The book entitled “Library and Information Science in Developing Countries: Contemporary Issues” could not have come at a better time than now, given the global nature of the library and information science (LIS) profession. In particular, it is important for nations of the South to understand the practice of LIS profession in their environments so as to adapt the best practices of the profession in the developing world.

Comparative library and information science practice in developing countries is a “sine qua non” for any library and information science trainee in the developing world. While many books abound on the practice of library and information science in the developed world, there are very few local materials devoted to the developing world, and yet still, only a negligible proportion of such books emanate from the local environment. This book, edited by Drs. Tella and Issa, has filled the void. This book will provide LIS students in developing countries the mastery of library and information science practice in developing countries. The contributors are distinguished professionals in their own rights, who have based their contributions mainly on research in their local environment. Thus, a firsthand knowledge of the situation in their respective countries is presented.

The book is divided into four sections. The first section, entitled “Contemporary Issues in Library Practice,” which has eight chapters, provides an overview of the local practice from African and Asian perspectives. Prospects of marketing library and information services in developing countries are also covered.

The second section, entitled “Issues in Library Education in Developing Countries,” discusses exhaustively the influence of information and communications technology on the practice of library and information work in the developing world and how it imparts on library education. The role of Alumni in library education is also provided. A new area of library education information, information ethics, is comprehensively treated. The next section is devoted to issues in information science. This section covers digital scholarship. The prospects and challenges from the point of view of developing countries are carefully analysed. It also covers e-governance in developing countries. The final section discusses the challenges faced by information professionals in developing countries. It enumerates the role of librarians and record managers in e-governance, as well as how librarians provide information to the visually impaired persons. Theoretical studies on bibliometrics and information retrieval are also covered.

This book has been devoted mainly to Africa and Asian countries; even though these two regions do not represent the whole of developing countries, it is hoped that in the revised edition, other parts of the developing world such as the Caribbean and Latin American regions will be covered. The exclusion of these parts of the world in the treatment of this book, has not in any way, diminished the value of this book.
I must congratulate Dr. Adeyinka Tella and Dr. A. O. Issa, both of the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, for gathering highly distinguished authors, across the developing world to contribute to this excellent work. I recommend this book to all stakeholders in library and information practice throughout the developing world. This is a useful addition to the literature of library and information science.

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