and practical significance to information professionals, researchers and policy-makers in the country.