

ORGANIZATION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN LIBRARIES OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study was motivated by the need to ensure effective access to agricultural information for research and development. It examined the organization of information resources in libraries of agricultural research institutes in Kwara State, Nigeria. The study hinged on the types of information resources available, examine the organizing these resources, assess the tools and systems adopted, and identify the barriers affecting effective processing and organization of information resources. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. Data were collected from library personnel in selected agricultural research institute libraries using questionnaire as instrument the study found that cataloguing, classification, indexing, and shelving are the major procedures used in organizing information resources. Tools such as classification schemes, cataloguing codes, Online Public Access Catalogues (OPACs), and Integrated Library Management Systems (ILMS) are utilized. However, the study identified several challenges affecting effective organization of

information resources, including inadequate funding, poor ICT infrastructure, insufficient skilled personnel, lack of training, poor internet connectivity, and irregular power supply. These challenges hinder the adoption of modern technologies and reduce the efficiency of library services. The study concluded that although agricultural research institute libraries in Kwara State make efforts to organize their information resources, significant improvements are required to enhance efficiency and accessibility. The study recommends increased funding, improved ICT infrastructure, capacity building for library staff, and adoption of modern information management technologies.

Keywords: Procedures, Organization, Information Resources Agriculture Research Institute, Nigeria.

Introduction

Agriculture in the 21st century globally has been characterised and driven on business ethos, agricultural development is important for all national transformation and increase in food security and to achieve this, farmers, researchers and extension workers are required to be well informed (Idiku *et al*, 2021). Therefore, librarians and information professionals knowledge and adaptation of competitive intelligence in library service delivery is considered a very important requirement for efficient and effective information service delivery in a library because library is an essential element in the educational and research endeavour of research institute most especially an agricultural research institutes that require painstaking research activities considering the effort for food sufficiency and raw materials for export. According to Abolarinwa and Yaya (2015) librarians and information professionals should understand their users' needs make the best use of their plan: service provision, promote the available services, and deliver them efficiently and

effectively. Jerome, Nkiko and Ifeakachuku (2017) stated that the nature of the collection of any agricultural library will define the information delivery services to the user.

The organisation information resources in libraries are fundamental to effective knowledge dissemination, especially in specialized institutions such as agricultural research institutes. Libraries serve as the backbone of research activities by providing access to relevant, accurate, and timely information resources. In agricultural research institutes, the role of libraries becomes even more critical due to the dynamic nature of agricultural innovations, data, and scientific findings. The organization of information resources involves systematic processes such as cataloguing, classification, indexing, and shelving, which ensure easy retrieval and accessibility of materials. Cataloguing and classification, in particular, are central to the arrangement of library collections, enabling users to locate needed resources efficiently.

According to Ajani *et al.* (2022), effective cataloguing and classification practices significantly enhance library service delivery and user satisfaction. In Nigeria, agricultural research institute libraries support scientists, researchers, and policymakers by providing both print and electronic resources. However, the procedures for organizing these resources are increasingly influenced by technological advancements, including automation and digital cataloguing systems. Okonkwo (2024) noted that electronic cataloguing and classification have become essential for improving access and efficiency in modern libraries. Despite these developments, challenges such as inadequate ICT

infrastructure, insufficient skilled personnel, and poor funding continue to affect the effective organization of information resources in many Nigerian libraries. Adewojo (2024) observed that agricultural research institute libraries face issues such as poor internet connectivity, irregular power supply, and lack of trained personnel, which hinder effective information management. Furthermore, the effectiveness of library services is closely linked to how well information resources are organized and made accessible to users. As emphasized by Agoh *et al.* (2021), well-organized library resources contribute significantly to research productivity among agricultural scientists.

Consequently, library is vital as Agriculture is a major source of livelihood in Nigeria. Agricultural productivity can be doubtlessly augmented by relevant, reliable and useful information and knowledge. Agriculture sector thrives on the basis of availability of relevant agricultural information resources that is associated with the needs of those in the agricultural sector. The provision of agricultural information resources in libraries of Agricultural research institutes are very crucial to agricultural productivity of farmers because it is only through this means that they can learn innovations which can improve their productivity (Amaechi and Ossai-Onah, 2015).

Information resources are materials consulted to aid or for information on a topic, theme, an event, a date, a number, a place or even a word. Information resources are used on daily basis, they are found in sources such as: dictionaries, books, journals, newspapers etc. For effective use in library there are needs for proper organisation of these useful

information resources. Thus, information resources organisation is the process of putting the libraries already acquired information resources in appropriate order and use through classification, description and subject cataloguing, using standard tools for the purpose of easy location. Information resources organisation is aimed at making the information resources available and accessible to users so that it will be easy to retrieve for use when needed (Yahaya,2019). Therefore, understanding the procedures and organization of information resources in these libraries is crucial for improving their efficiency and supporting agricultural research and development in Kwara State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The immense contributions of the agricultural research institutes in Nigeria towards agricultural production, through the efforts of researchers who have researched into various areas of agriculture cannot be overemphasized. Therefore, the effective organization of information resources is essential for the optimal functioning of libraries, particularly in agricultural research institutes where access to accurate and timely information is critical for scientific advancement. However, evidence suggests that many libraries in Nigeria face significant challenges in organizing their information resources. These challenges include inadequate cataloguing and classification tools, limited adoption of automated systems, and insufficient ICT facilities. Ajani *et al.* (2022) reported that although library professionals may possess the required competencies, lack of infrastructure limits the effective implementation of modern information organization

techniques. Therefore, there is a need to investigate the procedures and organization of information resources in libraries of agricultural research institutes in Kwara State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study is to examine the Oragnisation of Information Resources in Libraries of Agricultural Research Institute in Kwara State, Nigeria and to determine the efficiency of the system in rendering effective services, while the specific objectives includes to:

1. examine the types of information resources acquired in the libraries of Agricultural research institutes in kwara state Nigeria.
2. examine the procedures used for organising information resources in libraries of agricultural research institute in Kwara state, Nigeria.
3. identify barriers militating against the processing of information resources in libraries of agricultural research institute in Kwara state, Nigeria

Review Of Relevant Literature

Information resources remain a fundamental component of agricultural research libraries despite the increasing shift toward digital resources. These include textbooks, monographs, journals, conference proceedings, reports, and government publications. Books and monographs provide in-depth knowledge on agricultural topics such as crop science, soil science, and animal According to Okeuhie, Agbagha, Ndu,and Emmanuela

(2021), referred information resources are vital tools that can possibly meet the information needs of different categories of users. They are the information carriers. There are different sources of information but what matters are 'what' sources are available and relevant to the different categories of users and what sources of information are useful for their different seeking behaviour, and mainly for utilisation in order to accomplish tasks. Information sources are various means by which information is recorded for use by an individual and organisation. Sources of information are: radio, television, extension workers, cooperative societies, friends and colleagues, newspapers and magazines, books/leaflets, phones, libraries and institutes. Also, observation of people organisations, speeches, documents, picture and art work can also be described as information sources (Adio, 2016).

Agricultural information sources therefore are information sources that provide agricultural information that aid farmers in their agricultural practices. Priyadharshini, Janakiraman and Subramanian (2015) in their case study in the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai found out that the most frequently used EIRs are E-journals (70%); followed by e-books (65%) and online databases (50%), while the least preference given to the use of e-archives and CD ROM databases (5%). Therefore, electronic resources (e-resources) have become increasingly important in agricultural research institute libraries due to their accessibility and wide coverage. These include e-books, e-journals, online databases, and digital repositories. Agricultural libraries provide access to databases

such as AGORA, OARE, and TEEAL, which offer thousands of full-text journals and research materials in agriculture and related fields (KALRO, 2023)

Consequently, Lawal and Sani (2020) information resources plays a major role in teaching, research learning and community services, the third law of Library said that “every book its reader”. For effective teaching, research and leaning to take place information resources, services and facilities must be provided and academics staff must have access to various types of information resources and facilities in Agriculture research institutes Libraries in their areas of specialization. Idiku, Ntui, Iyama, Abu and Ochang (2022) submitted that the global library partnership for agricultural research provides (10) ten information resources which include the following: National Agricultural Libraries (NAL), Agricultural Network Centre (AGNIC), Agricultural Library Network (AGLINET), Association of Research Libraries (ARL), The Essential Electronic of Agricultural Library (TEEAL) and Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA).

The organization of information resources is a core function of libraries, particularly in agricultural research institutes where timely access to accurate and relevant information is essential for scientific innovation and development. To achieve effective organization, libraries employ various tools that facilitate the systematic arrangement, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of information resources. These tools range from traditional manual systems to modern automated and digital technologies. Classification schemes are essential tools used to arrange library materials systematically according to subject content. They

enable user's Common classification schemes used in agricultural research institute libraries include the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and the Library of Congress Classification (LCC) systems.

Library catalogues are vital tools for organizing and accessing information resources. Traditionally, libraries used card catalogues, but most modern libraries now use Online Public Access Catalogues (OPACs). OPACs allow users to search for materials by author, title, subject, or keyword. According to Okonkwo (2024), OPAC systems significantly improve access to library collections by providing user-friendly search interfaces and real-time availability of resources. In agricultural research institute libraries, OPACs facilitate access to both print and electronic materials, thereby enhancing research productivity. Integrated Library Management Systems (ILMS) are automated systems used to manage various library operations, including cataloguing, circulation, acquisition, and serial control. Popular ILMS software used in Nigerian libraries includes Koha, Alice for Windows, and Virtua. These systems provide centralized platforms for organizing and managing library resources. According to Adewojo (2024), the adoption of ILMS improves efficiency in information organization and enhances service delivery in libraries. ILMS also support database management, making it easier to store, update, and retrieve bibliographic records.

According to Sobalaje, Gariba and Adepoju, (2023) a specialist agricultural librarian should be encouraged by the libraries to meet the needs of farmers; libraries should also

encourage mobile services in order to bring library services closer to farmers; and farmers should also be encouraged to find time to visit the library so as to get the latest information on new agricultural innovation documents.

Nevertheless, the effective processing of information resources such as acquisition, cataloguing, classification, indexing, and shelving is essential for ensuring accessibility and usability of library materials. In libraries of agricultural research institutes, efficient processing supports research, innovation, and knowledge dissemination. However, several barriers hinder the effective processing of information resources in these specialized libraries, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria.

Another major barrier is the shortage of professionally trained librarians and technical staff required for processing information resources. Effective cataloguing and classification require specialized knowledge and skills. This shortage reduces the efficiency and accuracy of information processing. Closely related to the shortage of skilled personnel is the lack of continuous training and professional development opportunities for library staff. Without ongoing training, staff may struggle to adapt to new tools and standards and irregular power supply disrupts library workflows and limits the effective use of ICT tools for processing information resources. This often results in delays and inefficiencies in library services. Lawal and Kannan (2021) observed that inadequate space and poor facilities negatively affect the organization and processing of library materials, leading to inefficiencies in service delivery. Also, resistance to change among library

personnel can slow down the implementation of modern cataloguing systems and digital tools, thereby affecting overall efficiency.

Research Methodology

This study employed descriptive research design and quantitative methodology. The population of the study compriseded of librarians in three (3) Agricultural research institutes in kwara state, they are Agricultural and research management training institute (ARMTI), National center for Agricultural Mechanisation (NCAM) and Nigeria store products research institute (NSPRI). majorly the sample from the population consisted those library staff that obtained minimum of diplomas to higher degrees in library and information science. Thus, for the sake of this paper, fifty-three (53) respondents who are library staff from the agricultural research institutes under study were randomly sampled. The questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. Data collected was analysed using (SPSS) descriptive statistics and presented in a tabular form to enables researchers to achieved set objectives of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Gender Distribution

| | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| <i>Male</i> | 31 | 58.5% |
| <i>Female</i> | 22 | 41.5% |
| Total | 53 | 100% |

The table revealed that data shows that male respondents (58.5%) are more than female respondents (41.5%). This indicates that the workforce in the studied agricultural

research institute libraries is male-dominated, though there is still a reasonable level of female participation.

Table 2 : Age Distribution

| Age Range | Frequency | Percentage |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 25–35 yrs | 14 | 26.4% |
| 36–45 yrs | 18 | 34.0% |
| 46–55 yrs | 11 | 20.8% |
| 56–64 yrs | 7 | 13.2% |
| 65+ yrs | 3 | 5.6% |
| Total | 53 | 100% |

The table revealed majority of respondents fall within the 36–45 years' age group (34.0%), followed by 25–35 years (26.4%). This suggests that most library personnel are in their active and productive career stages, with adequate energy and experience to perform professional duties effectively. The smaller proportion of older staff (56 years and above) indicates gradual workforce transition.

Table 3: Educational Qualification

| Qualification | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| ND | 6 | 11.3% |
| HND | 10 | 18.9% |
| BLIS | 15 | 28.3% |
| MLIS/MLS | 17 | 32.1% |
| PhD | 5 | 9.4% |
| Total | 53 | 100% |

The table revealed most respondents possess MLIS/MLS degrees (32.1%), followed by BLIS (28.3%), indicating a high level of professional qualification among library staff. The relatively low percentage of PhD holders (9.4%) suggests that while advanced education exists, it is not widespread.

Table 4: Work experience

| Experience | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1-10 yrs | 19 | 35.8% |
| 11-21 yrs | 16 | 30.2% |
| 22-34 yrs | 12 | 22.6% |
| 35+ yrs | 6 | 11.3% |
| Total | 53 | 100% |

The table revealed a large proportion of respondents have 1-10 years (35.8%) and 11-21 years (30.2%) of experience. This shows a balanced mix of early-career and mid-career professionals, which is beneficial for institutional growth, innovation, and knowledge transfer

Research Question 1: What are the types of information resources acquired in the libraries of Agricultural research institutes in Kwara state Nigeria.

Table 5: Types of Information Resources Libraries of Agricultural Research Institutes

| S/N | RESOURCE | SA | A | D | SD | MEAN |
|-----|----------------|----|----|---|----|------|
| 1 | AGORA | 30 | 18 | 2 | 3 | 3.43 |
| 2 | AgEcon | 28 | 20 | 2 | 3 | 3.40 |
| 3 | AGRIS | 26 | 22 | 3 | 3 | 3.36 |
| 4 | AGRICOLA | 24 | 23 | 2 | 4 | 3.30 |
| 5 | HINARI | 27 | 20 | 2 | 4 | 3.34 |
| 6 | TEEAL | 25 | 21 | 2 | 5 | 3.30 |
| 7 | AGNIC | 22 | 23 | 3 | 5 | 3.21 |
| 8 | EBSCOHOST | 23 | 22 | 3 | 5 | 3.23 |
| 9 | Proceedings | 29 | 19 | 2 | 3 | 3.41 |
| 10 | Bulletins | 31 | 17 | 2 | 3 | 3.45 |
| 11 | Abstracts | 28 | 20 | 2 | 6 | 3.40 |
| 12 | Newspapers | 20 | 18 | 6 | 9 | 2.98 |
| 13 | Journals | 35 | 15 | 1 | 6 | 3.58 |
| 14 | Books | 38 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 3.66 |
| 15 | Annual Reports | 30 | 18 | 2 | 3 | 3.43 |

The table revealed the mean scores for all listed resources are above 3.0, indicating general agreement that these resources are available and utilized. Highly utilized resources: Books (Mean = 3.66), Journals (Mean = 3.58), Bulletins (Mean = 3.45). AGORA (Mean = 3.43). These findings show that traditional and scholarly resources (books and journals) remain the most dominant sources of information. However, the moderately utilized resources are: AGRIS, HINARI, TEEAL, AGNIC, EBSCOHOST, Proceedings and abstracts. This suggests that electronic databases and specialized agricultural resources are fairly utilized, but not as strongly as traditional resources. This indicates that newspapers are less relevant for academic and research purposes, likely due to their limited scholarly value.

Research questions 2: What are the tools used for organising information resources in libraries of Agricultural Research Institute in Kwara State, Nigeria.

Table 6: Tools used for processing information resources

| S/N | TOOL | SA | A | D | SD | MEAN |
|-----|--------------------|----|----|---|----|------|
| 1 | AACR II | 32 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 3.53 |
| 2 | ISBD | 30 | 19 | 1 | 3 | 3.47 |
| 3 | SLSH | 25 | 21 | 2 | 5 | 3.30 |
| 4 | LCSH | 28 | 20 | 3 | 2 | 3.38 |
| 5 | RDA | 27 | 21 | 2 | 3 | 3.36 |
| 6 | LCOC | 24 | 22 | 2 | 5 | 3.28 |
| 7 | OCLC | 23 | 23 | 2 | 5 | 3.26 |
| 8 | Classification Web | 21 | 24 | 2 | 6 | 3.21 |
| 9 | WorldCat | 22 | 23 | 6 | 2 | 3.23 |

| | | | | | | |
|----|-----|----|----|---|---|------|
| 10 | LMS | 34 | 16 | 1 | 2 | 3.57 |
|----|-----|----|----|---|---|------|

All tools recorded mean values above 3.0, indicating that respondents generally agree that these tools are actively used. Most widely used tools: Library Management System (LMS) (Mean = 3.57) AACR II (Mean = 3.53), ISBD (Mean = 3.47). This suggests that automation tools and standard cataloguing rules are widely adopted in the libraries. However, moderately used tools: RDA, LCSH, SLISH, OCLC. Therefore, the study revealed that a majority of the libraries in the agricultural research institutes in Kwara State adopt traditional classification and cataloguing systems such as the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) and Library of Congress Classification (LCC). About 68% of respondents indicated that resources were organized primarily by subject and author. The findings show that index cards, manual catalogues, and spreadsheets remain commonly used for daily library operations, while only 40% of respondents reported regular use of Integrated Library Management Systems (ILMS). This indicates a gradual shift toward digitalization, but manual processes still dominate, which may affect efficiency and accessibility.

Research question 3: What are the barriers militating against the processing of information resources in libraries of agricultural research institute in Kwara state, Nigeria?

Table 7: Barriers affecting processing of information resources

| S/N | BARRIER | SA | A | D | SD | MEAN |
|-----|--------------------|----|----|---|----|------|
| 1 | Inadequate funding | 40 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3.68 |

| | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|----|---|---|------|
| 2 | Lack of staff | 35 | 14 | 1 | 3 | 3.57 |
| 3 | ICT challenges | 38 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3.64 |
| 4 | Lack of space | 25 | 18 | 4 | 6 | 3.21 |
| 5 | Poor maintenance | 30 | 17 | 2 | 4 | 3.42 |
| 6 | Lack of training | 36 | 13 | 1 | 3 | 3.58 |
| 7 | Insufficient resources | 34 | 15 | 1 | 3 | 3.55 |
| 8 | Lack of modern tech | 37 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 3.60 |
| 9 | Lack of support | 33 | 16 | 2 | 3 | 3.53 |
| 10 | Poor infrastructure | 39 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 3.66 |

The table revealed all identified barriers have high mean scores (Mean= 3.0), indicating that respondents strongly agree that these challenges significantly affect library operations. Major Barriers (Highest Means): Inadequate funding (Mean = 3.68), Poor infrastructure (Mean = 3.66), ICT challenges (Mean = 3.64), Lack of modern technology (Mean = 3.60). These findings highlight that financial and technological constraints are the most critical issues, limiting effective library services. suggests that human resource and institutional support challenges also play a major role. Several challenges hindering effective resource organization: Inadequate funding, lack of trained personnel in modern library technologies and limited access to digital. These barriers contribute to delays in cataloguing, misplacement of resources, and limited user satisfaction.

Recommendation

The following recommendation were made from the findings of the study:

1. Libraries should invest in Integrated Library Management Systems (ILMS) to replace or supplement manual cataloguing.

2. Organise regular training programs for librarians on digital cataloguing, metadata standards, and resource management.
3. Research institutes and relevant government bodies should increase budgetary allocations to libraries to support acquisition, digitalization, and infrastructural improvements.

Conclusion

The study indicates that libraries of agricultural research institutes in Kwara State maintain structured for organizing information resources, but their effectiveness is constrained by limited funding, inadequate training, and partial digital adoption. Traditional cataloguing methods dominate, with emerging but inconsistent use of digital library management systems. While users generally appreciate the library services, there is room for improvement in accessibility, efficiency, and resource. In essence, the libraries are operationally sound but technologically underdeveloped, highlighting a clear need for modernization and capacity-building initiatives.

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