
Editorial

Fall Greetings

This issue presents twelve papers in total—eleven research articles and one commentary—addressing a diverse range of themes relevant to contemporary librarianship and information practice.

In their article, Zinyeredzi and Pasipamire examine the skills and knowledge of academic librarians in Zimbabwe within the framework of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, an era defined by the integration of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the Internet of Things into everyday life and work. The authors recommend that librarians cultivate sustained engagement with technological innovation and remain current through ongoing professional development opportunities, including training, seminars, and conferences.

In a related study, Ogo et al. investigate librarians' awareness, ICT competencies, and approaches to marketing academic library services in selected regions of Nigeria, with particular attention to the use of social media platforms.

Yashim explores the availability, accessibility, accuracy, relevance, and utilization of information resources by university students, offering insights into how institutional contexts shape information use.

From South Africa, Carte and Moonasar analyze the effects of continuous system upgrades on library operations, focusing on the implementation of the EBSCO FOLIO library services platform at the Durban University of Technology Library. Their findings underscore notable improvements in operational efficiency, user satisfaction, and system flexibility, while also acknowledging the challenges associated with ongoing technological transitions.

Ike et al. discuss the empowerment of academic librarians through continuous professional development, emphasizing its role in enhancing service delivery and professional growth.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has receded, its influence on information behavior persists. Lasig et al., from Central Luzon State University in the Philippines, examine students' information sources and information-seeking challenges in a post-pandemic context, highlighting the enduring effects of the pandemic on access and behavior.

Ibikunle et al. focus on a specialized research library—the National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research Library in Africa—and its contribution to supporting effective information services for its users.

Ifijeh investigates the influence of the work environment on job commitment among librarians in federal universities in southern Nigeria, revealing important connections between workplace conditions and professional dedication.

Adetayo examines the relationship between social media usage patterns and library visitation for reading among university students, offering evidence on how digital engagement intersects with traditional library use.

In their article, Adewojo and Momoh explore the transformative potential of social media in the delivery of reference services within Nigerian public libraries, identifying both opportunities and challenges associated with this evolving practice.

A distinctive contribution to this issue is presented by Lee Parker of Central Michigan University (United States), who offers a case study on autistic academic librarians in leadership positions. The paper considers how neurodiversity shapes leadership experiences and capabilities within academic library contexts.

The issue concludes with a commentary by Jane Jiang, who argues that libraries must remain integral to the broader mission of education—not only supporting measurable outcomes such as graduation and employment but also promoting intellectual growth, ethical reasoning, and lifelong learning. Jiang contends that, while academic achievement and career readiness are vital, education must equally foster curiosity, critical thinking, information literacy, and responsible citizenship. Librarians, she emphasizes, are uniquely equipped to guide students in these domains, and their expertise must be fully recognized and valued. By affirming the central role of librarians, institutions can ensure that libraries continue to uphold and advance the comprehensive mission of education.

Happy Reading.

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