



**AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF QURANIC RESOURCES IN THE LIBRARY  
OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION KANO, NIGERIA FOR PROMOTING  
QURANIC LITERACY**

**<sup>1</sup>Sale Muhammad**

[Salehmaktab2024@gmail.com](mailto:Salehmaktab2024@gmail.com)  
08134280278

**<sup>1</sup>Saleh Abdullahi Adam**

[salehkn78@gmail.com](mailto:salehkn78@gmail.com),  
08066111786

**<sup>1</sup>Nura Muhammad Lawan**

[Nura699@gmail.com](mailto:Nura699@gmail.com)  
08153002405, 08025776743

**<sup>1</sup>University Library, Federal University of Education, Kano**

**Abstract**

*This study examines the availability, accessibility, and utilization of Qur'anic resources in the library of Federal University of Education, Kano with a focus on the role in promoting Qur'anic literacy. Using a descriptive survey research design, the study targeted staff of the Arabic section of the library of Federal University of Education, Kano, Nigeria employing total enumeration sampling and interviews as the primary data collection method. Thematic analysis was used to interpret the findings, revealing that Qur'anic resources, including printed copies, translations, and commentaries, are readily available and accessible during library hours, with dedicated sections and staff support. However, challenges persist in acquiring, organizing, and managing these materials, particularly in terms of digital resources and rare manuscripts. The study highlights the need for improved digital infrastructure, staff training, multilingual resource expansion, and collaboration with Islamic institutions to enhance resource availability and accessibility. The findings contribute to the discourse on religion, education, and information science, emphasizing the role of academic libraries in preserving and disseminating Qur'anic knowledge. The study recommends increased investment in digital cataloguing, preservation programs, and user-centered services to support both academic and spiritual engagement with Qur'anic resources.*

**Keywords:** Quranic Literacy, Academic Libraries, Accessibility, Digital Resources, Thematic Analysis, Kano State, Nigeria.

## **Introduction**

The Qur'an, as the central religious text of Islam, holds profound significance for over a billion Muslims worldwide. It serves as a comprehensive guide for personal, spiritual, and societal development, encompassing moral teachings, historical narratives, and legal principles (Nasr, 2003). For centuries, scholars and believers have engaged in the study, interpretation, and dissemination of Qur'anic knowledge, emphasizing its timeless relevance (Khan, 2010). Libraries, as repositories of knowledge and centers for learning, play a critical role in preserving and providing access to Qur'anic resources and related materials (Hassan, 2017). Modern libraries have evolved to include both traditional and digital resources, enabling diverse audiences to explore and engage with the Qur'an and its interpretations (Al-Qurashi, 2017). Academic libraries, in particular, serve as hubs for research and education, offering access to Qur'anic manuscripts, translations, commentaries, and electronic resources (Abdullah & Rahman, 2018). However, the extent to which these resources are available, accessible, and utilized remains a critical area of inquiry, particularly in regions with significant Muslim populations (Yusuf & Bello, 2020).

This study is motivated by the need to examine the role of libraries in promoting Qur'anic literacy, especially in the library of Federal University of Education, Kano. It aims to explore the availability and accessibility of Qur'anic resources, the challenges libraries face in acquiring and managing these materials (Sulaiman & Ahmed, 2016). Furthermore, it seeks to assess how the integration of technology in library systems has enhanced or hindered access to Qur'anic knowledge (Al-Qurashi, 2017). By addressing these aspects, the study aims to contribute to the discourse on the intersection of religion, education, and information science, ultimately highlighting the potential of libraries as vital institutions for the promotion of Qur'anic literacy in contemporary society.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The Qur'an is a vital source of guidance and knowledge for Muslims, encompassing spiritual, moral, and intellectual dimensions. Academic libraries, as centers for knowledge dissemination, have a crucial role in ensuring access to Qur'anic resources and related materials to support learning, research, and personal development. However, despite the recognized importance of the Qur'an, there is evidence that its availability and accessibility in libraries, particularly in academic settings, may be inadequate or underexplored.

Challenges such as limited collections of Qur'anic manuscripts, insufficient translations and commentaries, lack of digital technologies hinder the promotion of Qur'anic literacy in many academic libraries. Moreover, the evolving nature of library services, including the integration of digital platforms, raises questions about how well libraries are adapting to meet the needs of users seeking Qur'anic resources in contemporary times.

Additionally, while many studies focus on the general role of libraries in promoting literacy and education, there is a paucity of research examining how libraries specifically contribute to Qur'anic literacy. This gap is particularly pronounced in regions with predominantly Muslim populations, where the Qur'an plays a central role in both religious and academic pursuits.

The problem, therefore, lies in the limited understanding of how libraries manage, provide, and promote Qur'anic resources, as well as the challenges and opportunities associated with the availability and accessibility. Addressing this issue is essential to ensure that libraries fulfil their potential as repositories and facilitators of Qur'anic knowledge, supporting both academic and spiritual growth.

This study seeks to investigate these issues, focusing on the availability and accessibility of Qur'anic resources in academic libraries, with the aim of identifying gaps, challenges, and strategies for improvement.

## **Research Objectives**

The main objective of this study is to examine the role of libraries in promoting Qur'anic literacy through the availability and accessibility of Qur'anic resources in federal university of education Kano Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

1. Assess the availability of Qur'anic resources, including manuscripts, translations, commentaries, and digital materials, in the library of federal university of education Kano Nigeria.
2. Evaluate the accessibility of Qur'anic resources, including manuscripts, translations, commentaries, and digital materials, in the library of federal university of education Kano Nigeria.
3. Identify the challenges faced by the library of federal university of education Kano in acquiring, organizing, and managing Quranic resources, including manuscripts, translations, commentaries, and digital materials.

## **Significance of the Study**

This study is significant for several reasons, as it explores the intersection of religion, education, and information science, with a particular focus on the role of libraries in promoting Qur'anic literacy. The findings will provide valuable insights for various stakeholders. For academic libraries, the study will highlight both strengths and gaps in the availability and accessibility of Qur'anic resources, offering guidance on how libraries can align their collections, services, and technological infrastructure to better meet the needs of users seeking Qur'anic knowledge. Library professionals will benefit from practical recommendations on resource management, user education, and the adoption of digital tools to enhance access to Qur'anic materials. Policy makers and administrators will find the research useful for shaping policies on resource allocation and library development, ensuring that Qur'anic literacy becomes a central part of library services, particularly in Muslim-majority regions. Additionally, the study will fill a critical gap in existing literature by examining the role of libraries in advancing Qur'anic literacy, offering a

reference for future research in library science, religious studies, and education. Ultimately, the study aims to strengthen the role of libraries as facilitators of Qur'anic knowledge, supporting the academic and spiritual aspirations of users.

### **Scope of the study**

This study examines promoting Qur'anic literacy, focusing on the availability and accessibility of Qur'anic resources. The geographical scope is federal university of education Kano Nigeria. The subject scope of this research paper centers on Qur'anic resources in printed copies, translations, commentaries (tafsir), and related scholarly works, as well as the role of libraries in providing access to these materials. The population scope is the staff of Arabic section of the library whose perspectives will be essential in understanding the management of these resources.

### **Methodology**

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design to investigate the availability and accessibility of Qur'anic resources in library of Federal University of Education, Kano The target population comprised 4 staff members from the Arabic section of the library, whose expertise and experiences were crucial to the research objectives. A total enumeration sampling technique was employed to include all members of the identified population, ensuring comprehensive and reliable data.

Interviews were used as the primary data collection instrument, enabling an in-depth exploration of participants' perspectives on the availability, organization, and management of Qur'anic resources. The qualitative data collected through the interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis. This method allowed the identification of key themes, patterns, and insights from the participants' responses, providing a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to Qur'anic resource availability, management and accessibility.

## Empirical Literature Review

Al-Qurashi (2017), in his study titled *The Availability of Islamic Resources in Academic Libraries: A Study of Saudi Universities* examined the availability of Qur'anic materials in Saudi Arabian academic libraries. The study revealed significant gaps in the provision of translated Qur'anic materials, which limited accessibility for non-Arabic-speaking users. It also highlighted the inadequacy of comprehensive collections of Qur'anic commentaries and manuscripts. The study adopted a descriptive survey design, utilizing questionnaires and interviews with library staff and administrators. The population included librarians and library users from three universities in Saudi Arabia.

In Nigeria, Yusuf and Bello (2020) conducted a study titled *Academic Libraries and the Promotion of Islamic Literacy: A Case Study of Selected Libraries in Nigeria*. Their findings highlighted insufficient funding, out-dated collections, and inadequate ICT infrastructure as major obstacles to the availability and accessibility of Qur'anic resources. This research adopted a case study approach, using interviews, surveys, and library resource evaluations. The population included library staff and users from three academic libraries in Northern Nigeria. Additionally, Sulaiman and Ahmed (2016), in their study *The Role of Libraries in Enhancing Qur'anic Studies in Muslim-Majority Countries*, emphasized that libraries play a crucial role in promoting Qur'anic studies by providing resources such as tafsir (commentaries), translations, and digital tools. The study employed a descriptive approach and involved libraries across Muslim-majority countries, with a focus on both traditional and digital resources. These studies collectively underscore the importance of libraries in promoting Qur'anic literacy, while also identifying challenges such as

inadequate resources, limited digital infrastructure, which this study seeks to address in the context of Federal University of Education Kano library.

Empirical studies have highlighted various challenges faced by academic libraries in ensuring the availability, access, acquisition, organization, and management of Qur'anic resources. For instance, Abubakar (2018), in a study titled *"Challenges of Acquiring and Managing Islamic Resources in Nigerian Academic Libraries"* conducted in Kano, Nigeria, revealed that limited funding, scarcity of authentic vendors, and high costs hinder the acquisition of Qur'anic manuscripts and digital resources. Similarly, Ahmed and Hassan (2020), in their work *"Access and Use of Qur'anic Materials in Academic Libraries of Northern Nigeria,"* identified inadequate cataloguing systems, lack of staff trained in Arabic and Islamic studies, and insufficient digital infrastructure as major barriers to accessibility. In another study, Yusuf et al. (2021), titled *"Management of Qur'anic Resources in Nigerian University Libraries: Issues and Prospects,"* conducted across three universities in Northern Nigeria, the findings showed that inadequate storage facilities for rare manuscripts and poor preservation techniques led to resource degradation. Furthermore, Bello (2019), in *"Organizing Islamic Literature in Academic Libraries: Challenges and Solutions,"* carried out in Lagos, Nigeria, highlighted the lack of standardized classification schemes for Qur'anic resources, which complicates their organization. Collectively, these studies emphasize the pressing need for improved funding, staff training, and technological integration to address these challenges effectively.

## Results

### Thematic Analysis of Research Objective One “Availability of Qur’anic Materials”

The responses to the questions regarding the availability of Qur’anic resources in federal university of education Kano library can be categorized into several themes:

1. **Availability of Qur’anic Resources:** The 4(100%) of the respondents reported that the library has **printed copies of the Qur’an** available for users, as confirmed by the response "yes." This suggests that the library is fulfilling its role in providing essential religious texts. Furthermore, the **number of Qur’an copies** available (493) demonstrates the library's commitment to ensuring adequate supply for its users. This availability of resources is a key factor in enhancing Qur’anic literacy and meeting the spiritual and academic needs of the library's patrons.
2. **Diversity of Translations:** The 4(100%) indicated the presence of **translations of the Qur’an in multiple languages** (indicated by "yes") reveals that the library has made efforts to cater to a diverse user base, potentially including speakers of various languages. This aligns with the library's goal of inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring that non-Arabic speakers can engage with the Qur’an through translations in their native languages.
3. **Commentaries and Scholarly Materials:** The 4(100%) respondents assured the availability of **commentaries (tafsir)** in several languages (Arabic, English, Hausa, and Fulfulde) highlights the library's comprehensive approach to providing not just the Qur’an itself but also scholarly resources to aid in understanding. With 64 Arabic commentaries and additional resources in other languages, the library addresses the diverse needs of its



users, ensuring that various interpretations and explanations of the Qur'an are accessible for both academic and spiritual purposes.

4. **Academic Resources Related to the Qur'an:** The 4(100%) respondents indicated that there is availability of **academic works and research publications related to the Qur'an**, therefore the library plays an active role in supporting Qur'anic studies and research. This highlighted the library's role not only as a spiritual resource center but also as an academic hub, fostering research and intellectual engagement with Qur'anic texts.

#### **Summary of Theme on Research Objective One: Availability of Qur'anic Materials in Federal University of Education Kano Library**

- **Availability of Qur'anic Resources:** The library provides ample printed copies (493) of the Qur'an.
- **Language Accessibility:** Multiple translations are available to cater to diverse users.
- **Comprehensive Scholarly Resources:** A wide range of commentaries (tafsir) in different languages, enhancing the academic and interpretative engagement with the Qur'an.
- **Support for Research:** Academic works and publications related to the Qur'an are accessible, fostering scholarly exploration.

These themes reflect the library's strong commitment to supporting Qur'anic literacy through the availability of diverse resources, which facilitate both personal and academic engagement with the Qur'an.

## **Thematic Analysis of Research Objective Two: Accessibility and Organization of Qur'anic Resources in Federal University of Education library**

The responses to the questions about the **accessibility and organization** of Qur'anic resources in the library can be analyzed under the following themes:

1. **Ease of Access to Qur'anic Resources:** The response of the 4(100%) respondents indicated that they organized the Qur'anic resources **through card catalogue**; this suggests that **library users** can easily locate **Qur'anic resources** using a traditional method, the card catalogue system. This indicates that while the library may not yet be using more advanced digital catalogues or integrated systems, it still provides a structured means for users to find Qur'anic materials. However, this method might be less efficient in the digital age, especially for larger collections, but it still ensures that users can locate and access resources.
2. **Categorization and Organization:** The affirmative response by 4(100%) respondents is "yes" to the question of whether Qur'anic resources are categorized or organized to facilitate easy access highlights that the library has implemented a systematic approach to organizing these resources. Effective categorization suggests that resources are classified in a manner that aligns with user needs and facilitates easy retrieval. This is crucial for improving the usability of Qur'anic materials, ensuring that users can quickly access the specific resources they are searching for.
3. **Barriers to Access:** The response by the 4(100%) respondents is "no" to the question of whether there are **restrictions or barriers** to accessing Qur'anic resources indicates that

the library provides **unrestricted access** to these materials. This suggests that users do not face limitations in accessing the Qur'an or related resources, which is essential for promoting **open access** to religious and academic materials. This lack of barriers further supports the library's commitment to making Qur'anic knowledge accessible to all users without hindrance.

### **Summary of Themes on Research Objective Two: Accessibility and Organization of Qur'anic Resources in Federal University of Education library**

- **Ease of Access:** Qur'anic resources are accessible through a traditional card catalog system, ensuring some level of organization, though it may require improvement with modern systems.
- **Effective Categorization:** The library has organized Qur'anic resources in a way that facilitates easy access, likely through systematic classification.
- **Unrestricted Access:** There are no barriers to accessing Qur'anic materials, indicating an open and inclusive approach to resource accessibility.

These themes show that the library has made efforts to ensure Qur'anic resources are easily accessible, well-organized, and free from restrictions, though there may be room for technological upgrades to enhance the user experience further.

### **Thematic Analysis of Research Objective Three: Availability, Designated Areas, and Staff Assistance**

The responses to the questions regarding the **availability, designated areas, and staff assistance** for accessing Qur'anic resources can be analyzed under the following themes:

1. **Availability during Library Hours:** The response "**yes**" to the question of whether **Qur'anic resources** are available during the library working hours the 4(100%) respondents indicates that these materials are consistently accessible to library users. This suggests the library ensures **continuous availability** of Qur'anic resources, making them accessible throughout the day and potentially increasing their usage by a broader range of patrons, including students and researchers who may need them at varying times.
2. **Designated Section for Qur'anic Resources:** The affirmative answer "**yes**" to the question of whether there is a **specific section or area** designated for Qur'anic resources, 4(100%) respondents highlighted that the library has a dedicated space for these materials. This could enhance the visibility and organization of Qur'anic resources, providing users with a clear location to access them. A designated area also ensures that these materials are **easily identifiable** and accessible, which is important for maintaining their prominence within the library's collection.
3. **Availability of Staff Assistance:** The response "**yes**" by the 4(100%) respondents to the question regarding **staff assistance** signifies that library staffs are available to help users access Qur'anic materials. This indicated a strong support system for library users, enhancing the overall user experience and ensuring that individuals can easily find and utilize Qur'anic resources. The presence of knowledgeable staff members may also aid in guiding users to the correct resources and assisting with any specific needs related to the Qur'anic materials.

### Summary of Themes on Research Objective Three: Availability, Designated Areas, and Staff Assistance

- **Continuous Availability:** Qur'anic resources are accessible during all library working hours, ensuring their availability for users at any time.
- **Designated Area for Qur'anic Resources:** The library has a specific section or area dedicated to Qur'anic materials, enhancing organization and accessibility.
- **Staff Assistance:** Library staffs are available to assist users in accessing Qur'anic materials, ensuring efficient and supportive service.

These themes show that the library is committed to providing **consistent access** to Qur'anic resources, offering **clear organization**, and delivering **supportive services** through staff assistance, all of which contribute to enhancing the user experience and facilitating greater engagement with these materials.

### Conclusion

This study explored the availability, accessibility, and utilization of Qur'anic resources in academic libraries, with a focus on identifying the challenges and opportunities for enhancing Qur'anic literacy. The findings suggest that academic libraries are committed to providing users with a variety of Qur'anic resources, including printed copies, translations, commentaries, and academic works. Furthermore, the study highlighted that libraries have made significant efforts to categorize and organize these resources to facilitate easy access. However, challenges remain in ensuring the resources are managed effectively, particularly with regards to acquiring rare manuscripts and expanding digital resource offerings. The study also found that library staff are

available to assist users, and there are no significant barriers to accessing Qur'anic materials, underscoring the library's commitment to providing open access.

## Recommendations

1. **Investment in Digital Infrastructure:** Academic libraries should invest in advanced digital cataloguing systems and digital repositories to enhance access to Qur'anic resources. This will not only modernize the library's infrastructure but also facilitate easier access to digital Qur'anic texts, commentaries, and academic publications.
2. **Staff Training and Development:** Libraries should prioritize training for staff in the management of Qur'anic resources, especially in areas such as digital resource management, preservation techniques, and Islamic studies. This would enable them to better support users and ensure efficient resource management.
3. **Increased Collaboration with Islamic Institutions:** Libraries should strengthen partnerships with Islamic institutions, scholars, and publishers to increase the availability of rare and specialized Qur'anic resources. Collaborative efforts can also facilitate resource sharing and access to a wider variety of materials, both physical and digital.
4. **Expansion of Multi-Language Resources:** Libraries should focus on acquiring Qur'anic translations and commentaries in additional languages to meet the needs of a more diverse user base. This will further promote Qur'anic literacy and inclusivity, especially for non-Arabic speaking users.
5. **Dedicated Qur'anic Resource Preservation Programs:** The establishment of dedicated preservation programs for rare Qur'anic manuscripts and printed materials are essential

to maintain the integrity and longevity of these valuable resources. Libraries should prioritize the digitization of old and fragile manuscripts to protect them from deterioration and ensure continued access.

By addressing these recommendations, academic libraries can enhance their role in promoting Qur'anic literacy, supporting both the academic and spiritual growth of their users.

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