The Significance of Music Libraries and ICTs in Acquiring Musical Skills and Technological Development in Nigerian Tertiary Education

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Abstract

Music training from preschool through post-secondary education is common in most nations because involvement with music is considered a fundamental component of human culture and behavior. Similarly, music libraries equipped with information and communication technologies (ICTs) are most likely to enhance teaching and learning of music in the higher institutions. It is against this backdrop that the author, in this paper, reviews the significance of Library and ICTs in acquiring musical skills and in Nigerian Tertiary Education. Brief history of music education, as well as music libraries and documentation are reviewed. This study uncovered the musical potentials as regards acquiring musical skills in this era of information technology by highlighting the significant roles it has to play for national development. The paper, among others, recommends the need for music educators to increase their interest in using music libraries and ICT tools so as to widen their understanding of the field and also impact students accordingly. This will enable tertiary institutions to meet up with the expected educational standards in the field of music.

Keywords: Music library, ICTs, Musical skills, Library collections, Tertiary education

2.1 Introduction

Music education, according to Yudkin (2008), is a field of study associated with the teaching and learning of music. It touches on all learning domains, including the psychomotor domain (the development of skills), the cognitive domain (the acquisition of knowledge), and, in particular and significant ways, the affective domain (the learner's willingness to receive, internalize, and share what is learned), including music appreciation and sensitivity. Music training from preschool through post-secondary education is common in most nations because involvement with music is considered a fundamental component of human culture and behavior. Music, like language, is an accomplishment that distinguishes humans

from animals.

In primary schools in European countries, children often learn to play instruments such as keyboards or recorders, sing in small choirs, and learn about the elements of music and . In countries such as India, the harmonium is used in schools, but instruments like keyboards and violin are also common. Students are normally taught basics of Indian Raga music. In and secondary schools, students may often have the opportunity to perform in some type of musical ensemble, such as a choir, orchestra, or school band: concert band, marching band, or jazz band. In some secondary schools, additional music classes may also be available. In junior high school or its equivalent, music usually continues to be a required part of the curriculum (Randel, 1986).

Music library is defined by Reitz (2004) as a library containing a collection of materials on music and musicians, including printed and manuscript music scores, music periodicals, recorded music (CDs, audiocassettes, phonograph records, etc.), books about music and musicians, program notes, discographies, and music reference materials. She further explained that music collections in public libraries are selected and maintained for lifelong learning and leisure pursuits. Academic and conservatory libraries provide resources for music study and research, including original source material. National libraries offer unique and often rare musical heritage collections.

Music libraries and documentation, according to Woodhouse (2003), is a sector of the information profession encompassing the provision and bibliographic control of books on music, printed and manuscript music, audiovisual materials and online resources. He also observed that a number of broad categories of music library supply different services to specific groups. Public libraries make available material for education and leisure to a particular community; academic and conservatoire libraries provide material for students, researchers and often house important collections of source materials. National Libraries offer research facilities and access to unique and valuable heritage collections; Broadcasting libraries provide materials for live and recorded performances; Music Information Centres give access to scores and recordings of the music of a particular country (usually specializing in contemporary works); and specialist societies hold collections covering, for example, the works of a specific composers, instrument, genre or aspect of music.

According to Lee (2005), while the business world is changing in the new knowledge economy and digital age, libraries of all types are undergoing drastic changes also. The new role of libraries in the 21st century is to be a learning and knowledge center for their users as well as the intellectual commons for their respective communities where, to borrow the phrase from the Keystone Principles, people and ideas interact in both the real and virtual environments to expand learning and facilitate the creation of new knowledge. As a learning organization, libraries should provide a strong leadership in knowledge management since the most important mission is to expand the access of knowledge for their users.

Similarly, Tise (2009) argues that knowledge is foundational to all spheres of life and critical for the growth of society. It is produced when information is absorbed, processed, and internalized by individuals. Libraries, as critical providers of information, have an important role to play in the creation of new knowledge, arguing further that knowledge is functional at many levels: it can alleviate poverty and deprivation; it serves as a springboard for innovation and changes; and, it is a catalyst for national development and personal achievements. As knowledge institutions, libraries provide spaces for

information-sharing and learning for all ages, genders, ethnicities, and socioeconomic groups regardless of their needs. Libraries provide the means through which new knowledge is developed and made available to all.

It is based on this background that this paper seeks to review the significance of music education in tertiary institution in Nigeria with particular reference to Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Music Librarianship. This study will no doubt be of immense benefit to music teachers and librarians in their teaching and research activities relating to music and ICT.

2.2. Literature review

The use of libraries and/or information centres is an essential way of sourcing or gathering data and information which is not replaceable and has given shape and direction to the development of the world today. This is because development is one thing that has to do with information and as well storage of information or data for further use or for future consultation which involves all aspects of life. This could be seen in the views of Koivunen (2003), as he states that:

In the value chain of cultural industries, libraries belong most evidently to the phase of distribution, but, if we consider the issue more closely, the role of libraries is more complicated, and actually libraries penetrate the whole circle. Creativity always depends on knowing the signification of the community. Library collections are a crucial resource of cultural heritage for the information society, from which all kinds of creativity get raw material. Innovations are developed as continuity from the past or in reaction to it. Libraries form an essential infrastructure for a networking information community, and for realizing the right to knowledge for citizens in the information society [p.116].

He also notes that libraries also develop information and signification products for information retrieval, and have a pivotal role in the distribution of information. Through libraries new cultural products go into the value circle as feedback, and strengthen the capacity of society for new cultural production.

Libraries and Information and Communication Technologies are veritable means of training educators (music and indeed other subject areas) in the tertiary institution the world over. In other words they are useful medium through which effective teaching and learning music in tertiary schools will be achieved. This view is supported by Hullam (2008) in Jayeola (2015) who summarized individual skill acquisition in music as follows:

For certain learners, music can be a gateway to knowledge. The instrumentation and mood of a piece of music might communicate more clearly than word, the feeling of an era being studied than history, the exploration of rhythm can help some students to understand fractions, study of the sounds of an organ pipe can lead to an understanding of vibration modes in physics[p136].

Going by this illustration, one would quickly say that information communication technology help in the development of both the educators and the students to acquire fundamental concepts through discoveries of one's potential qualities as well as personal developmental skills, making use of the information gadgets to broadening one's horizon in some specific area of specialization or learning which could be in playing and manipulating of one or more instruments having done a proper or critical research on that instrument and its guide lines to be able to perfect it and sometime realising unrealistic notes as it was seem to be.

Nevertheless acquiring musical skills and development of technological skills with

the aid of information communication technology (ICT) enables the music educators in all levels of education including the tertiary educators in the use and manipulating of music notation software which makes it easier for music notation and compositional techniques to be attained or achieved using any of these software's like Sibelius or finale or any other music notation software programmes. This is also viewed in Sunday (2015) as he opined that due to the intimidating advantages of composing and writing / notating, creating or making music using computer music programmes like the Sibelius and finale etc. composers have indeed found optimized relief in its application as a medium of composing music in staff and / or sol-fa notation (s). Hence it is gradually outdating the usual manual ways of writing / notating and composing music…modern Nigerian composers must begin to appreciate, learn and use the computer as a medium of composition through notational programmes.

Technology has gone far beyond our imagination; this is why the society also has to strive as much as possible to meet up to the modern trends or development in the technological and global village. And according to Sunday (2015):

Globalization represents any medium that enables fast dissemination of musical scores or sound irrespective of space and time. Internet or online and the print media are the major medium of Art music composition globalization. The medium enables one to reach or access global music repertories [74].

All these are essence of Library and information communication technology (ICT) in acquiring and developing of musical skills to the effectiveness of education in Nigerian schools especially at the tertiary educational levels. Therefore, technological approach as a step forward in skill development as regards teaching and learning music in Nigerian schools and technology been a science of practical or industrial arts entails the full knowledge of how to manipulate your environment using modern aids or gadgets or machines. This is supported by Aniedi and Ukeme (2011), who envisaged that technology is simply communication gadgets, hardware, equipment or facilities that have been modernized. Also Layton (2006) has it that technology is:

the special kind of knowledge which is used when solving practical problems for example, designing and building an irrigation system for tropical agriculture, such work often begins with a human wants for example, better safety for an infant passenger in a car or an aspiration for example to see the inside of a human artery or to land on the moon and technologist draw on resources of many kinds including visual imagination, technical skills, tools, and scientific and other branches of knowledge [20].

Upholding the above view, it is now clear that the knowledge of technology is to acquire skills of how to solve practical problems as well as relate it to the consumption of the society and the world at large. And at this point, the significances and benefits which are examined, is stated below.

2.3 Significances and benefits of Libraries and ICTs

Library use and information communication technology skills help to actualize the followings:
1. Solving of technical problems,
2. Quick or fast change or adaptation to modern changes,
3. Aid in the handling of administrative duties,
4. Helps in the development of musical skills or technical skills generally,
5. Helps in the facilitating or gaining access to materials on websites or online information for further research by the

research fellows,

6. Gives support to educators in developing their teaching skills,
7. Aid in the transformation of teaching and learning process,
8. Provide for job opportunities,
9. Help to improve or develop practical skills for those in technical fields or areas,
10. Aid in the manipulating and online transaction as well as sending and receiving online mails or messages or information without physical contact with the sender or the receiver.

The most important thing here is that with the help of technology, one can, on his own, design and creates as well as generate ideas which will be useful to the society and as well improve in the standard of living in today's economic meltdown. This is also viewed in Onwuekwe (2013), as she opined that:

Technology activity is as old as human history and its impact on almost all aspects of people's lives has been profound, a common feature of technological activity, no matter what outcome is in mind, is the ability to design. The aim of designing is to give some form, pattern, structure, or arrangement to an intending technological product so that it is an integrated and balanced whole which will do what is intended. Designing often begins with an idea in a person's mind and the designer has to be able to envisage situations, transformations, and outcomes, and model these in the mind's eye [p.33]

She buttressed this fact by further stating that technological skills had become sufficient conscious to be passed from generation to the next by accomplished practitioners… the possession of this kind of knowledge resulting from analytical modes of thought associated with modern science, characterized the third period and empowered people in a radically different way from

previously to realize their technological goals.

Therefore the use of Library and most especially technological approach which also involves the knowledge and access to information and communication to develop one's musical skills and ability to manipulate his environment is a key to standard educational values in Nigerian tertiary education. Also encourages every scholar or the academics or academic scholars especially the music educators to imbibe in this current educational dimension which is very useful in this present day classroom curriculum as well as extra- curriculum activities.

Furthermore, the inventors of technology has done a very good job by drafting out an easier way of checking what goes around in our society and across the nation with the aid of technology and I CT information which makes it lighter for someone in the other part of the world to interact freely and at a lesser cost or '0' cost with the person in this part of the world. Also with the concept of the inventors of technology, music can be effectively thought as much and command respect as it is for other relative subjects and as well as showcase the African concept about music making and its musical ingredients to the neighbouring countries and to the rest of the other cultures of the world. As much as to see what other cultures have to offer in terms of music making, also to compare and contrast the musical skills involved in African cultures and that of the rest of the world.

Nevertheless library and information communication technology has uncovered the musical skills and talents in Nigerian artists also in the teaching and learning music with regards to the development of musical technical skills in handling and manipulating of musical instruments as well as electronic gadgets used in the field of music and in all angles of education which includes;

2.4 Archived musical skills

1. Becoming the custodians of culture as well as a sustained economy.
2. In the field of Engineering, like becoming an instrument maker or producer of instrument as well as importing and exporting of instruments for public consumption.
3. As an operator of electronic gadgets as regards sound production.
4. As a transmitter of knowledge to the younger generation in the field of music.
5. Also as a director in an industry such as film or music industry in other to help organise and select the appropriate musical sound to be used in a particular production for a better patronization and so on and so forth.

2.5 Online Music Collections

In the era of information and communication technologies in which were are, the scope of music studies or music entertainments have rapidly increased as the profession is not limited to physical libraries and institutions. Lecture materials and or already performance work of music educators can be accessed online. At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in their university library they have Music & Performing Arts Library. Their collections include Music, Dance, and Theatre Collections. Resources of the library are presented in the following categories (UI-Urbana Champaign, 2016):

Music Collections at the University Illinois at Urbana Champaign

General Collection Information	Description and History Video Tour of MPAL's Collections Collection Development Policy
MPAL's Special Collections	Music Special Collections Home University of Illinois Historic US Sheet Music Collection
School of Music Collections	School of Music Recordings (Pre-1992) (Post-1992) School of Music Concert and Recital Programs Database School of Music Records in the University Archives University of Illinois Bands Library School of Music Choral/Orchestra Ensemble Library OPE (Office of Outreach and Public Engagement in Music) Library
Other Relevant Collections in the University Library	Sousa Archives and Center for American Music U of Illinois Rare Book and Manuscript Library U of Illinois University Archives
State and University Songs Information	U of Illinois School Songs and Illinois State Song

Source: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2016) Tabulation – Author's
The University of Illinois Music Library also has other online resources listed as follows:

2.5.1 Audio Online
DRAM (American Music
Music Online
(search Classical Music Library (CML), Jazz Music Library (JML), and Smithsonian Global Sound (SGS) together)
Naxos Music Library

2.5.2 Video Online
Classical Music in Video
Dance in Video
Dance in Video II
Ethnographic Video Online
Kanopy Films
Opera in Video
Theatre in Video
Source: http://www.library.illinois.edu/mux/

2.6. Conclusion
Music libraries and information communication technologies are veritable tools for effective tertiary education especially in the subject area of music. Musical skills is something that is very essential in the educational system for teaching and learning music in the Nigerian tertiary schools which could be achieved through the proper utilization of music libraries and ICTs. With these technological aids, music educators will be able to handle difficult tasks, as well as manipulate their environment and also device an easier way of handling most of the electronic gadgets including most of the musical instruments. This will immensely contribute to the development of the society and also effect proper learning process in Nigerian tertiary institutions.

2.7 Recommendation
Libraries and Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) help the music educators to realize their potentials and develop technological skills with regards to problem solving in the area of music. Therefore all music educators in Nigeria are encouraged to embrace these new technological trends of our era in order not to be misinformed. The skill will enhance their productivity and as well equip them to participate in the global world.

Music scholars should try as much as possible to stress the need and importance of advancement in technology and in the use of music libraries so as to enrich their students with necessary information that help them excel in the subject. The students and are also advised to use the music libraries alongside with information and communication technologies in their efforts to acquire musical skills so as to graduate with excellent results and be part of contributing to the development in this specialized subject area.

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