

AN INVESTIGATION OF COMPUTERIZATION OF STOCK CONTROL IN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WORKS, KADUNA STATE NIGERIA.

SULEIMAN Hussaini
Research Scholar, Institute of
Library and Information Science,
NIMS University,
Jaipur, India,
hsuleiman@abu.edu.ng

Haruna Isa HUSSAIN
Kashim Ibrahim Libraray,
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
Kaduna, Nigeria.

Nasiru SANI
University Health Service Centre,
Federal University Dutse,
Jigawa State of Nigeria.
sani.nasiru@fud.edu.ng
7023221862.

Abstract--The study investigated the computerization of stock control in Federal Ministry of works, Kaduna State Nigeria. A survey was carried out, with samples of respondents from the ministry. The sample consisted of 100 staff cut across all over the cadre. The results of the findings reveal that, computerize stock control adopted by the organization is yielding the desired result in the ministry. The study makes recommendations that could lead to the improvement of staff, power supply and computerization system in the ministry of works, Kaduna State Nigeria.

Key words: Computerization, Stock control, Federal Ministry of works.

Introduction

In an evolving Nigerian ministry, strategies are being adopted by the major players in order to achieve the ministry's goals. In the light of this belief, much emphasis is being laid on the computerization. The introduction of installing and using an IT system is a success or not depends on whom you ask. A study by Vidgen & McMaster (1995) shows that the effects different stakeholders attribute a system depends on their perception, and Robey and Boudreau propose that we should concentrate on the "[...] interplay of opposing forces" (1999:179) when we want to understand the effects of computerization. The existing framework of computerized stock control is not consistent and integrative to the extent that one might expect an organized discipline of study, even though it is not the existing framework that should wholly be blamed for the inconsistent, rather the inconsistency are largely found in procedures, and lack of good computer knowledge to carry out the operation and emphasis by their users presumable, because of individuals peculiarities. The system of stock control

and replenishment can be improved if the use of computer can be encouraged in the ministries for fast and easy work.

According to G.B Davies (1978), a computer can be defined as any electronic device that can accept data, process this data and produce this processed data as output, at a very high speed and accuracy with little or no human intervention.

Heyel (1973) defined stock control as a simply a list of homes in an organization being control physically before they are written to enhance creativeness in the system. Stock can mean different things and depends on the industry the firm operates in. It includes: • Raw materials and components from suppliers • Work in progress or part finished goods made within the business • Finished goods ready to dispatch to customers • Consumables and materials used by service businesses (IB Business & Management Stock control)

Historical background of federal ministry of works Kaduna

Federal ministry of works and housing Kaduna was established in the year 1979, its main aim is the maintaining of federal roads, federal houses and also the maintenance of federal secretariat.

They also maintain the toll gates. They form a greater part of sources of federal government revenue. They have two main sources of funds it internal and external.

Internal: - their internal sources of funds are as follows:

1. Toll gate fees.
2. Sale of map to the federal public.
3. Revenue from the use of its conference hall.

External: - The main sources of external fund are from the federal government.

Challenges of Computerization

Computerization, especially in the developing countries, is faced with challenges. This is also the case with Federal Ministry of works, Kaduna State Nigeria. Some of the challenges are:

WAN/LAN

To a large extent, the existence of the Ministries Wide Area Network (WAN) and a Local Area Network (LAN) within the ministry determines the success of computerization of library services is a major challenge .i.e cables are expose to the effects of fire, storm, vandalization etc

Computer Literacy/Education

Many of the staff of ministry are not computer literate. This is a great setback in computerization. Many of the staff are reluctant to jettison their old mindset which resists change. Many are conservative and traditional, and suffer computer phobia. Inquisitive users with IT skills cause serious dissatisfaction to the library staff (Bii and Wanyama, 2001).

Poor State of Power Generation

Regular power generation remains a problem in Nigeria. Frequent power outages constitute a serious bottleneck to automation. The cost of running generating plants is prohibitive.

Poor Maintenance and Update Culture

There is a poor maintenance culture in Nigeria. Ministries in Nigeria have very poor maintenance culture. The size and complexity of the task have almost completely eroded maintenance in the Ministry. Nok,(2006)

Objective of the study

1. To find out if the computerized stock control in the federal ministry of works produces the desired result compared to the manual system.
2. To find out the extent of use of computerized stock control in federal ministry of works.
3. To find out the problems of computerized stock control in federal ministry of works.

Research question

The research is conducted with the view to find out answers to the following questions.

1. Is the stock control in the federal ministry works yield the desire result?
2. To find out the extent of use of computerized stock control in federal ministry of works?
3. What are the problems of stock control in the federal ministry of works?

Literature Review

According to Rob Kling (1996), “when a specialist discusses computerization and work, they often appeal to a strong implicit image about the transformation of work in the last one hundred years and the role that technology has played in some of these changes.” Computerization could be defined as a technology concerned with the application of mechanical electrical and computer based system to operate and control activities of an organization this technology include feedback control and computer for planning, data collection and decision making to support accounting activities in an organization Donald (2000). Dictionary defines computerization as the process of taking activities or tasks not previously done on the computer.

Reasons for Computerization

a. To increase productivity:

Computerization of stock operations holds the promise of increasing the productivity of accounts. This means greater output and higher production rates are achieved with computerization than the corresponding manual operations.

B. High Cost of Labor

Higher investment in computerized equipment has become economically justifiable to replace manual operation. Donald (2000).

PROBLEM ASSOCIATED WITH THE MANUAL SYSTEMS FOR STOCK CONTROL

Accuracy, Ability to reliably update data and take action on trigger events, times it takes to manage data time it takes to retrieve the data, make updates, ability to share the data, and the time it takes to share the data.

Manual inventory systems can be highly labor-intensive to operate. They require continuous monitoring to ensure that each transaction is accounted for and that products are maintained at the appropriate stocking levels. It is also more difficult to share

inventory information throughout the business, because the lack of computerization makes accessing inventory records a more cumbersome process. The time spent monitoring inventory levels could be used on more productive activities for the business.

A manual inventory system relies heavily on the actions of people, which increases the possibility of human error. People might forget to record a transaction or simply miscount the number of goods. This results in needless additional orders that increase the company's inventory carrying costs and use up precious storage space. Inaccurate physical counts could also result in not ordering enough of a product, meaning the business could run out of a crucial item at the time. Boronie (2003)

Research Methodology

The survey research method was adopted for this study Ali (2006) state that if a study is designed to find and describe, explain and report events in their natural settings based on sampled data, survey method should be used. The populations of the study are all the staff of Federal Ministry of Works Kaduna State irrespective of their cadre. This is because the study area has a targeted population of 100. The research therefore, used the entire population as a subject of the study. This position was supported by Benard (2012) who posited that, if a population is less than 200, the entire population can be used as sample. The instrument for the data collection is Questionnaire titled an Assessment of Computerization of Stock control in Federal Ministry of Works, Kaduna State. Frequency tables and percentages were used to analyze data collected for the study.

Data Analysis

This section analyzes the data collected with respect to the research questions raised in the study. The analysis was followed by discussion on the findings and highlighting some implications of the findings

Results

Table 1: *Questionnaire Administration and Retrieval*

Staff Cadre	Questionnaire Administered	Questionnaire Retrieved

Management	10	45
Senior Cadre	60	10
Lower Cadre	30	10
Total	100	75

Table 1: shows that a total of one hundred (100) copies of the questionnaire were administered, seventy five (75%) were completed and returned. This represents seventy five (75%) response rate. The higher response rate was recorded due to the fact that the copies of the questionnaire were closely supervised and also the respondents level of commitment to the study.

Table 2. **Level of Computer Literacy**

Variables	Response	Percentages
Literate	45	90
Illiterate	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: Field work 2013

The above table indicates that 45 respondent are literate representing 90% of the total, while 5 respondents are illiterate representing 5 (10%). This implies that very few of the staff are computer illiterate.

Table 3: **Desired Results**

Variables	Responses	Percentages %
Yes	30	60
No	20	40
Total	50	100

Source: Field work 2013

Table 3 shows the computerized stock control adopted by the organization is yielding the desired result representing (30)60% while 20 respondents said, it has not yield the desired result. This shows that, majority of the staff accepted that computerization of stock control in Federal Ministry of Works Kaduna Nigeria is yielding good results.

Table 4: Problem encountered in the use of computerized stock control

Variables	Responses	Percentages
Lack of Power	30	60
System Crash	20	40
Total	50	100

Source: Field work 2013

Table 4 shows that 30(60%) of the respondents said that, lack of power supply is their major problem in the

ministry while 20(40%) said system crash is their major problem. This implies that power failure and lack of maintenance of the system is affecting the computerization of stock control in the ministry.

Summary of Findings

The findings of this study revealed that majority of the staff are computer literate representing 45(90%) of the respondents while 5(10%) are not computer literate. From the findings, computerized stock control adopted by the organization is yielding the desired result in the ministry representing 60%. It further shows that majority of the ministry staff usually encounter little problem in applying stock control in the ministry.

Recommendations

1. The ministry should use shelves as storage facilities
2. It should encourage its staff to develop themselves by engaging them on workshops and conferences
3. The ministry should try to avoid duplication of records due to price variance; this will eliminate the need to open several cards for single item.
4. The ministry should have a stand-by generator in case of power failure.

Conclusion

It is expedient to note that, one major constraint of the Ministry's computerization systems at the moment is that of securing the right caliber of personnel for the running of the system, to make available a balanced flow of raw materials, Components, tools, equipment, inadequate power supply and any other commodity necessary to meet the operational requirement and provide maintenance materials spare part and general stores as required. Therefore, the organization should see its stores as an important functional branch, which can never be run in isolation as most of items kept in it, represent capital which can strangle a ministry and bring it to a halt if not properly catered for.

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