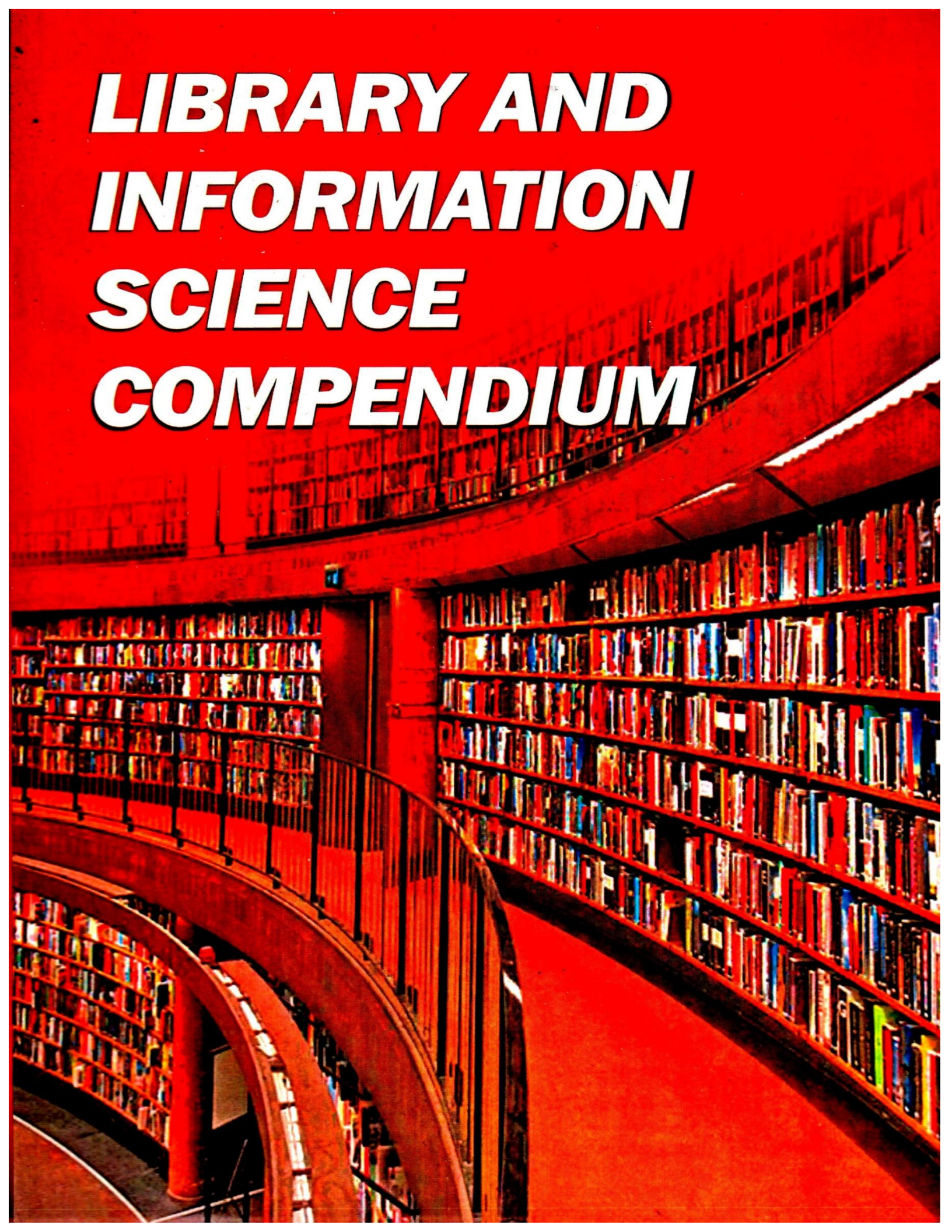


LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE COMPENDIUM



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CHAPTER FOUR

LIBRARIAN'S ROLES IN THE PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHT LAW IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Copyright is one of the laws of intellectual property. Libraries play a key role in educational institutions in many spheres, including protection of copyright. The role of the librarian in the protection of copyright laws is multi-faceted. The librarian has the duty of directing users to have access to copyrighted and public domain works. Copyright is one of two branches of intellectual property law. Copyright protection has become an important instrument in the development process. The higher the level of copyright protection, the greater the encouragement for authors to create. Summarily, copyright law protects creators of information resources while also striking a balance between promoting users' rights and creators' rights. One of the recommendations made in this paper was that the government should ensure that copyright warnings are displayed in conspicuous locations in the library.

KEYWORDS: Roles, Librarians, Protection, Copyright Law and Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Intellectual property should be revered and creators of intellectual property deserve royalty from their efforts. An intellectual property is the brain child of one's original idea and creative thought. Property entails a product born out of one's creativity both in tangible and intangible forms. Tangible property includes books, discs, artwork, designs, and so on, while intangible things are ideas, concepts, discoveries, or expressions. Librarians, as generators and custodians of information and knowledge, select, acquire, organize, preserve, and disseminate information and knowledge resources. Fabunmi (2009) and Jadhav (2012) observe that since the librarian has most of the copyrighted works in his custody, that it is still within his capacity to properly enforce copyright laws in the library. This is worthwhile because it ensures that the rights of creators of information resources are protected and sustained.

Copyright is one of the laws of intellectual property. It is that aspect of the law that deals with the rights of intellectual creators in preventing unauthorized copying or reproduction of literary or artistic works. Jackson (2009) states that the principal purpose of copyright is to protect against the appropriation of the product of another person's literary and artistic work or effort to enable them to have control over certain uses of their creations for a defined period of time. This poses a limit to who may copy, change, present, or share those creations. There is an array of roles which librarians play in the conservation of knowledge and protection of intellectual property, one of which is the protection of copyright laws. This chapter focuses on an overview of copyright laws and the librarian's role in the protection of copyright laws.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (GENERAL THEORIES)/UTILITARIAN THEORY

The design of this study is predicated on the intellectual property (General Theories) theory as reported by Menell (1999) and the Justification for copyright concepts adapted from Wikipedia (2012). This theory surveys and synthesizes the deepening and widening theoretical landscape of intellectual property. The principle of philosophical theory as applied to the protection of utilitarian works—that is, technological inventions which have utilitarianism. Utilitarian theorists, according to Menell (1999), generally endorse the creation of intellectual property rights as an appropriate means to foster innovation. Non-utilitarian theorists emphasize creators' moral rights to control their work.

The theory of intellectual property has not, until recently, attracted much philosophical interest or been the subject of deep controversy. Utilitarian theorists generally endorsed the creation of intellectual property rights as an appropriate means to foster innovation, subject to the caveat that such rights are limited in duration so as to balance the social welfare loss of monopoly exploitation. Non-utilitarian theorists emphasized creators' moral rights to control their work. With the increasing importance of intellectual property in society and the development of particular new technologies, most notably digital technology and the decoding of genetic structure, the theory of intellectual property has attracted heightened interest. Economists and policy analysts have greatly enriched our understanding of the complex relationship between intellectual property protection and innovation, as well as the diffusion of technological advances. Non-utilitarian theories of intellectual property have proliferated in recent years, as philosophers and legal scholars have applied traditional and novel philosophical perspectives to the realm of intellectual property. This article surveys and synthesizes the deepening and widening theoretical landscape of intellectual property. While much of the discussion transcends the law of any particular nation, the statutory and doctrinal examples are drawn principally from the particularities of the United States' intellectual property regimes.

Similarly, Wikipedia (2012) reported that theories of copyright hold that we should have the laws that will produce the 'best' results for society. The most common consequentiality position is utilitarianism, which defines the "best" situations as those in which people are, in total, as happy or fulfilled as possible. Economists' analyses of copyright tend to follow this philosophical approach. Legal scholars often approach copyright in search of a coherent ethical justification for its existence and character. This approach may seem to be backwards—it might make more sense to start with an objective and then examine the law against it, but it is widely practiced. Thus, the

normative or ethical theories that might naively be regarded as tests for copyright law to pass are often called "justifications" for it. Justifications for copyright can generally be approximated into two groups: deontological or consequentiality. Deontological justifications for copyright seek to justify copyright as a matter of right or duty. They seek to assert contrariwise, and consequentiality theories of copyright seek to justify or criticize copyright protection based on the consequences of that protection, by asserting or providing evidence that the protection of copyright produces some desirable effect. Examples of such theories include incentives theories that view intellectual property as a necessary way of incentivizing the creation of new creative works like natural rights, morality, and economic rights.

Many economists believe that, in the absence of intellectual property protections such as copyright and patents, various types of intangible assets would be under-produced, because there would be insufficient incentives for commercial organizations to produce them. From this perspective, the objective of copyright law is primarily to balance the public benefits that can arise from the widespread circulation, use and reuse of a copyright work with the need to provide protection, incentive and reward to the creator or owner of the copyright by granting a limited monopoly to exploit the copyright to that body or individual. Some copyright scholars believe that, regardless of contemporary advances in technology, copyright remains the fundamental way by which authors, sculptors, artists, musicians and others can fund the creation of new works, and that without a significant period of legal protection of their future income, many valuable books and artworks would not be created. They argue that the public interest is best served by repeated extension of copyright terms to encompass multiple generations beyond the copyright holder's life, as this increases the present value of the copyright, encouraging the creation of new works and making additional investments in older works (for example, the restoration of old movies) economically viable. Authors' heirs continue to profit if copyrights are enforced post-death and this provides a substantial incentive for continued fresh work.

Menell's theory (1999) and Wikipedia (2012) aptly applied to this study because they indicated the modern market-driven copyright system which provides authors with independent financing (through royalties). There would be little economic incentive to produce if there was no feasible way to recoup investments in creative time through copyright, and works would have to be motivated by a desire for fame by already affluent authors or those able to obtain patronage (with associated constraints on independence). Proponents of copyright dispute that copyright erodes precepts for creators to be able to build on published expressions, pointing to concepts such as "scenes à faire" and "idea-expression divide." Copyright only protects the artist's expression of his/her work and not the ideas, systems, or factual information conveyed in it. Thus, artists are free to get ideas from copyrighted works.

CONCEPT OF COPYRIGHT

Copyright is one of two branches of intellectual property law. The other branch relates to industrial property, chiefly inventions, trademarks and industrial design. "Copyright is the legal right that protects the owner of an intellectual property from being exploited by violators. The law protects indiscriminate production and distribution of an author's work without express permission of the owners. Cornish (1999) in Onoyeyan (2018) defines copyright as the exclusionary right that the owner

of an intellectual creation has to make copies of his work, including the right to use, production, and exploit it. It is little wonder that warnings are constantly seen as a common feature in book publication:

All right reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher/author.

The labor skills and judgment that an author, artist, or publisher expends in the creation of an original piece of work are protected by copyright law. This exclusive right to control the use of their creations is only valid for a limited period of time. Subject to certain limitations, exceptions and statutory licensing arrangements allowing use and exploitation without the author's consent (Ola, 2014). Copyright covers literary and artistic, musical, and dramatic works. It also covers copyright related rights regimes, broadcast, sound recording, and cinematographic film work. In modern times, the protection is extended to websites and other online content. This means that any original work published online is protected by copyright law. Paul (2008) posits that copyright does not cover ideas and information themselves, but only the form or manner in which they are expressed.

Copyright serves both economic and moral purposes. Economically, copyright encourages creativity and provides a legal regime for recouping investments put into products of creativity by granting the author's exclusive right to control exploitation of those products for a specified period of time with the aim of profiting. It also motivates authors to embark on continuous production of intellectual products. Morally, copyright protects the integrity of the created work by giving the author the right to object to any distortion, mutilation, or other modifications which would be prejudicial to his honour or reputation (Ola, 2014). From this assertion, it could be concluded that the copyright system strives to provide balance between the interest of the author and that of the user. It also strikes a balance between the economic interests of the author and the public appreciation, accessibility, and utility of the expressed idea for the betterment of mankind.

The original content of an author's work is protected by copyright. This gives creators credit for their effort, which is something that is well appreciated by creators. This is to say adequate reference should be made to every work cited. If a work is copied without permission, the copyright is said to be infringed. When this happens, the owner may sue for the amount that should have been paid. Most cases are handled by civil law. A person who infringes on a work that is protected by copyright may be arrested, fined, or imprisoned.

The scope of copyright as highlighted by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO, 1988) includes:

- **The right to copy:** If one creates something artistic, regardless of the medium, only that person holds the copyright to photocopy the work.
- **The right to prepare derivative works:** A derivative work is a movie made from a book or video game based on a popular movie.

- **The right to distribute copies:** This is the right to distribute or market products for public consumption. In the digital world, it includes posting materials on the internet.
- **The right to public performance:** This is when a play is performed publicly. In this light, a copyright owner is entitled to a royalty and control over how the work is performed.
- **The right to public display of works:** If an instructor displays a copy of his painting in an art class, it is treated as fair use. But if it is displayed on a website accessible to the public, the copyright law is binding on public users.
- The right of public performances of sound recording by means of digital audio transformation.

How does one obtain copyright protection? In most countries, copyright protection is automatic, meaning, whenever a work with original content is published, it is automatically protected by copyright law. In other countries, a creator needs to follow the due process of registration. This is because registration proves that the work belongs to a certain author.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF COPYRIGHT LAW IN NIGERIA

Nigeria adopted the English Copyright Act 1911 by virtue of an Order-in-Council under Section 25 of the Act of 1911 of Great Britain. In 1970, Nigeria replaced the English copyright Acts with the Nigerian Copyright Act (Babafemi, 2007). Umaru (2002) observed that the 1970 Act was inadequate as it could not combat the increasing rate of piracy and other copyright infringements, coupled with the need to increase the penal sanctions and provide adequate remedial measures. These gave birth to the amendments of Decree No. 98 of 1988 and the 1992 copyright Act. The primary legislation of the copyright act is now based on the Nigerian Copyright Act Cap. C. 28, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2010, which was initially passed in 1988, amended in 1992 and 1999, and recodified in 2010 (Afegbu, 2017).

Section 1 (1) of the copyright Act, law of the Federation of Nigeria 2010, specifies works eligible for copyright, which include literary works, musical works, artistic works, cinematograph works, sound recordings, and broadcasts. Literary works cover books, novels, poems, plays, references, newspapers, etc. Musical works, for their part, include musical scores in the form of sheet music, broad sheets, or other notation. Artistic works are paintings, drawings, sculptures, maps, etc. The length of protection of copyright in Nigeria is 70 years after the death of the copyright owner, after which the work is open to the public domain, which anyone can make use of without fear of infringement.

WHY IS COPYRIGHT LAW NECESSARY?

Copyright is intended to stimulate creativity and increase the flow of information, intellect, and ideas both within a society and internationally by granting authors authority and protection over their works (Aguolu and Aguolu, 2002). Infringement of copyright has grave consequences for the intellectual and cultural development of the whole nation. It would also be of serious hindrance to national

development, as it would deprive authors from enjoying the dividends of their creation. This would discourage rather than encourage creativity.

Copyright Protection

This entails the length of time that copyright law covers after the lifetime of the creator. Copyright law usually protects the copyright owner beyond their lifetime (Afebu, 2017). The length of copyright protection varies from country to country. In countries like New Zealand and Canada, intellectual property is protected for 50 years after the demise of the author. In other countries, like the United States and the United Kingdom, the protection lasts for 70 years after the death of the author (Afebu, 2017).

The duration of copyright protection in Nigeria depends on the type of work involved. Literary, musical, and artistic works, for instance, have copyright protection which expires 70 years after the demise of the author. Cinematographic films and photographs expire 50 years after the end of the year in which the first recording was made (Onoyeyan, 2018). Accordingly, when the period of copyright protection elapses, the written document, musical composition, book, picture, or other creative work remains in the public domain. This means the copyright is no one's property and anyone is free to copy, use, and change it without having to ask for permission or pay the owner.

Copyright Laws

Copyright entails an author's power under the law to determine who and how his work is used. This implies that usage of an author's work, whether original or in other forms, is unlawful without the permission or authority of the author. Section 6 of the Copyright Act stipulates acts which are exclusively reserved for the copyright owner or anyone he authorizes. The Act reads thus:

reproduce the work in any material form; publish the work; perform the work in public; produce, reproduce, perform or publish any translation of the work; distribute to the public for commercial purposes, copies of the work by way of rental, lease, hire, loan or similar arrangement; broadcast or communicate the work to the public by way of a loudspeaker or any other similar device; make any adaptation of the work; do in relation to a translation or adaptation of the work, any of the acts specified in relation to the work (Copyright Act, Cap 28 LFN, 2004).

According to the Act, only the copyright owner can reproduce a work, publish it, perform it, make a film or record from it for commercial purposes.

Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) state reasons why literary works are covered by copyright laws.

- to grant the author a monopoly right to control the uses of his or her work, including sales to the publisher, for a set period of time
- to guarantee a publisher a monopoly right to print (or arrange to print) and sell a work within national boundaries for a specified period.

- to provide financial compensation to authors (royalties) to reward their creative work.
- to promote the advancement of the arts and sciences

The Nigeria Copyright Act 1988, Section 3 (1), forbids anyone to:

1. reproduce the work in any material form;
2. publish the work;
3. perform the work in public;
4. produce, reproduce, perform or publish any translation of the work;
5. distribute copies of the work to the public for commercial purposes through rental, lease, hire, loan, or similar arrangement;
6. make any adaptation of the work.

The panel on National Book Policy for Nigeria (1987) noted in their final draft *National Book Policy* published by NERDC (1992) that most Nigerians are ignorant of the copyright law and the significance of it. The following are the various areas of infringement of copyright laws noted by Aguolu and Aguolu (2002).

- (i) unauthorized reproduction and resale of copyrighted works.
- (ii) unauthorized publication translation into other languages.
- (iii) intellectual theft (plagiarism) involving unreasonable copying of an author's work, wholly or in part without his authorization or due acknowledgement.
- (iv) indiscriminate photocopying and cyclostyling of copyright publications for study and research outside of the realms of "fair use" or "fair dealing," without compensation to the author and original publisher, who have invested a significant amount of money in publishing the infringed work.
- (v) unauthorized production of a published work or adaptation of a publication on stage, film, radio, or television, especially for monetary gain.

In a research conducted by Aguolu and Aguolu (2002) on people's perception of copyright laws in Nigeria, using librarians, booksellers, lecturers and students as respondents, they came up with the following findings as reasons why copyright laws are usually infringed.

1. Most of the lecturers and students, librarians, booksellers, and printers are totally ignorant not only of the existence of the national copyright *commission and its functions, but also of the provisions of the Nigerian Copyright Acts 1988, as they pertain to them. Very few of them have ever been exposed to any type of enlightenment programme on copyright matters.*

2. The Anti-Piracy Committee, already set up in some states of the Federation to enlighten the general public on copyright law, is yet to be established in some states.
3. While lecturers and students felt that a substantial part of a copyright publication or even the whole work could be copied for private study or research without the permission of the copyright owner, the booksellers and printers felt that all reproduction should require the authorization of the author or his publisher.
4. Lecturers pay little or no attention to indiscriminate photocopying and cyclostyling of copyright productions by distributing and selling them to students as handouts without the author's permission. This was done out of ignorance.
5. Intellectual piracy by lecturers and plagiarism by students. The lecturers copy substantial parts of copyrighted publications as their original works for commercial purposes, while the students fail to acknowledge the sources of their quotations or of the paraphrases incorporated into their writing.
6. Lack of relevant textbooks at affordable prices contributes greatly to piracy.
7. Librarians were ignorant of the specific provisions of copyright law pertaining to the conditions under which they could copy copyrighted materials in the library. Sometimes, substantial parts of the copyright publication or even whole works outside the realm of "fair use" are copied to make some money for their library.

COPYRIGHT LAW AND THE CONCEPT OF FAIR USE

In every rule, there are exceptions. The concept of "fair use" is an exception to the rules of copyright. Fair use entails when an information user copies a minimal amount of work for use in reviews or in research reports (Ntui, et al., 2019). Fair use is a defense against a claim of copyright infringement. As a doctrine in copyright, fair use creates exceptions from copyright control. It identifies uses of copyrighted materials that fall outside the control of the copyright owner. This means that when an individual makes a copy under the fair use doctrine, he or she is not required to get permission from the copyright owner.

The doctrine of fair use is contained in the second schedule to the Copyright Act Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2010, which states that "acts done by way of fair dealing or use for the purposes of research, private use, criticism or review of reporting of current events are exempted from copyright control". In other words, where a work is used for the purpose of research, private use, criticism or review or reporting of current events, it should not be questioned for infringement of copyright since such work is under the immunity of fair use. Onoyeyen (2018) states that the doctrine is only a defence available in respect of the infringement of literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works, and the question of sustainability is relevant because it is one of the principal tests in deciding whether the use of a work constitutes fair use, so that

photocopying the whole of a large work of copyright cannot be justified on the ground that the purpose of the publication was for research or private study.

Under the umbrella of fair use, Aina (2008) notes that it is necessary that the work be accompanied by sufficient acknowledgement. Fair use encourages innovation, creativity and development. This doctrine is worthwhile because new works are expected to derive from existing works, and it is impossible to make any progress in research without drawing on what has been done in that field of knowledge in order to generate new knowledge. This is rather not a defence for theft of other people's brain child for selfish gains.

Through fair use, information users and copyright owners have reached a middle ground where it is understood that educators and researchers can use portions of their works without permission for education and research purposes, including the conversion of works into formats that are user-friendly for different categories of information users such as those living with disabilities (Aina, 2008). It is therefore pertinent that the doctrine of fair use is preserved to ensure that copyright owners do not monopolize distribution of and access to copyrighted information. Failure to do so would be a disadvantage to scholarship, teaching, and the operation of a free society.

COPYRIGHT SITUATION IN NIGERIA

Nigeria, alongside other countries, is a member of the Universal Copyright Convention (UCC), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Berne Convention (BC). This implies that member countries share similar legal protection accorded by copyright. The importance of copyright in Nigeria cannot be overstated owing to the high rate of book, film, and music piracy, with attendant losses of income to authors, publishers, film makers, musicians, and many other copyright owners. Babafemi (2017) opines that the primary function of copyright under the law is to protect from annexation the fruits of a person's work. This protection is of immense importance to actors, playwrights, performers, and other artists, as well as musicians and composers of music. Librarians, lawyers, doctors, engineers, and other professionals are not left out of the protection.

Onoyeyan and Awe (2018) insist that copyright does not come under pressure in a largely illiterate society like Nigeria, which is the purveyor of pirated audio and video cassettes and the seller of pirated copies of popular textbooks, talk less of her students who make photocopies of an entire textbook for use. This is due to low copyright awareness and application of the doctrine of fair use among Nigerians, which has militated against effective copyright administration in the country. Nigerian students and researchers are not left out in their incessant indulgence in plagiarizing whole or parts of others' works without giving adequate credit to the owners. There is therefore a need to raise the level of awareness of people about copyright laws. This is essential because for a country to develop, it needs to encourage national creativity. Copyright protection has become an important instrument in the development process. The higher the level of copyright protection, the greater the encouragement for authors to create.

COPYRIGHT LAW AND PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a common problem among beginners in writing. It is the representation of another author's language, thoughts, ideas or expressions as one's

original work. Thus, Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines plagiarism thus, "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own or to use another's production without crediting the source." Scribbr.com states that plagiarism is an infringement of copyright protection. Things to be noted in plagiarism include wrongful appropriation of another's thoughts, ideas, and expressions as one's original work without acknowledgement or payment if it is published.

Plagiarism is considered an ethical infringement (Ntui; Edam-Agbor and Orim, 2019). Ethically, plagiarism is perceived as a serious violation of academic honesty and a breach of journalistic ethics. Plagiarism is not in itself a crime, but can constitute copyright infringement (Ntui et al., 2019).

COPYRIGHT LAW AND PHOTOCOPYING

The practice of photocopying copyrighted works is the order of the day. Information users are often seen photocopying volumes of books for various purposes without being conscious of their implications. Photocopying copyrighted works without permission is a copyright law violation. But Onoyeyan (2018) states that the copyright law under the doctrine of fair use creates a legal exception for photocopying. Fair use specifically states that photocopying without permission could be invoked for purposes of research, private use, criticism or review of the reporting of current events.

The concept of photocopying covers a majority of the processes used for permanent reproduction of text. Bush and Dreyfuss in Onoyeyan (2018) report that until the late 1960s, the usual means of obtaining multiple copies of textual matter was by carbon copying and stencil duplication. Igbeneghu (2009) observes the alarming and indiscriminate rate of photocopying copyrighted materials in Nigeria, which is described as a violation of authors' rights. The author notes that the high price of books, especially foreign books, is one of the causes of this unwholesome act. Onoyeyan (2018) supports this view by stating that high prices of books, coupled with a shortage of books, have led to the boom of photocopying as a lucrative business in Nigeria. In the same vein, the author attributes the high rate of photocopying copyrighted works to the low level of copyright awareness in Nigeria, caused by the high illiteracy status of the country's people. This cankerworm has militated against effective copyright administration in Nigeria.

However, Igbeneghu (2009) maintains that photocopying of library resources serves a vital role in the Nigerian education system. It is used in information dissemination on a large scale among students, lecturers, and researchers in institutions of higher learning in Nigeria, which at the same time propels the education system. Ajegbomogunmi (2011) submits that photocopying of copyright materials should be done within the stipulated standard due to the fact that not every student has enough money to purchase all the information materials needed for their studies and research, hence their gross dependence on photocopying for survival.

In spite of the justifications given for photocopying of copyrighted works, it is argued that the high and uncontrolled rate of photocopying poses a threat to growth and development. It is therefore pertinent to come to terms that despite the harsh realities of the present economic situation in the world, there is no justifiable reason to rob copyright holders of their legitimate rights to benefit from their labour.

COPYRIGHT LAW PROTECTION: THE LIBRARIAN ROLE

Libraries play a key role in educational institutions in many spheres, including protection of copyright. The library preserves and makes available both copyrighted and public domain materials in their collections. Such materials are in the form of textbooks, journals, dissertations and theses, serials, compact and digital video disks, cassettes, electronic databases, paintings, drawings, engraving, maps, photographs and others. These copyrighted works and public domain materials are provided by libraries to students and faculty in support of teaching, learning, research and scholarship. Libraries, therefore, are the major entities that provide access to an array of copyrighted works, enable users to have access to those works, as well as enable users to exercise their rights and the exceptions and limitations of creations in the law (Afegebu, 2017). The author adds that the multiple roles of libraries as social organizations address the balance in the law and are shaped by it. These roles played by librarians necessitate paying close attention to that balance and promoting users' rights as well as creators' rights. Naturally, libraries acquire more copyrighted works than individual works to develop their collections. They pay a huge amount of money for subscriptions for their institutional databases in this digital era. Hence, there is an absolute need for librarians and library users to be aware of copyright laws, their limitations, and benefits in order to be guided against infringement of copyright legislation.

As providers and disseminators of access to information for users' effectiveness, efficiency, responsiveness, and satisfaction, librarians are also expected to protect the intellectual property rights of the creators of information within their custody. The first step a librarian should take in protecting copyright law is caring for and providing access to others' copyrighted work. The librarian has the role of creating awareness among users of copyrighted materials about their need for dependence on balanced law and policy for access to information and to gain knowledge. Afegebu (2017) describes librarians as advocates for individual users of copyrighted materials. They ensure that the rights and privileges of library patrons are protected and safeguarded. This means that patrons should be given free access to available collections in the library. The librarian should therefore guide the user on how to access materials that are protected by copyright.

The role of the librarian in the protection of copyright laws is multi-faceted. The librarian has the duty of directing users to have access to copyrighted and public domain works. The librarian also enables the users to exercise their rights under the exceptions and limitations to creator's rights in the law (Onoyeyen, 2018). Fabunmi (2009) emphasizes that librarians can provide assistance to library users in order to properly enforce the copyright laws in the library by ensuring that research projects in the library are made available to researchers for consultation only, that photocopying of the entire book or journal is disallowed, and that the principle of fair use is strictly adhered to if photocopying is to be done for educational purposes. They should also ensure that precise citation is photocopied by any researcher for any piece of information collected from a given source in the library.

Librarians as custodians of knowledge and information are expected to perform the following roles in protecting copyright laws. It is recommended that more awareness should be created by librarians to ensure that libraries protect the rights of

creators. Also, access to information should be provided to users based on a balanced law. Moreover, libraries should ensure that copyright warnings are displayed in conspicuous locations in the libraries. In the same vein, agreements between libraries and database providers should be made available to users to prevent them from abusing copyright law. Since copyright violations are easily carried out in libraries, libraries should be more intentional and aggressive in ensuring that copyright is not violated in their collections by engaging in all the available measures to ensure compliance.

Afegbu (2017), in another development, states that the right guidance should be provided to library users by librarians on how to use library stock without infringing on the copyright of the owners. Research projects and other resources should be made available for consultation only. Photocopying of materials should be properly guided and restricted except on the principle of fair use. Also, librarians who are also considered researchers should ensure that precise citation is done by any researcher for any piece of information collected from a given source in the library.

SUMMARY

Copyright law protects creators of information resources while also striking a balance between promoting users' rights and creators' rights. The roles of librarians, who are the custodians of intellectual property, make them important in the administration of copyright law. Librarians, as the custodians of most intellectual property, cannot be left out in the successful implementation of copyright laws. Violation of copyright laws can easily be carried out in the library. In order to have books, authors and creators of literary and artistic works are rewarded commensurate with their work. Hence, the enactment of copyright law to encourage creativity. Librarians need to be carried along in the war against violation of copyright laws.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government should ensure that copyright warnings are displayed in conspicuous locations in the library.
2. Librarians should adopt a good copyright system in order to discourage pirates from investing in other people works.
3. Librarians should give users with balanced access to materials and information.

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