

focus on unique collections as a cost-efficient way to give scholars all over

own image, who in turn create others in the same fashion and so on. This ensures continuity in the process of change, because the movement is being continuously nourished morally and intellectually. Moreover it ensures for the movement the loyalty and dedication it requires if it is to move successfully through the lengthy process of change to the desired state of solidarity.

Subject covered

Usman Dan Fodio wrote one hundred and fifteen books concerning his thoughts about religion, government, culture, poetry, logic, rhetoric, economy, trade, law and society. The Shehu was not only a war leader but also a scholar and poet in the classical Arabic tradition. Best known among his verse works is his panegyric to the prophet Muhammad, *Al-d I yah (The Ode Rhyming in D I)*, that helped to spread the prophet's f order.

The Encyclopaedia of Religion (2006) echoed the numerous Arabic prose works he had. The main thrust of the works is against all manifestations of indigenous, non-Islamic Hausa culture—song, music, ornate dress, architecture, social mores, and so on—and an insistence that these be replaced by Islamic alternatives. His works also influenced his society, and posterity, by disseminating the ideas of the Q dir order of f s, to which he was deeply committed.

Some important titles worth mentioning include: **Talim al-ikhwan** where the Dan Fodio discusses philosophy of law, with jurisprudence as a vehicle of protest and dissemination of revolutionary principles. The Shehu further wrote in **Kitab al-Farq** on the question of leadership. In both works, the

- remote locations, or more than one person at a time, or to bring together scattered materials on a specific topic and to respond to a particular request for a digital library.
- iii. To reuse the documents. It means to convert documents into different formats; for example to use images in a slideshow and to adopt the content for a different purpose.

The soul of scholarship is research. From the current to the ancient, we must make all information discoverable to faculty, students and the public. Therefore, these manuscripts deserved to be digitized and correspondingly, available and accessible beyond Nigerian borders.

The Project Model

The shift from ownership to access began the revolution towards the virtual availability which we see today in electronic documents. Today the access of free information available via the World Wide Web has changed the concept of having to go to the neighborhood library and turn the pages of a book with paper pages. This is not to say that some of our best information and our most entertaining texts are not to be found in hard copy. The challenge here is to transmit even these hard copy texts to a patron who might not be standing in front of you.

The digitization revolution is moving ahead and we have probably all heard of the project that Google has undertaken with 5 large libraries in order to scan and digitize many of their holdings, a scanning project that will bring millions of volumes of printed books into the Google Print database for open public use. Martha Speirs (2006) was elaborate in her work by saying that “in the 21st century, networked structures are taking over the command and control structures of the last century and consequently we need to work with others not only in our own institution, but with those who share common goals in order to enable knowledge and information to flow across spaces and borders”. Partnership and strategy are keys to creating this ownership

Secondly, a Center would be set up in Sokoto State of Nigeria with the responsibilities of mobilizing; creating awareness and collecting all

References

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