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5-2022

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AHMED, Yakub Olayinka; SULAIMAN, Idirs; and ONOJAH, Okah Mary, "USE OF ACADEMIC LIBRARY IN DIGITAL REVOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA" (2022). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 7149.

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**USE OF ACADEMIC LIBRARY IN DIGITAL REVOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA**

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**Abstract**

The paper focuses on the use of library in digital revolution for sustainable development. The paper focused on the concept of library and digital revolution, the roles of library in digital revolution and the challenges of library in digital revolution. The paper concluded that in order for libraries and librarians to be relevant, they are expected to lead the way in technology use among fellow residents and gain more time for the most important activity: helping patrons. Since the main mission of most libraries is to offer equality of access to information for every citizen, then why not be a trendsetter in digital use and implement innovative technologies and services in libraries.

**Keywords:** Use, library, digital revolution, sustainable development

## **Introduction**

Libraries play an important role in the intellectual life of the nation and state, because the library is a storehouse of knowledge and is one of the important means to realize the quality of superior human resources. Over time, the library is now not only used as an information center or source of knowledge, but also for research, reproduction, preservation of the nation's cultural treasures and many other services. To optimize this role, information needs to be organized so that library users can find the information they need more easily and quickly. Therefore, the services provided are always aimed at people who use appropriate technology-based information. In the end, all of this causes users to demand that the library not only be a place to find books or read magazines, but become a kind of general store for them.

The development of information and communication technology or Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has brought changes in various fields, including the world of libraries (Hansen, 2019). In the past, library users were satisfied with reading services on the spot and only borrowed books from the library, now library services are not enough, there are only two types of services. Librarians are now asking which types of digital services, such as membership card services and online book viewing services, should be implemented. In addition to the increasing demand for services, the quality of service is also getting better. Digital Revolution is increasingly establishing itself as a constant theme in contemporary academic and practitioner conversations. A quick search in Google Trends shows that interest skyrocketed from a level of 1 to 100 in the six years between 2013 and 2019. This comes alongside a surge of published articles, conference panels and special issues in academic journals. Furthermore, as to its strategic importance, it has become taken for granted that digital revolution is affecting and challenging managers across industries and contexts (Bhargava, 2018). The challenges around the COVID-19 pandemic have further spurred organizations into action by increasing their awareness of the need to accelerate digital revolution.

Digital revolution has transformed the nature and content of media leaving behind far reaching effects and implications on both the organizational and industrial structure (Wikipedia, 2020). It has utilized developments in information and communication

technology to usher in the era of information economy where the productivity and competitiveness of units or agents in the economy (be they firms, regions or nations) depend mainly on their capacity to generate, process, and apply knowledge-based information efficiently (Castells, 2016). The use of digital revolution in library has assisted in strengthening the modus operandi of library services and thereby enhancing the information needs of users.

### **Concept of Library and Digital Revolution**

A library has always been referred to as a place that stores all mankind's knowledge, which means it must have everything that the user wants. Libraries are primarily to provide impartial access to information for every citizen. The librarian and library professionals should guide by the way new technology will be used by the clientele and create more time for the most important activity by helping them in their quest for information. Librarians and library professionals strive to help their patrons with all requests. But in order for the assistance to be rendered, they must be up-to-date in the use of current technologies. Libraries are incorporating digital revolution to create a more progressive presence in the community. It has become an essential way for libraries to communicate and engage patrons. These important tools can enhance learning skills and allows for an exchange of information that goes beyond the walls of the traditional library (Cao, 2019).

Digital revolution as the shift from mechanical and analogue electronic technology to digital electronics which began in the latter half of the 20th century, with the adoption and proliferation of digital computers and digital record-keeping, that continues to the present day. Tapscott (2014) viewed the era of the digital revolution as a revolutionary phenomenon that combines new forms of the development of communication and computer technologies, as well as the development of information awareness and promotion of information with a view to creating a global form of interaction within societies and across the entire world. Marketing has been revolutionized due to the rise of digital media and new forms of electronic communication. Lamberton and Stephen (2015) opined academic researchers have attempted to explain consumer- and firm-related phenomena related to digital, social media, and mobile marketing.

Shen et al. (2013) stressed that successful digital revolution requires an organization to develop a wide-range of capabilities, which will vary in importance depending on the

business context and the specific organization's needs. Digital technology needs to become central to how the business operates, and organizations effectively need to re-think and possibly re-invent their business models in order to remain competitive.

The Internet can drive incredible new business opportunities and, in fact, change the face of all industries (Petrick, 2018). This happens because “the Internet speeds get faster, and the knowhow to develop systems on the Internet gets cheaper, faster, and better. In fact, the speed of innovation is vastly different today than it was 20 years ago, because of the maturity of the Internet. Amazon, Facebook, Google, Skype, Netflix, Airbnb and others are good examples of digital disruption which make a big impact on current internet users' behavior and lifestyle. Though digital disruptors generally start their business from scratch without any intention of disrupting the market, the techniques and methodologies described in articles and books mostly address the current traditional businesses and incumbents — how to survive amid these global changes, how to find new niches, and how to stay competitive (Shipilova, 2018).

### **Roles of Libraries in Digital Revolution**

The explosion of information due to advances in information technology has occurred and in the future the explosion in both quality and quantity will increase its impact on most areas of life and social class, including libraries. Changes in library organization due to the presence of information technology are not limited to changes in structure, mission and definition, even related to the Kardi model (2007). The consequence of changing the library paradigm requires library managers to dare to innovate and be up-to-date in managing their libraries, in various activities and activities. Using information technology creatively and constructively, not only paying attention to the arrangement of books, but also providing increasingly open access to electronic and digital information. Siregar (2008), with the development of information technology, librarians can be left behind if they do not renew their librarianship vision and do not adapt librarianship practices to developments in information technology.

According to Vu (2018), the perception of the interior (inside) of the library must be reconstructed to show that the library is the main source for every information seeker. The library is the main building for the birth of the scientific community and the information society. Libraries are also a path to a modern and civilized society. However, to achieve all these dreams is not something easy. Innovations are continuously made to create libraries that meet the demands of the times. The current level of development in the field of information

technology offers many new opportunities for libraries to develop them. Many tasks that were once difficult or even impossible for libraries in developing countries are now easier and more feasible. Expanding the reach of library automation systems and simultaneous management of electronic resources scattered throughout the world may be one of the determining factors in determining whether libraries are still in need or will be abandoned (Siregar, 2004).

### **Challenges of Libraries in Digital Revolution**

Digital revolution adoption in library has encountered many challenges due to its requirements. Although the library exists in a long tradition, its role seems to be diminished. Besides, the concept of "information service" is vaguely understood by the majority. It cannot be denied that the digital revolution has made enormous changes in all aspects of life, which means the speed of technological development will be even higher. The fact urges libraries to renovate the operation and the way of service provision; otherwise, they will be lagged behind, that is, they will no longer be able to fulfill their mission of providing information and knowledge effectively (Duong, 2018).

A modern library requires librarians to have sufficient and eligible qualities, qualifications and skills beyond the usual library skills. It is commonly known that the digital revolution has made it hard to identify the boundary among libraries as they share the same data source and the library linkage system is becoming more and more popular. Therefore, library and information industry needs to build an appropriate and equal mechanism for linking and sharing resources among libraries. The current inconsistent data structure has influences the data exchanges among libraries around the world, even some software does not recognize the records as the focused cataloging software to process data posted to Worldcat Discovery. This requires the libraries to update and follow international standards in storing and preserving the data for long time use of digital data.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

A lot of strategies can be adopted to develop knowledge innovation culture of libraries, which consists of establishing the environment beneficial to knowledge innovation, creating a learning culture, shaping knowledge-based team organization, improving trust and cooperation, enhancing human resource development and cultivating knowledge innovation

talents. The tools and resources identified are just a glimpse of advanced technology innovations. There are numerous other modern technologies developed of late.

Therefore, it is high time for the policy makers, planners, and library administrators to properly look at how they can encourage innovations in libraries for ensuring effective channelization of information resources. Moreover, the information professionals are supposed to keep track of the revelations of technology innovations so that their practical applications in libraries and information systems can be effectively implemented for promoting up-to-date and value-based information services to the users of innovative techno generation.

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