



**JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CONFERRAL OF THE
GRAND LEGACY LAUREATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE (GLLPS)
UPON PROFESSOR CHINWE VERONICA ANUNOBI**

by the

**Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research,
Documentation, & Legacy (IHS-BiRD & L)**

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I. Preamble: The Standard of the Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service

The Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service (GLLPS) represents the highest class of recognition conferred by the Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research, Documentation and Legacy (IHS-BiRD & L). It is reserved for individuals whose public service demonstrates institutional leadership, intellectual stewardship, administrative reform, technological modernization, and measurable contribution to national development through preservation and accessibility of knowledge.

The Institute's evaluation framework is guided by its core principles:

- **Truth first** – documentation grounded in verifiable public record;
- **Guardians of memory** – preservation of intellectual and documentary heritage;
- **Justice through legacy** – recognition of transformative contributions often understated in public discourse;
- **History for growth** – identification of institutional leadership models worthy of national emulation.

The conferral of GLLPS upon Professor Chinwe Veronica Anunobi rests upon documented achievements in digital transformation, preservation advocacy, literacy promotion, institutional restructuring, technological modernization, workforce development, and repositioning of the National Library of Nigeria since her assumption of office as National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer in September 2021.

II. Foundation of Professional and Academic Competence

Professor Chinwe Veronica Anunobi emerged through the professional and academic structures of Library and Information Science, establishing a career defined by scholarship, institutional administration, and information management.

Prior to her appointment as National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria, she served in senior academic and professional capacities within Nigeria's library and information sector. Her professional trajectory reflects sustained engagement with information accessibility, institutional administration, research support systems, and preservation of intellectual resources.

Her emergence as National Librarian represented the elevation of a trained information management professional with technical understanding of the structural and technological challenges confronting Nigeria's national library system.

Institutional modernization is most sustainable when leadership is grounded in professional competence and sectoral experience.

III. Institutional Repositioning and Digital Transformation of the National Library of Nigeria

Professor Anunobi assumed office at a period marked by declining reading culture, preservation challenges, limited digital accessibility, manpower shortages, and increasing global transition toward digital knowledge systems.

Under her administration, the National Library embarked upon deliberate institutional repositioning designed to align Nigerian librarianship practices with contemporary global standards through an articulated reform agenda.

A defining feature of her administration has been the aggressive pursuit of digital transformation and technology-driven library modernization.

Documented achievements include:

- Digitization of over 6,000 weak and vulnerable library materials beginning from 2022 for conservation purposes and multiple simultaneous usage;
- Development and deployment of the **National Repository of Nigeria (NRN)** in 2023, with over 1,500 digitized resources uploaded;
- Development and deployment of a **Virtual Library Dashboard** integrating National Library operations and services, including access to 23 open-access journal links and 432 monograph links;
- Enhancement of the National Library website to improve user accessibility and digital interface experience;
- Adoption of modern information organization tools and software systems including **CLASS WEB** and **Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)** systems;
- Provision of global-standard internet accessibility infrastructure through deployment of **STARLINK** internet services within the institution.

These initiatives represent measurable modernization efforts aimed at transforming the National Library from a largely traditional repository into a technologically adaptive national knowledge institution capable of supporting contemporary research and information access demands.

Particularly significant was the selection of the National Library of Nigeria as a **model for African library digitization**, reflecting international recognition of the institution's evolving digital direction under her leadership.

GLLPS recognises leadership capable of preserving institutional continuity while pursuing technological and administrative transformation.

IV. Research Support, Knowledge Accessibility, and Global Standards

Professor Anunobi's administration pursued deliberate efforts to improve access to research resources and strengthen the National Library's relevance to scholars, students, and researchers.

Under her leadership, the National Library subscribed to internationally recognized multidisciplinary research databases including:

- **ProQuest;**
- **EBSCOhost;**
- **Bold Scholar databases.**

These subscriptions expanded access to global academic resources and strengthened the research support capacity of the institution for Nigerians.

Her administration also initiated strategic collaborations aimed at aligning Nigerian library operations with global standards, including:

- partnership with the **American Space programme** through the United States Embassy to support Sustainable Development Goals;
- hosting of the **Window on America programme;**
- collaboration with **NITDA** for staff training and retraining in digital competencies;
- collaboration with AI-focused educational organizations such as **Codrina Education Technology** to prepare library personnel for emerging Artificial Intelligence-driven information systems.

Such collaborations positioned the National Library within broader international and technological conversations regarding the future of knowledge management and information accessibility.

Knowledge institutions remain relevant when they evolve alongside global technological and research ecosystems.

V. Literacy Promotion, Public Engagement, and National Educational Development

Professor Anunobi's administration significantly expanded public literacy advocacy and institutional engagement programmes aimed at strengthening reading culture in Nigeria.

Initiatives include:

- nationwide readership promotion campaigns;
- annual children's summer camps organized across state branches;
- special engagement programmes targeted at children in rural and hard-to-reach communities;

- educational outreach initiatives through collaboration with public libraries and stakeholders nationwide;
- annual Readership Promotion Campaigns (RPC) designed to improve literacy culture and reading habits among Nigerian children and youth.

These programmes reflected a deliberate attempt to reposition the National Library as an active participant in national educational development rather than solely a preservation institution.

Her administration also strengthened institutional public engagement through active cyber presence and digital communication platforms.

This digital engagement strategy improved public awareness of National Library services and expanded accessibility of information to younger and digitally connected audiences.

Public knowledge institutions derive relevance from their ability to engage society beyond physical repositories.

VI. Workforce Development and Institutional Capacity Building

Professor Anunobi's administration pursued internal institutional strengthening through professional development, performance management, and workforce modernization.

Achievements include:

- sponsorship of over one hundred staff members for professional and specialized training;
- retraining initiatives aimed at aligning staff competence with global library practices;
- collaboration with technology stakeholders for digital capacity development;
- introduction of a Daily Performance Management System for effective activity tracking and administrative decision-making;
- recruitment and workforce expansion initiatives designed to address manpower shortages.

A particularly notable achievement during her tenure is the strengthening of the **Centre for Advanced Library and Information Management (CALIM)**.

Under her leadership:

- CALIM secured full accreditation for diploma programmes from the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE);
- professional training programmes were expanded;
- infrastructure remodeling and operational improvements were undertaken;
- accommodation facilities for trainees were improved.

These reforms reinforced the National Library's role not only as a repository of knowledge but also as a centre for professional training and information management development.

Institutional sustainability depends upon continuous investment in human capital and professional adaptation.

VII. Advocacy for Preservation and Institutional Reform

Professor Anunobi consistently brought national attention to the preservation challenges confronting Nigeria's documentary heritage.

Her administration publicly highlighted:

- threats to Nigeria's documentary resources;
- inadequate archival preservation infrastructure;
- storage limitations within the National Repository;
- funding constraints affecting digitization and preservation;
- risks associated with deterioration and loss of national records.

By elevating these concerns into public discourse, her administration strengthened awareness regarding the importance of archives, libraries, and preservation systems within Nigeria's educational, research, and governance structures.

The defense of documentary heritage constitutes a significant form of public service.

National memory requires both preservation and advocacy.

VIII. Alignment with IHS-BiRD & L Core Values

Truth First:

The justification rests exclusively on documented institutional initiatives, publicly verifiable administrative actions, and measurable outcomes.

Guardians of Memory:

Her administration advanced preservation and digitization systems aimed at safeguarding Nigeria's documentary heritage for future generations.

Justice Through Legacy:

Library and archival leadership frequently remain underrepresented within mainstream public recognition despite their foundational role in national intellectual development.

History for Growth:

Her record presents a model of knowledge-sector leadership focused on modernization, literacy advancement, institutional sustainability, digital accessibility, and technological adaptation.

IX. Conclusion: A Record of Measurable Institutional Modernization and Knowledge Stewardship

The conferral of the Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service upon Professor Chinwe Veronica Anunobi is justified on the basis of documented institutional reforms and measurable achievements, including:

- Leadership of the National Library of Nigeria during a critical period of institutional modernization and technological transition beginning in September 2021;
- Digitization of over 6,000 weak and vulnerable library materials for preservation and simultaneous multi-user accessibility;
- Development and deployment of the National Repository of Nigeria (NRN) with over 1,500 digitized resources uploaded for national access and preservation;
- Development of a Virtual Library Dashboard integrating National Library operations and services with access to open-access journals and monographs;
- Subscription to internationally recognized multidisciplinary research databases including ProQuest, EBSCOhost, and Bold Scholar databases to strengthen research support for Nigerians;
- Selection of the National Library of Nigeria as a model for African library digitization;
- Strategic partnerships with organizations including American Space, the United States Embassy, NITDA, and AI-focused educational institutions aimed at strengthening technological adaptation and digital competence;
- Expansion of nationwide readership promotion campaigns, annual children's summer camps, and literacy programmes targeted at rural and underserved communities;
- Strengthening of institutional visibility through active digital communication platforms and sustained public engagement strategies;
- Sponsorship and retraining of staff members to align workforce competence with evolving global library standards;
- Introduction of performance management systems and modern information organization technologies including CLASS WEB and OPAC systems;
- Securing full NBTE accreditation for diploma programmes at the Centre for Advanced Library and Information Management (CALIM), alongside expansion of professional training and infrastructure development;

- Public advocacy drawing national attention to preservation risks facing Nigeria's documentary heritage and archival infrastructure.

These are not ceremonial accomplishments. They represent measurable institutional reform, technological modernization, preservation advocacy, literacy promotion, research support expansion, and strategic repositioning of a national memory institution central to Nigeria's intellectual infrastructure.

The GLLPS is reserved for individuals whose record reflects enduring institutional contribution and measurable public value. The documentary evidence demonstrates that Professor Chinwe Veronica Anunobi has strengthened the National Library of Nigeria through digital transformation, institutional modernization, professional development, literacy advocacy, and preservation-focused leadership.

It is therefore the considered judgment of the Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research, Documentation and Legacy that her record satisfies the threshold for the Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service (GLLPS).