

EMERGING ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS IN NIGERIA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY: PROSPECTS, CHALLENGES, AND STRATEGIC MODELS

Augustina Chinyere Chime (PhD)

Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), Agbani

And

Nnenna Loveth Ugwuanyi

Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), Agbani

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to review and synthesize scholarly and policy literature on emerging entrepreneurship opportunities for library and information science (LIS) professionals within Nigeria's digital economy. The paper examined a broad range of LIS-based entrepreneurial pathways, including information consultancy, digital content and publishing services, knowledge management, data-driven services, training ventures, and platform-enabled information services. A narrative review approach was adopted, and relevant literature published between 2019 and 2026 was analyzed to identify key opportunity areas, professional prospects, and constraints influencing entrepreneurial engagement among LIS professionals. The review further examined strategic models that supported sustainable LIS entrepreneurship, focusing on capacity building, curriculum and training reforms, and policy, institutional and professional body interventions. The findings of the review showed that although LIS professionals possessed competencies relevant to multiple forms of digital entrepreneurship, limitations related to skills orientation, institutional support, curriculum design, and policy integration constrained effective participation. The paper contributed a structured synthesis of current evidence and offered strategic insights for strengthening LIS entrepreneurship as a pathway for professional sustainability and national development in Nigeria's digital economy.

Keywords: Library and Information Science, Digital Economy, Entrepreneurship, Information-Based Enterprises, Professional Sustainability, Nigeria.

Introduction

The expansion of the digital economy has brought significant changes to professional practice across knowledge-driven fields. In contemporary society, information is no longer treated merely as a supporting resource but has assumed a central role in economic activities, innovation, and service delivery. Professionals who possess the ability to organize, evaluate, and disseminate information are increasingly expected to apply their expertise in flexible and dynamic ways that extend beyond traditional institutional settings. This shift reflects a broader transformation in which professional relevance is closely tied to adaptability and the capacity to respond to emerging digital realities.

Scholarly discussions on the digital economy have emphasized its reliance on knowledge, innovation, and technology-driven services rather than on physical assets alone. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2020) noted that digital transformation has expanded opportunities for value creation through platforms, remote services, and information-based enterprises. In a related argument, Heeks (2020) explained that the digital economy has enabled new forms of entrepreneurship built around information processing, digital content, and online interaction. These developments

suggest that professions rooted in information management are increasingly positioned within entrepreneurial spaces.

Within this evolving environment, Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals possess competencies that align closely with the demands of the digital economy. Their expertise in areas such as information organization, digital content management, research support, and knowledge dissemination provides a strong foundation for engagement in emerging digital ventures. Studies have shown that these competencies can be applied in entrepreneurial contexts including information consultancy, digital publishing, and online research services. Abubakar and Aina (2020) highlighted the relevance of LIS skills in supporting information-based enterprises, while Ezema and Ekenna (2021) observed that LIS professionals can function effectively as information entrepreneurs when supported with appropriate orientation and training.

In the Nigerian context, the growth of the digital economy has further expanded the scope for information-based entrepreneurship. Increased internet penetration, widespread adoption of mobile technologies, and the proliferation of digital platforms have created new demand for reliable and structured information services across sectors. The World Bank (2020) observed that Nigeria's digital transformation has opened up opportunities for service-oriented enterprises, particularly those driven by data and knowledge. This environment places LIS professionals in a strategically advantageous position to contribute to national development through entrepreneurial engagement.

Despite these emerging opportunities, evidence suggests that entrepreneurial participation among LIS professionals remains relatively limited. Many practitioners continue to rely on traditional employment pathways, and the entrepreneurial potential embedded in their professional training is not fully utilized. Emiri and Emojorho (2022) pointed out that structural and institutional factors often constrain the translation of LIS competencies into viable enterprises, while Ugwu and Ezeani (2021) emphasized the role of limited entrepreneurial exposure in shaping career choices within the profession. This disconnect between available opportunities and actual participation raises important concerns about professional sustainability in a rapidly evolving digital environment. Against this background, there is a need for a more focused conceptual examination of how LIS professionals can engage with emerging entrepreneurial opportunities within Nigeria's digital economy. This paper addresses this need by exploring the nature of these opportunities, the prospects they offer, the challenges that constrain participation, and the strategic pathways required to enhance sustainable entrepreneurial engagement within the profession..

Digital Entrepreneurship within the Contemporary Digital Economy

These emerging opportunities demonstrate the practical pathways through which Library and Information Science professionals can participate in the digital economy as entrepreneurs. The contemporary digital economy has reshaped entrepreneurial activity by redefining how value is created, delivered, and sustained. Digital technologies have

altered traditional production and service models, enabling entrepreneurs to operate with fewer physical constraints while leveraging information, platforms, and networks as core resources. In this context, entrepreneurship has increasingly become knowledge-driven, with digital competence and information management serving as central determinants of success. Digital entrepreneurship was described by Kraus et al. (2019) as entrepreneurial activity that relied fundamentally on digital technologies to develop new business models, products, and services. Their perspective emphasized that digital entrepreneurship differed from conventional entrepreneurship in its reliance on platforms, data, and digital infrastructures rather than physical assets. Similarly, Nambisan et al. (2019) explained that the digital transformation of entrepreneurship had expanded opportunity spaces by lowering entry barriers and enabling rapid innovation through digital ecosystems. These developments positioned information and knowledge as strategic entrepreneurial resources within the digital economy. Within developing economies, digital entrepreneurship has assumed added significance due to its potential to address unemployment, economic diversification, and skills underutilization. The Nigerian digital economy, in particular, has experienced growth driven by increased internet penetration, mobile technologies, and digital platforms. According to the World Bank (2020), Nigeria's digital economy created new opportunities for service-based enterprises, especially those built around information, data, and digital content. This environment has strengthened the relevance of professions whose core competencies align with information creation, organization, and dissemination.

National policy frameworks have further reinforced the importance of digital entrepreneurship in Nigeria. Bello (2025) noted that the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (2020–2030) prioritizes innovation-driven growth, digital skills development, and enterprise creation as key pathways for national development. The policy also emphasizes the role of digital services and information-based enterprises in driving economic transformation. In a related development, the National Information Technology Development Agency (2023) reaffirmed the government’s commitment to building a digitally inclusive and innovation-driven economy, thereby creating an enabling environment for professional participation in digital entrepreneurial activities. From a professional standpoint, these developments have created favourable conditions for the emergence of sector-specific entrepreneurship, including within Library and Information Science. Abdullahi et al. (2021) observed that the growing commercialization of information services has expanded the entrepreneurial relevance of LIS professionals beyond traditional library settings. Skills such as digital content management, information curation, and knowledge support align closely with the demands of digital entrepreneurship, making LIS professionals increasingly adaptable to emerging market needs.

Overall, digital entrepreneurship within the contemporary digital economy reflects a shift toward information-centered enterprise creation, where value is derived from digital platforms, data, and knowledge services. This transformation underscores the

growing relevance of information professionals as potential entrepreneurs. Within this evolving environment, several entrepreneurship opportunities have emerged for Library and Information Science professionals, driven by the increasing demand for structured and reliable information services across sectors

Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Library and Information Science Professionals in the Digital Economy

Information Consultancy and Research-Based Services: Information consultancy constituted a significant entrepreneurial opportunity for library and information science (LIS) professionals within the digital economy, particularly in academic, governmental, and corporate environments where evidence-informed decision-making was increasingly emphasized. The demand for services such as literature analysis, research synthesis, information auditing, and advisory support expanded as organizations sought credible and organized knowledge inputs. Mohammed et al. (2022) explained that information-based entrepreneurship involved brokerage and consultancy services that leveraged professional competencies in sourcing, evaluating, and repackaging information to meet specific client needs. Ezema and Ekenna (2023) similarly observed that LIS professionals possessed transferable skills that were directly applicable to research support and consultancy roles, especially in contexts where information quality influenced organizational effectiveness. Abdullahi et al. (2021) further noted that exposure to entrepreneurship education strengthened the capacity of LIS professionals to translate research and information

management expertise into income-generating services, reinforcing information consultancy as a core entrepreneurial pathway within LIS practice.

Digital Content Creation and Publishing Services: Digital content creation and publishing emerged as a viable entrepreneurial domain for LIS professionals as digital platforms reshaped information production and dissemination. The growth of online learning systems, institutional repositories, and open-access publishing has increase demand for curated, credible, and well-structured digital content. Kraus et al. (2019) emphasized that digital entrepreneurship increasingly relied on content-driven business models supported by digital infrastructure rather than physical assets. Within the LIS context, entrepreneurial activities in this domain included e-book development, institutional publishing, metadata creation, digital archiving, and repository management. El-Kalash et al. (2024) highlighted that effective digital service delivery had become central to contemporary information practice, underscoring the relevance of LIS professionals in content development and dissemination processes. Okiy (2024) also argued that librarianship graduates could function effectively as digital publishers and content developers when entrepreneurial orientation was integrated into professional training, positioning digital content entrepreneurship as a sustainable LIS venture.

Knowledge Management, Data Services, and Platform-Based Ventures: Knowledge management, data services, and platform-based ventures further expanded the entrepreneurial landscape for LIS professionals in the digital economy. As organizations

increasingly relied on structured knowledge systems to manage digital information assets, opportunities arose for professionals skilled in metadata design, information governance, records systems, and knowledge organization. Nambisan et al. (2019) demonstrated that digital platforms and innovation ecosystems enabled professionals to deliver specialized services within interconnected and scalable environments. Ilori and Haliso (2025) showed that the integration of competitive intelligence and entrepreneurial competencies enhanced librarians' ability to reposition information services in response to market and institutional demands. Don-Solomon (2025) further argued that information-based entrepreneurial activities contributed to knowledge economy development by enabling information professionals to support innovation, organizational learning, and productivity. These perspectives collectively indicated that LIS professionals were well positioned to engage in platform-enabled ventures offering knowledge management, data organization, and analytics-oriented services. Within this evolving digital environment, several entrepreneurship opportunities have emerged for Library and Information Science professionals, reflecting the growing demand for information-driven services. While these opportunities highlight the expanding entrepreneurial landscape available to Library and Information Science professionals, effective participation depends largely on the competencies required to identify, develop, and sustain such ventures. Understanding these competencies is therefore essential for assessing the readiness of LIS professionals to function as entrepreneurs within the digital economy.

Library and Information Science Competencies as Entrepreneurial Capital

In view of the identified entrepreneurship opportunities, the competencies inherent in Library and Information Science practice can be examined as critical entrepreneurial assets within the digital economy. The competencies traditionally associated with Library and Information Science has expanded significantly in response to the demands of the digital economy. Beyond custodianship of physical collections, LIS professionals have developed expertise in digital information management, content organization, information retrieval, knowledge mediation, and user-centered service delivery. These competencies, when viewed through an entrepreneurial lens, constitute valuable professional capital that can be transformed into sustainable digital enterprises. Contemporary LIS practice emphasizes digital literacy, data handling, information evaluation, and technology-mediated service provision. El-Kalash et al. (2024) observed that the effectiveness of information service delivery in the global digital economy increasingly depended on the ability of LIS professionals to apply digital tools, manage electronic resources, and adapt services to evolving user needs. These competencies aligned closely with the operational requirements of digital entrepreneurship, where value creation depended largely on information processing, digital content development, and technology-enabled communication.

Entrepreneurial competencies such as opportunity recognition, innovation, strategic thinking, and service marketing have also become increasingly relevant to LIS

professionals. Ilori and Haliso (2025) demonstrated that entrepreneurship and competitive intelligence skills enhanced librarians' capacity to reposition information services within competitive environments. This suggested that LIS competencies were not only technical but also strategic, enabling professionals to identify information gaps, design market-oriented services, and respond to emerging digital demands. Within the educational context, the preparedness of LIS graduates for entrepreneurial engagement has attracted growing scholarly attention. Okechukwu et al. (2025) reported that digital literacy and information competencies among LIS students were critical determinants of their readiness to function effectively in technology-driven environments. These findings reinforced the argument that LIS competencies, when properly developed and applied, could serve as foundational assets for entrepreneurial participation in the digital economy. Entrepreneurship education further strengthened the transformation of LIS competencies into entrepreneurial capital. Ogedoihu (2024) emphasized that entrepreneurship-oriented training empowered LIS students to apply their professional knowledge in income-generating and socially relevant ways. Similarly, Obinyan (2020) argued that integrating entrepreneurship education into LIS programmes was essential for equipping graduates with the confidence and practical skills needed to establish independent information-based ventures. These perspectives highlighted the role of education in bridging the gap between professional competence and entrepreneurial application. The economic relevance of LIS competencies has also been linked to broader development outcomes. Olubiyo and Olubiyo (2025) noted that entrepreneurship education among LIS

students contributed to economic development by promoting self-reliance, innovation, and job creation. When LIS competencies were combined with entrepreneurial orientation, professionals were better positioned to create value within digital markets rather than depend solely on traditional employment structures. From an opinion standpoint, LIS competencies should therefore be recognized as strategic entrepreneurial assets rather than passive professional skills. The digital economy has created an environment where information expertise is both scarce and valuable. LIS professionals who are able to reposition their competencies as marketable services such as information consultancy, digital content development, research analytics, and knowledge management stand to benefit from emerging entrepreneurial opportunities. This repositioning requires not only technical proficiency but also a shift in professional mindset toward innovation, enterprise, and value creation.

In summary, the competencies inherent in Library and Information Science practice constitute a strong foundation for digital entrepreneurship. When combined with entrepreneurial awareness, supportive education, and enabling policy environments, these competencies can be transformed into sustainable entrepreneurial capital. This perspective underscores the relevance of LIS professionals as active contributors to the digital economy rather than passive participants within traditional institutional frameworks.

Prospects of LIS Entrepreneurship in Nigeria's Digital Economy

- **Policy and Institutional Support for Digital Entrepreneurship:** Nigeria's ongoing transition toward a digitally driven economy had created an enabling policy environment that increasingly recognized entrepreneurship as a strategic pathway for economic growth and professional sustainability. The National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (2020–2030) articulated a national vision that emphasized digital innovation, skills development, and the expansion of technology-enabled enterprises across sectors (Bello, 2025). Within this policy context, information-based services, digital content creation, and knowledge-driven enterprises were positioned as critical components of Nigeria's future economy. For library and information science (LIS) professionals, this policy direction signaled a shift in how information expertise was valued at the national level. The growing emphasis on digital platforms, data governance, information accessibility, and digital literacy aligned closely with the core competencies of LIS professionals. Mohammed et al. (2022) observed that information professionals possessed transferable skills that could be leveraged within emerging digital markets, particularly where reliable information services, research support, and content management were required. As national policies increasingly supported innovation hubs, digital startups, and knowledge-based enterprises, LIS professionals were presented with clearer institutional backing for entrepreneurial engagement. Beyond formal policy documents, the broader digital economy framework in Nigeria created space for professional experimentation and innovation. According to the World Bank (2020),

Nigeria's expanding digital infrastructure and growing demand for online services had widened opportunities for knowledge-intensive professions. This environment strengthened the prospects for LIS entrepreneurship by reducing entry barriers to digital markets and legitimizing non-traditional professional pathways within the information sector.

- **Employment Diversification and Professional Sustainability:** Entrepreneurship had emerged as a viable response to the growing pressure on traditional employment structures within the LIS profession. Earlier studies indicated that conventional library positions were no longer sufficient to absorb the increasing number of LIS graduates entering the labor market (Musa & Tsafe, 2019). As a result, entrepreneurial engagement offered an alternative pathway for employment diversification and long-term professional relevance. Ezema and Ekenna (2023) argued that LIS entrepreneurship provided practical solutions to graduate unemployment by enabling professionals to translate academic competencies into marketable services. These included information consultancy, research support services, digital archiving, and training in information literacy. Such ventures not only expanded employment opportunities but also allowed LIS professionals to exercise greater autonomy over their careers while responding directly to societal information needs. The role of entrepreneurship education in sustaining professional relevance had also been emphasized within the Nigerian LIS context. Abdullahi et al. (2021) noted that exposure to entrepreneurial thinking during

professional training enhanced graduates' capacity to identify opportunities beyond conventional library environments. When combined with digital skills, this orientation strengthened the ability of LIS professionals to adapt to changing labor market conditions and to sustain viable careers within the digital economy.

- **Contribution of LIS Entrepreneurship to National Development:** The prospects of LIS entrepreneurship extended beyond individual career advancement to broader contributions to national development. Information-based enterprises played a critical role in supporting education, governance, innovation, and informed decision-making within society. Emiri and Emojorho (2020) demonstrated that entrepreneurial initiatives within university libraries had already contributed to institutional efficiency, improved information services, and capacity building among users. These developments illustrated how LIS entrepreneurship could function as a catalyst for socio-economic progress. At a national level, the growth of information entrepreneurship strengthened knowledge dissemination and enhanced access to credible information across sectors. Mohammed et al. (2022) emphasized that information entrepreneurs supported evidence-based practices by providing specialized information services to researchers, organizations, and policymakers. Such contributions aligned with broader development goals that prioritized knowledge as a foundation for innovation and sustainable growth. In the context of Nigeria's digital economy agenda, LIS entrepreneurship held strategic relevance for achieving inclusive development outcomes. The expansion of information services,

digital learning platforms, and research support enterprises complemented national efforts to build a knowledge-driven economy (Bello, 2025; World Bank, 2020). As LIS professionals increasingly engaged in entrepreneurial ventures, their activities were positioned to contribute meaningfully to economic diversification, human capital development, and the strengthening of Nigeria's information infrastructure.

Challenges Constraining Entrepreneurial Engagement among LIS Professionals

Despite the growing recognition of entrepreneurship as a viable pathway for professional relevance and economic sustainability among library and information science (LIS) professionals, several interrelated challenges continue to constrain effective entrepreneurial engagement within the profession. These challenges are largely rooted in professional orientation and skills deficits, technological and institutional limitations, as well as persistent awareness and perception-related barriers.

- **Professional Orientation and Skills Gaps:** A major constraint to entrepreneurial engagement among LIS professionals lies in the traditional professional orientation of the discipline, which has historically emphasized public-sector employment and routine library services over innovation and venture creation. Many LIS professionals are trained primarily for custodial and service-based roles, with limited exposure to entrepreneurial thinking, business development, and market-oriented problem solving. This orientation continues to influence professional identity and career aspirations, often discouraging risk-taking and independent

enterprise development (Okolo & Ivwighreghweta, 2021; Tondo & Ugba, 2023). Closely linked to this orientation is the persistent skills gap affecting LIS professionals. While digital transformation has expanded opportunities for information consultancy, content creation, data services, and technology-enabled ventures, many professionals lack the requisite entrepreneurial, managerial, and advanced digital competencies needed to exploit these opportunities effectively. Studies highlight deficiencies in areas such as business planning, innovation management, digital product development, and financial literacy, which limit the capacity of LIS professionals to translate information expertise into viable entrepreneurial ventures (Obinyan, 2023; Tondo & Ugba, 2023). Furthermore, challenges within LIS education and professional training systems exacerbate these skills gaps. Entrepreneurship education within LIS programmes is often inadequately structured, insufficiently practical, or inconsistently implemented. Where entrepreneurship-related courses exist, they tend to be theoretical, with limited opportunities for experiential learning, incubation, or mentorship. As a result, graduates may possess conceptual awareness of entrepreneurship without the confidence or competence required for real-world entrepreneurial engagement (Ezema et al., 2023; Olubiyo & Olubiyo, 2025).

- **Technological, Infrastructural, and Institutional Constraints:**

Technological and infrastructural limitations constitute another major barrier to LIS entrepreneurship, particularly within developing digital environments. Although

emerging technologies offer significant potential for innovative information services, access to reliable digital infrastructure remains uneven. Inadequate internet connectivity, high cost of digital tools, limited access to specialized software, and unstable power supply continue to restrict the ability of LIS professionals to develop and sustain technology-driven enterprises (Agboke & Oladokun, 2025; Philip et al., 2025). Institutional constraints further compound these technological challenges. Many libraries and information institutions operate within rigid administrative frameworks that provide limited support for entrepreneurial experimentation, commercialization of services, or spin-off ventures. Bureaucratic procedures, weak innovation policies, and the absence of institutional incentives for entrepreneurship discourage professionals from pursuing enterprise-based initiatives alongside traditional library roles (Emiri & Emojorho, 2025). In such contexts, entrepreneurial activities are often perceived as peripheral rather than integral to professional practice. In addition, the broader policy and economic environment poses structural challenges for LIS entrepreneurs. Limited access to funding, absence of tailored financial support mechanisms, and weak integration of LIS professionals into national innovation ecosystems constrain enterprise growth. Empirical evidence suggests that LIS entrepreneurs frequently operate in isolation, without access to startup capital, professional networks, or institutional partnerships that could enhance sustainability and scalability (Ibrahim et al., 2023).

- **Awareness and Perception-Related Challenges:** Beyond skills and infrastructure, awareness and perception-related issues significantly affect entrepreneurial engagement among LIS professionals. There remains limited awareness, both within and outside the profession, of the diverse entrepreneurial roles that LIS expertise can support. This lack of visibility reduces demand for LIS-led entrepreneurial services and reinforces narrow perceptions of librarianship as a non-commercial profession (Okolo & Ivwighrehweta, 2021; Obinyan, 2023). Negative perceptions and cultural biases also influence entrepreneurial intentions. Entrepreneurship is often associated with disciplines perceived as more commercially oriented, while LIS professionals may face skepticism regarding their capacity to innovate or compete in entrepreneurial spaces. Such perceptions can undermine professional confidence and discourage engagement, particularly among early-career practitioners and students (Petrescu & Suciu, 2024). Moreover, insufficient dissemination of success stories and best practices within LIS entrepreneurship limits collective learning and motivation. The absence of visible role models and structured professional support systems contributes to low entrepreneurial self-efficacy among LIS professionals. Without deliberate efforts to reshape professional narratives, promote entrepreneurial achievements, and strengthen awareness of emerging opportunities, perception-related barriers are likely to persist and continue constraining entrepreneurial engagement (Tondo & Ugba, 2023; Ibrahim et al., 2023).

Strategic Models for Sustainable LIS Entrepreneurship

- **Capacity Building and Professional Reorientation:** Sustainable entrepreneurship among Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals in Nigeria requires deliberate capacity-building strategies that reposition practitioners beyond traditional service roles. The changing demands of the digital economy have expanded expectations for LIS professionals to function as information consultants, digital content creators, and knowledge service providers. However, achieving this shift depends largely on systematic professional reorientation and continuous skills development. El-Kalash et al. (2024) observed that many LIS professionals possess foundational competencies that require upgrading through targeted digital, entrepreneurial, and innovation-driven training to remain relevant in a knowledge-based economy. Evidence from undergraduate training further underscores the urgency of structured capacity building. Fagbola et al. (2024) identified gaps in entrepreneurial competencies among LIS undergraduates in Nigeria, suggesting that while students demonstrate interest in self-employment pathways, they often lack practical exposure to business planning, innovation management, and market-oriented service delivery. This skills gap highlights the need for professional reorientation frameworks that promote entrepreneurship as a core career trajectory rather than an alternative option. Adetunla and Chowdhury (2023) similarly emphasized that readiness for the Fourth Industrial Revolution demands

continuous reskilling and adaptive learning models that align LIS competencies with emerging digital and entrepreneurial realities.

- **Curriculum and Training Implications:** Strategic models for sustainable LIS entrepreneurship must also address curriculum design and training structures within LIS education. Entrepreneurship education has increasingly been recognized as a catalyst for socio-economic empowerment and professional self-reliance. Oguedoihu (2024) argued that embedding entrepreneurship into LIS curricula equips students with transferable skills that enhance employability and encourage enterprise creation. Such curricular integration shifts LIS education from a purely service-oriented model to one that promotes innovation, risk-taking, and opportunity recognition. Calls for curriculum reform have been echoed by Obinyan (2023), who noted that many LIS schools in Nigeria still emphasize conventional librarianship at the expense of entrepreneurial and business-oriented competencies. This mismatch between training and labor market realities constrains graduates' ability to exploit emerging opportunities in the digital economy. Practical training models, such as entrepreneurship-focused internships, have therefore been proposed as strategic interventions. Fajonyomi et al. (2025) demonstrated that restructured internship programmes can bridge theory–practice gaps by exposing LIS students to real-world entrepreneurial environments, thereby strengthening their readiness for independent practice and innovation.

- **Policy, Institutional, and Professional Body Interventions:** Beyond individual and curricular strategies, sustainable LIS entrepreneurship requires supportive policy and institutional ecosystems. University libraries, professional associations, and regulatory bodies play critical roles in shaping the entrepreneurial orientation of LIS professionals. Emiri and Emojorho (2025) observed that institutional policies that encourage re-skilling, innovation hubs, and income-generating services within university libraries can stimulate entrepreneurial thinking among practitioners. Such institutional support legitimizes entrepreneurship as a professional pathway within LIS practice. At the policy level, national development priorities increasingly recognize the role of education and entrepreneurship in economic diversification. Okorie (2024) emphasized that aligning LIS education and professional practice with national entrepreneurship and digital economy agendas can enhance the contribution of LIS professionals to sustainable development. Similarly, Sulyman et al. (2024) highlighted that institutional interventions such as mentorship programmes, cross-sector partnerships, and technology incubation initiatives can address readiness barriers faced by LIS graduates. Collectively, these policy and institutional strategies provide a framework through which LIS entrepreneurship can be systematically nurtured, sustained, and positioned as a driver of national socio-economic transformation

Recommendations

Based on the issues and strategic insights discussed in the paper, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Capacity-building initiatives targeting LIS professionals should be strengthened through continuous professional development programs that emphasize digital entrepreneurship, information consultancy, data services, and platform-based ventures. Such initiatives should go beyond technical skills to include business modeling, innovation management, and strategic thinking.
- Library and information science curricula should be systematically restructured to integrate entrepreneurship education as a core component rather than an elective option. Practical exposure through internships, project-based learning, and industry collaboration should be emphasized to bridge the gap between theoretical training and entrepreneurial practice.
- Institutional and professional bodies, including library associations and regulatory agencies, should play a more proactive role in promoting LIS entrepreneurship. This can be achieved through mentorship schemes, funding linkages, innovation hubs, and policy advocacy that recognize LIS professionals as contributors to the digital economy.
- Government and policy stakeholders should intentionally include LIS professionals in national digital economy strategies, innovation frameworks, and workforce

development plans. Such inclusion would enhance professional visibility and create enabling environments for sustainable information-based enterprises.

Conclusion

The transformation of the global and Nigerian economies into digitally driven systems has expanded the professional horizons of library and information science practitioners. This paper has argued that LIS entrepreneurship, particularly in the form of inforpreneurship and digital knowledge services, represents a viable pathway for professional relevance, economic sustainability, and national development. While LIS professionals possess competencies that align strongly with digital entrepreneurship, structural, educational, and institutional constraints continue to limit full engagement. Addressing these challenges requires deliberate capacity building, curriculum reform, and supportive policy frameworks. By repositioning LIS professionals as knowledge entrepreneurs rather than solely service providers, the profession can respond more effectively to contemporary economic realities. The paper concludes that sustainable LIS entrepreneurship is not incidental but strategic, requiring coordinated efforts across education, professional practice, and policy environments.

References

- Abdullahi, J., Barkindo, A., & Chioma, E. A. (2021). Entrepreneurship education and practice in library and information science: Issues and prospects for Nigeria's information economy. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, 1–15. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/4728/>

- Adetunla, G., & Chowdhury, G. (2023). Fourth Industrial Revolution and university libraries: A nexus of skills and training readiness in Nigeria. *ASRIC Journal of Social Sciences*, 4(1). <https://asric.africa/social-sciences/asric-journal-social-sciences-2023-v4-i1/fourth-industrial-revolution-and>
- Agboke, A. L., & Oladokun, B. D. (2025). Emerging technologies in academic libraries: Prospects and challenges in Nigeria. *Communicate: Journal of Library and Information Science*, 26(2), 10–20. <https://www.cjolis.org/index.php/cjolis/article/view/110>
- Bello, F. (2025). *National digital economy policy and strategy (2020–2030)*. National Information Technology Development Agency. <https://nitda.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Policy-National-Digital-Economy-Policy-and-Strategy.pdf>
- Calderon-Monge, E., & Ribeiro-Soriano, D. (2023). The role of digitalization in business and management: A systematic literature review. *Review of Managerial Science*, 18, 449–491. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11846-023-00647-8>
- Don-Solomon, A. (2025). Infopreneurship: A catalyst for knowledge economy development in Nigeria. *SIAR-Global Journal of Computer, Information & Library Science*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17742517>
- Elayadom, S. C., & Thirunavukkarasu, A. (2018). Essential skills and expertise needed for LIS professionals to participate effectively in knowledge management practices. *Asian Journal of Information Science and Technology*, 8(3), 82–87. <https://doi.org/10.51983/ajist-2018.8.3.195>
- El-Kalash, K. I., Saka, K. A., Mohammed, S. B., & Ncube, H. (2024). Upskilling library and information science professionals for effective information service delivery in the 21st-century global economy. *International Journal of Knowledge Dissemination*, 4(2), 67–77. <https://ijkd.uniabuja.edu.ng/index.php/ijkd/article/view/47>
- Emiri, O. T., & Emojorho, D. (2020). Entrepreneurship development in university libraries in the South-South zone of Nigeria. *Journal of Library Services and Technologies*, 5(1). <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/385838751-Entrepreneurship-Development-in-University-Libraries-in-the-South-South-Zone-of-Nigeria>
- Ezema, A. L., & Ekenna, C. U. (2023). Entrepreneurship opportunities for library and information science professionals: A remedy for graduate unemployment in Nigeria.

- International Journal of Knowledge Dissemination*, 1(1), 28–41.
<https://ijkd.uniabuja.edu.ng/index.php/ijkd/article/view/5>
- Ezema, L., Ogbuabor, C., & Ekenna, U. (2023). Operational challenges of library and information science education in a digital environment: The Nigerian perspective. *Library and Information Science Digest*, 17(1).
<https://www.lisdigest.org/index.php/lisd/article/view/179>
- Fagbola, O. O., Tella, A., Ananias, J. N., & Onifade, F. A. (2024). Entrepreneurial competencies of library and information science undergraduates in Nigeria. *Journal of Education in Black Sea Region*, 10(1). <https://doi.org/10.31578/jeps.v10i1.331>
- Fajonyomi, O. J., Omollo, D. A., & Fajonyomi, M. G. (2025). Reimagining internship in library and information science studies: Building stronger entrepreneurship. *Ilorin Journal of Education*, 45(1), 280–298.
<https://ije.unilorinedu.sch.ng/index.php/ije/article/view/220>
- Ibrahim, M. G., Ailakhu, U. V., & Ifegwu, J. I. (2023). Challenges faced by library and information science entrepreneurs in Nigeria. *Global Review of Library and Information Science*, 19(2).
<https://www.grelis.com.ng/admin/img/paper/3.%20AilakhuENTREPRENEURSHIP%20DEVELOPMENT%20IN%20NIGERIA%20THE%20ROLE%20OF%20LIBRARY%20AND%20INFORMATION%20SCIENCE%20DURING%20AND%20POST%20COVID-%2019%20PANDEMIC-1.pdf>
- Ilori, M. E., & Haliso, Y. (2025). Competitive intelligence and entrepreneurship skills as correlates in marketing library services among academic librarians in Lagos State public universities in Nigeria. *African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science*. <https://ajlais.com/index.php/ajlais/article/view/398>
- Kraus, S., Palmer, C., Kailer, N., Kallinger, F. L., & Spitzer, J. (2019). Digital entrepreneurship: A research agenda on new business models for the twenty-first century. *International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior & Research*, 25(2), 353–375.
<https://doi.org/10.1108/IJEBr-06-2018-0425>
- Medfouni, H., Mekarssi, L., & Khalid, D. (2024). A review of the literature on digital entrepreneurship. *International Journal of Professional Business Review*, 9(11), e04952. <https://doi.org/10.26668/businessreview/2024.v9i11.4952>
- Mohammed, Z. A., Gora, A. L. A., Usman, M. A., & Ibrahim, M. (2022). Inforpreneurship: Opportunities and challenges for library and information science professionals in

- the 21st century. *Asian Journal of Information Science and Technology*, 12(2), 22–28. <https://doi.org/10.51983/ajist-2022.12.2.3318>
- Musa, J., & Tsafe, A. G. (2019). Entrepreneurship opportunities for graduates of library and information science. *Journal of Library Services and Technologies*, 1(2), 76–82. <https://www.credence-publishing.com/journal/uploads/archive/202015805564805624314065.pdf>
- Nambisan, S., Wright, M., & Feldman, M. (2019). The digital transformation of innovation and entrepreneurship: Progress, challenges and key themes. *Research Policy*, 48(8), Article 103773. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2019.03.018>
- National Information Technology Development Agency. (2023). *NITDA reaffirms drive for a digitally inclusive, innovation-led Nigerian economy*. <https://nitda.gov.ng/nitda-reaffirms-drive-for-a-digitally-inclusive-innovation-led-nigerian-economy/>
- National Information Technology Development Agency. (2025). *Nigeria digital innovation, entrepreneurship and startup policy*. Federal Government of Nigeria. <https://nitda.gov.ng/digital-economy-nitda-launches-policy-to-leverage-digital-innovation-entrepreneurship/>
- Obinyan, G. A. (2020). Need for entrepreneurship education in library and information science schools in Nigeria. *African Journal of Emerging Issues*, 2(11), 15–33. <https://ajoeijournal.org/sys/index.php/ajoei/article/view/139>
- Oguedoihu, J. C. (2024). Entrepreneurship education for socio-economic empowerment of library and information science students. *International Journal of Knowledge Dissemination*, 4(2), 32–47. <https://ijkd.uniabuja.edu.ng/index.php/ijkd/article/view/41>
- Okechukwu, N. N., Nwafor, C. C. J., & Ujunwa, N. A. (2025). Digital literacy and competencies in library and information science education students in Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. *International Journal of Educational Sciences and Development*, 3(1), 12–23. <https://journal.adpebi.com/index.php/ijesd/article/view/958>
- Okiy, R. B. (2024). Towards making graduates of librarianship in Nigeria efficient entrepreneurs for national development. *Nigerian Library and Information Science Trends*, 7(1–2), 73–89. <https://nlist.net.ng/index.php/nlist/article/view/92>
- Okolo, E. S., & Ivwighrehweta, O. (2021). Entrepreneurship skills and opportunities for librarians in the field of library and information science: A perspective in view.

- International Journal of Sustainability Management and Information Technologies*, 7(2), 27–35.
<https://www.sciencepublishinggroup.com/article/10.11648/j.ijismit.20210702.11>
- Okorie, E. C. (2024). Library science education and entrepreneurship: A strategic need for Nigeria's sustainable development. *Top Journal of Educational Technology*, 9(6), Article 962. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14440112>
- Olubiyo, P. O., & Olubiyo, J. T. (2025). Entrepreneurship education for economic development among library and information science students in the 21st century in Nigerian universities: A nexus. *International Journal of Academic Library and Information Science*, 13(2), 57–64.
<https://academicresearchjournals.org/IJALIS/PDF/2025/March/Olubiyo%20and%20Olubiyo.pdf>
- Petrescu, M. A., & Suci, D. M. (2024). *Perceptions of entrepreneurship among graduate students: Challenges, opportunities, and cultural biases*. arXiv.
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.10367>
- Philip, M., Dawha, E., Inuwa, S., & Rabasa, T. (2025). Determinants and barriers of emerging technologies utilization for scholarly communication among library and information science professionals of federal universities in North-East Nigeria. *Lokoja Journal of Information Science Research*, 3(1).
<https://ljisr.net.ng/index.php/lis/fr/article/view/66>
- Sulyman, A. S., Ajani, F. O., Idowu, A. O., & Badmus, I. B. (2024). Infopreneurship and technopreneurship readiness for job creation among Nigerian LIS graduates. *Asian Journal of Information Science and Technology*, 14(2), 27–33.
<https://doi.org/10.70112/ajist-2024.14.2.4278>
- Tondo, R. I., & Ugba, T. (2023). Entrepreneurship skills development of library and information science professionals in the 21st century. *International Journal of Library and Information Studies*, 13(1).
<https://www.ijlis.org/articles/entrepreneurship-skills-development-of-library-and-information-science-professionals-in-the-21st-century-102130.html>
- World Bank. (2020). *Nigeria digital economy diagnostic report*. World Bank Group.
<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/387871588793615462>

