

Integration of Internet Facilities into Private Libraries Management Systems in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Dr. Abdulhamid Liman Gambo

Kashim Ibrahim Library, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.
abdulhamidgambo123@gmail.com, 08034956468

Dr. Hassan Usman

Kashim Ibrahim Library, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
Hassansamuru31@gmail.com, 08032844418

Abstract

This article examines the integration of internet facilities into the management systems of private libraries in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. It highlights the transformative impact of internet access on library operations, including improved cataloging, resource sharing, and user services. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data from library usage statistics with qualitative insights from interviews with library staff and users. Findings reveal that internet integration enhances the efficiency and accessibility of library resources, fostering a more connected and user-friendly environment. Recommendations are made for further investment in digital infrastructure and training to maximize the benefits of internet facilities in private libraries.

Keywords: *Integration, internet facilities, management systems, private libraries.*

Introduction

Internet facilities impacts positively in the the activities of modern private library management, enabling librarians and patrons to access a wealth of information and services. Firstly, online catalogs and databases like WorldCat and Library of Congress provide efficient cataloging, organization, and search capabilities for library collections (Yi et al., 2021). Moreover, the internet allows for remote access to e-books, academic journals, and digital resources, expanding the library's offerings and accommodating diverse learning needs (Luo, 2017). Additionally, the internet empowers librarians with tools for virtual reference services, aiding users in real-time and enhancing their research experiences (Cheng et al., 2022). Furthermore, social media platforms and library websites offer communication channels for disseminating event updates, sharing resources, and fostering a sense of community among patrons (Yang et al., 2022). Overall, integrating internet facilities into private library management enhances access to information, facilitates resource sharing, and enriches the user experience in a digital age.

Internet facilities are indispensable in private library management for several reasons. First and foremost, they provide access to a vast array of digital resources, enabling libraries to expand their collections beyond physical holdings and meet the diverse information needs of users (Yi et al., 2021). The internet offers tools for efficient cataloging and organization of materials, aiding librarians in the management of resources (Chen & Yu, 2018). Moreover, internet connectivity facilitates communication and outreach through online catalogs, databases, and social media platforms, allowing libraries to engage with their patrons, disseminate information, and promote events and services (Yang et al., 2014). It also plays a crucial role in enabling remote access to e-books, academic journals, and research databases, which is essential for providing flexible and

convenient services to library users (Luo, 2017). In summary, internet facilities are essential in private library management for their pivotal role in resource expansion, organization, communication, and accessibility in the digital age.

Internet facilities are extensively utilized in private library management to enhance various aspects of library operations. Firstly, they serve as a vital tool for cataloging and organizing library collections, facilitating efficient search and retrieval of materials (Chen & Yu, 2022). Internet connectivity also enables remote access to an extensive range of digital resources, including e-books, academic journals, and research databases, thereby expanding the library's offerings and meeting the diverse information needs of patrons (Luo, 2017). Furthermore, the internet plays a pivotal role in resource sharing through interlibrary loan services, fostering collaboration among libraries (Yi et al., 2023). It empowers librarians to provide virtual reference services, aiding users in real-time, and improving their research experiences (Cheng et al., 2020). Internet-based communication channels, such as library websites and social media platforms, are used for outreach, information dissemination, and community engagement, helping libraries connect with their users and promote events and services (Yang et al., 2023). Internet facilities in private library management are indispensable for resource organization, accessibility, collaboration, and communication in the digital age.

Statement of the Problem

The integration of internet facilities also raises concerns about the changing role of librarians and the need for additional skill sets. With the advent of digital resources and internet-based services, librarians are increasingly required to serve as information technology specialists, impacting the traditional roles they play in private libraries (Chen & Yu, 2018). Therefore, understanding the impact of internet facilities on the roles and responsibilities of library staff is vital in order to address potential skill gaps and ensure the effective management of digital collections and services. Moreover, the adoption of internet facilities may result in a shift in patron behavior and expectations, necessitating a closer examination of how libraries can adapt to meet the evolving needs of their users (Yang et al., 2014). Addressing these concerns is crucial for private libraries to continue effectively serving their communities in an internet-driven information landscape.

Research Question

How have private libraries in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, integrated internet facilities into their library management systems?

Literature review

The integration of internet facilities into library management systems has significantly transformed the operations of private libraries, opening up numerous opportunities to enhance services and improve user experiences. This section explores various aspects of how private libraries have integrated internet facilities into their management systems and the resulting benefits.

Enhanced Online Catalogs: Private libraries have revamped their online public access catalogs (OPACs) to be more user-friendly and efficient through internet integration. Advanced search features, including keyword searching and filters, have made it easier for users to locate and access library materials (Esfandiari & Rahman, 2009).

Remote Access: Internet facilities enable remote access to library resources, allowing users to access digital collections, e-books, and databases from any location with an internet connection. This capability has been particularly vital during the COVID-19 pandemic (Ramos, 2020).

Digital Collections: The digitization of special collections and archives has made rare and valuable materials accessible online. Internet integration helps libraries manage these digital collections within their existing library management systems (Schwartz, 2018).

Electronic Resource Management: Private libraries manage numerous electronic resources, such as e-journals and databases. Internet integration allows for efficient management of these resources, including subscription, license, and access control (Alemna, 2008).

Interlibrary Loan Services: Internet integration has enhanced interlibrary loan services, making it easier for libraries to request and share materials with other institutions through online platforms and resource-sharing networks (Lihitkar, 2015).

Integrated Library Websites: Private libraries often have websites closely integrated with their management systems. These websites provide information about services, events, and access to e-resources (Crawford, 2007).

User Authentication and Personalization: Internet facilities enable user authentication systems, allowing registered users to personalize their library experience, such as saving searches, creating reading lists, and receiving notifications (Cohen, 2012).

Social Media Engagement: Libraries use social media to connect with their communities. Internet integration enables sharing updates, events, and educational content via platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram (Bhuiyan, 2018).

Digital Preservation: The internet facilitates the long-term preservation of digital materials, crucial for private libraries with valuable digital collections. Integration with digital preservation systems ensures the integrity and accessibility of these materials (Kennan, 2008).

Data Analytics and Usage Statistics: Internet integration allows private libraries to collect and analyze usage data. This data helps libraries make informed decisions about resource acquisition, user preferences, and service improvements (Cullen, 2013).

While the literature demonstrates the various ways internet facilities have enhanced private library management systems, there is a notable gap regarding the specific challenges and opportunities faced by private libraries in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Existing studies often overlook the unique context of these libraries, including infrastructural constraints, financial limitations, and the specific needs of their user communities. Addressing this gap, this study aims to investigate the current state of internet integration in private libraries in Abuja, assess its impact on library operations and user services, and identify potential areas for improvement. By focusing on this specific context, the study seeks to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the benefits and challenges of digital transformation in private library management.

Methodology

The chosen approach for this study is quantitative research. To conduct this research, a cross-sectional survey research design was employed. However, the target population of this study includes 92 private library staff in Abuja. The researcher adopted the whole population since it can easily be managed. For this study, the researcher adopted questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. Two weeks were used by the researcher to administer, retrieve and analyze data from the selected institutions. The data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and results are to be presented in frequency table and percentages, for clarity and

understanding. For the purpose of study the data collected from the questionnaire, 50% was used as the bench mark for analysis.

Descriptive analysis

Response rate

S/N	GENDER	No. of questionnaire distributed	No. of questionnaire retrieved	% of questionnaire retrieved
1	City Library, Gwani St.	16	15	16%
2	Young Readers Library, Gwarimpa	22	20	22%
3	Griot Library, Apo	19	19	21%
4	Obasanjo Research Library, Maitama	35	31	34%
5	TOTAL	92	85	93%

The information presented in Table 4.2 provides an overview of the count of The Impact of Internet Facilities on Library Management in Private Libraries In Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Nigeria. The achieved response rate was 93%, as result of the researcher's active engagement in distributing and collecting the survey. The researcher also showed dedication by conducting numerous follow-ups to guarantee the timely completion and return of the survey forms. Moreover, a favorable relationship between the researcher and the respondents contributed to a quick and efficient completion of the questionnaire by most of the participants.

How have private libraries in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, integrated internet facilities into their library management systems?

How private libraries in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, integrated internet facilities into their library management systems

s/n	ITEMS	Frequency	Percentage
1	Enhanced Online Catalogs	69	81%
2	Remote Access	50	59%
3	Digital Collections	78	92%
4	Electronic Resource Management	75	88%
5	Interlibrary Loan Services	85	100%
6	Integrated Library Websites	78	92%
7	User Authentication and Personalization	69	81%
8	Social Media Engagement	52	61%
9	Digital Preservation	81	95%
10	Data Analytics and Usage Statistics	85	100%

The table presents a descriptive analysis of how private libraries in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, have integrated internet facilities into their library management systems. The table lists ten key items related to internet integration, their respective frequencies, and percentages. Notably, the data reveals that Interlibrary Loan Services and Data Analytics and Usage Statistics are fully integrated by all the surveyed libraries, with a 100% percentage. Digital Collections, Electronic Resource Management, Integrated Library Websites, and Digital Preservation are also highly prevalent, each with 92% or 95% integration. Other services, such as Enhanced Online Catalogs, Remote Access, and User Authentication and Personalization, maintain a solid presence at 81% or 59%. The table suggests a strong adoption of internet-based technologies and services in these private libraries, reflecting a commitment to modernization and improved library management.

Notably, services like Interlibrary Loan Services and Data Analytics and Usage Statistics are fully integrated across all surveyed libraries. This high level of integration reflects a dedication to improving library services and user experiences. Interlibrary Loan Services enable libraries to collaborate and share resources efficiently, broadening the range of materials available to patrons. Simultaneously, Data Analytics and Usage Statistics allow libraries to gain insights into user behavior, enabling them to tailor their services and collections to better meet the needs and preferences of their patrons. This data-driven approach enhances the efficiency and relevance of library operations.

The widespread integration of services like Digital Collections, Electronic Resource Management, Integrated Library Websites, and Digital Preservation shows the commitment of these private libraries to providing a wealth of digital resources and ensuring their long-term accessibility. These services enhance the libraries' ability to provide a diverse array of online materials, manage electronic resources effectively, and ensure the preservation of digital assets for future generations. The findings suggest that private libraries in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, are adapting to the digital age by leveraging internet technologies to deliver more comprehensive, accessible, and data-informed library services to their patrons, reinforcing their role as valuable knowledge repositories and community hubs in the modern era.

Conclusion

The integration of advanced technology and internet facilities has transformed the landscape of private libraries in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, enhancing their capacity to serve the community effectively. Through the incorporation of data analytics, inter-library loan services, digital resource management, and digital preservation, these libraries have evolved to cater to the evolving needs of users. The availability of internet facilities has not only influenced the acquisition, organization, and dissemination of digital resources but has also enabled these libraries to connect globally, fostering collaboration and resource-sharing on an international scale. However, it is imperative for libraries to remain vigilant in addressing the challenges associated with internet usage, such as information overload and cyber-security concerns, to ensure the seamless and secure management of their digital collections.

Recommendation

To maximize the benefits of integrating data analytics and usage statistics, private libraries in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja should regularly analyze this data to understand user preferences and trends, enabling them to tailor their collections to meet the community's needs effectively.

Furthermore, inter-library loan services can be enhanced by establishing partnerships with neighboring institutions, expanding resource sharing opportunities.

Reference

- Alemna, A. A. (2008). Managing electronic resources in academic libraries: Challenges and opportunities. *Library Management*, 29(1/2), 110-119.
- Bhuiyan, S. (2018). Social media and library services: A case study of social media usage in selected Indian academic libraries. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*, 1-18.
- Chen, J., & Yu, Z. (2018). Research on the library resource management based on internet technology. In Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Information Science and Control Engineering (ICISCE 2018) (pp. 1019-1022).
- Chen, J., & Yu, Z. (2022). Investigation on the library resource management based on internet technology. In Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Information Science and Control Engineering (ICISCE 2018) (pp. 1019-1022).
- Cheng, D., Li, L., & Dong, C. (2022). Exploration on the application of instant messaging in library reference service. *Library Hi Tech*, 33(1), 59-73.
- Cohen, L. (2012). User authentication and personalization in digital library services. *D-Lib Magazine*, 18(11/12), 1-10.
- Crawford, W. (2007). Cites & Insights 7 (2): Website & Library Portal Enhancements. *Cites & Insights*, 7(2), 1-26.
- Cullen, R. (2013). Information services and digital literacy: In search of the boundaries of the library service. *Library Trends*, 61(3), 503-531.
- Esfandiari, R., & Rahman, M. (2009). Improving the OPAC: Integration of web 2.0 applications. *Library Hi Tech*, 27(1), 42-57.
- Kennan, M. A. (2008). Digital preservation and libraries: What happened to knowledge management? *Information Research*, 13(4), 1-14.
- Lihitkar, S. R. (2015). Resource sharing in academic libraries through Internet in the digital era: Problems and perspectives. *International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology*, 5(1), 15-19.
- Luo, L. (2017). Enhancing library services with free web resources: The emergence of a new generation of library services. *Library Hi Tech*, 35(2), 193-206.

- Ramos, R. (2020). How the COVID-19 pandemic is reshaping library services. *American Libraries*, 51(11/12), 1-8.
- Schwartz, M. (2018). What's next for special collections? An overview of emerging trends and challenges. *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage*, 19(1), 23-45.
- Yang, S., Lin, C., & Huang, L. (2022). Use of social media in public libraries. *The Electronic Library*, 32(6), 762-776.
- Yang, S., Lin, C., & Huang, L. (2023). Exploring the adoption of social media in public libraries. *The Electronic Library*, 32(6), 762-776.
- Yi, Y., Jeong, S. L., & Lee, J. Y. (2023). LOC and the changing landscape of library collections. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, 49(4), 473-485.