COURSE: LIS 203 Library and Information Services to Rural Communities (2 Credit Units-Elective) 30T

Course Duration: Two hours per week for 15 weeks (30 hours) As taught in 2009/10 session

Lecturer: ISSA, A. O
PhD. (Ibadan), MLS, BLS, DLS (ABU), PGDE (NTI) Dip. Desktop publishing (Offa) CLN, TRCN
Dept. of Library and information Science, Faculty of Communication and Information Sciences, University of Ilorin, Ilorin.
e-mail: drolanrewaju@yahoo
issa.ao@unilorin.edu.ng

Location: Block 10 G 17 Faculty of Communication and Information Sciences, University of Ilorin, Ilorin.
Consultation Hours: 2.00-4.00 pm (Mondays & Wednesdays)

Lecturer: K. T OMOPUPA
MLIS (Ibadan), MILR (Ilorin), B.A. Library Science (BUK)
Cert. in Computer (CAILS)
Department of Library and Information Science,
Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences,
University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria
E-mail: omopupakt@yahoo.com
omopupakt@unilorin.edu.ng

Location: Block 10 F 17 (CIS Faculty Building)
Consultation Hours: 2pm – 4pm (Mondays and Wednesdays)

Course Content
The Nigerian rural setting; people education, occupation and recreation; needs assessment; library and information programmes and resources; identification of and cooperation with other change agents and local power; introduction to oral information and archives, indigenous knowledge.

Course Description
The course is to provide students with the knowledge of rural settings in Nigeria, the nature of people living there, their various occupations and problems associated with availability, provision and the use of information in the rural areas. The course will also examine the contribution of governments at all levels and non governmental organizations (NGO) to the development of rural areas taking into consideration the available human and material resources which abound in the rural environment and especially the indigenous knowledge system collection and management.

Course Justification
Library and information science has become an important and integral part of development of any nation, rural area is also an important component of any
developing economy like Nigeria, and any profession that has a stake in the development of her nation need to train her professionals how to survive and make significant impact on the nation developments through the provision of right information in the right formats to the citizenry.

**Course Objective**
The main objective of the course is to introduce students to information provision to the rural communities in Nigeria. By the end of this course students should be able to:

- describe rural settings in Nigeria.
- identify the various occupations of the rural people.
- explain the information needs of rural communities.
- analyse how information is contingent to rural development
- describe various information sources for rural communities
- identify with other agents in the development of rural communities.
- explain the strategies for rural development and information services by domesticating rural information needs to various rural communities.

**Course Requirements**
Students are expected to attend 75% of the classes before they can sit for the examination. All students will also have e-mail accounts. It is compulsory for all students to contribute to on-line discussion groups and to submit their assignments in word-processed format. Students will also visit various rural communities.

**Methods of Grading**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Type of Grading</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Test</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Assignments and visits</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Participation in class/on-line discussion groups.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Examination</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Course Delivery Strategies**

Face-to-face lectures would be the major method of course delivery. Students will be assigned into groups and be expected to present group work on various topics during normal classes.

**Week 1: Overview of the course**

**Objective:**
The objective of this week topic is to explain to students the general overview of the course and explain the justification, grading and course delivery strategies with definition of terms.

**Description:**
First hour
An overview of the course
Second hour
Definition of key concepts in rural development

Study questions
1. Why the need to study rural development
2. What are rural communities.
3. Describe the features of a rural community
4. Who are the rural dwellers
5. What are the important information services to the rural communities

Reading List

Week 2: Nigerian Rural Settings

Objectives:
The objectives of this week topic is to describe to students the rural areas of Nigeria with particular emphasis on their importance to national development.

Description
First hour
Family setting in the rural area
Second hour
Rural industries

Study questions
1. Explain a typical family setting in the rural area
2. What are the occupations of the rural dwellers
3. Describe the importance of family land in the rural community in Nigeria
4. Outline the roles of cottage industries in rural development
5. Define the importance of communal efforts in rural development

Reading list

Week 3: People In the Nigerian rural areas

Objectives:
The objectives of this week topic is to explain to students the rural dwellers which include farmers, artisans, retired people, students, civil servants and visitors.

**Description**

**First hour**
Occupations of the rural dwellers

**Second hour**
Educating the rural dwellers

**Study questions:**

1. How can information improve productivity among rural people?
2. Who are the people that constitute rural communities?
3. Discuss the importance of visitors to rural economy?
4. Explain any ten occupations of the rural dwellers?
5. What are traditional educational system in the rural communities?

**Reading list**


**Week 4 Nigerian Rural Infrastructural Policies Over the Years**

**Objectives**
The objectives of this week topic is to explain to students the Nigeria rural infrastructural policies over the year. It is noted that rural infrastructure problems are enormous, attempt shall be made to identify some salient areas like road, water, sanitation, health, electricity and education.

**Description**

**First hour**
Problems of infrastructure in the rural areas

**Second hour**
Government achievements in the rural infrastructure and programmes

**Study Questions**

1. Evaluate the contributions of any government programme at eradicating endemics among rural populace in Nigeria?
2. Justify the huge government investment in mass literacy programme in the rural area in Nigeria?
3. How far has water provision prevented communicable diseases in the rural communities in Nigeria?
4. What is the state of library services in the rural areas in Nigeria?
5. Education is the bane of rural development, discuss?
Reading list


Week 5 Information Infrastructure in the Rural Areas

Objectives

The objectives of this week topic is to distinguish between traditional and modern information infrastructure and also to the elements of each of them into focus with the students. And by the end of the week, students should be able to:

Discuss various traditional information systems in Nigeria.
Juxtapose the advantages of modern information infrastructure over the traditional system.
Compare traditional and modern information services.
Explain how effective is the effort of town crier in any community you know.
Identify the impacts of modern information services to rural development.

Description

First hour
Traditional information systems
Second hour
Modern information infrastructures

Study questions

1. Discuss various traditional information systems in Nigeria.
2. Juxtapose the advantages of modern information infrastructure over the traditional system.
3. Compare traditional and modern information services.
4. How effective is the effort of town crier in any community you know?
5. What are the impacts of modern information services to rural development?

Reading list

1. Oral^{3} tradition and slave trade in Nigeria. Available at [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org) retrieved on 19/6/09
Week 6-7 The Role of Communication in Rural Development

Objectives

The objectives are to explain to students the communication concept, process and agents in rural developments. By the end of the week, students should be able to:

- Explain the concept of communication to rural development
- Enumerate the roles of newspaper at integrating rural people along the national development of any nation.
- Discuss the roles of radio and television to rural development
- Identify five ways through which you can apply audio/visual to rural information services.
- Explain how telephone can improve rural economy.

Description

First hour (week 4)
Communication processes for rural development

Second hour (week 4)
Communication agents in rural communities

First hour (week 5)
Rural telephone
Community radio and television

First hour (week 5)
The role of vernacular newspapers
Mobile audio/visual

Study questions

1. Explain the concept of communication to rural development
2. What are the roles of newspaper at integrating rural people along the national development of any nation.
3. Discuss the roles of radio and television to rural development
4. Give five ways through which you can apply audio/visual to rural information services.
5. How can telephone improve rural economy?

Reading list


**Week 8: Information as Strategy for Rural Development**

**Objective:**
The objective of this week topic is to explain to the students horizons at applying information to the rural activities for development purposes. By the end of the week, students should be able to:
- Discuss the importance of information to rural dwellers productivities.
- Identify various non farming activities in the rural areas in Nigeria.
- Describe how information improved the income growth of farmers.
- Explain the benefits of mechanise farming.
- Outline the importance of communal land.

**Description**

**First hour**
Information for productivity and income growth

**Second hour**
Information for non farm economic activities

**Study questions:**
1. Discuss the importance of information to rural dwellers productivities.
2. Identify various non farming activities in the rural areas in Nigeria.
3. How can information improved the income growth of farmers?
4. What are the benefits of mechanise farming?
5. Outline the importance of communal land?

**Reading lists**


**Week 9 Provision of Information in the Rural Areas**

**Objectives**

The objective is to narrate to students various information sources in the rural area and formats in which information can be provided for the rural dwellers.

**Description**

**First hour**
Local information sources

**Second hour**
Rural information services

**Study questions**

1. What are the roles of libraries in making rural people understand the various government programmes?
2. Discuss the importance of information to securities of rural communities?
3. What are the rural information contents?
4. Who are custodian of rural information?
5. How best in your opinion can information best disseminated in the rural communities?

**Reading lists**


**Week 10 Structure of Information Demand in a Typical Village**

**Objectives**

The objective is to explain to students the chain of information needs of villager and how they can be adequately served. By the end of the week. Students should be able to:

- Explain what they need to provide non literate community with information services.
- Discuss the importance of libraries to the people living in the rural areas.
- Describe how can use film to promote good hygiene in the rural areas of Nigeria.
- Outline the peculiarities of rural information requests.
Justify the reason for rural information services.

**Description**

**First hour**
Various information requests

**Second hour**
Meeting the information requests of villagers

**Study questions**

1. What would you need to provide non literate community with information services?
2. Discuss the importance of libraries to the people living in the rural areas
3. How can use film to promote good hygiene in the rural areas of Nigeria?
4. Outline the peculiarities of rural information requests?
5. Why rural information services?

**Reading lists**


**week 11 Information Seeking Behaviour of Rural People**

**Objective**

It is to describe the dynamic ways through which the rural people demand for information and what they use it for.

**Description**

**First hour**
Information concept in the rural areas

**Second hour**
Utilization of information in the rural areas

**Study questions**

1. Discuss the pattern of information of people in any typical rural community in Nigeria.
2. What purposes do rural people demand information for?
3. How can information utilization prevent illiteracy in the rural areas?
4. What the rural people perception of modern information services?
5. Discuss the concept rurality?

**Reading lists**
1. Developing an Information Infrastructure in Rural Areas Part One: Telematics Demonstrations The Research Centre, Norwich June, 1999


Week 12 Socio Political and Economic Activities in the Rural Areas

Objective

The objective is to describe the socio political and economic life of the rural communities and how information provision can improve socio political and economic life in the rural communities.

Description

First hour
Social political institutions in the rural areas
Participation of rural people in the socio political activities

Second hour
Markets and market products in the rural communities
Micro Finance institutions in the rural communities
Growth and poverty alleviation programmes

Study questions

1. What are the roles of community leaders in rural mobilisation in Nigeria?
2. Discuss the social life of any rural community you have visited?
3. State ways through which information can improve the income of rural dweller?
4. The role extension workers is to enlightening the farmers on how to improve farm yield, discuss?
5. Justify the adage “the wealth is in the bush”.

Reading lists

Week 13 Developments Agencies in the Rural Communities

Objectives

The objective is to identify agencies involved in rural development and to enumerate their contributions and problems

Description

First hour

Local governments in the rural development
Other governmental and Non-Governmental agencies

Second hour

Rural model libraries services
Library services in the rural communities

Study questions

1. Name and explain the roles of three Non-Governmental agencies that are involved in rural integration in Nigeria?
2. What are reasons for the creation of local government in Nigeria?
3. What is the state of library services in the rural communities in Nigeria?
4. How would you provide library services in a typical Nigerian rural community?
5. Discuss the role of indigenous governance to national development.

Reading lists


Week 14 Nigerian cultural heritage and oral archive
Objective

The objective is explain to students various Nigerian cultural heritage and the government efforts at preserving and promoting Nigeria cultural heritage, oral archive and indigenous knowledge system.

Description

First hour
Nigerian cultural policies
Nigeria cultural heritages

Second hour
Oral archive in Nigeria
Various Indigenous knowledge in Nigeria communities
Collection and Preservation of indigenous knowledge

Study questions

1. Explain the importance of oral archive to national development of Nigeria?
2. Nigerians live in a diverse cultural environment, discuss?
3. Describe the state of collection and preservation of Indigenous knowledge system in Nigeria.
4. What is Indigenous knowledge system?
5. Discuss any indigenous knowledge in your community.

Reading list


Week 15 Revision

Study questions

1. Why the need to study rural development?
2. What are rural communities?
3. Describe the features of a rural community.
4. Who are the rural dwellers?
5. Define a typical family setting in the rural area?
6. what are the occupations of the rural dwellers?
7. Describe the importance of family land in the rural community in Nigeria.

8. How can information improve productivity among rural people?

9. Who are the people that constitute rural communities?

10. Discuss the importance of visitors to rural economy?

11. Describe the state of collection and preservation of Indigenous knowledge system in Nigeria.

12. What is Indigenous knowledge system?

Reading list


Legend
1- Available in the University Library
2- Available in local bookshops
3- Available on the Web.
4- Personal collection