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Libraries at the Centre of Community Transformation: A Bibliometric Study (2009-2019) of the Influence of Libraries on Segments of Human Communities in Nigeria

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Libraries at the Centre of Community Transformation: A Bibliometric Study (2009-2019) of the Influence of Libraries on Segments of Human Communities in Nigeria

Abstract

Purpose – The objective of the research was to undertake a bibliometric study (2009-2019) on the influence of libraries on segments of human communities in Nigeria. The specific objectives are to determine the bibliometric newspapers, databases, and institutional repository components of the Nigerian Academic, Social, Economic, Judicial, Political, Health, Cultural, and Religious Communities.

Design/methodology/approach – The method adopted was the descriptive survey research design; specifically the online content analysis technique was co-opted. The study covered all the publications published for or about Library Transformation in Nigeria by both Nigerians and foreigners (2009-2019); that are domiciled in Nigerian Online Newspapers, Online Databases, and Institutional Repositories. For Online Newspapers, the study used the *Punch* and *Vanguard* Newspapers, for Online Databases, the study used the *DOAJ* and *SCOPUS* Databases, while for Institutional Repositories, the study used the *Federal University of Technology Owerri (FUTO)*, *Ahmadu Bello University (ABU)*, and *University of Lagos (UNILAG)* Institutional Repositories. The search keyword was “*Library+Nigeria*” while the component parameters within which the search results from each community was analysed were: *Technology Transformation; Library Structure/ Building; Education; Equipping the Library; Community Social Responsibility; Reading Culture; Politics & Government.*

Findings – The findings of the study among others reveals that the online representations of libraries’ influence on all the Nigerian Communities through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers over a decade (2009-2019) is unsatisfactory. Libraries generally had greater influence on the Academic Community than other Communities, amassing a total of 65% of the online publications within the decade (2009-2019). Libraries influenced the Communities more through the Institutional Repositories Medium which constitutes 45% of the entire publications, while the most discussed issues centred more on Education (40%), Technology Transformation (26%), and Library Structure/ Building (14%).

Originality/value – Research studies focusing on libraries’ transformation on the various segments of Nigerian community are very rare. Despite the fact that there have been movements, campaigns, and publications on libraries transforming communities over the past decade, there is doubt if in reality it has impacted these communities in Nigeria through evidences and reactions from online newspapers, online databases, and institutional repositories. This, the study established.

Keywords: Libraries; Community Transformation; Nigerian Human Communities; Academic Community; Social Community; Economic Community; Judicial Community; Political Community; Health Community; Cultural Community; and Religious Community

Introduction

In recent times, human communities in Nigeria have witnessed remarkable and intriguing changes in all ramifications due to transformations brought about by libraries. Today's libraries are now more than ordinary rooms with shelves and books. Abu (2014) citing Buschman & Leckie stated that they have become a type of social and cultural institution, rendering a constantly changing range of services and resources especially to impact the immediate community. Today, libraries are expected to directly or indirectly influence its immediate community if its relevance is to be sustained. Hence, because of the position and role they occupy in their communities, the impact they make across varying programmes and their codes for engaging in partnerships are very significant for community transformations (Thomson and Murray-Sanderson (2017). All over the world, there are success stories of how different communities have been transformed by some activities, services and functions of the library; hence bringing librarianship to limelight.

Libraries now understand their roles in facilitating access and sharing of ideas, and in assuming depositories for the government, immediate community, and other information using segments of the society. Hence Kranich (2012) opined that "because libraries defend and advocate some of the most fundamental democratic ethics of our society; they not only make information freely available to all", they also promote development in all human segments of the society. Human communities in Nigeria are seen represented in this study as: academic, social, economic, judicial, political, health, cultural, and religious communities. These communities represent the entire ramification of human communities of which impacts by libraries are expected to be perceived, obviating the areas transformations from libraries are anticipated to be felt. Libraries, being gateways to knowledge provide basic conditions for life-long learning, independent decision making and the cultural development of individual and social groups. Leonard and Ngula (2013) discussed that they do this through various means like providing ICT facilities to their communities, hence impacting the areas of education, information access and use, policies, cultural enrichment and economic development.

Despite the fact that there have been movements, campaigns, and publications on libraries transforming communities over the past decade, there is doubt if in reality it has impacted these communities in Nigeria. However when such happens, one expects to see evidences and reactions on libraries transforming communities, from: online newspapers (for daily news publications in Nigeria); online databases (for research works and articles published in/for/about Nigeria); and institutional repositories (for thesis, dissertations, and inaugural lectures from different universities). Hence a decade's analysis on how libraries have transformed the different human communities in Nigeria as evidenced in online newspaper publications, online databases, and online institutional repositories; is what the study sets out to accomplish.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to carry out a bibliometric study (2009-2019) on the influence of libraries on segments of human communities in Nigeria. The specific objectives are to determine the bibliometric newspapers, databases, and institutional repository components of:

1. Libraries' influence on Nigerian Academic Community.
2. Libraries' influence on Nigerian Social Community.
3. Libraries' influence on Nigerian Economic Community.
4. Libraries' influence on Nigerian Judicial Community.
5. Libraries' influence on Nigerian Political Community.
6. Libraries' influence on Nigerian Health Community.
7. Libraries' influence on Nigerian Cultural Community.
8. Libraries' influence on Nigerian Religious Community.

Conversely, for much comprehension of the present study, literatures on the above sub-themes and the research method used, including presentations and discussion of findings are seen discussed below.

Review of Related Literatures

Human Communities in Nigeria

Human communities in Nigeria over the years have metamorphosed and unconsciously stratified itself especially as diversity and innovation multiplies. A community as Douglas (2010) defined is “a set of meaningful social connections in a group of any size where members have something in common; it is social and a web of some kind of relationships”. By operating within streamlined confines which are either partially or completely agreed among her members, a community establishes and emphasizes its ethics and traditions which can also be seen as rules. To be in a community means you have to agree to abide by certain terms and conditions guiding the community, and have wholesomely shared some kind of a bond in areas like experience, domain, individuality, benefits, conditions etc. Hence, a community is seen as a group of people within either a geographic area or in the confinement of a given culture and social system; with members aware of their unity and organization.

In Nigeria, different types of communities exist both consciously and unconsciously formed with different physiognomies, aims, rules of interactions, and membership requirements. Everyone is automatically grouped into a community voluntarily or involuntarily. There are communities of doctors, lawyers, traders, priests, prisoners, even smokers. However, with respect to this study, Nigerian communities have been subdivided into seven. Namely: academic, social, economic, judicial, political, health, cultural, and religious communities.

Academic Community: The academic community in this study refers to all stakeholders and players in the education system. This includes all students, staff of universities at federal and state levels, ministries, government agencies and organizations in education. Hence, anyone or any organization involved in: studying, teaching, doing research for or in an institution, etc. is in the academic community. The academic community have to a large extent benefited and been transformed by libraries. Libraries' envious position as the domain of knowledge and as an essential ingredient for any researcher reemphasizes its relevance in academic communities. Leonard and Ngula (2013) identified two roles of public libraries have in literacy education- affiliate of institutions carrying out literacy activities, and as a division supplying information resources to stakeholders in literacy education. Some libraries have transformed the academic community by serving as a pivot for lifelong learning and as a stimulant of information literacy. Ndinde and Kadodo (2014) observed that the UNESCO have established a lot of community learning centres in order to offer learning advancement and opportunities that can empower occupants in their communities and improve their standard and quality of life. The centres can among other things institute non-formal, adult, lifelong learning and skills development. In addition to the transformations brought about by these centres are the provisions of support for children and young people moving through the formal education system, and for adult and continuing learners.

In further stories on how libraries have transformed the academic community, Shrestha (2013) in his findings from a library focus group stated that over 1000 people in their focus area have been helped to accomplish basic literacy, while a lot more were able to refresh and retain their literacy skills through using the library. As opined by one of the literacy classes beneficiary at the Agyauli library;

“I was totally illiterate. I did not even know how to write my name. I had to wait for months to find someone who can read letter from my husband. I had to wait for somebody to take my kids and me to hospital. I used to be dominated in home and society because I was illiterate. Now I know Nepali and some English. As I am more literate, I have a better position in my home and family. I am now respected by all because of the literacy training that I obtained. I now am confident and go where I need to and I like to”

Since education entails developing an individual psychologically, intellectually, vocationally, socially, religiously and morally; Okiy (2015) noted that libraries provide the information resources that are used in training by establishing schools from kindergarten to tertiary levels of education. It is only when people begin to be conscious of the important role of library in driving information that are necessary for educational development, that true transformation can take place in the educational sector (Adegoke, Fijabi, & Bamidele, 2014).

Social Community: Social community as entailed in this study refers to all gatherings of the human society as pertaining the way they relate, co-exist, live, and work together towards a defined goal. It basically involves the society and how its occupants relate with one another. It involves a community with interpersonal networks that provide sociability, social support to their members; residing in a particular locality, such as a village or locality; with various life activities. Hence, the impact of libraries in transforming the social community of Nigerian, keep growing more concern by the day. However, Nyberg and Geises (2012) in their opinion stated that the role of the libraries can either be to empower people from underprivileged communities, and to improve their life values.

Since access to information is essentially significant to fulfilling the day-to-day survival needs, ensuring a competitive economy, promoting education and lifelong learning (Mchombu (2012); libraries have positively impacted the human social community through these means. Leonard and Ngula (2013) likewise argued that the “capacity of a community to cope with economic and social changes depends heavily on their access to information (libraries), and if communities are not well informed, other policy measures will fail”. To achieve this, librarians can spend some time in activities beyond the physical walls of the library building so as to understand the values and information needs of the community. What libraries can do as agents and architects of social transformation were listed by Makhubela, Fombad, & Jiyane (nd) as: Relationships in voluntary associations; Presence in the local institutions; Serve as the physical infrastructure of the community; Understand the profile and dynamics of the local economy; Understand the definition of the community, its history and its dreams; Recognition of the changes in communities (educational landscape, technological opportunities-social media, political climate, environmental shifts-climate change); Libraries as gateway for democracy: Provide space & encourage & support democratic initiatives, participation and debates (create awareness, provide sources, lessons, develop posters and messages on democracy). Librarians can also teach users how to find, evaluate, use information effectively literacy skills that will help them to tackle the problems facing their communities and act as competent citizens (Milner, 2002).

Economic Community: This community with regards to the present study entails all institutions and organizations whose operations revolve around economic, business, trade, and financial activities. It reaches from the financial alliances of the government, to that of private organizations, down to individuals. Hence, how libraries have been able to transform and impact positively on or with the economic community is pertinent; as most struggles and endeavours of man is to make a living and profit. How libraries have improved the economy of a nation, the profits of organizations, standard of living of individuals too; are of paramount essence. As seen in Leonard and Ngula (2013), Robbins and Fraser regarded libraries as information centres established to foster local economic development by providing solutions to their anticipated needs of information. From another perspective, Hamilton-Pennell (2008) on how public libraries can support local economic development opined that the libraries can put up significant efforts by meeting the information needs of local entrepreneurs to strengthen their

business establishments and sales. Hamilton-Pennell further argued that, “public libraries are natural partners in local economic development efforts”. Therefore, as obviated by Leonard & Ngula, (2013), libraries being centrally located in a community, provide varieties of information resources designed to facilitate growth and improve the quality and capacity of the workforce.

Libraries now have programs in the forms of non-formal education, such as computer tutorials, livelihood and income generating skills acquisition, and women empowerment; that is targeted towards economically empowering its beneficiaries. Shrestha (2013) in her study stated that many farmers’ income have improved, courtesy of the library’s impact. For example, according to Shrestha “Til Bahadur is a successful farmer who earns an income from mushroom farming, a business he commenced after receiving training in mushroom farming from the library”. Also a member of the Deurali community as Shrestha narrated, shared that “...after the candle making training provided by the library, I borrowed funds from the library and now I am a local businesswoman. I have started earning for the first time in my life.”

Judicial Community: The judicial community here represents all government and private-owned organizations that have their fundamental activities revolving around: making; enacting; and applying the rule of law for the good of the society. On its own, the judicial system interprets and applies the [law](#) in the name of the government or organization it represents. Hence, all organizations that generally make [statutory law \(legislature\)](#) or enforce law ([executive](#)), and also interpret law, are all enshrined into the judicial community. In this community we find the Senate, House of Assembly, House of Representatives, courts, lawyers, judges, constitutional laws, law students, even the law abiding citizen of a country. Libraries, especially the special libraries have in one way or the other influenced the operations of these judicial organizations both consciously and unconsciously. For instance digitization of law resources could enhance the easy retrieval of files, and easy call-ups of cases, saving the time of the judges and the time of detention of offenders.

Political Community: This community entails all governmental and non-governmental organizations and functionaries which play roles on how the masses are governed and catered for. It is a group of like-minded individuals and organizations who share common political goals, values and system such as social justice, lowering taxes, improving educational policy, conducting fair elections, voting, vying for offices, governing and ruling, political parties, gender rights, etc. Libraries sometimes lend a helping hand to the government to help them achieve some certain goals in the locality. Shrestha (2013) discussed that as government agencies were staggering in their service provision to the community; the community relied heavily on the library to facilitate programs for them. Even local donors and philanthropists learned to trust the library more and helped them deliver additional programs. Some libraries like the Jhuwani library, as Shrestha (2013) stated also conduct many programs aimed at attracting women’s interest into the library; while local women who previously do not see why they

should use the library, now see what they stand to gain. The libraries can embark on sensitization and political literacy of individuals, teaching them their rights laws within the constitution. It can also provide political information resources to clients.

Health Community: The health community connotes every private and government agency assigned the task of seek the healthiness and wellbeing of the masses. Hence, any organization that seeks the wellbeing of people, treats, assign medications, conduct tests, fight diseases outspread, provide and offer vaccinations, develop drugs, identify virus threats, etc. can be grouped under the health community. The permeation of health into all aspect of everyday life and humanity, and as an essential component of the household and social expenditure shows how important it needs to be taken. Issues of health, health care and diseases are increasingly dominant in the academic and social discourse, as we can see the effects of recent outspread of coronavirus causing human deaths, human lockdown and economic shutdown. This shows how important managing and disseminating the right preventive information and enlightening the public properly can help in curbing the health crises. Hence libraries have a lot of roles to place in transforming the health community. Libraries have changed their emphasis and attention so as to reach a wider audience of potential users including their demand on health related issues. Impressed by the range of community awareness and information accomplishments through the Agyauli library, Shrestha (2013) stated that “after a women’s co-operative was established, women in the area sought more information on health, parenting and reproductive issues”.

Cultural Community: This is a generic term encompassing the social behaviour and norms aspect of the [human](#) society, in addition to the customs, beliefs, knowledge, arts, creed, laws, habits and capabilities of the people in the community. Culture consists of the behaviours, beliefs, and other attributes peculiar to the members of a specific society or group. Here it represents communities whose mission codifies acceptable conduct in the society. Culture is considered a central concept that encompasses varying concepts that are transmitted through social learning. They can be in the form of religion, art, music, ritual, and technologies such as tools, clothing, and shelter. Through culture, people express and distinguish their selves, adapt to and contribute to the community's shared values. Thus, culture can embrace concepts like values, language, mores, norms, laws, technologies, products, and institutions. It is no news that libraries world over are transforming their host cultural communities. Shrestha (2013) discussed that “For the past 21 years, READ (Rural Education And Development) has been active in the building and development of community libraries in rural and remote areas in Nepal, and has established 53 libraries in different parts of the country. The community libraries thus serve many diverse functions and needs, being both venues for the reading and lending of books, providing 3,000-5,000 books, magazines and newspapers in both English and the local language, ICT, Internet, women’s empowerment section providing a safe space for women and girls to attend classes and training , as well as community development centres with a strong focus on grass-roots education,

empowerment and economic development, creating hubs for life-changing, community-based activities and programs”.

Edwards, Robinson, & Unger (2013) argued that for an institution to survive, it has to reposition itself not to just to provide access to information; but to also provide services that create and improve the host community. They identified seven ways libraries can become more community-centred institutions: as a “civic centre, a cultural reflection of the community, a centre for sustainability, a community centre for diverse populations, a centre for the arts, a university, and as a champion of youth”. Furthermore, the library can through its services improve arts appreciation and expression by fostering the creativity life of the community. In recent years characterized by social inclusion, it is important that libraries assume unique positions to advocate especially for youths underprivileged and poor communities. Finally, Edward, Robinson and Unger in their opinion stated that a community will survive the digital era when libraries diversify their priorities from information access to concentrating innovatively on community-building by providing relevant services and programmes that meet community needs.

Shongwe (nd) listed some libraries that have being able to impact their cultural community through one way or the other. Guatemala (Chiché Community Library) In the quest to help eradicate poverty and hunger, offers early childhood literacy and nutrition class so as to instil childcare and nutrition knowledge new parents; included are hands-on preparations of good foods for babies and children. Auckland (Manukau Libraries) Library in Manukau located in Botany Downs has a liquor license to sell glasses of wine. Eligible library visitors sit around and discuss books and engage in debates over a good glass of wine. New Zealand - Richmond (Tasman District Library) Library has dedicated a space to a creativity studio of content creation. The studio, called Imaginarium contains specialised electronic equipment (scanner, video and sound recording gear) used which the community uses to digitise existing content and to create new works in a digital format (putting together music tracks, digitising photos, making recordings of anything including oral history etc.). Venezuela (Zulia Public Library) The library is equipped with computers and the internet and people from the community are trained on the use of this technology. Also included in what libraries offer are outreach and cultural programs for children and adults, concerts, music displays, storytelling, exhibitions, book events and partnerships for pandemic preventions.

Religious Community: This is aspect of community involves human beings’ relating with that which they regard as holy, sacred, absolute, spiritual, divine, or worthy of reverence. It is a community of designated behaviours and practices, morals, consecrated places, prophecies and ethics that relates humanity to the supernatural, transcendental, or spiritual elements (Wikipedia). It comprises of churches, mosques, deities, Christians, worshippers, doctrines, religious resources, etc. Hence, libraries can still have a lot of positive transformations to make on this community if examined critically.

Libraries can contribute, help build their centres, manage their resources, helping in the research needs of their scholars etc.

Methodology

The research design adopted for the study was descriptive survey; specifically the online content analysis technique was co-opted. The study covered all the publications published for or about Library Transformation in Nigeria by both Nigerians and foreigners (2009-2019); that are domiciled in Nigerian Online Newspapers, Online Databases, and Institutional Repositories. The idea was to ensure that all publication outlets were duly covered in the study. For Online Newspapers, the study used the *Punch* and *Vanguard* Newspapers, for Online Databases, the study used the *DOAJ* and *SCOPUS* Databases, while for Institutional Repositories, the study used the *Federal University of Technology Owerri (FUTO)*, *Ahmadu Bello University (ABU)*, and *University of Lagos (UNILAG)* Institutional Repositories. The search keyword was “*Library+Nigeria*” while the component parameters within which the search results from each community was analysed were: *Technology Transformation; Library Structure/ Building; Education; Equipping the Library; Community Social Responsibility; Reading Culture; Politics & Government*. The data was derived by going through the online search results with the aid of a checklist, while the data were represented in frequency and percentages through bar and pie charts.

Presentation and Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study were presented and discussed in Tables and Bar charts as seen below

RQ 1. Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Academic Community

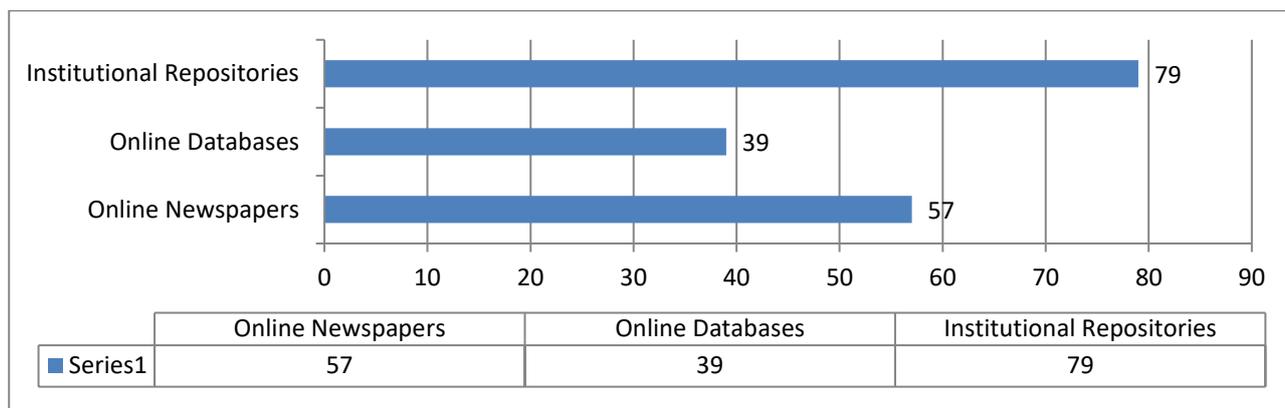


Table 1a: Online Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Academic Community

Table 1a shows the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Academic Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers. It shows that within the decade (2009-2019) libraries influenced the academic community more through institutional repositories with 79 titles published, the online newspapers followed with 57 titles, while the online databases were 39 titles.

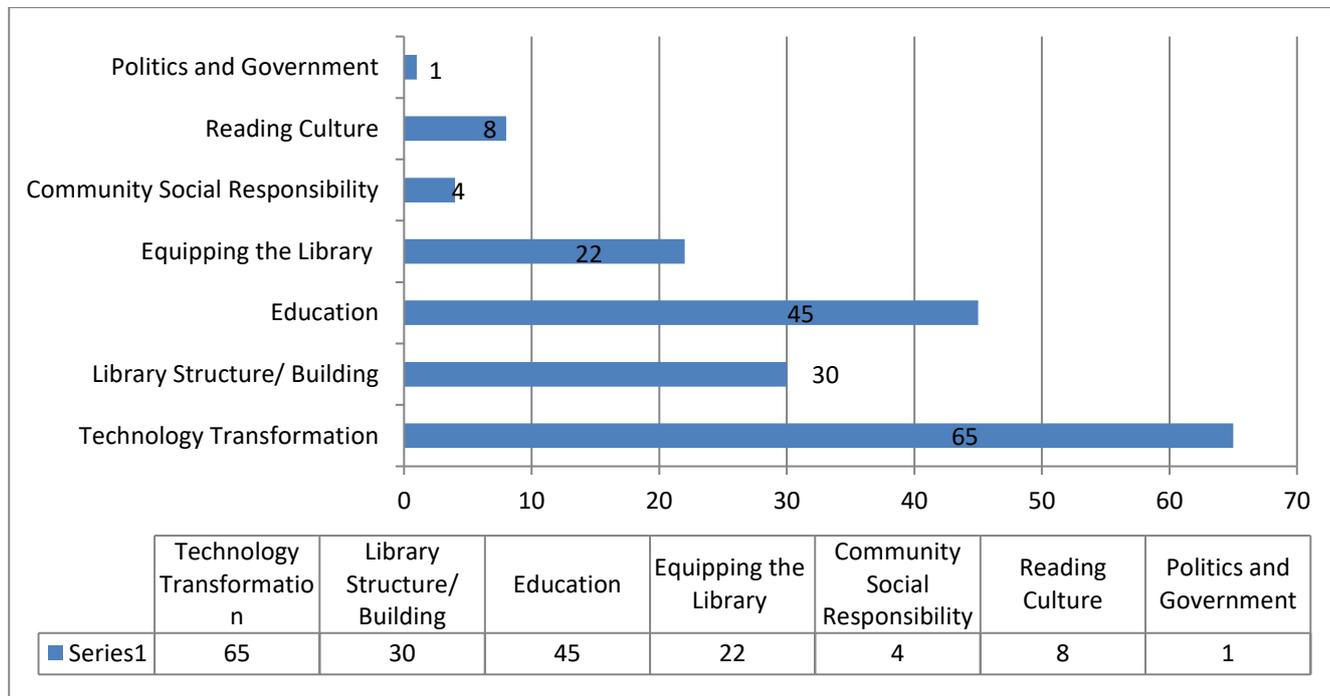


Table 1b: Parametric Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Academic Community

Issues discussed most according to the parameters in Table 1b above centered around Technology Transformations (65), and Education (45). The least discussed were Library Structure/ Building (30) Equipping the Library (22), Reading Culture (8), Community Social Responsibility (4), and Politics (1).

RQ 2. Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Social Community

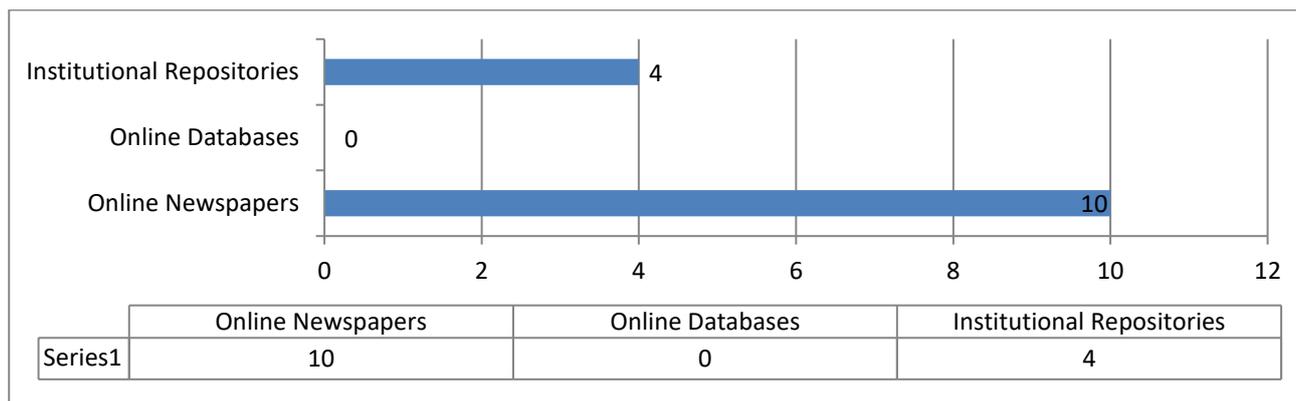


Table 2a: Online Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Social Community

Table 2a shows the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Social Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers. It shows that within the decade libraries influenced the social community more through the online newspapers with 10 titles published, the institutional repositories followed with only 4 titles, while there is none for the online databases.

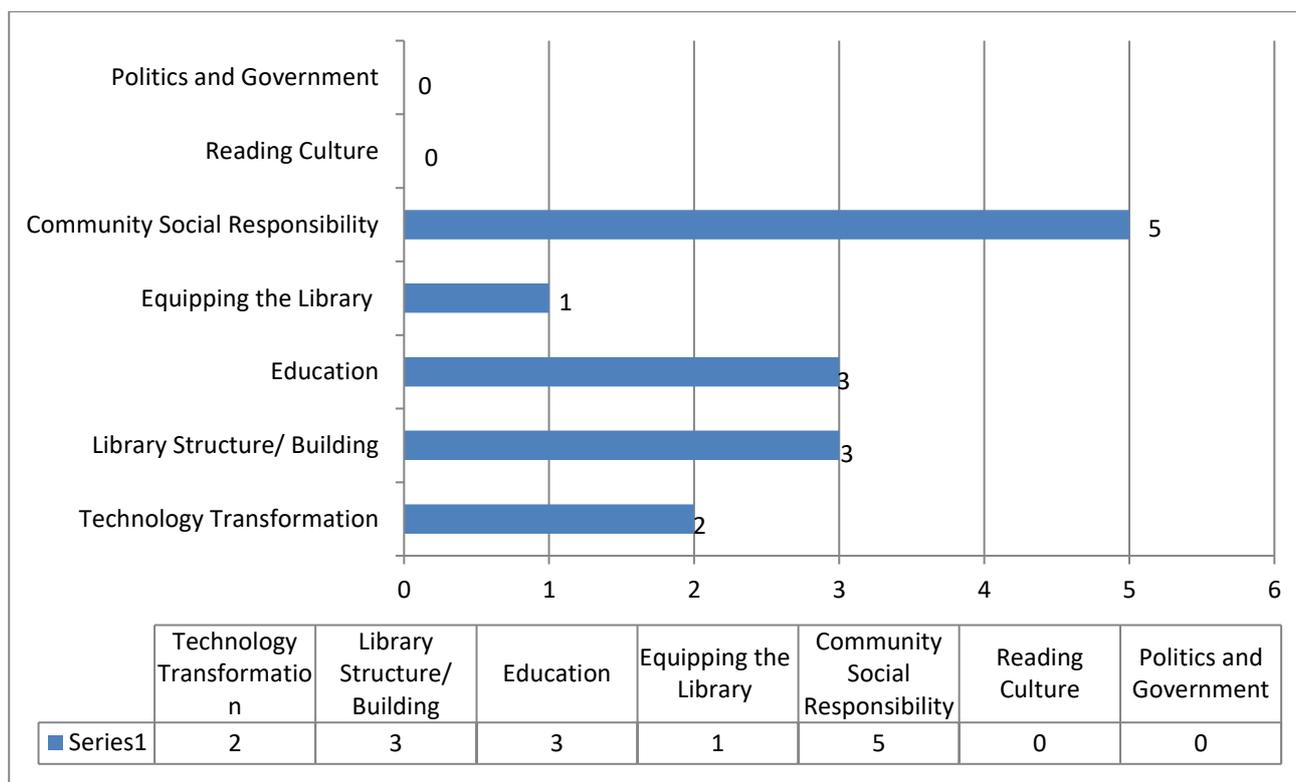


Table 2b: Parametric Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Social Community

Issues discussed most according to the parameters in Table 2b above centered around Community Social Responsibility (5 titles), Library Structure/ Building and Education (3 each). The least discussed were issues on Technology Transformation (2) and Equipping the Library (1). Others were not discussed at all.

RQ 3. Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Economic Community

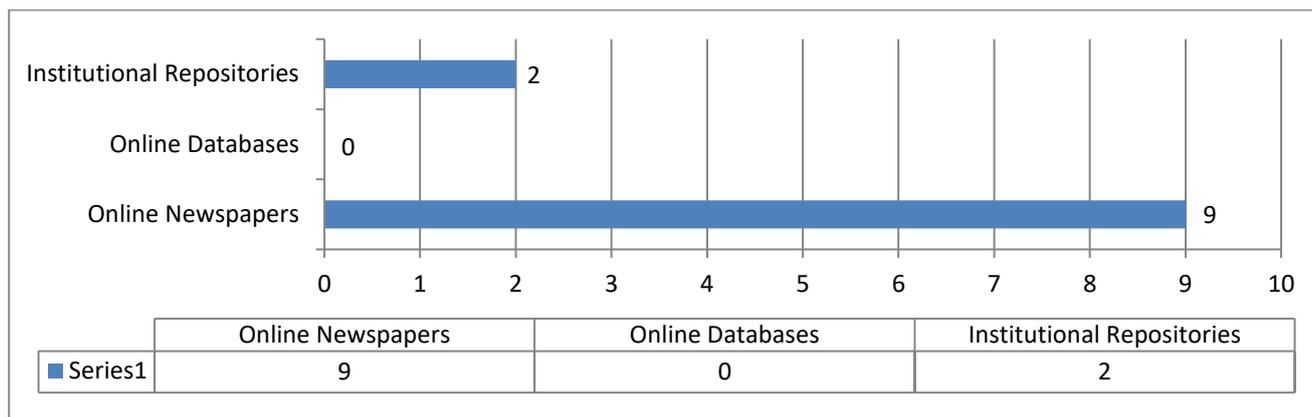


Table 3a: Online Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Economic Community

Table 3a shows the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Economic Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers. The table shows that within the decade libraries influenced the economic community more through the online newspapers with 9 titles published, the institutional repositories followed with only 2 titles, while there is none for the online databases.

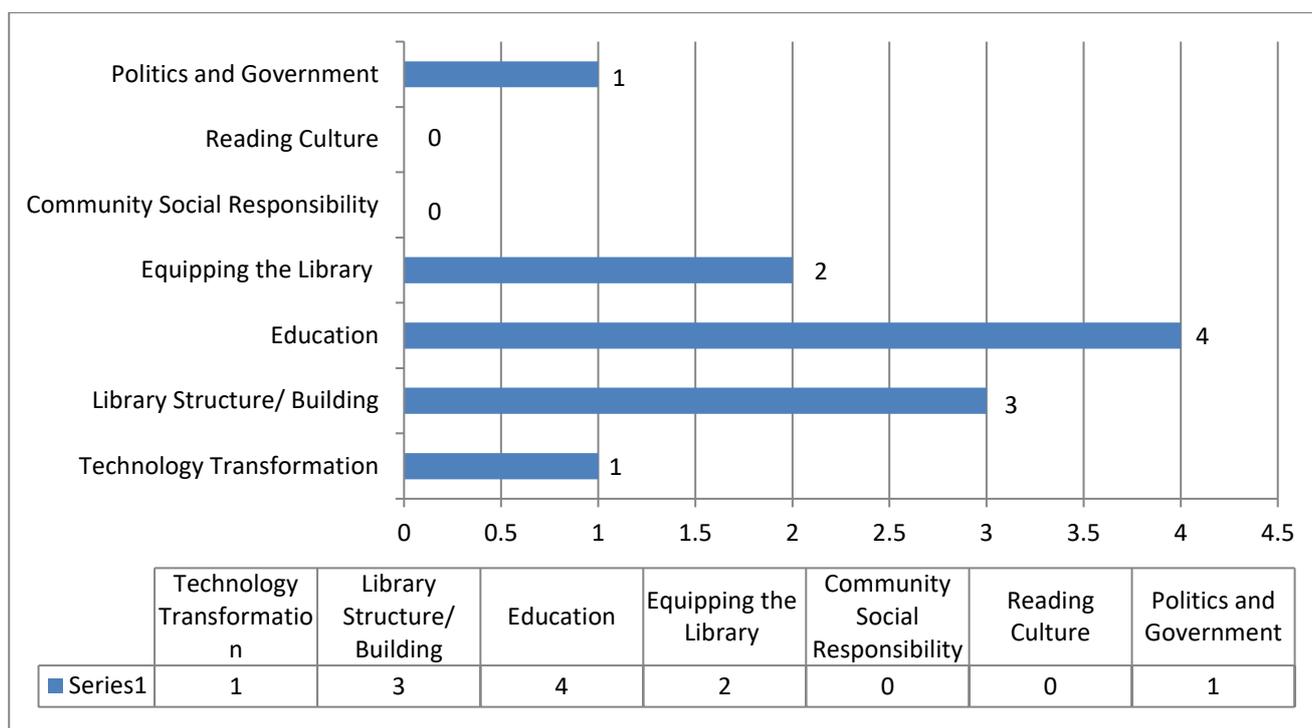


Table 3b: Parametric Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Social Community

According to the parameters in Table 3b above, issues discussed most centered around Education (4 titles), followed by Library Structure/ Building (3). The least discussed were issues on Equipping the Library (2) and Technology Transformation (1). Others were not discussed at all.

RQ 4. Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Judicial Community

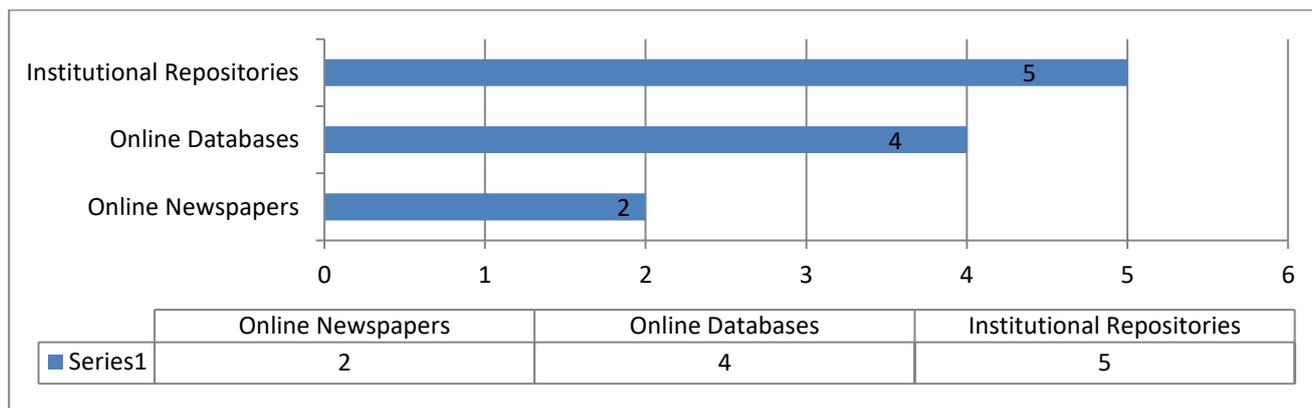


Table 4a: Online Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Judicial Community

Table 4a shows the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Judicial Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers. The table shows that within the decade libraries influenced the judicial community more through the institutional repositories with 5 titles published, the online databases followed with 4 titles, while the online newspapers was least with only 2 publications.

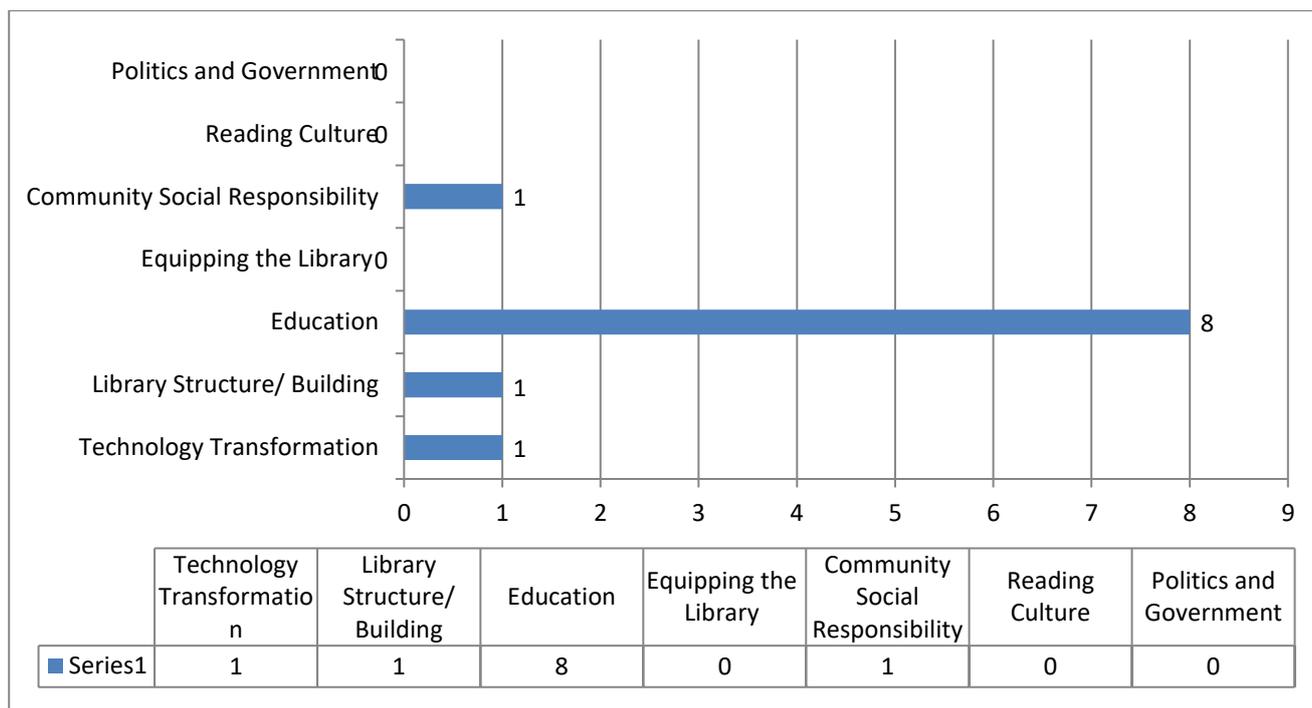


Table 4b: Parametric Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Judicial Community

According to the parameters in Table 4b above, issues discussed most centered around Education (8 titles), Library Structure/ Building, Community Social Responsibility and Technology Transformation all have only 1 title each. Others had non.

RQ 5. Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Political Community

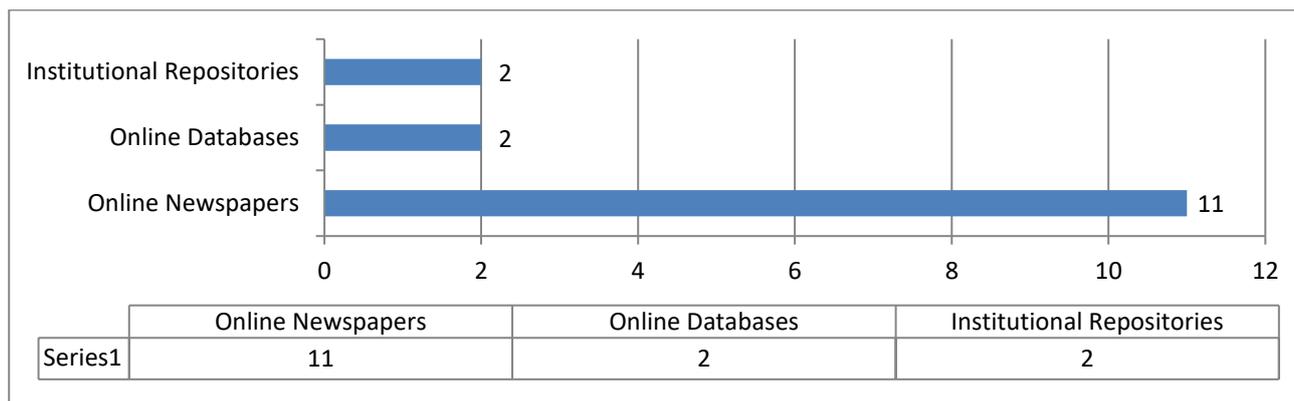


Table 5a: Online Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Political Community

Table 5a shows the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Political Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers. The table shows that within the decade libraries influenced the judicial community more through the online repositories with 11 titles published, the online databases and institutional repositories had 2 titles each.

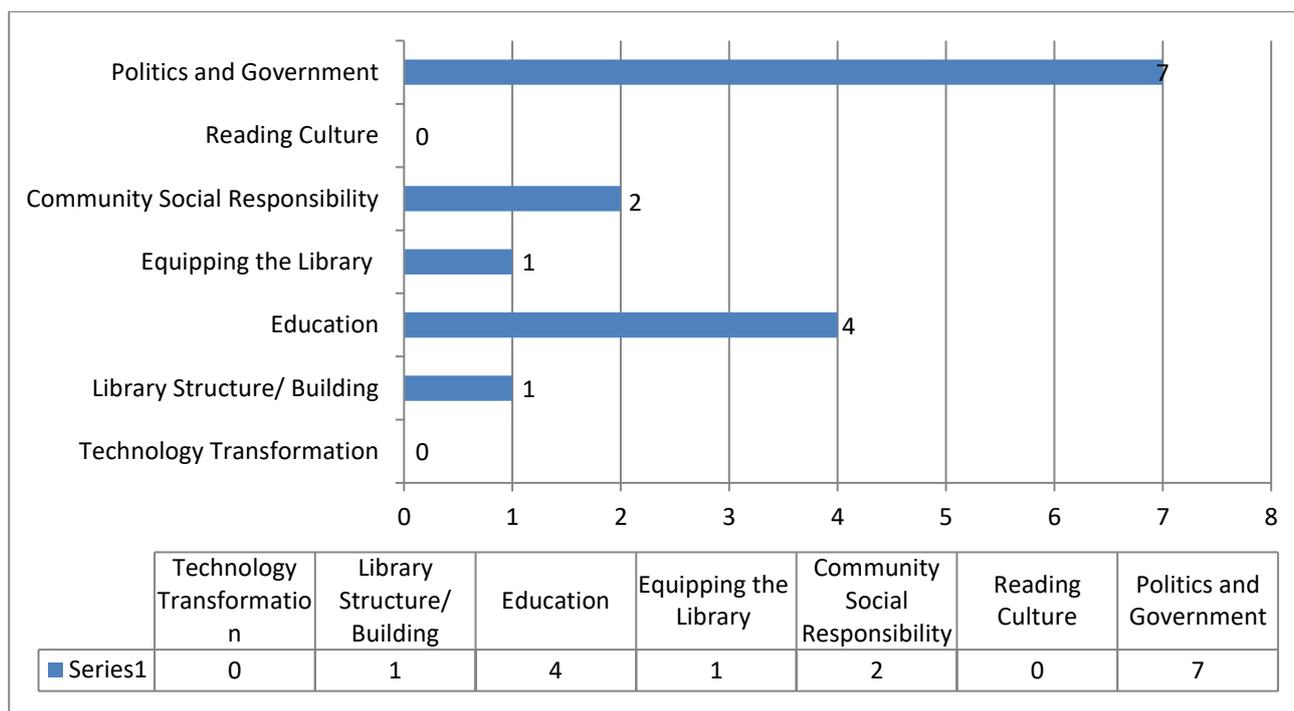


Table 5b: Parametric Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Political Community

According to the parameters in Table 5b above, issues discussed most centered around Politics and Government (7 titles), Followed by Education (4), Community Social Responsibility (2), while Library Structure/ Building, and Equipping the Library had only 1 title each.

RQ 6. Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Health Community

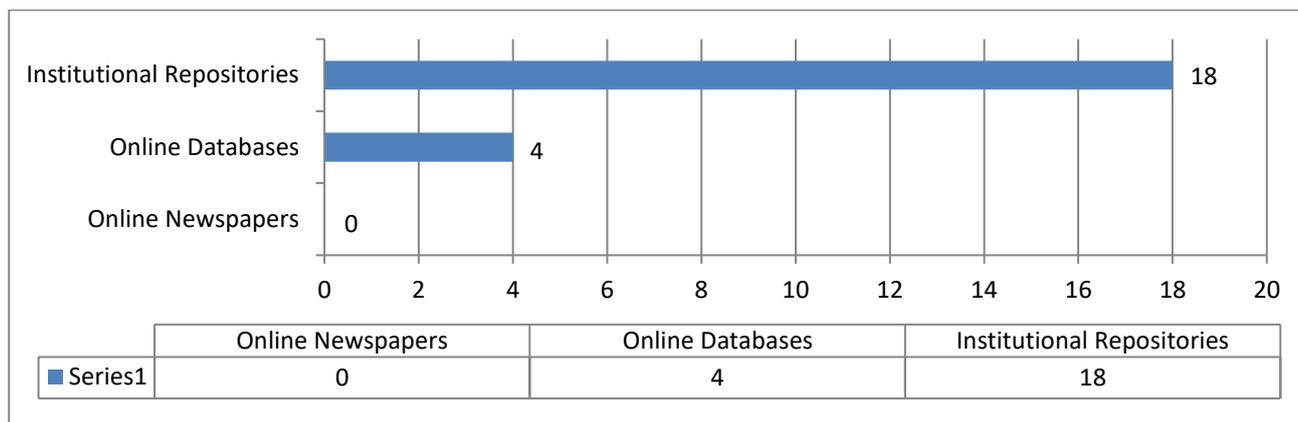


Table 6a: Online Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Health Community

Table 6a shows the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Health Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers. The table shows that within the decade libraries influenced the health community more through the institutional repositories with 18 titles published, the online databases had only 4 titles, while there was none for online newspapers.

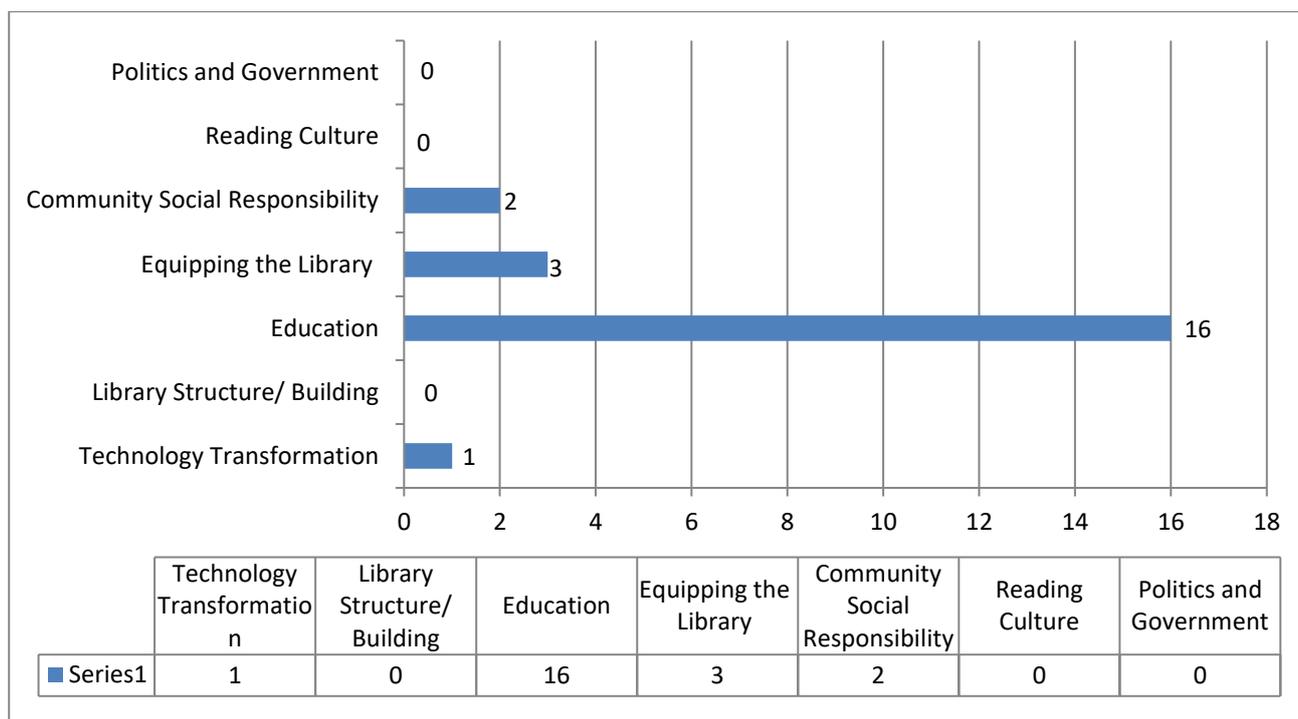


Table 6b: Parametric Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Health Community

According to the parameters in Table 6b above, issues discussed most centered around Education (16 Titles), while Equipping the Library, Community Social Responsibility, and Technology Transformation had 3, 2, and 1 respectively.

RQ 7. Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Cultural Community

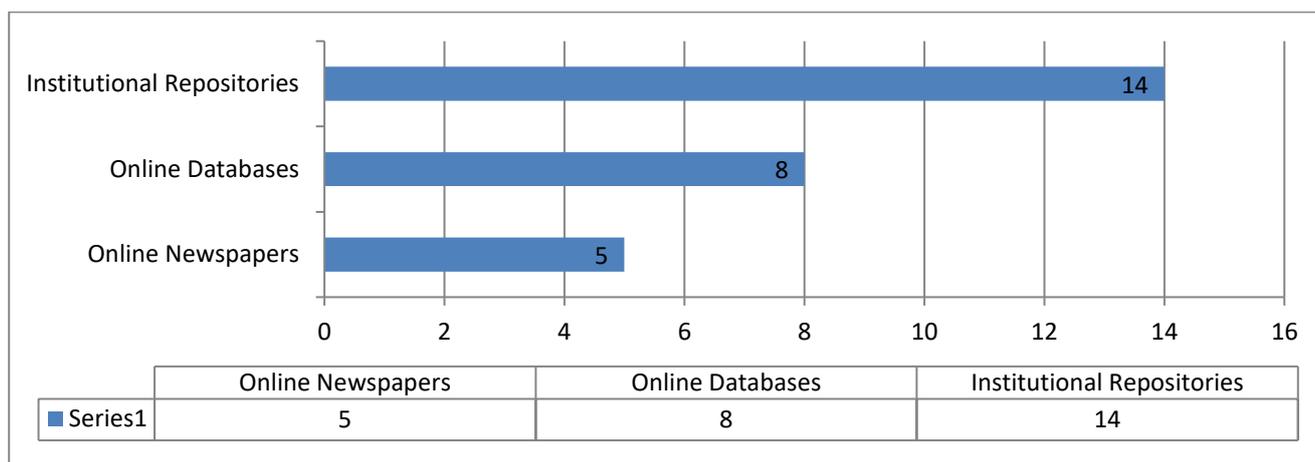


Table 7a: Online Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Cultural Community

Table 7a shows the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Cultural Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers. The table shows that within the decade libraries influenced the cultural community more through the institutional repositories with 14 titles published, the online databases had only 8 titles, while the online newspapers had 5 titles.

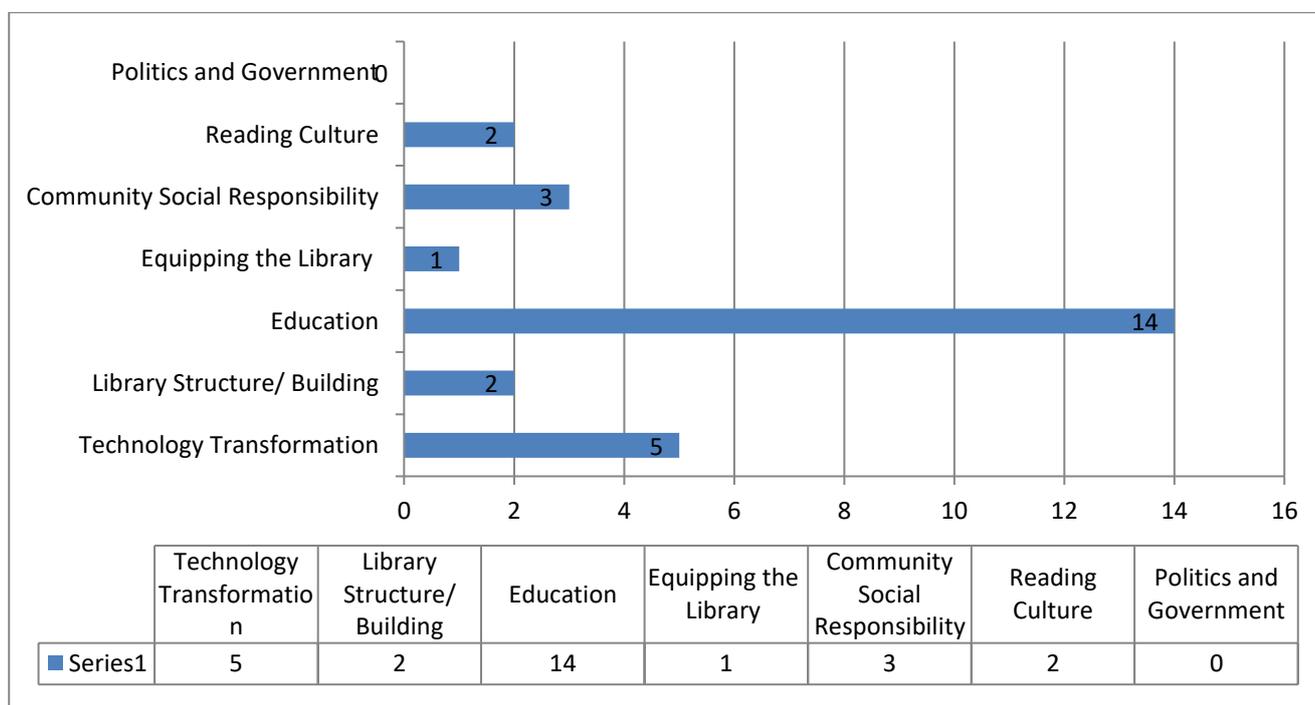


Table 7b: Parametric Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Cultural Community

According to the parameters in Table 7b above, issues discussed most centered around Education (14 Titles), followed by Technology Transformation (5), Community Social Responsibility (3), while Library Structure/ Building and Reading Culture had 2 titles each.

RQ 8. Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Religious Community

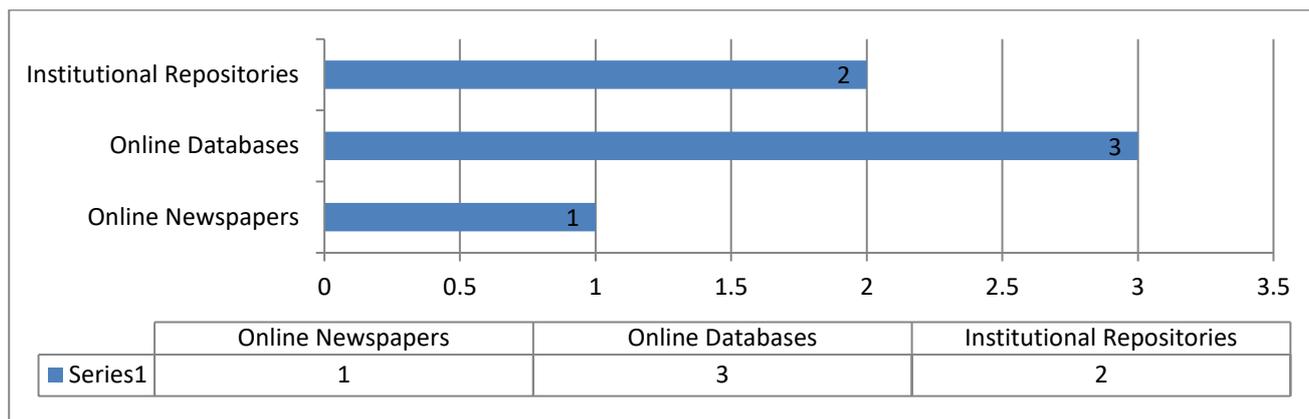


Table 8a: Online Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Religious Community

Table 8a shows the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Religious Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers. The table shows that within the decade libraries influenced the religious community more through the online databases with 3 titles published, the institutional repositories had 2 titles, while the online newspapers had just 1 title.

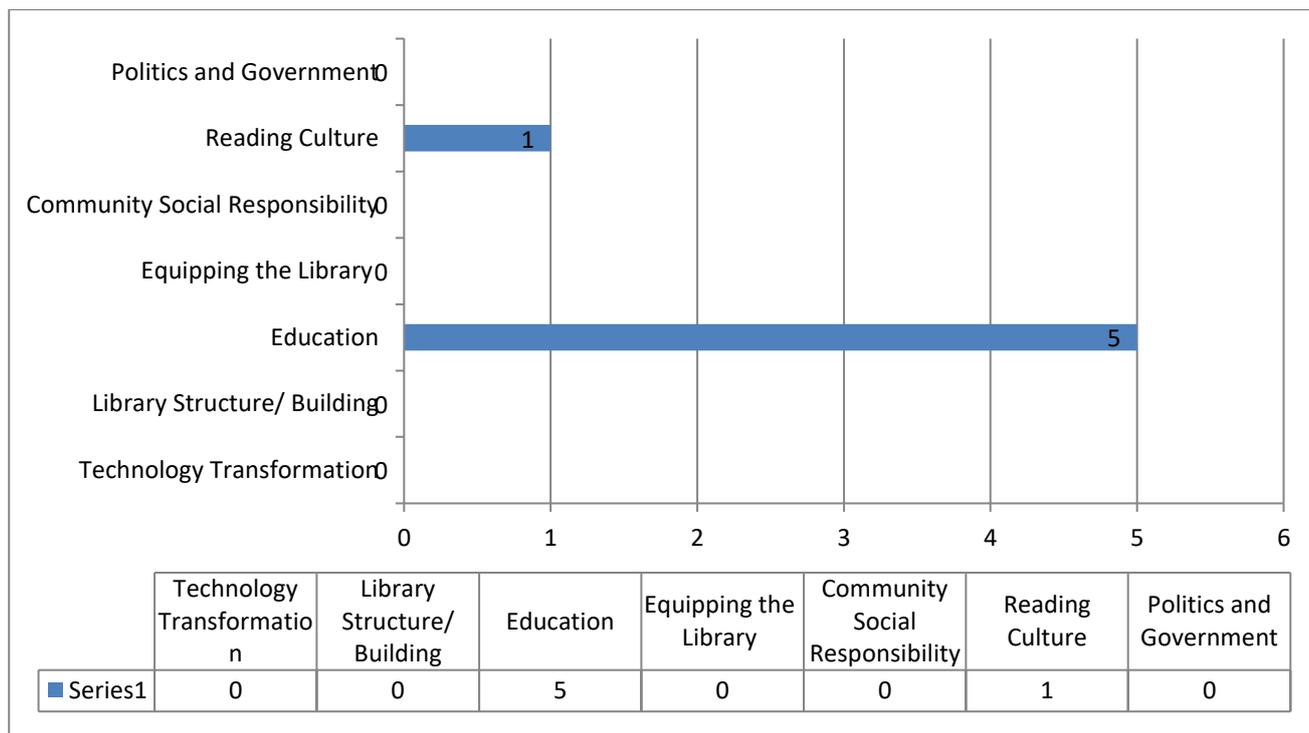


Table 8b: Parametric Representation of Libraries' Influence on Nigerian Religious Community

According to the parameters in Table 8b above, issues discussed most centered around Education (5 Titles), and Reading Culture (1). Others had none.

Discussion of Findings

Libraries Transforming the Academic Community

As revealed in Table 1a, the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Academic Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers over a decade (2009-2019) is 175 publications, which is not satisfactory. It means that Nigerian librarians are not making enough noise and activities in transforming her academic community. With about 174 universities in Nigeria, each having her own libraries and librarians, one expects to see more activities happening in the areas and to be reflected in the online publications. It also means that there is poor correlation between library issues and the academic community of (students, staff of universities, ministries, and government agencies in education). Discussing about the library in the country for only 175 titles within 10 years does not impress well enough to transform Nigerian Academic community. Since the academic community have more strength in institutional repositories, more should be done to transform the community through that channel. Subsequently, Table 1b revealed that issues discussed most in the academic community according to the given parameters centered around Technology Transformations (65), and Education (45). This shows that they are actually focussed on writing about technologies to be adopted in the library, especially for research and education purposes but not directly impacting their immediate community. We do not just exist to publish, we exist to impact lives in its entirety, and that's when we can know we are actually transforming these human communities. Since education entails developing an individual psychologically, intellectually, vocationally, socially, religiously and morally, it is only when people begin to be conscious of the important role of library in driving information that are necessary for educational development that true transformation can take place in the educational sector (Adegoke, Fijabi, & Bamidele, 2014).

Libraries Transforming the Social Community

As revealed in Table 2a, the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Academic Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers over a decade (2009-2019) is only 14 titles, which is very poor. It means that Nigerian librarians are not doing enough for their social community knowing fully well that social community entails all gatherings of the human society as pertaining the way they relate, co-exist, live, and work together. With about 313 communities and over 200 million people living and existing in our social community, having only 14 titles over 10 years is very poor to even make a noticeable change to the community talk less of transforming it. It also means that there is poor correlation between library issues and the social community (gatherings of the human society as pertaining the way they relate, co-exist, live, and work together towards a defined goal). Discussing about the library in the country for only 14 titles within 10 years does not impress well enough to transform the Nigerian Social

Community. Since the academic community have more strength in online newspapers, more activities should be carried out that will be portrayed through this medium to transform the social community. Libraries' roles have been defined to include empowering people from disadvantaged communities, and to improve their lives in all ramifications. Since information is fundamental in fulfilling man's day-to-day survival needs, ensuring competitive economy, promote education and lifelong learning (Mchombu (2012); libraries can find opportunities to positively transform the social community. Subsequently, Table 2b revealed that issues discussed most in the social community according to the given parameters centered around Community Social Responsibility (5 titles), Library Structure/ Building and Education (3 each). This shows that they are actually focussed on doing something for the community but at a very very poor rate. There are a lot of community social responsibilities libraries can indulge in, to impact the lives of people. They can draw the attention of government, connive with the private sector to impact on this community and to maintain relevance. To achieve this, librarians can spend at least ten percent of their time in activities outside the library building in order to understand the community information needs. Librarians can also teach users how to find, evaluate, use information effectively literacy skills that will help them to tackle the problems facing their communities and act as competent citizens (Milner, 2002).

Libraries Transforming the Economic Community

As revealed in Table 3a, the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Economic Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers over a decade (2009-2019) is only 11 titles, which is very poor. It means that Nigerian libraries are not doing enough to impact the economic lives of her Nigerian occupants. Since the economic community entails all institutions and organizations whose operations revolve around economic, business, trade, and financial activities, down to individuals; it is of vital importance as it directly influences the survival and standard of living of mankind. With a lot of businesses, trades, organizations, and individual establishments etc., having only 11 titles over 10 years is very poor to even make a noticeable change to the economic community. It also means that there is a very poor correlation between library issues and the economic community. Discussing about the library or the library having something to do for the economic community in the country with only 11 titles within 10 years does not impress well enough to transform the community. As seen in Leonard and Ngula (2013), Robbins and Fraser regarded the "public library as an information centre designed to contribute to local economic development by anticipating needs for specific information". Since the economic community have more strength in online newspapers (9 titles), more activities should be carried out that will be portrayed through this medium to directly influence the standard of living of individuals and organizations, and the community as a whole. Subsequently, Table 3b revealed that issues discussed most in the economic community according to the given parameters centered around Education (4 titles), followed by Library Structure/ Building (3). The least discussed were issues on Equipping the

Library (2) and Technology Transformation (1). This shows that their activities are mainly for research purposes, ie providing information for people who are in need or research articles. They do not actually engage in physical transforming activities like enlightening the masses or individuals and availing them the right resources they need to boost their businesses or career. They can also economically suggest ideas to government on the issues bothering the Nation's economy by providing facts and data in this regard. Hamilton-Pennell (2008) suggested that libraries can put up significant efforts by meeting the information needs of local entrepreneurs to strengthen their business establishments and sales; and are seen as "natural partners in local economic development efforts".

Libraries Transforming the Judicial Community

As revealed in Table 4a, the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Judicial Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers over a decade (2009-2019) is only 10 publications, which is not satisfactory. It means that librarians' contribution in supplying information resources, or engage in activities that encourage making, enacting, and applying the rule of law for the good of the society; is poor. With a lot of judiciary arms and organizations in Nigeria, one expects to see more activities happening in the areas and to be reflected in the online publications. It also means that there is poor corellation between library issues and the judicial community of (the Senate, House of Assembly, House of Representatives, courts, lawyers, judges, constitutional laws, law students). Discussing about the library in the country for only 10 titles within 10 years does not impress well enough to transform Nigerian Judicial community. Since the judicial community have more strenght in institutional repositories, more should be done to transform the community through that channel. Like making more law resources to come online, and encouraging research in law disciplines. Subsequently, Table 1b revealed that issues discussed most in the judicial community according to the given parameters centered around Education (8 titles), Library Structure/ Building, Community Social Responsibility and Technology Transformation all have only 1 title each. Others had non. Libraries, especially the special libraries should have a way of educating and enlightening people in the judicial category, by especially furnishing them with reliable facts, data, and links; and persuading their parent bodies to maintain a web presence.

Libraries Transforming the Political Community

As revealed in Table 5a, the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Political Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers over a decade (2009-2019) is only 12 publications, which is not satisfactory. It means that librarians' contribution in supplying information resources, or engaging in activities that uplift common political goals and values such as social justice, lowering taxes, improving educational policy, conducting fair elections, voting, vying for offices, governing and ruling, political parties, gender rights, etc.; is not satisfactory. Nigeria has a long history of politics, crises, and peculiar characteristics of each

political year and calendar, there should not be lack of information in any kind, especially in our democratic governing system. Since the political community have more strength in institutional repositories, more should be done to transform the community through that channel. Like making more governmental resources to come online, and encouraging research in political-related courses. Subsequently, Table 1b revealed that issues discussed most in the political community according to the given parameters centered around Politics and Government (7 titles), Followed by Education (4), Community Social Responsibility (2), while Library Structure/ Building, and Equipping the Library had only 1 title each. Public and Government libraries should improve their activities and do more in relating with government to maintain more relevance in the political community. The libraries can embark on sensitization and political literacy of individuals, teaching them their rights laws within the constitution.

Libraries Transforming the Health Community

As revealed in Table 6a, the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Health Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers over a decade (2009-2019) is just 22 publications, which is not satisfactory. It means that librarians' contribution in seeking the wellbeing of people, treating, assigning medications, conducting tests, fight diseases outbreak, supporting health researches, providing and offering vaccination information, developing drugs, identifying virus threats, etc; are not encouraging, and poorly covered. Issues of health and diseases have been increasingly dominant in general discussions, as we can see the effects of recent outbreak of coronavirus causing human deaths, human lockdown and economic shutdown. It is a pity we only have 22 title discussions connecting libraries to the health sector over ten year, especially as the world is currently running around seeking for solution. Subsequently, Table 6b revealed that issues discussed most in the health community according to the given parameters centered around Education (16 Titles), while Equipping the Library, Community Social Responsibility, and Technology Transformation had 3, 2, and 1 respectively. Since most of their works are for education purposes, they can go some extra miles of preparing anticipated information needs of health researchers, and even enlightening the public on general disease prevention steps, and how to keep fit.

Libraries Transforming the Cultural Community

As revealed in Table 7a, the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Cultural Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers over a decade (2009-2019) is just 27 publications, which is not satisfactory. It means that librarians' contribution to the sustenance of the social behaviour and norms aspect of the [human](#) society, in addition to the customs, beliefs, knowledge, arts, creed, laws, habits and capabilities of the people in the community for 10 years is just in 27 publications. More resources appeared in the form of institutional repositories, while issues of human culture are more of the physical.

Today, libraries have a lot to contribute to human culture, beyond just information access. Edwards, Robinson, & Unger (2013) argued that to survive into the future, the library has to reposition itself not to just to provide access to information; but to also provide services that create and improve the host community. Subsequently, Table 7b revealed that issues discussed most in the cultural community according to the given parameters centred around Education (14 Titles), followed by Technology Transformation (5), Community Social Responsibility (3), while Library Structure/ Building and Reading Culture had 2 titles each. However, issues on human culture should not just be based on educating the people but on what activities to embark on, in order to sustain the culture. They can build centres and libraries that can serve as venues for reading, lending, and provision of books, journals and newspapers in the local language and English, ICT, Internet, section for empowering and training women and the girl child, as well as centres for grassroots community education and development, economic development, and creating centres for life-changing programs, etc.

Libraries Transforming the Religious Community

Table 8a shows the online representation of libraries' influence on Nigerian Religious Community through the published resources on the institutional repositories, online databases, and online newspapers. The table shows that within the decade libraries influenced the religious community more through the online databases with 3 titles published, the institutional repositories had 2 titles, while the online newspapers had just 1 title. Also According to the parameters in Table 8b, issues discussed most centered around Education (5 Titles), and Reading Culture (1). Others had none. Hence libraries can contribute, help build their centres, manage their resources, helping in the research needs of their scholars etc.

Summary of Findings

<p style="text-align: center;">Community Transformation</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Community</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Academic Community</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cultural Community</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Political Community</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Community</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health Community</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Economic Community</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Judicial Community</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religious Community</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Community	Percentage	Academic Community	65%	Cultural Community	10%	Political Community	6%	Social Community	5%	Health Community	4%	Economic Community	4%	Judicial Community	4%	Religious Community	2%	<p>Libraries generally had greater influence on the Academic Community than other Communities, amassing a total of 65% (175 Titles) of the online publications within the decade (2009-2019). This was followed by the Cultural Community 10% (27 Titles), Then Political Community 6% (15 Titles).</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Community Transformation Medium</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Medium</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Institutional Repositories</td> <td>45%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Online Newspapers</td> <td>34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Online Databases</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Medium	Percentage	Institutional Repositories	45%	Online Newspapers	34%	Online Databases	21%	<p>Libraries influenced the Communities more through the Institutional Repositories Medium which constitutes 45% (126) of the entire publication, while the Online Newspapers followed, having a 34% (94) coverage, then the Online Databases was the least medium 21% (60)</p>										
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<p style="text-align: center;">Most Discussed Areas</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Education</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technology Transformation</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Library Structure/Building</td> <td>14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equipping the Library</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Social Responsibility</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reading Culture</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Politics and Government</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area	Percentage	Education	40%	Technology Transformation	26%	Library Structure/Building	14%	Equipping the Library	6%	Community Social Responsibility	6%	Reading Culture	4%	Politics and Government	4%	<p>Most discussed issues centred more around Education (40%), Technology Transformation (26%), Library Structure/ Building (14%), Equipping the Library (6%), etc.</p>		
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Conclusion

It has been established that Nigerian Libraries are not doing enough to positively transform the different segments of human communities by considering the online published activities they engage in, from 2009 to 2019. Since the world is in constant change, libraries are challenged to make resounding impacts by permeating the different segments of the human community as discussed in the study through one project of the other, to be able maintain relevancy and importance.

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