

Abstract

The paper centered on issues and challenges associated with promoting of indigenous language by library and information science professionals. The desk research approach involving extensive review of literatures on indigenous language was adopted. The challenges to promoting of indigenous language include: multiplicity of indigenous language, non-proficiency in indigenous languages, non-documentation of indigenous language and the preference for English language. The way forward for sustainable promotion of indigenous languages highlighted in the paper are: grass root promotion of indigenous language, establishment of centre for Advancement of Indigenous Language in Nigeria. (All V) promotion of books written in indigenous language, translation of literary works to audio content in indigenous language, inclusion of indigenous language as a compulsory course in library schools in Nigeria. The paper concludes that library and information science professional occupy a central position in the promotion of indigenous language in Nigeria.

Keywords: Indigenous Language, Library Professionals, Information Professionals, Nigeria,

people to come to the library to utilize such books. It is important that library and information professionals deployed every marketing strategy to ensure that the indigenous books written in indigenous languages gets to the right users on time.

4. ***Translation of literary works to audio content in indigenous language:*** with the advent of information technology, many youths are more interested in digital information contents (DIC) than the analogue information contents (AIC). In line with this, library and information professionals can take proactive and pragmatic steps in translating literary works written in English to indigenous language either in written form or audio content. The audio content can be easily uploaded in various social media for the people to download to their devices and listen to at their own convenient. According to Benson, Okere & Nwauwa (2016), the school libraries with copyright permission from authors can help in the translation of literary works into our indigenous languages. They further posit that when this is done, the Nigerian child could now have access to such works and read it in the mother tongue.

5. ***Inclusion of indigenous language as a compulsory course in library schools:*** Instead of students taking pain to learn French in library schools, efforts should be made by stakeholders in librarianship such as the National Association of Library and Information Science Education (NALISE) to include Indigenous Language in the curriculum used in teaching the would-be-librarians in the library school. This step would help to reposition library and information science professionals with the fundamental understanding of at least one Nigerian indigenous language. In this way, it becomes easier for them to promote indigenous language.

Conclusion