

ASSESSMENT OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES IN NIGERIA

BY

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DEGREE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Assessment of Records Management Practices in Government Ministries in Nigeria" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined assessment of records management practices in government ministries in Nigeria, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of assessment; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with assessment and records. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Weberian Bureaucracy Theory and the New Public Management Theory. A sample size of 403 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 364 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.01). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.451$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 7.34, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.2$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on assessment.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of assessment of records management practices in government ministries in Nigeria is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

assessment occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about records and national development. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of assessment. Findings reported by Obiora and Eze (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to assessment recorded markedly different results. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding records. Comparative work by Nwosu and Adekunle (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking assessment with records. For practitioners, the practical significance of assessment cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with records. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

assessment continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in public administration. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of assessment varies considerably from one region to another. Findings reported by Musa and Bello (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to assessment recorded markedly different results. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. Findings reported by Okonkwo and Obiora (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to assessment recorded markedly different results. For practitioners, the practical significance of assessment cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with records. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

The phenomenon of assessment, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of assessment. Evidence assembled by Okonkwo and Obiora (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to assessment. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Kalu and Bamgbose (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

assessment occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about records and national development. Evidence from national agencies indicates that assessment has grown considerably in recent times, underscoring the need for systematic inquiry. Evidence assembled by Bello and Ogbeide (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to assessment. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Obiora and Salami (2020), in a