

Collection development practices in private university libraries in Malawi: The case of University of Livingstonia and Adventist University Libraries

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Introduction

Collection development faces a number of challenges the world over. Some of the notable challenges as identified by Adekanmbi and Boadi (2008) are lack of constant training for librarians, inadequate staff for the libraries, lack of administrative support, and unavailability and non-use of collection development policies. Much as this is the case, finances are possibly the single biggest obstacle to the exercise. Akporhonor (2005) has written in agreement with this assertion when he says:

“Every library is supported by three legs – a building, its collections, and the staff. However, the tendons supporting these legs, and what ultimately binds them together, is money. Finance is at the heart of any enterprise, and if the library is to meet its objectives, money is a necessity. When funds are lacking, it is difficult to organize library services and the efficiency of services is bound to be adversely affected” (Akporhonor, 2005, p. 63).

Indeed money is at the centre-stage of library operations including collection development. One would have to look at events of the past few years to appreciate the important role money plays in library operations. The ongoing global economic meltdown, for instance, has affected libraries in various forms including collection development (Chaputula, 2011; Guarria and Wang, 2011; Nicholas et al., 2010). Much as financial constraints are faced world-wide, it should, however, be pointed out that the global economic crisis has just succeeded in aggravating a problem that already existed in many libraries, especially those in developing countries. A number of research findings (Mapulanga, 2011; Chaputula and Boadi, 2010; Kanyengo, 2009; Kavulya, 2006) have all pointed out that inadequate budgetary allocations had negatively impacted on collection development. These effects were evidenced by the sharp deterioration of the quality of the collection: most essential books were inadequate, outdated and sometimes not

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3 found at all. Both electronic and print journals, which researchers crave for, were also in short
4 supply. Internet facilities that provide an alternative source of accessing information resources
5 were slow and erratic. All these challenges summed up to poor service delivery to clients.
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8 **Background to the study**

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11 Malawi has witnessed an exponential growth in the number of private universities over the past
12 decade. The majority of them are faith-based. These include the University of Livingstonia and
13 Adventist University.
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17 University of Livingstonia is located in Northern Malawi, and was established on 27
18 August 2003. The University currently has a student population of 620, and an academic staff
19 population of 34. Six undergraduate degree programmes are currently on offer that includes
20 Education (Science and Humanities), Development Studies, Human Rights, Environmental
21 Management, Computer Engineering, and Food Security and Nutrition. The library has a
22 collection of 12, 400 volumes of books (Interview with University Management Staff,
23 November, 2013)
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30 The Malawi Adventist University was established in 2007 as an affiliated University of
31 Eastern Africa, Baraton. The student numbers have not grown much ever-since, as it only has
32 339 students. Nevertheless, the course offering seem to be diversifying as the institution now
33 offers degree programmes in Accounting, Marketing, Management, Literature, Theology,
34 Business Studies, Agriculture and Agribusiness at undergraduate level. The University has 18
35 permanent academic members of staff who are assisted by several adjunct lecturers (Interview
36 with University Management Staff, November, 2013). The library has 11, 000 volumes of books.
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43 **Literature review**

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45 The literature review covers a number of aspects related to collection development. These
46 include funding, weeding, preservation, and challenges.
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50 **Funding for collection development**

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54 Currently, there is a dearth of literature regarding funding for collection development in private
55 universities in Malawi, something that goes a long way in justifying the present study. However,
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3 the situation is different on the part of public libraries. There are a number of research studies
4 that have been undertaken on the subject that tend to inform us of current developments on the
5 subject, some of which would be reviewed in this study.
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9 **(i) Public university libraries**

10 Public university libraries both locally and internationally have tended to rely on their parent
11 institutions to fund their collection development activities. Research studies done by Chaputula
12 (2011), Mapulanga (2011), and Chaputula and Boadi (2010) have all shown that both of the
13 country's public universities: University of Malawi and Mzuzu University, rely on government
14 to fund a huge chunk of their budget. The two institutions in turn use the subvented resources to
15 fund their libraries, some of which are ultimately used for collection development activities.
16 However, Chaputula and Boadi (2010) have noted that financial resources allocated for
17 collection development activities at University of Malawi's Chancellor College have over the
18 years fallen below the recommended 6 percent threshold of the total recurrent institutional
19 budget as recommended by the Association of College and Research Libraries, 1994. This
20 implies that these libraries have not been adequately funded to enable them undertake collection
21 development activities. However, a recent study done by Mapulanga (2011) covering all the five
22 constituent colleges of the University of Malawi had noted that funding to the institution had
23 improved significantly especially between 2007 to 2010. Nevertheless, this increase did little to
24 change the overall state of the library collection which had sharply deteriorated in terms of
25 quality after years of underfunding.
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40 Studies done elsewhere tend to show a mixed picture. Whereas other libraries were
41 grossly underfunded as was the case at the University of Zambia Medical Library (Kanyengo,
42 2009), others enjoyed sound financial backing as was the case at the Botswana Colleges of
43 Education Libraries (Adekanmbi and Boadi, 2008) and federal university libraries in Nigeria
44 (Akporhonor, 2005). Although this was the case, most of the libraries continue to experience
45 problems in collection development irrespective of differences in terms of funding trends. Whilst
46 some of them have blamed this on the absence of funds (University of Zambia Medical Library),
47 others have attributed this to the absence of collection development policies and prudent
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3 financial management practices (Botswana Colleges of Education Libraries). All these issues
4 have conspired to undermine collection development efforts of these libraries.
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9 Besides government subvention, university libraries also undertake a number of activities
10 that earn them money which they use to finance their operations. Some of these activities are
11 operational in nature whilst others are deliberate income generating initiatives. Some of the
12 activities that fall under the former are overdue fines, photocopying charges, lost book
13 replacement fines, etc., whilst activities that fall under the latter include endowments,
14 consultancies, etc.
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18 19 **(ii) Private universities**

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21 Malawi has over the past decade experienced the birth of a number of private universities. The
22 majority of these are owned by church institutions. On overall, very little worthwhile research
23 studies have been conducted both locally and globally on the operations of private universities let
24 alone collection development activities of their libraries. The only known research studies on the
25 topic were done by Kasalu and Ojiambo (2012) in some private university libraries in Kenya.
26 The study indicated that the majority of the libraries in this study were faring far much better
27 when compared to some public university libraries in the African Region. Some of the major
28 findings of this study indicated that the collection development budgets were largely adequate,
29 something that had made it possible for the libraries to procure the required information
30 resources. The libraries were also able to do a number of collection development activities such
31 as conducting user needs analysis, evaluate the collection, and even weed it. Much as this was
32 the case, the institutions also faced a number of minor challenges which included slow internet
33 connectivity and slow delivery of orders.
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46 47 **Other collection development activities**

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49 Weeding and preservation are some of the other notable collection development activities that
50 are undertaken in libraries. These two activities are interlinked as they complement each other in
51 creating a vibrant collection. Weeding, although primarily driven by space shortages (Mix,
52 2010), among others it seeks to rid the library of outdated and irrelevant materials, duplicate
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3 copies, etc. (Dubicki, 2008). The exercise, furthermore, aims at identifying materials that are in
4 bad physical state for removal. Library materials deteriorate in state either because they are
5 heavily used or sometimes because they are lying idle on the shelves hence gather dust or
6 become mouldy. In either case, these materials are removed from the shelves and moved to
7 storage or disposed off hence weeding or in the case of heavily used items taken to the bindery
8 for repair or reformatting hence preservation. Weeding and preservation, therefore, combine to
9 give the library the desirable look, and also enhances collection use as materials are easy to find
10 on the shelves. In this way, user satisfaction is assured.

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18 The desire to create more room for the ever-growing library collection, and the changing
19 nature of library services as libraries reposition themselves to offer other specialised services, has
20 been the main reason that has often times compelled libraries to engage in weeding of their
21 collections. However, the changing nature (format) of library collections and evolving consumer
22 tastes have emerged as other big factors. A number of research studies (Howard, 2007 and Zhang
23 and Haslam, 2005) have shown that more users now prefer e-resources particularly e-journals
24 more than print. E-resources are favoured by users mainly because they are able to provide round
25 the clock accessibility from anywhere, hence more convenient to use (Woods and Ireland, 2008).
26 E-books, just like e-journals, are becoming a preferred information resource to users something
27 that has made book sellers and other key players in the book trade to respond accordingly.
28 Dewan (2012), for instance, states that Amazon, a popular online book seller, in May 2011
29 announced that it was selling more e-books than print books, both hardcover and paperback. The
30 implication is that this could change the nature of the library collection in the long term, and
31 further impact on the weeding and preservation activities that are done in libraries.

42 **Collection development challenges**

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44 Collection development in university libraries is faced with a number of challenges. Much as this
45 is the case, limited finances tops the list. As a number of researchers (Chaputula and Boadi,
46 2010; Kanyengo, 2009; Kavulya, 2006; Akporhonor, 2005) have rightly pointed out, libraries,
47 especially those that are affiliated to government institutions are grossly underfunded as a result
48 of limited government subvention to their parent institutions. This problem which had been there
49 for some time has been aggravated by the recent global economic crisis (Chaputula, 2011;
50 Guarria and Wang, 2011; Nicholas et al., 2010). Consequently, this has frustrated collection
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3 development practices in many libraries such that many libraries have been forced to scale down
4 on monograph acquisitions and cancel huge numbers of journals. Libraries affected by this
5 problem have to rely on book and journal donations to fill up the gap. Although private
6 university libraries do not operate under the same conditions as public university libraries, it is
7 nevertheless anticipated that they too could have their own financial resource challenges as this
8 is a problem that affects different libraries the world over to varying degrees.
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Though paramount, financial resource constraints are not the only challenge that libraries face. Libraries belonging to both private and public universities face the problem of network connectivity which has serious implications of collection use. Two recent studies: one done by Eni (2010) in Nigeria and another one done by Chaputula (2012) in Malawi have both shown that internet use by students in universities was high. However, students in the former and students and academic staff in the latter mostly relied on private/commercial internet cybercafés for internet access and use. This was done because internet in the university libraries, departments/faculties and university computer/ICT centers was grossly poor. These studies also established that there was a low level of use of e-journals. Although Harle (2010) has attributed this problem to the low research activity in universities, the impact of the poor ICT infrastructure cannot be ruled out. The level of ICT infrastructure in Malawi is not very impressive. There is a pronounced scarcity of computer hardware and software in most of the universities (Salanje, 2011). The state of internet connectivity across the country is also worrisome. This shows that libraries in this study are equally prone to these challenges.

Libraries in Malawi also face shortage of well-trained human resources. This problem has come about largely because of the inadequacy of financial resources. Lack of funds has resulted in institutions failing to send their staff for training. This entails that libraries are staffed by untrained staff, and sometimes staff with training that does not befit their positions. In other cases, library professionals take up other jobs in search of better incentives and working conditions. All this has affected the quality of collections in university libraries across the country hence deterioration in service delivery.

The literature review has shown that academic libraries that are affiliated to public institutions in Malawi and other parts of the world are not adequately funded. Inadequacy of

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3 funding has affected collection development practices of the libraries concerned. Besides
4 funding, academic libraries also face challenges relating to erratic internet connectivity, and
5 shortage of well-trained human resources. However, the literature review gave very little insight
6 into the operations of private university libraries in Malawi, and elsewhere because much of the
7 research effort on this subject has focused mainly on public university libraries. The aim of this
8 research, therefore, is to study collection development practices in some selected private
9 university libraries in Malawi with special focus on University of Livingstonia Library and
10 Adventist University Library. It is hoped that its findings will give an accurate picture of the
11 situation on the ground which researchers, policy makers and Library and Information Science
12 practitioners may confidently use in their professional and scholarly works. Most importantly,
13 the research will bridge the information gap that currently exists. The study will attempt to
14 answer the following questions:

- 15 1. What are the sources of funding for private university libraries in this study?
- 16 2. What impact has funding had on collection development activities of the private
17 university libraries?
- 18 3. What are the other collection development activities that are undertaken by private
19 university libraries in this study?
- 20 4. What collection development challenges do private university libraries face in Malawi?

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 **Methodology**

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43 This research employed a case study approach that made use of both quantitative and qualitative
44 methods. The researcher personally collected data from the field whilst interview guides and
45 self-administered questionnaires were used as data collection tools. Interviews were conducted
46 with University Librarians of the two institutions. Self-administered questionnaires were
47 administered to the Finance Officers and University Librarians of the institutions covered by the
48 study to collect two types of data. Self-administered questionnaires administered to Finance
49 Officers were used to collect financial statistics pertaining to budget figures and expenditure
50 reports relating to library activities. On the other hand, self-administered questionnaires

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3 administered to the University Librarians were used to collect data relating to monograph and
4 print journal acquisition statistics, including computer hardware and other equipment related to
5 collection use. Qualitative data was analysed thematically whilst quantitative data was analysed
6 using Ms Excel.
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10 11 12 13 **Analysis and discussion**

14 15 16 **Sources of funding for private university libraries**

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19 Data collected from the interview conducted with the University Librarian of University of
20 Livingstonia shows that the institution's library is funded by the parent institution. His
21 counterpart from Adventist University gave a similar response, but was quick to say that the
22 library also draws its funding from donor agencies, library fees from patrons and binding
23 charges. Although the University Librarian of University of Livingstonia stated that the library is
24 only funded by the parent institution, information collected in a separate self-completion
25 questionnaire (see Table 4) shows that the library has over the past three years been able to
26 expand the library, procure computers and furniture, etc., all with donor funds. This implies that
27 donor funds are also another major source of funding for the institution. These findings are a
28 reflection of common trends in other parts of the globe. Akporhonor (2005) noted that public
29 university libraries in Africa use miscellaneous fees, library fees, grants, endowments,
30 photocopying fees, etc., to generate financial resources to supplement those they got from their
31 parent institutions. Chaputula (2011) had also noted internet service charges as another income
32 generating measure among university libraries in Malawi.
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45 After establishing sources of funding for the two institutions, the researcher wanted to
46 find out whether these funds were adequate or not. The University Librarians of both institutions
47 indicated, through the interviews conducted, that funding was inadequate. These findings were
48 corroborated by data collected through another questionnaire administered to the Finance
49 Officers of both universities. As shown in Table 1, library funding for University of Livingstonia
50 has remained very low over the four year period (2008 – 2011). In fact, it hardly reached 1%
51 between 2008 and 2010 but rose to 3% in 2011. The Association of College and Research
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Libraries (1994) has recommended that 6 percent of the total college budget be spent on the procurement of library materials. This means that budget allocations to the University of Livingstonia Library were very low indeed. The low budgetary allocation implies that the institution could struggle to procure information resources and equipment it needs to thrive. Authorities at the Adventist University did not give actual budget figures but only gave percentages of the amount of money spent on books and other library equipment. The percentages given, however, show that the institution was doing far much better than University of Livingstonia Library. The University only failed to meet the 6% threshold in 2008 and 2009 after having budgetary allocations of 3% and 5% respectively but managed to surpass it in 2010 and 2011 with a 7% allocation in both years.

Findings of this study reflect those made by Chaputula (2011) and Chaputula and Boadi (2010). The former found out that a mixed picture existed in terms of funding to college libraries under the University of Malawi and Mzuzu University Library. Whilst most libraries such as the Polytechnic, College of Medicine, and Bunda College Libraries were poorly funded, only the Kamuzu College of Nursing Library and Mzuzu University Library were better funded. The latter found out that Chancellor College Library, another constituent college of the University of Malawi, was also seriously underfunded. These findings signify that the problem of underfunding existed both in public and private university libraries in Malawi. Nevertheless, these findings differed with those made by Kasalu and Ojiambo (2012). The two researchers found out that the majority of private university libraries in Kenya were faring far much better in terms of funding when compared to other public libraries in the African region. This had made it possible for them to procure requisite information resources.

Table 1. University and library budgets 2008 – 2012

Financial year	Budget type	University of Livingstonia	Adventist University
2008	Institutional budget	K48,099,343.79 (US\$ 115, 359.98)	-
	Library funding	K198,000.00 (US\$474.88)	-
	% of institutional budget	0.41%	3%
2009	Institutional budget	K52,100,263.17 (US\$ 124,955.66)	-
	Library funding	K325,177.12 (US\$ 779.89)	-
	% of institutional budget	0.62%	5%
2010	Institutional budget	K47,762,044.41 (US\$ 114551.01)	-
	Library funding	K117,660.00 (US\$ 282.19)	-
	% of institutional budget	0.25%	7%
2011	Institutional budget	K50,925,912.52 (US\$ 122,139.13)	-
	Library funding	K1,608,117.23 (US\$ 3856.86)	-

	% of institutional budget	3%	7%
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Source: Budget figures as provided by Finance Officers of the University of Livingstonia and The Adventist University.

Note: Authorities at the Adventist University only gave percentages of the amount of money spent on books and other library equipment. They indicated that budget figures are not disclosed to outsiders. It was, however, mentioned that the University policy is to allocate 7% of the budget for book acquisitions but this figure decreases if fewer resources are generated. Figures for 2012 were not given by both institutions.

Note: One United States Dollar) 1 USD = 416.95 MWK (Source: Yahoo Currency Converter, 4 December, 2013)

Impact of funding on collection development activities of the private university libraries

An analysis of data collected from the interviews conducted with the University Librarians of both University of Livingstonia and Adventist University shows that inadequacy of funding to both institutions had seriously affected a number of collection development activities. These include purchase of books, subscription to print and electronic journals, book binding and repair, and staff training. Much as this was the case, University of Livingstonia Library looks to be the one that was affected more when compared to Adventist University Library. The institution's Librarian indicated that inadequacy of funding had seriously affected purchase of books and staff training. Additionally, the institution was not able to subscribe to either print or electronic journals, and carry out book binding and repairs. Although the University Librarian of Adventist University indicated that the library was underfunded, the institution's collection development efforts were not affected in the same way as that of University of Livingstonia Library. This observation is made based on the fact that the institution was able to carry out a number of collection development activities which University of Livingstonia Library was unable to do. As

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3 the University Librarian indicated, the library was “able to buy some core books for the courses
4 taught but not much as it could”. The Library was also “able to subscribe to some print journals
5 like Harvard Business Review”. The library had also registered some successes in staff training
6 and book binding and repair, as it was able to send some of its staff on training and was also able
7 to do spiral binding in the library respectively. The library’s main failure, in as far as collection
8 development is concerned, was its inability to subscribe to electronic journals because the
9 University Librarian said “the cost is very huge”.

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12 In the foregoing discussion, it is evident that collection development efforts of Adventist
13 University Library and University of Livingstonia Library were affected to varying degrees.
14 Whilst the former was able to do some activities, the latter was struggling a lot. This could be
15 attributed to the level of funding the two institutions were receiving. As it has already been
16 discussed, Adventist University Library was better funded than University of Livingstonia
17 Library (see Table 1). This clearly shows that funding is a critical factor to the success of the
18 collection development exercise, and adds credence to Akporhonor (2005) assertions that:

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31 “Finance is at the heart of any enterprise, and if the library is to
32 meet its objectives, money is a necessity. When funds are
33 lacking, it is difficult to organize library services and the
34 efficiency of services is bound to be adversely affected” (Akporhonor, 2005, p. 63).

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40 It is, therefore, important to ensure that libraries are better funded, for without sound finances,
41 there is not much that the library can do.

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45 An analysis of collection development statistics of books and print journals for both
46 institutions further shows that inadequate funding indeed affected the two institutions differently.
47 Overall, both institutions relied on book donations more than purchases. In total, University of
48 Livingstonia Library purchased 2131 books and also received 20094 books through donations
49 between 2008 and 2012. Adventist University Library, on the other hand, made book purchases
50 totalling 696, and received 1962 books through donations (see Table 2). Although University of
51 Livingstonia Library purchased more volumes of books (2131) over the study period when

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3 compared to Adventist University Library (696), the latter had a higher percentage of book
4 purchases over the same period (26.2%) than the former (9.6%). Print journal acquisition
5 statistics presented in Table 3 present a similar picture. University of Livingstonia Library
6 received a higher number of print journals through donations (171) when compared to Adventist
7 University Library (23). However, worthy noting is the fact that University of Livingstonia
8 Library did not subscribe to any print journals, an area in which the Adventist University Library
9 performed better as it subscribed to more print journals (56) when compared to those it received
10 through donations (23). Although the number of print journals subscribed to looks small in
11 nominal terms, it implies that the institution was making efforts to move away from complete
12 donor dependence. An analysis of other collection development related projects undertaken with
13 donor assistance between 2008 and 2012 (see Table 4) also indicate that University of
14 Livingstonia Library received more donor assistance in terms of project financing, including
15 purchase of equipment and computers when compared to the Adventist University Library.
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26 Data that has so far been discussed clearly shows that University of Livingstonia Library
27 relies more on donor assistance when compared to Adventist University Library to carry out its
28 collection development activities. This could be attributed to the inadequate budgetary
29 allocations the institution was getting. Previous research studies have shown that there is a strong
30 link between inadequate funding and heavy reliance on donor assistance. A study conducted by
31 Chaputula and Boadi (2010) had revealed that inadequacy of funding at Chancellor College
32 Library (University of Malawi) had seriously affected the library's collection development
33 activities. This scenario forced the library to rely on donations and exchanges as the principal
34 means of growing its collection. Another study conducted by Wang (2011) showed that
35 budgetary constraints for the purchase of foreign language books had forced many Chinese
36 libraries to rely on donations. The challenge with donations, however, is that the beneficiary
37 institution does not get exactly what it wants and at the time when it needs it. This could have
38 serious repercussions on service delivery resulting in the library failing to meet the needs of its
39 users.
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Table 2: Collection development statistics of books

Financial year	Mode of acquisition	University of Livingstonia Library	Adventist University Library
2008	Purchases	98	-
	Donations	1814	340
2009	Purchases	201	-
	Donations	5209	209
2010	Purchases	568	83
	Donations	6279	641
2011	Purchases	583	473
	Donations	5765	501
2012	Purchases	681	140
	Donations	1027	271

Table 3: Collection development statistics of journals

Financial year	Mode of acquisition	University of Livingstonia Library	Adventist University Library
2008	Subscriptions	-	10
	Donations	40	3
2009	Subscriptions	-	10
	Donations	60	7
2010	Subscriptions	-	12
	Donations	32	5
2011	Subscriptions	-	12
	Donations	39	4
2012	Subscriptions	-	12
	Donations	-	4

Table 4: Other collection development related projects undertaken with donor assistance from 2008 – 2012

Financial year	Project details	University	
		University of Livingstonia	Adventist University
2008	Project	-	-
	Donor	-	-
	Approximate cost	-	-
2009	Project	Expansion of library building	-
	Donor	National Bank of Malawi	-
	Approximate cost	K6,000,000	-
2010	Project	Procurement of 4 flat desk top computers	Extension of the library building
	Donor	University of Livingstonia Foundation based in the USA	Beit Trust
	Approximate cost	US\$ 2, 500	K14, 000, 000
2011	Project	-	-
	Donor	-	-
	Approximate cost	-	-
2012	Project	Procurement of library equipment and furniture	-
	Donor	Friends of University of Livingstonia based at the University of Strathclyde	-

	Approximate cost	US\$ 9, 000	-
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Other collection development activities undertaken by private university libraries in Malawi

Results of the interviews conducted with University Librarians of the two institutions revealed that both of them provide internet access to its patrons. University of Livingstonia Library provides the facility within its premises whilst Adventist University Library provides internet access in a separate building.

It is pleasing to note that both libraries in this study provide internet access. This is a welcome development considering the fact that studies are showing that information seekers are increasingly using electronic information resources the world over, and libraries and other players are taking steps to satisfy this demand (Dewan, 2012; Olorunsola and Adeleke, 2011). Although libraries in this study do not subscribe to electronic journals, library users would still be able to access open access journals and other free scholarly information resources that are available over the Internet. This could be used to supplement the print information resources which the two libraries provide. The only worrying development is that University Librarians of both institutions indicated that internet facilities at both institutions are not reliable. This could adversely affect use thereby denying patrons the benefits they derive from use of the facility. The other challenges both institutions face in providing internet access are shortage of computers, poor network infrastructure, persistent power outages, high cost of internet access, and lack of relevant ICT skills. Many of these challenges are familiar stories that are told by many players in the ICT sector not only in Africa but also other parts of the developing world.

Book binding and repair, and weeding are the other collection development activities that are undertaken at the Adventist University Library but not done at University of Livingstonia Library. The Adventist University Librarian indicated that weeding is done to remove some of the most outdated library materials, and those that are in bad state. His counterpart at

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3 Livingstonia University Library stated that book binding and repair is not done because they lack
4 relevant expertise whilst weeding is not carried out because of serious shortage of staff. The
5 reason given for the library's failure to weed sounds plausible when one considers the fact that
6 weeding is a labour intensive exercise which needs a lot of time to be thoroughly done.
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10 11 **Collection development challenges private university libraries face in Malawi** 12

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14 A number of collection development challenges have already emerged from the study. Possibly
15 the single biggest challenge is that of inadequate funding. This has been considered to be the
16 biggest challenge because it has far reaching implications. For instance, inadequate funding
17 negatively impacted on the purchase of books, subscription to print and electronic journals, book
18 binding and repair, and staff training. Unreliable internet connectivity was also seen to be a
19 major challenge which both institutions faced. Besides the researcher identifying them as
20 challenges that both institutions faced, the Adventist University Librarian and his counterpart at
21 University of Livingstonia Library also mentioned these as the challenges which they faced
22 through the interview. Apart from these challenges, the University of Livingstonia Librarian also
23 indicated that the institution lacked properly trained staff and adequate numbers of books whilst
24 the space in the library was also limited.
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34 The institutions in this study have been in existence for less than ten years. Collection
35 building which involves purchase of books, subscription to print and online journals and putting
36 relevant infrastructure to facilitate access, is a costly exercise. So being relatively new
37 institutions, it means that both of them required even more resources as they were starting from
38 scratch. It is, therefore, not surprising to note that both institutions were facing the challenges
39 that have been discussed because of the inadequate funding which they were getting.
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46 **Conclusions** 47

48 This study was undertaken to determine collection development practices in some selected
49 private university libraries in Malawi with special focus on University of Livingstonia Library
50 and Adventist University Library. The study has revealed that both institutions were mainly
51 funded by parent institutions, donor agencies and miscellaneous fees. The funding they got has
52 largely been inadequate although it came out clearly that University of Livingstonia Library was
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3 more affected than Adventist University Library. Inadequate funding had negatively impacted
4 on the purchase of books, subscription to print journals and electronic journals, book binding and
5 repair, and staff training, etc. Both institutions provided internet connectivity to their clients but
6 the service was unreliable something which could have implications on collection use. Adventist
7 University Library was able to carry out weeding and book repairs. University of Livingstonia
8 Library, on the other hand, was unable to do any of these activities due to lack of personnel and
9 relevant expertise.
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17 The findings of the study clearly demonstrate that private university libraries in this study
18 are struggling to sustain their operations due to financial constraints. It is, therefore,
19 recommended that both institutions should intensify income generating activities such as
20 carrying out consultancies, writing research grants applications, and forging partnerships with
21 other charitable organisations. The institutions are also encouraged to join both local and
22 regional consortia to ensure that they develop their collections in a cost sustainable way.
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28 The study sheds light on the collection development practices of University of
29 Livingstonia Library and Adventist University Library, and challenges facing them. Some of
30 these findings mirror those of other libraries not only in this sector, but also public university
31 libraries in the country. Suggestions on how the collection development challenges facing the
32 two libraries could be tackled have been made. It is hoped that the suggestions made could
33 benefit other libraries who find themselves in a similar situation, if implemented. The study
34 findings could also inform future researchers venturing in the same field.
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