
A Review of the Trends and Issues affecting Academic Libraries in Higher Institutions in Nigeria

Bernadette Adams

ABSTRACT

There have been developmental changes in the society because of its dynamic nature. This developmental changes cut across every sphere of life including library and information science. In view of this, the traditional methods of discharging library services are gradually going into extermination thereby necessitating the move along with times. This paper therefore focuses on the nature of information carriers in the past, the modern trends in librarianship. It further accounts for the challenges faced by librarians who use these information technologies in the library and information services provision. It also examines the historical antecedents of library materials that have evolved over the years. The paper concludes with suggestions for improvement.

Keywords: *Academic libraries, Emerging trends and problems, networking, library 2.0 and social media.*

INTRODUCTION

A trend means what is popular at a particular point in time. It includes things topical in nature in and around us. In librarianship, there have been so many changes and developments towards the way and manner librarians are discharging their responsibilities. These innovations cut across the nature of information format, the way and manner (methods) that libraries are carrying out their responsibilities to pronounced wave that information and communications technology is making in the field of library and information science education. In the early libraries, (Monastic libraries) library materials are contained in the form of Cuneiform developed by Sumerians, papyrus scrolls of ancient Egypt.

Bernadette Adams is affiliated with The Library, Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe-Oghara, Delta State, Nigeria. E-mail: usefulforuseful@gmail.com.

These informational resources according to Baba (1995) were organized and taken conserved by the 'Monks' who were only interested in the safety and preservation of the materials at that time. When any member of the society (The Readers) comes to make use of the materials, the monk will follow the readers at the back to ensure that materials (Books) are not taken away from the library by that user. That was the practice by then librarians. This account for the reason why they were regarded as "Curators and Preservers of Books" Baba (1995). The Monks were those seeking education as at that time. The Patchment, Codex, clay tablets, Vellum, Scroll were the principal medium of recording information.

In the ancient period varieties of materials are preserved in the libraries and used as library reference. Codex, Manuscripts, Papyrus, Scroll, Vellum, Wax tablet form the library resources. Then came the era of paper, the period of paper was between 100 BC and 105 AD. This was a very important trend in the field of librarianship as papyrus and other traditional writing materials were replaced with printed Books. In this period under review, Books were first made in china with Bambo. The library materials then comprised of books, periodicals, Pamphlets, reports, Microforms, Maps, manuscripts, pictures, Dissertations, local collection, Archives, Personal Diaries, Brochure, Rare or out –of prints materials, Reference materials (Encyclopaedia, Dictionaries, Gazette, Gazetteer) Daily newspapers, Textbooks, Old examination papers just to mention a few. The printed era of information service delivery in Nigeria academic libraries dominated the 20th century such that while some libraries in the other parts of the world were at home with modern technologies, libraries in Nigeria were still using printed format.

During medieval period, emergence of printing technology and subsequent use of paper revolutionized library culture and brought a social change. Over centuries, paper technology remained quite stable. Although paper technology had many drawbacks but books became common and large libraries started to include hundreds and thousands of books in their collection. However, overcoming the problem of brittleness of books through deacidification and reformatting has caused the use of paper-based documents to become an issue creating an obvious need for



better storage media (Brotein, 1930). For such problems, introduction of ICT in early 1930s played a major role in changing the information world when libraries started using some sort of technology to transact business. During this period, punch card equipment was implemented for use in library circulation and acquisitions (Eposile, 1940).

Another equipment memex was introduced in the service of the library. According to Kruba (1945), memex was described as a mechanical library that allowed a user to view stored information from several different access points and look at several items simultaneously. His ideas were later used in the basic hypertext operations. During 1940s, IBM produced Mark series of computers. Later technological breakthrough in semi-conductivity has led to increase in computing speed and miniaturization of computers and consequently the reduction in costs of computers. During 1950s and 1960s the digital computers were accessible to universities and defense organization in India and other developing countries like Nigeria. During 1970s with the introduction of mini-computers, large commercial organizations started using computers for their computational needs.

By the early 1990s, growth in the electronic communications of data among different libraries took place. Librarians by now started having access to reference information and bibliographic data using dial-up connection to a local computer that would route information to the host machine. Thus, with the advent of personal computers, local- and wide-area networks, and the movement from centralized to distributed client-server processing that libraries of all types were able to utilize the power of computing technology to share information and resources, generate management reports, and electronically link libraries together (Eposile, 2002). Moreover, universal accessibility of digitized resources made digital technologies most popular choice among researchers.

The printed era of information service delivery in Nigeria dominated the 20th century such that while some libraries in the other parts of the world were at home with modern technologies, libraries in Nigeria were still using printed format. Today; we eagerly embrace new technology for fear of being left behind. A toddler with an ipad in hand is

a sign of a child learning to succeed in the digital world. In our generation, prints materials are considered as traditional resources. But more technological development may lead the library to E-resources; today's library users are able to combine both print and e-resources to meet their information need.

Advantages of Traditional Library Resources:

There are a lot of advantages while using traditional library resources. Because of some features like the format, size, quality, easy to handling and so on.

- Traditional print resources are popular among the users because of its portability. Compactness, light in weight and comfortable to read
- Traditional print resources are easy to read
- Users can turn the pages comfortably because of the familiarity.
- One of the traditional formats of print resources is that of the fact that its very convenient for the users. Apart from knowing how to read and write, there is no additional knowledge expected by the users before they could access the materials.
- Before publishing all the print format resources are followed by processes like editing, and peer reviewing. The print resources are usually more authoritative than their E-resources counterparts. The expense of publishing, combined with an extensive reviewing system and the relatively fixed nature of printed materials, all help the librarians to find quality materials, and avoid shoddy, biased, or misleading works.
- There is no need of any technology to read the print resources.
- Users can spend long time for using print resource without paying additional money.
- A traditional format of print resources is very convenient for the readers. Traditional format Printed resources are printed and bound in the different sizes for make use conveniently.



- A traditional format of print resources is more portable, easier to read, and better to handle.
- Printed resources are more environmental friendly than e-resources. The printed resources are not creating any pollution in the environment.
- Traditional Printed resources remain readable for many years.
- The user can feel physically what he is reading, cover, paper and binding from the original work while using the traditional Printed resources.
- Users can buy used copies at significant discounts as they can now easily do with printed resources.

Disadvantages of Traditional (Printed materials)

- The maximum number of printed reference books is available at high price
- Only one user can use printed resources at one time. The User may lose the opportunity if the resources is misplaced or lost in the library.
- Printed materials are not easily edited, this may make some information stale (outdated) even before the books get out of the box.
- If users want traditional print resources he/she should visit the library during the work hours only. There must be movement from where the information is available to where it is needed. This is a big disadvantage

Emerging technological tools and their application in the library and information science (LIS) profession

Technologies in ICT application revolves around computer. There are many technological tools that have been introduced in the academic library operation in this decade no single seminar presentation can serve as a blanket cover of them. This paper will highlight few of these trends



that have changed the library role in recent time. In inclusion are, Virtual library/ Digitization, Social media, networking, Blogging, Instant messaging, library2.0.

Objective of the study

- To identify the trends that have taken place in the field of librarianship.
- To Review the problems faced by librarians in new digital era.
- To identify the major challenges that hinder librarian's work in a digital environment.
- To proffer suggestions to overcome the problems and tackle the challenges.

With the invention of ICT, Librarians now use various types of technologies to aid the services they offer. Every day, new technologies are invented and this technology affects in no small ways how information is produced and consumed. Kruba and Osawaru (2011). It is obvious that technological revolutions have changed the way libraries operate. As a matter of fact, in every facet of the library, all librarians and Para-professionals are striving to be on top with these new technologies. ICTs are enabling libraries, be they academic, special, public, National, school to provide services that are up-to-date, fast, cheap and reliable. Modern tools of information communications technology (ICTs) have absolutely changed the role and responsibilities of librarians.

A number of studies have been conducted to explore the problems faced by librarians. Both nationally and internationally the studies conducted at International level in general and particularly in developing countries to investigate the problems confronted by the academic librarians. Iloanusi (2009) investigated the computer skill among librarians in academic libraries in Ondo and Ekiti States in Nigeria. It was found that there was shortage of computers and computer skills among professionals. The study recommended that more fund should be provided for training and procurement of ICT infrastructure in Nigerian University libraries for computerization purpose, library administration



should solicit funds and assistance from foreign agencies and foundations who are interested in the cause. Adomi and Annie (2006) in their research on computer literacy skills of professionals in Nigerian University libraries concluded that most of the professionals do not possess high level of computer skill and their use of computer and technology is still maturing. They recommended that library management and leaders should organize and offer in house computer training programmes for librarians and enough computers should be provided in this regard.

Brotein (2004) discussed the issues related to the internet as well as the correlation of professional codes and their implementation in library practice. He stated that libraries depend on ethical principles more than any other institution because library services are essentially human-oriented. He stressed that librarians must follow the intellectual freedom principle and they have a moral responsibility to the patrons. Obajemi (2005) studied the trends and issues in preparing new era librarians and information professionals. They reported that the following trends are essential for new era librarians - a vision towards information and knowledge rich society, globalization of information, integrated and widespread ICT applications, growth of electronic/internet resources, role of digital/electronic/virtual library, access role replace custodial role, strategic alliances, partnership and collaborations, librarians need new management knowledge and skills, specialized knowledge and skills in library and information management, trend to develop digital contents to facilitate access. It was concluded that new era librarian will become a guardian of digital information and digital librarians with newly acquired skills can play a meaningful and leading role in the networked information society of the millennium.

Khan (2000) studied the role of a digital librarian in the management of digital information systems. He stressed that the multimedia nature of the next generation of digital libraries requires the digital librarians to be essentially a type of specialist librarian who has to manage and organize the digital library, handle the specialized tasks of massive digitization, storage, access, digital knowledge mining, digital reference services, electronic information services, search co-ordination,



and manage the archive and its access. He should be well-versed in markup languages, cataloguing, metadata, multimedia indexing and database technology, user interface design, programming, and Web technology. Abdulgeayi (2007) viewed library and information science education in developing countries as inadequate, he concluded that LIS programs in developing countries continue to suffer from lack of financial support by governments. Umaru (2005) found that information literacy is vital skill set for citizens of information societies. They suggested that the librarian must support learning at all levels. They are needed to pass skill set of technological and media illiteracies to citizens at all levels of society for economic, social and personal empowerment.

Ogbomo (2008) reviewed the library education in Nigeria. The study discovered that majority of institutions in Nigeria do not have well-equipped computer labs or sufficient numbers of computers for students. A sufficient number of classification and cataloguing tools (DDC, LC, Sears list of subject headings for practical were not present. Many institutions either have no library or inadequate collection of textbooks. Professional's status was also found very low, low pay scale and limited opportunities for promotion. Asugwu (2002) probed the challenges encountered by the librarians of developing world in providing library services to support open and distance learning. It was concluded that the attitude of the government towards libraries in Nigeria has been changed during the last few years and the government has made several approaches to develop the libraries particularly University libraries. Government also identified the capacity of distance education to accommodate the huge number of A/L completers who cannot gain direct admission to university.

Uwaifo (2009) was of the opinion that power supply was one of the factors militating against the use of ICT facilities. But effective utilization of ICT facilities in institution of higher learning could be achieved when we consider the fact that some obstacles which appeared to have retarded the easy flow of information were still adamant. Umaru (2002) quoting Abisoeye (2016) pointed the fact that both librarians and other information users should possess the needed skills in the operation



of ICT facilities to speed up accessibility to e-resources. Osuagwu (2010) is of the view that infrastructure and lack of access, high enrollment, inadequate funding and complete absence of funding allocation to technology, high cost of advertisement of the capabilities of ICT technologies, to inadequate user's experience. Some of the users lack the necessary skills to operate the technologies. Ogbomo (2011) discovered infrastructure as one of the impediment hindering the use of modern technologies in the libraries found in the higher institutions of learning. According to her, it would involve a deliberate effort by policy makers and planners to consider the building, electrical wiring, heating, cooling and ventilation etc to provide conducive environment for ICT facilities operations.

METHOD

The study attempted the comprehensive review of related literature in the field of academic librarianship, discussions were held with the researcher's professional colleagues in the field of library and information science (LIS) in universities, polytechnics and colleges of Education aimed at exploring their perception, opinions and observation regarding trends and issues in academic libraries in higher institutions. It is from these inferences were made.

Virtual library/Digitization

The term digital library as the name implies is viewed from different perspectives by different information scientists. Ogbomo (2011) perceived a digital library to include electronic database and an institution on the internet the World Wide Web. It is also known as paperless library. It is called a virtual library because a traditional library is simply a place and building or room where information resources are kept and used for knowledge acquisition and learning. The place can be "real" as in the case of building or room (non-virtual). The concept of real and virtual are used more in a scientific rather than in the library sense. Real means tangible and capable of being felt while virtual connotes a representation of reality.



This has given rise to the concept of virtual reality to which the virtual ideal subscribes. Thus, the real word of the library is perceived in virtual pace. Where there is a good network of libraries, the user enjoys the euphoria of being in distant libraries and yet has not physically moved. Abisoye (2002) has graphically demonstrated this when he said that a library user in Nigeria can fly through the internet super highway, to the library of congress in Washington D.C, transact business with the library staff there and at the end return to his seat in Nigeria without in reality physically leaving his seat. Indeed it is experience of virtual reality.

The concept of virtual library system is a product of the 1990's the term 'Virtual library was first used in 1990 in the context of the coalition for networked information. Kruba (2011) one characteristic of this concept is its heavy reliance on the use of computer. A virtual library is often referred to as library without wall, provides equal access to all information available in both print and electronic formats. It is an experience of virtual reality whereby users enjoy the euphoria of being in a distant library outside his immediate environment without physical movement. The virtual library system owes its development greatly on library operation and practices. This has resulted to a heavy deviation from print to electronic and digitized information system, information resources as CD Rom, E-publications, to wide spread use of computer networks and telecommunication in information service delivery.

Issues associated with Digitization of academic libraries

The following are some of the problems associated with digitization of the academic libraries. Digital libraries can be fully implemented in an environment that has functional digital system.

- Poor telecommunication system is one factor inhibiting the academic libraries from using it many academic libraries that are located in the area where there is no adequate telecommunication facilities finds it very difficult to operate.
- Equally challenging is how to tackle the problem of funding. Academic libraries in the higher institution in Nigeria are not



provided with the needed fund to face the day-to day expenses that are accrued from a digital library system. This, perhaps, summarized the situation in Nigeria when lamented government inadequate funding of academic libraries despite the World Bank project and EU project that suggested that parent's institutions should give to the academic libraries 10% of their total annual budget to enable those run library business.

The exploitation of the potential of digital libraries requires basic information searching skills irrespective of the formats- Prints or electronics. This is a big challenge in the sense that many Nigerians are not literate in information technology based systems.

Networking

The revolution in information technology makes great impact in all fields of knowledge. The field of academic library is also deeply affected by the information technology. A computer network is created when data communication channels links several computers and other devices such as printers and secondary storage device like the printers and storage devices. Computer network can be small, consisting of only a few computers and related devices or they can include many and large computer distributed over a wide geographical area. The basic types of network are Local Area Network (LAN) and wide Area Network (WAN).

Local Area Network (LAN)

A local area network typically is limited to one geographical area and allows individual workstation to access data application on a server. LAN is usually resided within a building or a plant

Wide Area Network (WAN) Wide area network is another trend in the field of library and information science. This removes many hurdles in information dissemination. WAN interconnect different sites, computers installation and enable LAN to be networked together irrespective of distance. The exponential growth of information in all fields of knowledge, heavy demand of information, accuracy of information and the need for



newest information has become the onerous task to the library. The individual and academic library cannot meet the challenge with its own resource. Networking of similar libraries is imperative to overcome the challenges and to fulfill the users need. The theory of networking is that everything is available to everyone. Expressing the expectations of the Nigerian student on these issues, Obajema and Ogunyade (2004) opine that:

*Nigerian students and faculty officers in the universities
Known libraries can be linked through networked system
Resources in the libraries that are networked are pooled
Together and enlarged the range of information search
With this awareness, users are bound to expect these services
From their libraries.*

These are easily updated WebPages that can be easily created, and re-edited by members of that group of people. It could keep an on-going journals, news, ideas and opinions. Blogs are being used by the librarians to inform library users and staff with developments in the field of librarianship.

Library 2.0

According to Tebo (2012) web 2.0 encompasses a wide variety of application which includes blogs, Wikis, social media networking, photo sharing, user added review, comments streaming audio and video plus instant messaging. The aim of library 2.0 lies on concept of adding users rather than being static. Web2.0 is the development of World Wide Web (www) which is moving from the stagnant web 1.0 to a more user driven one. Many libraries have used web 2.0 tools. It is important to be aware of the fact that users' participation and library interaction is the key thing. Any library that fails in this role is simply going back to the traditional role (depository of knowledge). With Library 2.0, library services are frequently evaluated and updated to meet the changing needs of library users. Library 2.0 also calls for libraries to encourage user participation and feedback in the development and maintenance of library services. The active and empowered library user is a significant



component of Library 2.0. With information and ideas flowing in both directions – from the library to the user and from the user to the library, library services have the ability to evolve and improve on a constant and rapid basis. The user is participant, co-creator, builder and consultant – whether the product is virtual or physical.

An advantage in pursuing library 2.0 services is that the library can target more people - including those who may not have previously used the library services before. A concern that Library 2.0 is trying to address is that potential users can turn to [Google](#) and [Wikipedia](#) because they are “good enough”, and perceive libraries to be slow.

Tools for Library 2.0

The main Web 2.0 tools used by libraries include social networking, blogging, widgets, micro-blogging, social bookmarking, wikis, photo sharing, video sharing, and document sharing. Allowed rich interactive, timely, convenient services so as to improve service level and quality, broaden range of services, increased users’ participation, and increased interactions and communications with users, broadened librarians’ perspective, and facilitated obtaining users’ feedback and following readers’ interest trend

- Drew on collective knowledge to better serve users
- Improved librarians’ inter-departmental communication and expedited information dissemination to the users
- Facilitated instant problem solving with the benefit of traceable services
- Improved knowledge sharing and collaboration

Characteristics of library 2.0

A theory for Library 2.0 could be understood to have these four essential elements:

- **It is user-centered.** Users participate in the creation of the content and services they view within the library’s web-presence, OPAC, etc. The consumption and creation of content is dynamic, and thus the roles of librarian and user are not always clear.

-
-
- **It provides a multi-media experience.** Both the collections and services of Library 2.0 contain video and audio components. While this is not often cited as a function of Library 2.0, it is here suggested that it should be.
 - **It is socially rich.** The library's web-presence includes users' presences. There are both synchronous (e.g. IM) and asynchronous (e.g. wikis) ways for users to communicate with one another and with librarians.
 - **It is communally innovative.** This is perhaps the single most important aspect of Library 2.0. It rests on the foundation of libraries as a community service, but understands that as communities change, libraries must not only change with them, and they must allow users to change the library. It seeks to continually change its services, to find new ways to allow communities, not just individuals to seek, find, and utilize information.

Social Media

Social media are computer mediated technology that facilitates the creation and sharing of information, ideas, careers, interests and other forms of expression via virtual communication and network. The emergence of social media has radically transformed the way we create and consume information. These changes have in turn given rise to new models of librarianship centered on principles of participation, interaction, and collaboration. Over the last ten years, academic libraries have keenly adopted social media as a means of enhancing services and connecting with a new generation of users. But how exactly has this technology changed libraries? In what ways has the social web transformed library services or our relationships with users and library practice?

For a large number of individuals, online activities have become an integral part of their lives. Individuals are increasingly engaging in social and interactive events online while also actively creating new content. Holmberg et al (2009). According to Eness (2014), libraries must



demonstrate rationalization of and innovation in the library for the sustainable services. Kasimani and Kasilingam (2018) highlighted the following as the main objectives of incorporating social media in the academic libraries:

- To create groups between the library and users to the new information or services.
- Librarians can tweet about events of daily activities in the library.
- To update the new books, journals and other new arrivals in the library members of interest
- The using of instant messenger Apps also library staff can send alert message to the library patrons for discharge of books fine reminder.
- The you tube channel for the library and host events life program taking place in the library
- Sharing library program photos, sharing tools.
- Create a library patron groups for sharing information by using tools like Whatsapp telegraph.

Benefits of using social Media platform in promote library services

- It increases the total number of library users when a library is hooked to social media such as blog, wiki it will showcase to the world the activities of such library whenever a library user communicates on any of the library's services on the library pages others that are linked with it will read and know their services.
- Facilitate effective two-way communication-the social media as platform get information from their readers then sends back response to them. It could be information of clarifying the doubt of the users Kasimani (2018) quoting Pierson(2011) observed that communication with the library user is one of the main services that library has most benefited from.
- It saves costs. With the dwindling fund that the academic library is being confronted with, social media platform has served as a veritable bail.
- Collaborate with patrons Clyde (2005). Wikis are fertile ground

for copyright infringement because anyone with access could copy and paste from any source to which they had access. Scott (2001) advises that libraries should set up guidelines concerning the content which may be added to the wiki and these guidelines should include basic information about copyright law and how to avoid infringement.

Instant Messaging

Instant Messaging (IM) is also a very useful tool which may help library professionals to provide library services. IM is currently used by many libraries to provide online reference services. "Ask a librarian" services provided by instant messengers all over the world, are being used by libraries to market library references and research services. Instant messaging technology is a type of online chat that offers real-time text transmission over the Internet. A LAN messenger operates in a similar way over a local area network. Short messages are typically transmitted between two parties, when each user chooses to complete a thought and select send. Some IM systems permit messages to be sent when the recipient is not online. In these cases, IM is much like email; in fact, the message may even be sent to the recipient's email so that if the user on the other side opens his system the message will enter his box.

A study of top 100 university libraries in India show that IM features have been extensively used in libraries to provide quick online reference services. The study reported that 37 out of 57 (64.91 per cent) of the university library web sites in India have provided facilities for online reference services (for example, "ask a librarian", "ask us" feature) using IM technology Harinarayana and Vasantha (2010). Reference questions are answered immediately without the need to go to a reference desk. Librarians and patrons both appreciate the fact that instant messaging is faster than traditional chat services, and librarians also like the fact that the software can be downloaded for free. Kaplan and Haenlein (2010) reported the results of a case study evaluating the introduction of an IM reference services. The study revealed that it was achievable to set up an IM service devoid of need to acquire hardware or software.



While IM reference services are somewhat more prevalent compared to other Web 2.0 tool applications such as wikis or podcasts, it is quite underdeveloped in Chinese university libraries Abram (2005). From just an interactive feature, IM has evolved into offering not only text messages, but also multimedia resources such as photos, videos, etc. Harinarayana and Raju (2010). Podcast/vidcast Podcasts are audio contents available on the internet that can be automatically delivered to a personal computer or MP3 player Kaplan and Heinlein (2010). The podcasts give the user an opportunity to listen to recorded intellectual outputs online without any additional software and to download the same for later use. Podcasts and vidcasts have been used successfully in delivering library web-based services Harinarayana and Raju, (2010). Podcasts has proved to be an effective communication standard in and out of Second Life, and numerous patrons have created podcast listening stations and/or are podcasting from Second Life to Real Life Scott (2001) conducted a study on the use of library instructional podcasts by the staff and students at the University College of Learning (UCOL). The expectation was to provide New Use of Web 2.0.

WIKI

The word “wiki” actually means “quick” or “fast” in Hawaiian language. It was first used in 1994 by Ward Cunningham in Portland, Oregon. He developed his “WikiWikiWeb” after being inspired at Honolulu International Airport by an airport employee who advised him to take the “Wiki Wiki Shuttle” between terminals; it was an alternative to “quick,” as he wanted to avoid the phrase “quick-web.”

A wiki is a website that allows the site visitors to add and edit content online. Generally, site visitors use their browser to edit text without requiring HTML code. Additionally, some Wikis allow adding and editing of graphics, tables and interactive components. This feature enhances collaborative authorship, enabling democracy in the workplace, making the act of cooperation comprehensible, enhancing efficiency and allowing the interlinking of pages. In enabling everyone to edit the page, wiki facilitates collaboration in a digital situation and removes the barriers



that could be occasioned by contact. This open editing system enables true editorial democracy to be practised since everyone's contributions are taken into account when amendments are made. Without any preset structure of assistance, users define the process among themselves, making the dynamic development of the group intelligible. Also, it saves time required for extracting changes via emails and discussion boards can be saved, since changes can be made immediately. Lastly, the interlinking of related pages promotes information sharing among readers. The ease of use and the open amendment system of wikis allows everyone to read and modify, placing real control in the hands of users, and making two-way authorship. Many organizations use wiki for good effect. The platform enables institutions such as universities, law firms to share knowledge among one another.

Wikis is a collection of pages that can be easily created, edited and re-edited by members of that wiki community. Wikis have been useful for information collaboration and participation. A wiki is a knowledge based website on which users collaboratively modify content and structure directly from the web browser. In a typical wiki, text is written using a simplified markup language and regularly edited with the assistance of a rich-text editor. A wiki is run using wiki software, otherwise known as a wiki engine.

Wikis according to Wikipedia, a wiki is defined as "a collaborative web site which can be directly edited by anyone with access to it." Harder (2003) discussed extensively how libraries can use wikis. The paper gave full descriptions on the experiences of how wikis were successfully implemented in their web-based library services. Harinarayana and Raju (2010) Wikis are collaborative tools that are often used for knowledge sharing, knowledge creation, and collaboration on research and other projects. Studies have shown that librarians use wikis to collaborate with librarians in other libraries, and that few libraries use wikis to good effect.

The main characteristic of a Wiki is the ease with which a web page, called a "wiki page," can be created and edited, often accepted without review or modification. Many wikis are open to the public and



require no registration. Some do recommend logging in to provide for a “wiki signature cookie” to automatically sign edits. However, edits often appear in real-time. Private Wiki systems may require registration and user authentication to edit, or even read, the content. Wikis may utilize a number of techniques to control changes. A revision history may be available to editors reviewing previous versions of a page or section. A recent changes page may also be consulted. Some regular content viewers may willingly and regularly review page content and be automatically notified of changes.

Benefits of using Blog and Wiki

The use of wiki and Blogs is of immense importance. Blogs provide access to information seekers, start a conversation about various topics, promoting new materials, using them as a staff newsletter or as subject information. David (2009) presented some ideas as to what libraries can do with blogs. These include things like starting conversations about various topics, promoting new materials, using them as a staff newsletter or as a subject guide in order to reach users with relevant information wherever they happen to be. According to Tebo (2012), libraries that use blogs tend to use them to dispense news and information about the library, despite other possible uses.

Meredith G. Farkas (2007) sees blogs as very useful for conveying information to library patrons, and argues that blogs put a “human face” on the library by “allowing librarians to put more of themselves and their library into their site. Farkas makes the case for the use of blogs as an enhancement of a library’s static website: “Realize that people are more likely to visit pages that are updated frequently and regularly; news page visitors who find outdated information may never come back. Blogging however, makes it easy to post and update online news and promote events”. She also gives examples of types of blogs that can work well to engage library users: reference blogs, online book club blogs, readers’ advisory blogs, and marketing and promotion blogs are easy to set up. At the same time, the use of blogs in libraries can be very beneficial in terms of providing information access to patrons, they also hold some



drawbacks. According to Tebo (2012) in Kathleen Hanson and H. Frank Cervone (2007), it can be hard to determine whether or not users will want to read the blog, the hard part is getting the user community to subscribe to and read the blog. Each library contemplating a blog should consider if, realistically, its user community will want to read the library blog". They reiterate the time, planning and amount of work that needs to go into the creation and maintenance of the blog in order for it to succeed: "Library blogs that are heavily promoted and then deliver bland content, or that are rarely updated, do reflect badly upon the library. Their suggestions for a successful blog endeavor include updating it regularly, producing quality content, adopting content policies and reviewing other library blogs for users.

Library blogs that are more successful also tend to be more conducive to community involvement, in that they allow blog readers to add content by commenting and participating in discussions. Many library professionals are weary of this type of open access to the public: "The danger when opening a blog up to public comment is that patrons or other individuals will post inappropriate content. However, one benefit of a true community blog is an engaged population that feels it has a voice in the future of the library Tebo (2012). Wikis are another web 2.0 tool that libraries may use to provide easier access to information. Wikis are collaborative websites that anyone can edit and add content to, with the click of the edit button, the webpage turns into a text document that can easily be formatted. All changes to the wiki can easily be edited

CONCLUSION

Modern trends and issues touching libraries in the higher institutions are tremendous in nature. This technology has not only changed the face of information but also the information seeking behaviour of the readers. It demands high level of technical skills to tap into the huge benefits that are associated with the use of modern information technologies. The study concludes that due to changing scenario of information, the librarians working in developing countries are facing common problems such as



inadequate funds, inadequate technical skills, and advance searching skills, inadequate trained and skilled manpower, use of digital sources of information, different libraries soft-wares and so on. Literature existing suggests that these new trends offer ample opportunities for academic libraries and librarians to explore in order to satisfy users changing information needs that they are employed to meet. Available literature further reveals that many academic libraries are being confronted by problems occasioned by the introduction and use of these new technologies. The Paper suggested that since knowledge is not static, academic librarians should go for training and that they should embrace the changes as soon as they are introduced. They should develop and encourage new policies and trends that will meet the need of their users in the most appropriate way.

Suggestions

In order to be relevant, it is important that academic libraries in higher institutions continue to move along with the trends, they should gear up towards making more impact to the life of the users, more so, now that information is regarded as one of the factors of production. Having been aware of these avalanches of problems that are confronting academic libraries the following are therefore suggested as remedies:

- Librarians should acquire technical skills, IT skills, managerial skill and communication skills to that will enable them work in a digital environment
- Library and information professionals and schools are required to embrace the change and by developing new policies and trends in the professions so as to be ready to embrace the future.
- Librarians and academic authority can take innovative thoughts to create a fund for the development of ICT infrastructure in their schools. Librarians and academic community can take the initiative to collect fund from the State.
- It is an axiomatic fact that printed information resources are still part and parcel of libraries informational materials. Traditional information containers such as books should be de-emphasized



gradually to allow the entrant of new information sources like the use of blogs.

Since knowledge is dynamic, it is very important for library and information science educators to go for training and retraining. The skills and knowledge acquired by them perhaps some years may not match the modern trends hence, constant staff development is required. The administration of institutions should as a matter of fact make adequate provisions for LIS educators in pursuance of additional knowledge by attending conferences, seminars, and workshops.

REFERENCES

- Abisoye, O. A.** (2010). Challenges facing the digitalization of university libraries in Nigeria: A case study of university of Federal University of Technology, Minna. *International Journal of Information and Communication Technology*, 7(2)
- Abram S.** (2005). Web 2.0 information huh! Library 2.0, librarian 2.0 *Information Outlook*, 9(1244-46)
- Abdulgeaniy, O. A.** (2012). Trends in library information science Education in Nigeria. Challenges and way forward. *Library Philosophy and practice* (e-journal) 831 <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/831>
- Asugwu, A. E. and Dikwa, L. H.** (2009). Problems of implementing virtual library in university libraries in Nigeria: An over view. *Borno Library Archival and Information Science*. 8(2).
- Baba, I.** (1994). An oral lecture delivered to the Diploma 11 students of the institute of education Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.
- Bar-Ilan, Judit** (2004). Blogarians, A new breed of librarians. Proceedings of the 67th ASIS & T Annual meeting 41
- Bronstein.** (2007). Current trends in library and information science. *Journal of Information communications and ethics in society* 5(2/3) pp: 59-78

-
- Clude, Laurel A.** (2005). A library weblogs. *Library management*, 22(4-5)
- Dhiman A. K.** (2008). *A handbook of special libraries and librarianships*. New Delhi: Ess publications.
- Eke, M. F.** (2006). Information and communications technology: awareness and use by academic staff of tertiary institution in Imo State University, Owerri
- Eness M. Miyanda** (2014). Social media tools for academic libraries services. *International Journal of Humanities and social inventions*.
- Esposite, J. L.** (1940). The Oxford encyclopaedia of modern Islamic World. Oxford university press.
- Harder. G and Reinhardt. R.** (2008). Throw another blog on the wire: libraries and the blogging phenomena.
- Harinarayara, N.S and Vasantha, Raju N.** (2010). Web 2.0 features in university library websites.
- Holmberg K et at** (2009). Modeling digital library success using the Delone and Mclean information system success model.
- Iboanusi, N. O. and Osuagwu, C. C.** (2010). An evaluation of impact of ICT diffusion in Nigeria's higher education system.
- Kaplan A.M and Haenlein M.** (2010). Users of the world unite! The challenges and opportunities of social media. *Business horizon* 53 (1)59-68
- Karami, Tahreh and Oloumi Tahereh** (2006) Libraries and webs: the role new phenomenon Blogs in library services, research held at Faculdade De Engenharia, Porto, Portugal during May 22-25 international association of technological university Libraries (IATUL).
- Khan, S. A.** (2012) A review of problems and challenges of library professionals in developing countries including Pakistan. Library philosophy and practice. <http://unllib.un.edu/lpp/>
- Kim Holmberg** (2009) Researchgate.net/figure/Network.map of Library 2.0 with the node size corresponding –to-learning term frequency retrieved 19/9/20192:30p.m

-
-
- King, D. L. and Brown, S. W.** (2009). Emerging trends, 2.0, and libraries. *Serials Librarian*, 56(1-4), 32-43. Doi: 10.1080/03615260802672452
- Krubu, D. E. and Osawaru, K. E.** (2011). The impact of information and communications technology, In Nigerian University libraries. Library philosophy and practice (E- Journal) paper 583. <http://digitalcommons.Unl/libphil:price/583>
- Nowasheeba A. A.** (2017). Social media and libraries services. *International Journal of library and information science (IJLIS)* 6(2).
- Obajemi, A. S. and Ogunyade T. O.** (2004). Assessment of CD-Rom usage in academic libraries in Nigeria. Case study. *The information technologist* 1 (1) P.18
- Ogbomo, E. F.** (2011). Issues and challenges in the use of ICT in education information. *Journal of information and knowledge management* 10(1).
- Putnam, G. H.** (1962). *Books and their makers in the middle Ages*. Hilary House Publisher;
- Salawa, B. A.** (2007). The virtual library . Issues, prospects and challenges. *Nigerbiblios*, 18(1&2) pp70-72.
- Scott** (2001). Blogging: creating instant content for the web. Available at <http://libusask.ca/scott/:/2001/definitioshtml>
- Tebo, D.** (2019). The benefits and drawbacks of Blogs and wikis as library 2.0 tools. dianatebo.wordpress.co/2012. Retrieved 11:45 tues.2019.
- Umaru F. A.** (2002). The challenges posed by information communication technologies to students of tertiary institutions in Bauchi State. *Journal of information and knowledge management* 2(2).
- Uwaifo, S. O.** (2009) Barrier to the use of information and communications technologies by staff in Nigerian universities. *Borno library Archives and information science*, 8(2).

