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New Media and Information Technology in Library and Information Services

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Abstract

The advent of the 21st century has brought about a change in the value chain of information and information services in libraries. The development, processing, and eventual delivery of these library and information services have been affected by the introduction of new media and information technology. However, the full adoption of these new media and information technology is not at its maximum capacity in some libraries in Nigeria. The full implementation of new media and information technology will propel the library and information ecosystem and position it on par with libraries worldwide. This paper highlights some libraries around the world and explores how they have implemented new media, particularly artificial intelligence and social media, in the information value chain, from information service development to eventual service delivery. Despite the improvements in technology applications in Nigerian libraries, the application of new media is still slow-paced. Nigerian libraries need to do more in budgeting for relevant equipment needed for the achievement of smart, user-friendly libraries that meet the dynamic needs of their users.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Information Services, New Media, Social Media

Introduction

Libraries have undoubtedly been the basis of information dissemination and access for a long time. They dedicated boundless attention to assembling collections of diverse phases, from papyrus scrolls to books, thereby assuring the continuity of knowledge from century to century (Tait et al., 2016). However, the 21st century has been marked by a revolution in the information landscape. Zaki (2019) indicated that the advent of new technologies, such as digital platforms and a wide range of tools, has brought about a deep transformation in the way information is targeted and consumed by the public. Users now require instant, remote

access to an enormous and growing pool of digital materials from journals to multimedia sources. This shift will require a parallel evolution in libraries because conventional information management and distribution approaches fail to meet the high-speed world demand.

Okeagu (2022) indicated that the existing libraries in Nigeria are in a state of compromise. While others boast impressive physical infrastructure and collections that depict a rich cultural endowment a lot of them do not have the resources or technological capabilities to express their value on a global market. Financial difficulty often curbs the possibility of purchasing new materials and the digitization of existing collections continues to pose a problem (Omoike et al., 2020). Lack of adequate staff has also been noted to be a catalyst in slowing down service delivery; especially in rural settings. In addition, some Nigerian libraries face the problem of poor adoption of new media and IT resources, which leads to users' access difficulties (Ifijeh, 2016). In the absence of necessary online visibility and easy-to-use digital tools, these libraries can hardly succeed in reaching current community demands and expectations, especially since young people are already in the digital era and are more digital-oriented. This digital gap causes a large fraction of the population to miss out on the treasure of information resources that can be found on the Internet.

In this regard, the full realization of new media and IT is transformational leverage for Nigerian libraries. With these technologies being integrated, Kotur (2022) indicated that libraries can transcend physical spaces and collections, and become dynamic information hubs that serve users who have become globalized and digitally connected. One can envision a sort of Nigerian library where they can access online databases or download e-books from home and one which uses social media platforms for outreach and education through information literacy campaigns and so on (Okojie et al., 2020). The scope is vast, and the chances for the transformation of knowledge access and the subsequent empowerment of Nigerian users with the tools they need to get ahead in the knowledge economy are abundantly clear. Nevertheless, the pursuit of this vision and realization of such a vision is only through it being a concerted effort started by government agencies, private organizations and library professionals who have to invest in infrastructure, training and acquisition of digitalized resources.

Scope of the Paper

This paper focuses on the transformation of library and information services through new media and emerging information technologies, particularly in the context of Nigeria. It explores both the global evolution of technological applications in libraries and their gradual adoption in Nigerian institutions. The scope encompasses the examination of technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), social media, digital platforms, mobile applications, and automation systems, as well as their impact on information creation, organization, and dissemination. By drawing comparative insights between developed nations and Nigeria, the paper situates its discussion within the broader context of global digital convergence and the quest for equitable access to knowledge resources.

Objectives of the Paper

1. The primary aim of this paper is to explore the impact of new media and information technology on the delivery of library and information services. Specifically, the paper seeks to:
2. Examine the conceptual and practical applications of new media and emerging technologies in the global library ecosystem.
3. Assess the level of adoption, integration, and utilization of these technologies in Nigerian libraries.
4. Identify key challenges hindering the effective implementation of digital innovations within Nigerian library systems.
5. Recommend practical strategies for Nigerian libraries to align with global best practices through technology-driven services.

These objectives aim to highlight both the progress made and the persistent structural barriers, while also presenting actionable pathways for advancing the digital transformation of library and information services.

Methodology

This study adopts a conceptual and analytical research design, relying solely on secondary data sources. It draws on scholarly journal articles, institutional reports, and credible online publications to explore the influence of new media and emerging technologies on library and information services. As a conceptual paper, the approach focuses on critically synthesizing existing knowledge rather than generating primary data.

The review process involved a structured thematic synthesis, which enables the identification and organization of recurring themes and patterns across existing literature (Thomas & Harden, 2008). This approach was considered appropriate because it facilitates the integration of diverse findings into coherent analytical themes that reflect global and Nigerian perspectives. The analysis adhered to recognized guidelines for literature synthesis, including the systematic selection of sources, critical evaluation, and thematic categorization of evidence (Strech and Carlsen, 2023).

Sources published between 2010 and 2024 were reviewed to ensure currency and relevance, with particular attention to studies addressing technological integration, artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and user-centred library innovations. The findings were interpreted thematically to highlight conceptual patterns and practical implications, enabling an informed understanding of how new media and IT continue to shape the library landscape.

New Media and Information Technology

The rise of new media and information technology has significantly transformed the creation, distribution, and use of information in the 21st century. This revolution has impacted various fields such as the education sector, communication, the entertainment industry, and libraries. To examine how these developments have affected libraries, it is necessary to overview significant changes in new media and information technologies. The late 20th and early 21st centuries witnessed the continued development of the internet based on the advancements made in the early to mid-century. McHaney (2023) opined that the transition from Web 1.0 had a large impact which altered the way users engage with online material. It characterized the web as user-generated content, collaboration, and interaction. This transition brought about social media, wikis, and blogs, and how information formation and dissemination occurred.

On the other hand, the use of mobile devices also increased significantly. iPhone in 2007 greatly changed personal computing and the experience of accessing the internet on portable handheld devices that evolved into smartphones making any time anywhere access possible (Murphy et al., 2014). Cloud computing was another disruptive technology that made its entry in the early part of the 2000s. Firms such as Amazon and Google provided opportunities for managing large amounts of data at a low cost. This enabled large numbers of organizations, such as libraries, to effectively handle volumes of digital information

without requiring vast resources on-site (Rittinghouse et al., 2017). In the late 2000s and early 2010s, the advent of e-books and e-reading devices, like Kindle and Nook raised new questions and provided new possibilities for libraries. As for library services, libraries changed their collections and borrowing policies to include electronic formats (Wang, 2015).

The use of social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram became crucial for interaction and sharing of messages. These platforms altered the dynamics and the way organizations, such as libraries engaged with their audience (Jones et al., 2019). Mohammed et al. (2020) revealed that social media and other large datasets became the methods for understanding user consumption patterns and libraries searched for ways to apply data analytics to the library environment. The utilization of AI and machine learning came into the limelight in the late 2010s and at the beginning of the 2020s as a tool for numerous areas of life such as library services and information management (Mukherjee, 2023). This led to the development of the Internet of Things (IoT) which increased the range of nodes that can communicate and share data. This technology is suitable for deployment in smart premises, asset tracking and optimization of usability for the consumers which applies to a library context (Abdulwahid et al., 2023). With the advancements in virtual and augmented reality, it becomes possible to apply some newly designed interfaces for learning and information presentation in educational systems and libraries (Dalili Saleh et al., 2022). According to Safdar et al. (2023), blockchain technology, more popular for its link with virtual currencies, has several uses in the storage, documentation and protection of information in digital form, which is useful for libraries.

Libraries worldwide have begun adapting their services in response to these new technologies. The pioneers incorporated digital assets and web OPACs in the late 1990s and the early 2000s. For instance, the National Digital Library Program was initiated by the Library of Congress in 1994 and the European Library in 2001 to offer access to resources in Europe (Dalbello, 2009). During the mid-2000s, there was a rise in the use of new media and information technologies. IFLA came up with guidelines and best practices for digital libraries in the year 2011 (Verheul, 2010). The borrowing of e-books in public libraries started around the late 2000s and early part of the 2010s. The New York Public Library started e-book lending in 2004; it extended it in the subsequent years (Platt, 2011). Mensah et al. (2022) indicated that libraries also started embracing social media for communicating with patrons and by the year 2012, many libraries were using social media. Mobile ‘friendliness’

was also a major focus in library websites and apps in the 2010s. Digital data analytics began to be incorporated into library decision-making in the mid-2010s, and some libraries have started exploring AI, VR and blockchain. It can be said that libraries have been implementing changes in using technologies to improve and develop their services for users in the modern world.

New Media and IT in Libraries

In today's digital age, libraries all over the world are undergoing a process of change to provide deep and innovative services and resources. The use of new media, artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies is currently transforming the way information is acquired, organized and delivered. Such modification boosts user satisfaction, makes libraries more accessible while enhancing the efficiency of the operations, and reinforces the role of libraries as the jewel in any community crown. Understanding customer needs is and continues to be the central tenet of service development. Besides carrying out surveys and polls, libraries heavily rely on web analytics, user experience testing, and ethnographic studies to precisely identify preferences and behaviours (Polger, 2019). An example of this is how University libraries are undertaking the process of usability studies and utilising user observation, interviews, and heat mapping to improve their website (Withorn et al., 2021). Social media analytics are specific tools to gather information about users' sentiments. Libraries, such as The British Library, analyze comments and engagement to adjust digital services and make them more suitable (Martzoukou, 2021).

High-level library services have adopted service-oriented architecture, application programming interface, and interoperability standards to make it possible for the best software applications to be applied together (Valle et al., 2019). It allows smooth user adventures around interfaces while improving internal workflow operations. Innovative resource acquisition frameworks emphasize customized buying options, such as demand-driven acquisition and evidence-based selection, where usage has greater value than perpetual purchase based on usage data. Murray (2021) revealed that AI recommendation engines use circulation and user profiles to give targeted reading recommendations which in turn increase discoverability and engagement as experimented with by several Public Library. The digitization is an imperative for preservation and access. AI is shaping up the digitization process by replacing manual work with machine work and improving its end product. Machine learning is the backbone behind instruments such as Google's Robotics

Digitization, which captures images automatically and uses computational photography to eliminate distortions (Shahnewaz et al., 2020). AI services such as Scribd.AI make it possible to extract handwritten and printed text, thereby boosting the accuracy level beyond previously achievable via traditional techniques. The HathiTrust Digital Library became a pioneer in enabling AI research across its digital corpus using non-consumptive computational use while preserving intellectual properties (Raye, 2017).

User-friendly portals facilitate effortless e-resource access through user-customized, simple search and browsing experiences divided according to the audience type. Using an app-based environment, the FOLIO Library Services Platform enables libraries to create channels that suit users in a particular location or service (Breeding, 2020). The rise of mobile apps has been reckoned with, surpassing geographical barriers and coordinating virtual interactions. The New York Public Library (NYPL) mobile app, using geo-location and augmented reality (AR) guides visitors to find their way around and between different branches (Steinbach, 2014).

Library patrons can now easily access library resources at any time thanks to the invention of self-service technologies. Zhuang (2021) noted that the automated locker feature facilitates the secure picking-up or return of physical items without the assistance of the staff. The practical use of RFID technology in stock management allows multiple item checkouts to be done via a single access point as well as inventory tracking (Viji et al. 2024). Resource sharing goes beyond today's interlibrary loan systems set-up. The real-time, availability displays in discovery layers can be utilized by users to acquire items directly from participating consortia, which translates to access to millions of items. According to Forrest et al. (2020), modern libraries are no longer only about borrowing books. Libraries create innovative places with tools such as 3D printing, virtual reality, AI workstations, and multimedia studios, providing the computational literacy that most jobs demand today. Also, Maimela (2024) revealed that The Data Scientist Training for Librarians program helps librarians in skills training to provide patrons with a guide on data sciences and artificial intelligence.

AI technology is beginning to play a crucial role in equipping different organizations with efficacy and efficiency in their daily functioning. Natural language processing enables conversational interfaces to be incorporated into virtual reference services, like Zayed University Library's AI chatbot (Lappalainen et al., 2023). According to Tella et al.

(2023), automated metadata creation utilizing AI increases the efficiency and accuracy of cataloguing much more than humans can. Although they are very impactful, these innovations come with challenges. Unfortunately, the problem of sustainable funding remains unsolved. Innovative methods to achieve this according to Kalauarachchi (2022) include libraries working with civic organisations to develop smart city applications that use municipal data or collaborate with publishers on data licensing or text and data mining services.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the role of technology in libraries cannot be overlooked. Improved resource accessibility gives birth to knowledge sharing which is essential for socioeconomic development (Matodzi, 2019). The materials and digital collections act as a carrier of cultural heritage which may be studied and appreciated by the future generations, while society's intellectual accomplishments are being archived. Singh (2024) noted that efficient and streamlined operations expand the libraries' potential to serve the communities, which proves their role as nonpareil knowledge hubs in the estimation of the digital age. As they pioneer the implementation of these empowering technologies, libraries everywhere act as the beacons that lead others toward a future filled with equal access to information, literacy promotion, and empowerment of the communities through wide access to the tools they need and the knowledge they require to succeed in the digital world (Kranich, 2020).

The Nigerian Scenario: Prospects and Challenges

The libraries of Nigeria serve a central function not only in fostering literacy and protecting cultural heritage but also in enabling research and education. Nevertheless, these institutions are faced with numerous obstacles that hinder them from delivering contemporary and efficient services. Shortcomings in infrastructure, finances, digital resources, human resources and professional development restrain development. Despite all these difficulties, some Nigerian libraries could still rise with the adoption of emerging technologies to improve their services in the light of infrastructural constraints. A good number of library buildings across the country have outlived their usefulness and can’t be upgraded to meet the digital demands of information users. A recent survey undertaken by Chukwuji (2020) revealed the absence of fundamental infrastructure such as space, furniture, and operational equipment in most of Nigeria’s academic libraries. Unstable power supply and restricted internet access become an additional barrier and impede the availability of electronic resources and online

services. National Universities Commission reports that most academic libraries suffer from inadequate internet connectivity (Ezeh, 2023).

Financial problems keep raging in Nigerian libraries, especially libraries belonging to the public sphere which receive a budget for the education sector every year (Adeoye et al., 2022). Budget deficiencies lead to the depletion of collections inventory, the elimination of new positions, and the inability to fund digital technologies. Omekwu et al. (2023) noted that the digital gap still exists, as reported by the Registration Council of Librarians stating that only a third of public libraries are equipped with computers, and even fewer of these have digital resources or online services. In academic libraries, digital collections are a better option but license costs and limited technical support continue to be challenges that prevent high utilization. Some institutions are deprived of the modern technologies that play important roles in this changing process. Deficiencies in staffing, coupled with the lack of ample professional development, make these challenges even more complicated. Understaffing results in overwhelming workloads for underpaid library workers. Abayomi et al. (2021) survey found that only a few academic librarians have had formal training in the past five years which demonstrates the urgent necessity of continuous skills upgrading, most importantly in the digital literacy area.

Despite overwhelming obstacles, Nigerian libraries that venture into new horizons of technology find creative ways to adopt innovations and adapt to infrastructural challenges. The integration of new media and information technologies in university libraries in Nigeria has been a gradual but transformative transition. These institutions understand that technology is an efficient tool that has to be employed to better the services and also to expand the availability of the resources to the consumers. The UNILAG Library which is also fondly called the Prof. Adetokunbo Sofoluwe Library has adopted several technologies. One prominent innovation is the use of an Online Public Access Catalogue which enables users including students and members of the faculty to search the collection outside the physical library, enhancing resource finding (Eserada et al., 2019). It also set up an institutional repository with the aim of archiving and making available the full text of research output from the university such as theses, dissertations and research papers.

Aside from improving the promotion of UNILAG's academic output, this digital archive contributes to the accessibility of information. UNILAG Library has invested in electronic resources, subscribing to databases like JSTOR, EBSCOhost, and ScienceDirect,

significantly expanding available resources (Iroroeavwo et al., 2023). It also avails social media including Facebook and Twitter to disseminate information, share more resources, and even engage patrons. In as much as UNILAG Library seeks to improve the digital literacy of its patrons; it integrates technology within the information literacy tenets of the institution by providing online tutorials and workshops on Database searching, Citation management tools, and other digital research techniques (Akintola, 2021). These initiatives support the students and the faculty in properly and efficiently employing technological tools.

Covenant University has also adopted new media and information technologies in its library systems. The automation of the Centre for Learning Resources (CLR) uses the Alice for Windows library software for cataloguing, circulation, and acquisitions. Today, the CLR has accumulated a vast digital library, enabling users to access e-books, e-journals, and multimedia content (Onwubiko, 2022). They also have friendly mobile access to resources developed for digital tools, which are accessible through smartphones and tablets. According to Malekani et al. (2018), CLR of Covenant University also ensures that an open-access institutional repository exists to archive the research output of the university. The library actively employs the use of social media tools including Facebook and Instagram in communicating to the users, sharing information and information literacy.

The VIRTUA Integrated Library System has had a positive impact on the functionality of OAU Library since tasks such as cataloguing, circulation, and acquisitions have been eased. Through the improvement of the response and accuracy of this system, the user experience has also been improved (Oyekale, 2018). Also, Salau (2021) noted that OAU uses DSpace software, known as an institutional repository, for the storage of research papers, theses, and dissertations of the university. It archives the scholarly output of the institution and exposes the research output of OAU to the global community. From the case of UNN Library, the adoption of the KOHA open-source integrated library system is, therefore, a way of practising economical way of library automation. The ability to adapt and modify KOHA makes it possible for UNN to fit this system to its functionalities (Uzomba et al., 2015). The resources accessible electronically such as e-books, e-journals, and electronic theses have effectively opened up the availability of resources for students and faculty in the library.

This digital library is highly important for students and researchers, especially in situations when physical access to the library is limited. FUTA Library also uses KOHA, which is in line with the continued adoption of open-source solutions in Nigerian academic libraries

(Komolafe-Opadeji et al., 2019). As in the case of UNN, FUTA also depends on the KOHA's flexibility and development by the community. With the help of the open-source software DSpace, FUTA's institutional repository presents the university's research output to the public and promotes the Nigerian academic open-access movement. The repository plays a very crucial role in archiving and disseminating scholarly output of FUTA, which contributes to boosting the reputation of the university as a research institution besides encouraging the dissemination of information (Komolafe-Opadeji et al., 2019). The Kashim Ibrahim Library of Ahmadu Bello University relies on mobile apps and social media to communicate with its users and promote collections (Mkpojiogu et al., 2018). Universities' open-access repository makes the sharing of digital resources across institutions a seamless endeavour (Odaro-Ekhaguebor et al., 2023). Public libraries nowadays typically provide informal IT education for their clients.

Yusuf and Ibrahim (2024) indicated that investments by the government and its institutions in telecommunications infrastructure and open educational resources provide the basis for the global shift towards digital, user-centric services. The digitization process can be seen through the University of Ibadan's Kenneth Dike Library and the University of Lagos Library initiatives which create a repository preserving research outputs and academic materials. According to Ajegbomogun (2022), the Kenneth Dike Repository gathers thousands of digitized theses and dissertations, improving the visibility of Nigerian scholarship across the globe.

The applications of AI systems go far beyond simplifying tasks. These user-friendly conversational systems lower the barriers to information access through the provision of technological support. Users can now ask questions as they would in a conversation with a human, addressing the digital literacy barrier if any (Iniesto et al., 2023). Furthermore, AI inquiries in the native language enhance the notion of inclusiveness. Such accessibility democratizes knowledge making them available for the poor population at no cost. Furthermore, AI applications in the context of Nigerian libraries touch upon operational efficiency. The application of computer vision could lead to robotized material handling and stock management based on RFID and robotic book sorting. According to Mandl (2023), predictive analytics might be used in procurement using demand forecasting and usage analytics. AI has endless possibilities to improve efficiency.

Common trends among these libraries include the procurement of automated library systems such as KOHA, VIRTUA, and ALICE FOR WINDOWS among others (Ahmad et al., 2021). Tapfuma et al. (2019) noted that scholarly output has been digitized by most libraries and numerous institutional repositories have been created using different platforms including DSpace. They have also provided electronic resources by paying for databases, e-journal platforms and e-book collections in a bid to increase access to scholarly materials. They utilize web 2.0 technologies such as Facebook and Twitter for customer interaction and to share information. Some libraries provide database search training, citation tools, and training in skills such as searching skills using new technologies. The use of mobile library services is on the rise, especially in private universities such as Covenant University, arising from the increased use of mobile technologies, including smartphones and tablets among students (Ajayi et al., 2019). Currently, some Nigerian university libraries are adopting cloud-based Library Management Systems and Services while others are considering doing so because their implementation may not require a lot of localized IT structures to support the large library operations (Okuonghae et al., 2023).

Abayomi et al. (2021) noted that AI initiatives may be at a rudimentary level but they do show that Nigerian libraries are determined to provide services that are in line with the modern world even in the midst of challenges. Collaborative work of the public-private partnerships, pilot projects as well as sharing knowledge across institutions facilitates the integration of disruptive technologies. Through the strategic funding provided by the government, academia and industrialists, libraries in Nigeria can leverage the initial successes (Makinde et al., 2023).

The outcomes will possess a far-reaching impact that will go beyond the confinements of individual organizations. Resource accessibility which is knowledge-conducive plays a crucial role in socio-economic development (Adewopo, 2018). Developed collections empower the digitization of intellectual outputs of society. This, in turn, bolsters libraries' capability to fulfil their mission of serving their community. Despite the existing challenges, they show the librarians' demonstration of resourcefulness in adapting a global best practice to the local situation. Updating facilities, ensuring stable funding, establishing substantial digital collections, training staff, and bridging digital gaps comprise the main points that remain for achieving the transformative potential of libraries across the country.

The library evolution process should continue to keep up with the changes in technology, to be able to drive equitable distribution of information, technological empowerment of the community and enhance socio-economic development amid the digital revolution. Investing strategically, backing with institutional support, and setting partnerships with private and international initiatives, can chart a way forward for the Nigerian libraries to embrace emerging technologies and offer impactful, customer-oriented services as a solution in line with world standards.

Recommendation for Nigerian Libraries

This paper identifies five key recommendations on how Nigerian libraries can leverage some of these emerging technologies to align their services with global best practices.

1. Prioritize infrastructure development: Equip the library with modern facilities, upgrade the Internet connection, and make certain of stable power. Sufficient infrastructure is one of the core structures required for integrating online services, sources and emerging technologies well.
2. Establish sustainable funding models: The search for solutions should extend to uncharted areas through alternative funding mechanisms like public-private partnerships, working relations with civic groups, and data sales agreements with publishers. For identification of the funds for necessary digital resources, the imposition of new technologies, and actions related to continuous professional development of the library staff is an important deal.
3. Accelerate digitization efforts: Develop national preservation and access strategies for Digital delocalization and dissemination of Nigeria's cultural and intellectual sources. Take the benefits of AI technologies, such as machine learning and computer vision, to automate and improve digitization processes as long-term safeguards to the safekeeping and open access of precious resources.
4. Embrace AI and emerging technologies: Deploying AI-enabled solutions including virtual assistants, chatbots, recommendation systems and machine learning-based metadata generation is an efficient strategy for enhancing user experiences, facilitative in running operations, and effective in solving resource discoverability issues. Work in partnership with technology suppliers as well as educational establishments to pilot AI creative applications appropriate for local requirements.

5. Invest in professional development and skills training: Offer ongoing staff training targeted specifically towards digital literacy, new technologies, and data analytics competencies. Enhancing librarians' skills will help them show patrons how to navigate the online world correctly and take advantage of AI-based services, and it will lead to a more equitable digital space and empower more communities.

Conclusion

Nigerian libraries encounter major hardships in endeavouring to maintain pace with the fast-altering digital world and the changing user demands. Working with ageing systems as a result of chronic underfunding, lack of infrastructure and digital resources, staffing issues, and skills deficiency makes it difficult to render modern services effectively. On the other hand, some existing educational institutions show flexibility and creativity in employing innovative technologies like AI, mobile apps, institutional repositories, and digitization for the betterment of user experiences in terms of operational conditions. To abreast the global best practices and make libraries live up to their transformative potential, relevant stakeholders need to make strategic investments. Modernizing facilities is necessary together with securing sustainable funding models through public-private partnerships, digitization of cultural heritage materials and smart applications of IA like virtual assistants, automated metadata generation, digital preservation, and further staff training are primary steps toward a better future of libraries.

Through overcoming all these obstacles, Nigerian libraries can become dynamic knowledge centres that create community development through equitable and direct information access, technology-based skills to bridge all digital divides and technology-empowered communities. Technological innovation is not only just the future but it is rather the beginning of an unrivalled force that propels socioeconomic development, protects intellectual outcomes, streamlines the work processes, and sustains libraries as undisputable gateways for an accomplished digital society. To achieve transformative changes through the processes of democratized knowledge and building a digitally wise nation, libraries in Nigeria must evolve and align with AI-assisted user-centric services by international standards.

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