

ORGANIZATION OF LEGAL INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR ENHANCED ACCESS IN ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES IN SOUTH-SOUTH, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study examined the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in South-South Universities in Nigeria. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. A sample size of 127 was determined using total enumeration sampling technique. Questionnaire and observation checklist were used for data collection. Data collected were analyzed using frequency count, percentage, mean and standard deviation. The findings of the study revealed that, there were adequate availability of print-legal information resources. There were adequate resources employed for organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries. The study recommended among other things that, the management of faculty of law libraries should source for fund to acquire and subscribe to more online law databases.

Keywords: Academic law libraries, Legal information resource, Information organization, Access, Availability.

Introduction

In the dynamic and ever-evolving landscape of legal education, the effective organization and accessibility of legal information resources are paramount. Academic law libraries serve as the cornerstone of legal scholarship, providing vital materials that underpin research, teaching and learning. In academic law libraries, particularly in the South-South region of Nigeria, the effective organization of legal information resources play a critical role in ensuring that students, researchers and legal professionals can efficiently retrieve and utilize legal materials. According to Owoeye (2019) academic law libraries are special libraries with special collections for a specialized field or discipline established to serve specific professionals and researchers who are

law students, law lecturers, legal researchers and other faculty members. Academic law Library is the nexus and the heart of any faculty of law; it is a pivot upon which legal education is built (Oseghale, 2018).

Operationally, academic law libraries are the type of law library that are established and managed by any institution of higher learning designed for training of legal practitioners. The library is undoubtedly relevant for the legal body, for equipping students with the most appropriate information on legal proceedings and the profession as a whole. The primary duties of any academic law libraries are to curate, collect, control and maintain legal information resources to support legal education in learning, teaching and research as well as supporting the work of judges, lawyers and all stakeholders in the profession of law (Owoeye, 2019). Harande and Umar (2021) stated that without these libraries, the faculties of law in universities or any institutions of learning could not engage in any informed action in furtherance of their mission and so would not ensure professional development and service excellence. Indeed, the faculty of law provides reason and focus of the library's existence in both the legal academy and the greater university setting for the purpose of obtaining Legal information resource.

Furthermore, the advent of digital technologies has introduced a paradigm shift in the way legal information is created, disseminated and accessed. According to Owushi (2021) academic law libraries in the South-South region are increasingly incorporating electronic resources, such as legal databases (e.g., Westlaw, LexisNexis, local legal databases), e-journals and institutional repositories, into their collections. The effective integration and organization of these digital resources alongside traditional print materials present new complexities and opportunities for enhancing access.

Statement of the Problem

Academic law libraries in the South-South region of Nigeria play a crucial role in supporting legal education, research and scholarship. These libraries are repositories of diverse and complex legal information resources, including statutes, case law, law journals, government publications, treaties and increasingly, electronic databases. However, a significant challenge lies in the effective organization and management of these resources to ensure seamless and enhanced access for their primary users such as students, faculty members and researchers. Consequently, the inadequate organization of legal information resources in academic law libraries across the South-South region of Nigeria hinders effective access, impedes legal research and scholarship and ultimately diminishes the potential of these libraries to fully support the academic pursuits of their users. This situation necessitates a thorough investigation into the current organizational practices and the identification of strategies for enhanced access to legal information resources. Therefore, the problem of the study put in a question form thus is: what is the level of organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria University South-South Nigeria?

Research Questions

1. What are the resources deployed for organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in University in South-South, Nigeria?
2. What are the methods employed for the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in University in South-South, Nigeria?
3. What are the challenges associated with the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in University in South-South, Nigeria?

4. What are the strategies to enhance the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in University in South-South, Nigeria?

Literature Review

Legal information resource

Legal information resource is the generic name for print and electronic information carriers that contain legal information required to meet the legal information needs of users. Ejimofor (2019) referred to legal information resources as an embodying, interrelated or structured data used for the practice of law, teaching and study of law as well as for the conduct of legal research. In the views of Ainoko (2016), Legal information resources comprise of federal legislations, state laws, foreign law publications, government publications, law reports, law journals, Hansards, Gazettes and databases. Oriogu (2018) says legal information resources (print or non-print) are the ultimate sources of all legal knowledge, therein any law student who would obtain the mastery of law must rely on these vital sources for professional development. The author further said legal information resources are classified into primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include all legislative enactments of all houses whether federal, state, local administrative and as well as sub-legislations from administrative/regulatory agencies of the government. While the secondary sources on the other hand are not the actual law itself but interpretation of the law or commentary on the law which include law textbooks such as books on labour law, constitutional law, environmental law, oil and gas, family law, law of evidence, banking law, customary law and electronic legal information resources etc (Owushi, 2021). Legal information resources are the lifeline upon which legal practice and scholarship rest. Ogunfolu (2016) emphasized the importance and indispensability of legal information resources to legal practice by terming the law library as the laboratory for the legal profession, hence the need for proper information organization.

Information organization

Organization of legal information resources is the cataloguing and classification of libraries information resources for easy access and retrieval. Ajani, Amzat, James and Sulyman (2022) argued that, cataloguing and classification provide means of having easy access to, and retrieval of information. This implies that, without cataloguing and classification, access to

information resources in the library collections is difficult if not impossible. According to David-West and Angrey (2018), cataloguing and classification are different but interrelated activities performed in academic law libraries to ensure adequate bibliographic descriptions of information resources.

Information organization is the core functions of any library, including academic law libraries. The need for organization is necessary to accomplish a planned library's goal. Effective organization provides effective access, retrieval and use of the information resources and also saves time for both the user and the information professional (Barkindo & Ibrahim, 2021). The value of information resources in any given library depends on the degree of order in which it is organized (Hadiza & Victoria, 2020). This implies that academic law libraries should organize their information resources based on the general practice of organizing information resources in academic law libraries to enhance access to information resources.

Access to information

Access to legal information resources entail having opportunity to retrieve legal information resources in the law libraries. The concept of information access means that there are some information resources that have been organized in an orderly manner suitable for easy retrieval (Barkindo & Ibrahim, 2021). The authors further stated that, the organization of library resources is basically for the enhanced access. Access to information resources is an important recurring theme in the library. According to Aguolu and Aguolu (2012), resources may be available in the library and even identified bibliographically as relevant to one's subject of interest, but the user may not be able to lay hands on them due to none availability of legal information.

Availability of legal information

The availability of legal information resource does not necessarily imply its accessibility, because the source may be available but access to it may be prevented for one reason or the other. Ebaye and Osim (2014) posited that information resources can be accessible through the use of telecommunication and information technology. It enables access to information and services by minimizing the barriers of distance and cost as well as the usability of interference. Osudina (2014) in his studies, the relationship, accessibility and library use by undergraduate in

Nigeria, notes that the problem of Nigerian students is not the question of the problem of wanting to use the library, but whether or not the library can provide for their needs and whether there is access to what is provided. Abdulsalami (2013) further identified natural and artificial barriers to free access to information. The libraries poor reputation was attributed to lack of accessibility to information sources. Aguolu and Aguolu (2012), reveal that efforts are being made worldwide to promote access to information in all formats.

Methods

The study adopted descriptive survey design and was carried out in South-South, Nigeria which comprised of six states namely; AkwaIbom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, and Rivers states. The population of the study is made up of 127 staff of Faculties of law Libraries in the 18 federal, state and private universities in South-South, Nigeria. This was made up 46, 43 and 27 staff of federal, state and private universities respectively. Total enumeration sampling technique was adopted which produced a sample size of 127 staff of academic law library in the sampled area. Three experts validated the observation checklist which was the instrument used in data collecting with the help of trained research assistants. The data collected was analyzed using frequent counts and percentages with the aid of SPSS version 22.

Results

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the resources employed for organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria university South-South, Nigeria

		E	NE	D
1	Moys classification scheme	18(100%)	0(0%)	E
2	Anglo-American cataloguing Rules 2 nd ed. (AACRII)	16(88.9%)	2(11.1%)	E
3	Resources Description and Access (RDA)	8(44.4%)	10(55.6%)	NE
4	OCLC	8(44.4%)	10(55.6%)	NE
5	Library of Congress Online Catalogue	14(77.8%)	4(2.2%)	E
6	Computer System	18(100%)	0(0%)	E
7	Internet Connectivity	18(100%)	0(0%)	E
8	Cataloguing worksheet	16(88.9%)	2(11.1%)	E

9	Library of Congress Subject headings List	10(55.6%)	8(44.4%)	E
10	Sears List of subject Headings	13(72.2%)	5(27.8%)	E
11	Sears List of subject Headings	18(100%)	0(0%)	E
12	Library management software	14(77.8%)	4(2.2%)	E
Employed(√)				
Not Employed(x)				

Keys: E = Employed; EN = Not Employed; D = Decision

Data in table 1 shows the observation checklist results of the resources employed for organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria university South-South, Nigeria. From the results; Law school libraries of Igbinedion University (IU), Benson Idahosa University (BIU), Havilla University (HU), Arthur Javis University (AJU), Top Faith University (TFU) and Edwin Clark University (EDU) have More classification scheme, Anglo-American cataloguing Rules 2nd ed. (AACRII), Resources Description and Access (RDA), OCLC, Library of Congress Online Catalogue, Computer System, Internet Connectivity, Cataloguing worksheet, Library of Congress Subject headings List, Sears List of subject Headings and Library management software. The least available resources employed for organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria university South-South, Nigeria are Resources Description and Access (RDA) and OCLC. None of the federal university law school libraries has Resources Description and Access (RDA).

The analysis of institutions under study indicated that in University of Benin, University of Calabar and University of Uyo 10(88.3%) were employed, while 2(16.7%) were not employed respectively; in University of Port-Harcourt and Niger Delta University 9(75%) were employed, while 3(25%) were not employed respectively; in Admiralty University of Nigeria, 8(66.7%) were employed, while 4(33.3%) were not employed; in Delta State University, River State University, Ambrose Alli University and Western Delta University Edo State University, 7(58.3%) were employed, while 5(41.7%) were not employed respectively; in Igbinedion University, Benson Idahosa University, Glorious Vision University, Havilla University, Arthur Javis University and Top faith University 12(100%) were employed, while 0(0%) were not

employed respectively and in Edwin Clark University 11(91.7%) were employed, while 1(8.3%) were not employed.

There are adequate availability of resources for organization of legal information resources in private university law school libraries in South-South, Nigeria, except law school libraries in Western Delta University and Glorious Vision university which do not have most of the resources for organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries.

The study found out that, the resources employed for organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in majority of the academic law libraries in Nigeria university South-South, Nigeria are Moys classification scheme, Anglo-American cataloguing Rules 2nd ed. (AACRII), Library of Congress Online Catalogue, Computer System, Internet Connectivity, Cataloguing worksheet, Library of Congress Subject headings List and Library management software. The study found out that, the least available resources employed for organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria university South-South, Nigeria are Resources Description and Access (RDA) and OCLC. However, none of the federal university law school libraries has Resources Description and Access (RDA). It was also revealed that, there are adequate availability of resources for organisation of legal information resources in private university law school libraries in South-South, Nigeria except law school libraries in Western Delta University and Glorious Vision university which do not have most of the resources for organisation of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries.

The findings is in accordance with the findings of Uluocha and Mabawonku (2018) who found out that there are adequate resources for organization of information resources in law libraries in Nigeria. The organization of legal information resources in academic law libraries in South-South Nigeria is crucial for ensuring that students, researchers, and faculty members can access the resources they need efficiently. Proper redeployment of these resources will enhances access to legal information and contribute to better legal education and research. Also Eze-Onwuzulike (2020) found out that, Moys classification scheme, Anglo-American cataloguing

Rules 2nd ed. (AACRII), Library of Congress Online Catalogue, Computer System, Internet Connectivity, Cataloging worksheet are available and employed for systematic and logical organization of legal information resources. Many academic law libraries are adopting institutional repositories to store and organize digital versions of legal information resources such as theses, dissertations, and legal publications authored by faculty and students. These repositories provide enhanced access to locally generated legal knowledge.

In summary, the resources deployed for organizing legal information in academic law libraries in South-South Nigeria combine traditional cataloging systems, modern digital tools, and user support services to enhance access to legal information. Addressing challenges such as inadequate funding and training is essential for further improving the organization and accessibility of legal resources.

Table 2: Responses of the methods employed for the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria University South-South, Nigeria

N = 116

S/N	Method	Employed	Not Employed
1	Classification	116(100%)	0(0.0%)
2	Subject registers	116(100%)	0(0.0%)
3	Bibliographies	90(77.6%)	26(22.4 %)
4	Indexing	90(77.6%)	26(22.4 %)
5	Abstracting	93(80.2 %)	23(19.8 %)
6	Online cataloguing	84(72.4%)	32(27.6%)
7	Display of new arrivals on racks	104(89.7 %)	12(10.3 %)
8	Authority file	61(52.6 %)	55(47.4%)
9	Shelve guide	101(87.1 %)	15(12.9%)
10	Book catalogue	98(84.5%)	18(15.5%)

Data from table 2 shows show the response on the method employed in the Organization of Legal Information Resources for Enhanced Access in Academic Law Libraries in Nigeria

University in South-South, Nigeria. From the result; all 100% of the respondents employed classification and subject registers in the Organization of Legal Information Resources; 77.6% of the respondent employed Bibliographies in the Organization of Legal Information Resources; 77.6% of the respondent employed Indexing in the Organization of Legal Information Resources; 80.2% of the respondent employed Abstracting in the Organization of Legal Information Resources; 72.4% of the respondent employed Online cataloguing in the Organization of Legal Information Resources; 89.7 % of the respondent employed Display of new arrivals on racks in the Organization of Legal Information Resources; 52.6 % of the respondent employed Authority file in the Organization of Legal Information Resources; 87.1 % of the respondent employed Shelve guide in the Organization of Legal Information Resources; while 84.5% of the respondent employed Book catalogue in the Organization of Legal Information Resources.

In response to the methods employed for the organization of legal information in law libraries in Nigerian University South-South Nigeria, a total of the hundred and sixteen (116) respondents which is the total number of respondents agreed that manual cataloguing and classification and the use of subject registers were methods employed for the organization of legal information resources in law libraries in Nigeria universities South-South Nigeria.

The study outlines various methods for organizing legal information resources in academic law libraries in South-South, Nigeria, including manual cataloguing, classification, subject registers, bibliographies, indexing, abstracting, online cataloguing, and display racks. The findings of the study is related to the earlier findings of Ellis and Oldman (2017) indicated that Libraries organize case law, legislation, and journal articles through subject indexes or specialized legal databases. These indexes allow users to browse resources based on specific legal topics or jurisdictions, making research more targeted and efficient. Also Owushi (2021) which found out that majority of academic law libraries surveyed employed cataloguing and classification, indexing, display of new arrivals on racks, authority file, indexing and shelve guide to organize their legal information resources so as to make it accessible by the users.

Cataloging and classification systems are essential methods employed in the organization of legal information resources in academic law libraries. These systems help to structure, manage

and provide enhanced access to a wide range of legal materials, including books, journals, case law, statutes and other legal documents. Proper cataloging and classification ensure that users can efficiently locate relevant legal information, facilitating academic research, legal education, and professional legal work. Classification systems organize legal materials by subject or category, allowing users to browse related materials systematically. The two most common classification systems used in academic law libraries are the Library of Congress Classification (LCC) and the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). Cataloging and classification systems are fundamental to the organization of legal information resources in academic law libraries. Similarly, Hill (2018) found out that, Moys Classification and subject cataloguing are currently adopted in the two Federal University Libraries in South East Nigeria.

Implementing standardized cataloging practices, using classification systems such as LCC and DDC, and incorporating authority control, metadata, and subject headings, librarians ensure that legal materials are organized efficiently and can be easily accessed by users. This structured organization improves the discoverability, retrieval, and utilization of legal resources, ultimately supporting legal research and education in academic settings.

Table 3: Mean Response on the challenges associated with the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria university South-South, Nigeria

N=116

S/N	Challenges	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	STD	R	Remark
1	Inadequate funding of academic law library	36	41	36	3	2.95	.85	3 rd	A
2	Inadequate organisation tools in the academic law library	36	32	42	6	2.84	.93	5 th	A
3	Outdated organisation tools in the academic law library	25	38	27	26	2.53	1.07	12 th	A
4	Inadequate professional skills among librarians for organisation of legal information resources	36	39	36	5	2.91	.89	4 th	A
5	Theft and mutilation of legal information resources	26	37	45	8	2.70	.90	10 th	A
6	Inadequate online cataloguing skills among librarians	42	36	35	3	3.01	.88	2 nd	A
7	Inadequate professional librarians engaged	30	39	41	6	2.80	.89	6 th	A

in organising legal information resources									
8	Non-challant attitude of law librarians towards organisation of legal information resources	27	52	24	17	2.70	.95	11 th	A
9	Low job satisfaction among librarians	27	36	45	8	2.71	.90	9 th	A
10	Lack of supervision	44	15	45	12	2.78	1.07	8 th	A
11	Inadequate ICT for organisation of legal information resources	40	23	42	11	2.79	1.03	7 th	A
12	Inadequate legal information resources	48	46	17	5	3.18	.84	1 st	A
Cluster Mean						2.83	.57		A

Keys= SA: Strongly Agree; A: Agree; D: Disagree; SD: Strongly Disagree; STD=Standard deviation

Data from table 3 revealed the challenges associated with the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria university South-South, Nigeria. Using the criterion mean of 2.50, the result revealed that the respondents agreed that Inadequate legal information resources ($\bar{x}=3.18$, $SD=.84$); Inadequate online cataloguing skills among librarians ($\bar{x}=3.01$, $SD=.88$); Inadequate funding of academic law library ($\bar{x}=2.95$, $SD=.85$); Inadequate professional skills among librarians for organisation of legal information resources ($\bar{x}=2.91$, $SD=.89$); Inadequate organisation tools in the academic law library ($\bar{x}=2.84$, $SD=.95$); Inadequate professional librarians engaged in organising legal information resources ($\bar{x}=2.80$, $SD=.89$); Inadequate ICT for organisation of legal information resources ($\bar{x}=2.79$, $SD=1.01$); Lack of supervision ($\bar{x}=2.78$, $SD=.85$); Low job satisfaction among librarians ($\bar{x}=2.71$, $SD=.90$); Theft and mutilation of legal information resources ($\bar{x}=2.70$, $SD=.90$); Non-challant attitude of law librarians towards organisation of legal information resources ($\bar{x}=2.70$, $SD=.95$) and Outdated organisation tools in the academic law library ($\bar{x}=2.53$, $SD=1.07$). The decision for regarding all the items as challenges were based on the fact that all the 12 items had their mean values above the criterion mean of 2.50 set for decision rule. Also, the standard deviations of the 12 items ranged from .84-1.07; indicating that the respondents were close to each other in their response.

The findings of the study revealed that, the major challenges associated with the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in

Nigeria university South-South, Nigeria are Inadequate funding of academic law library, Inadequate professional librarians engaged in organising legal information resources, Non-challant attitude of law librarians towards organisation of legal information resources, Lack of supervision and Low job satisfaction among librarians, Inadequate online cataloguing skills among librarians, Inadequate ICT for organisation of legal information resources, and Inadequate legal information resources.

This is in accordance with that of Aname (2019) who found out that the challenges associated with organization of legal information resources to support the training of law students in law libraries in Southeast is inadequate due to many factors which includes inadequate professional law librarians, inadequate legal information resources among others. The findings of the study is also in accordance with the earlier findings of Umar and Sokari (2020) which reported that, inadequate infrastructure for accessing resources electronically, insufficient computers and interrupted power supply are the major challenges associated with the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries. Similarly, The findings is in accordance with the findings of Urhibo (2017) who found out that the major challenges are lack of internet connectivity, poor funding, scarcity/high cost of legal materials, inadequate subscription to online legal databases.

Table 4: Mean Response on the strategies to enhance the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria University South-South, Nigeria

N=116

	Strategies	VA	A	FA	NA	X	SD	R	Remark
1	Provision of adequate funding for academic law library	66	33	15	2	3.41	.78	5 th	A
2	Acquisition of adequate organisation tools in the academic law library	59	48	9	0	3.43	.64	4 th	A
3	Acquisition of current organisation tools in the academic law library	63	44	9	0	3.47	.64	3 rd	A
4	Training and retraining of librarians on the professional skills for effective organisation of legal information resources	50	51	12	3	3.28	.75	11 th	A
5	Deployment of electronic security system to reduce the	76	23	14	3	3.48	.81	2 nd	A

	cases of thefts and mutilation of legal information resources								
	Acquisition of adequate online cataloguing skills among librarians	57	50	9	0	3.41	.63	6 th	A
7	Employment of adequate qualified professional librarians to engaged in organising legal information resources	60	53	3	0	3.49	.55	1 st	A
8	Cultivating proactive attitude among law librarians towards organisation of legal information resources	56	51	6	3	3.38	.71	8 th	A
9	Improving the working conditions of librarian to improve their job satisfaction	55	52	6	3	3.37	.70	9 th	A
10	Adequate supervision of the organisation of legal information resources	54	53	6	3	3.36	.70	10 th	A
11	Provision of adequate ICT for organisation of legal information resources	55	56	2	3	3.41	.66	7 th	A
12	Acquisition of adequate legal information resources	42	65	6	3	3.26	.67	1 st	A
	Cluster Mean					3.40	.66		A

Keys: VA = Very Appropriate; A = Appropriate; FA = Fairly Appropriate; NA = Not Appropriate

Result in Table 4 shows the strategies to enhance the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria university South-South, Nigeria. The result revealed that all the items in the cluster had their mean values ranging from 3.49 to 3.26. These values were within the real limit of 2.50-3.49; indicating that the these items are appropriate strategies to enhance the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria university South-South, Nigeria. The table also revealed that the standard deviation of the 12 items ranged from .54-.81; indicating that the respondents were homogenous in their responses.

The findings of the study revealed that, the major strategies to enhance the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria university South-South, Nigeria are provision of adequate funding for academic law library, acquisition of adequate organisation tools in the academic law library, acquisition of current organisation tools in the academic law library, acquisition of adequate online cataloguing skills among librarians, employment of adequate qualified professional librarians to engaged in organising legal information resources, cultivating proactive attitude among law librarians

towards organisation of legal information resources, improving the working conditions of librarian to improve their job satisfaction, training and retraining of librarians on the professional skills for effective organisation of legal information resources; provision of adequate ICT for organisation of legal information resources, and acquisition of adequate legal information resources.

This is in accordance with that of Eze and Eze (2016) who suggested that strategies to enhance the organization of legal information resources for enhanced access in academic law libraries in Nigeria university are acquisition of adequate legal information resources, employment of qualified and skilled professional law librarians to manage the law libraries, proper organization of legal information resources, and the need to update the holdings of law library with new issues of law reports, journals and current editions of books from time to time. The findings of the study also correspond with that of Onwudinjo, Nwosu and Ugwu (2014) which posited that the law libraries should be adequately funded to enable them purchase the recommended core and other relevant materials, if the vision and mission of establishing faculties of law libraries should be achieved.

Recommendations

1. The academic law libraries in South-South, Nigeria should enhance access to electronic legal information resources in the library through enhanced acquisition of electronic legal information resources and providing hyperlinks to other related sources in the library web page.
2. There is urgent need for the academic law libraries in South-South, Nigeria to create a functional Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). This is because OPAC facilitate easy access to legal information resources.
3. The universities' management should prioritize and significantly increase the budgetary allocation to their respective law school libraries. A dedicated percentage of the law faculty's budget should be earmarked for library resources and their organization. This is in line with the general recommendation for improved funding for academic law libraries in Nigeria.

4. The universities' management should recruit professionally qualified librarians with expertise in legal information management. Advocate for faculty status and competitive remuneration for law librarians to attract and retain talent.
5. The universities' management should invest in adequate computer hardware, reliable internet access, and sufficient bandwidth to support the use of electronic resources and the OPAC. Address issues of erratic power supply with backup solutions.

Conclusions

The effective organization of legal information resources is paramount for enhancing access and supporting the academic pursuits of law students, faculty, and researchers within academic law libraries in South-South, Nigeria. This analysis has underscored the critical role of well-structured cataloging, classification schemes, subject indexing, and the strategic integration of digital technologies in achieving this goal. The challenges currently faced, including inadequate funding, insufficient training of library staff, reliance on outdated systems, and the complexities of managing both print and electronic resources, necessitate a concerted effort towards modernization and capacity building.

Ultimately, the successful organization of legal information resources translates to improved research productivity, enhanced learning outcomes, and a more robust legal scholarship within the South-South region. Investing in modern infrastructure, training skilled personnel, fostering collaboration among libraries, and prioritizing user needs are essential steps towards transforming academic law libraries into dynamic hubs of legal knowledge and empowering the next generation of legal professionals in Nigeria. By prioritizing these areas, academic law libraries in the South-South can significantly enhance access to vital legal

information, thereby contributing meaningfully to legal education and the advancement of justice in Nigeria.

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