

Influence of institutional support on digitization practices of librarians in federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria

Chinyere N. Ikonne, *PhD*¹, Vincent E. Unegbu, *Prof.*² and Muhammad Yahaya Sulaiman³
Department of Information Resources Management,
Babcock University, Ilisan-Remo, Ogun State, Nigeria
E-mail: ³yahyaako95@gmail.com
Cell: ¹08067622869, ²08131581233, ³08080614064

Abstract

This study investigated the influence of institutional support on librarians' digitization practices in federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria. This study adopted a quantitative research design. The study population comprised 437 professional and paraprofessional librarians in federal university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria. Total enumeration technique was used in this study. A questionnaire was used for data collection. Total of 354 (81%) copies of the questionnaire were completed, returned, and used in the study. The data collected for this study were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Specifically, the research questions and hypothesis were answered using tables, percentages and mean. Findings revealed that institutional support provided for librarians' digitization practices in general is low. Specifically, funding support is low, while policy support, infrastructure support and training support were available but at very low level. The study also revealed that the institutions and library managements under study do not provide adequate institutional support required to motivate librarians on digitization practices, hence weaken the effectiveness information service delivery rendered by the libraries. The study concluded that University management should place stronger emphasis on providing necessary forms of support to trigger more commitment among professional and paraprofessional librarians to upsurge their effort towards digitization of printed materials. The study recommended that federal university administrators, management of the university libraries and relevant agencies should provide adequate funding, infrastructural, policy and training support institutional support to the libraries, to boost digitization of printed materials.

Keywords: Digitization practices, federal university libraries, institutional support, librarians

Introduction

Libraries worldwide, especially university libraries, are increasingly becoming digitally conscious. Many libraries and allied institutions have been launching projects designed to digitize their collections in response to global information exchange and for wide outreach. Worldwide, electronic resources are becoming preferred because of their inherent benefit of wide outreach. As a step forward in making prints in hard copy format available online for our teeming users, it becomes essentially necessary to digitally scan our library materials, especially valuable local contents in printed format such as theses, dissertations, inaugural lectures and court cases, for easier, faster and wider accessibility by many users

either within the four walls of the library or from remote locations. In the opinion of Pandey and Kumar (2020), all these activities require adequate institutional support in various forms to provide the necessary assistance to academic libraries in their quest to digitize their resources for effective service delivery.

Institutional support refers to effective organizational encouragement in the form of policies, regulations, monetary and non-monetary help that propel employees to perform their responsibilities in a very effective and productive manner (Falola, Adeniji, Adeyeye, Igbinnoba, & Atolagbe 2020). The concept concerns the extent to which the government, its agencies, and non-governmental agencies

support firms and learning institutions and mitigate the negative effects of inadequate institutional infrastructure. Institutional support is a general reflection of financial and technical support from the institution and its agency, which provides the personnel and institutions' units with critical resources that may be used for improvement. Referring to Oyovwevotu (2017) institutional support denotes to the degree to which a person feels supported by their employers and value their contribution and cares about their well-being. It includes resources, opportunities, privileges, and services that institutions transmit to libraries, which in turn contribute to efficient service delivery for users social and academic development. It also has to do with an overall reflection of financial, technical and facilitative policy support from the institution and its agency, which provides the libraries with critical resources that, may be used for codification, preservation, and other library activities (Lazarus, Jinadu, Eddy-Ugorji, & Imam 2020). The level at which the institution values its employees' contribution and that of their units to the success of the organization and the care attached to the employees and the units they work under.

Discussing the current state of funding in academic libraries in Nigeria, Irenea, Bribena and Eru (2019) stressed the need for adequate funding by parent institutions and relevant agencies to support the effective delivery of library services to patrons and the attainment of their parent institutions' vision and mission. Funding was a focal point in a study by Smith and Johnson (2017). They found that libraries that received consistent financial backing from their institutions were better equipped. This implies that digitization and other library activities could be feasible only when there is proper funding, thus, to large extend

facilitate meeting the divers information needs of their users. Buttressing the relevance of key components of institutional support, Pandey and Kumar (2020) stated that with the availability of modern infrastructure and technical experts, library digitization projects would be feasible. Consequently, the availability of institutional technical support for academic libraries is another area in which such support is highly needed. Technical support from the government, particularly at the institutional level, which provides libraries with critical resources needed for innovative services, digitization practice inclusive is very essential. In addition, ICT professionals who could help with instructional design and technical elements of digitization professional development, including training and expertise required for digitization, creating and maintaining metadata is the type of technical support that is most needed and beneficial for libraries.

The resources in academic libraries in Nigeria are witnessing low patronage of print information resources due to preference for digital information resources and growing demand for immediate and remote access to information resources by users (Morris & Presnell, 2019). As a result, public academic libraries in Nigeria are confronted with new challenges of declining patronage, hence diminishing effective library services (Okogwu & Ekere, 2018; Sahabi, & Otobo, (2021). These challenges required the assistance of the institutions where these universities live because the academic library's central purpose is to serve as an auxiliary to its parent institution in the fulfillment of its vision and mission (Onwudinjo et al., 2015). Therefore, libraries require institutional support to function successfully and fulfill their enormous responsibilities.

Statement of the problem

Globally, libraries are digitizing their holdings to widen information resources dissemination, accessibility, preservation of information content for posterity and elevation of library prestige in the age of the information explosion in addition to several other benefits. Despite the multiple benefits of digitization, digitization practices in developing countries, Nigeria inclusive, have been very challenging. It has been low among academic libraries in Nigeria due to their inability to establish the necessary digitization capacity to enable them give their users easier and wider access to their holdings. Studies by Jagboro, Omotayo and Aboyade (2018) and Muhammad (2022) reported that there are low digitization practices by librarians in public university libraries in Nigeria.

Studies revealed that only few libraries have started digitizing their printed resources, while several others are at the planning stage but lack necessary capacity that will enable them embrace digitization. The study conducted by Ogbu, Abubakar, & Batagarawa (2021) identified several factors hindering the digitization of information resources in federal libraries in Nigeria which include copyright issues, epileptic power supply, inadequate funding, lack of expertise or limited technical knowledge and facilities. While these identified factors have contributed to causing negative effects on the rate of digitization practices, institutional support could likely play a significant role in the digitization of printed library collections in federal university libraries. Institutional support has been researched independently by scholars, there seems to be a dearth of literature connecting institutional support to the digitization practices of librarians in federal university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria, comprising Adamawa State, Bauchi State, Borno State, Gombe State, Taraba

State, and Yobe State. In light of the foregoing, this study investigated the influence of institutional support on the digitization practices librarians in federal university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria.

Research questions

The study is guided by the following research questions:

1. What are the digitization practices of librarians in the federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria?
2. What is the type of institutional support prevalent in the federal university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria given?

Hypothesis

The following hypothesis is tested in the study:

Ho1: Institutional support has no significant influence on digitization practices of librarians in the university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria

Methods

The research design adopted for this study is a descriptive survey. The study population comprised 437 professional and paraprofessional library personnel in the six federal university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria. The total enumeration technique was used to cover the entire population size; hence no sample was drawn. The data collection instrument used for the study was a structured questionnaire constructed on the institutional support and digitization. 354 copies of questionnaire representing 81% were completed, returned and used for the study. The data collected for this study were analyzed with frequency count, percentages, mean, standard deviation to answer the research questions while simple

Chinyere N. Ikonne, Vincent E. Unegbu and Muhammad Yahaya Sulaiman: Influence of institutional support on digitization practices of librarians in federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria

linear regression was the statistical method used to test the hypothesis.

federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria? The data in Tables 1a and b are used to answer this question.

Research question one: What are the digitization practices of librarians in the

Table 1a: the digitization practices of librarians in the federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria

Digitization practices of printed library collections	Strongly Agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Mean	Std.
Personnel involvement in digitization					2.90	0.759
<i>In my institution/ library, the Personnel Involved in Digitization are...</i>						
Computer/ICT Support Staff	94 (26.6%)	176 (49.9%)	75 (21.2%)	8 (2.3%)	3.01	0.756
Professional librarians	83 (23.5%)	174 (49.3%)	88 (24.9%)	8 (2.3%)	2.94	0.757
Digitization Experts	79 (22.4%)	150 (42.5%)	116 (32.9%)	8 (2.3%)	2.85	0.789
Para-professionals	63 (17.8%)	172 (48.7%)	114 (32.3%)	4 (1.1%)	2.83	0.721
Digitization Consultants	76 (21.5%)	137 (38.8%)	132 (37.4%)	8 (2.3%)	2.80	0.800
Implementation of digitization policy					2.88	0.799
<i>In my library, policy on...</i>						
Preservation of digitized materials are implemented	99 (28.0%)	134 (38.0%)	116 (32.9%)	4 (1.1%)	2.93	0.807
Selection of materials to be digitized are implemented	85 (24.1%)	160 (45.3%)	104 (29.5%)	4 (1.1%)	2.92	0.759
Digitization of documents are implemented according to the specified criteria	88 (24.9%)	141 (39.9%)	120 (34.0%)	4 (1.1%)	2.89	0.790
Categories of users that access the digitized collections are implemented	82 (23.2%)	142 (40.2%)	113 (32.0%)	16 (4.5%)	2.82	0.839
Copyright are taken into consideration while providing access to digitized materials	82 (23.2%)	123 (34.8%)	136 (38.5%)	12 (3.4%)	2.78	0.841
Digitization process					2.74	0.796
Digitized documents are stored in the computer hard drive	73 (20.7%)	166 (47.0%)	102 (28.9%)	12 (3.4%)	2.85	0.782
Adequate security measures are put in place for preventing corruption or destruction of digitized documents	80 (22.7%)	137 (38.8%)	124 (35.1%)	12 (3.4%)	2.81	0.824
Digitized documents are stored in the cloud	63 (17.8%)	161 (45.6%)	109 (30.9%)	20 (5.7%)	2.76	0.810
Optical Character Recognition is used to convert scanned image into a text file	66 (18.7%)	142 (40.2%)	137 (38.8%)	8 (2.3%)	2.75	0.779
Bibliographic information is also added if need be	60 (17.0%)	162 (45.9%)	115 (32.6%)	16 (4.5%)	2.75	0.786

Chinyere N. Ikonne, Vincent E. Unegbu and Muhammad Yahaya Sulaiman: Influence of institutional support on digitization practices of librarians in federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria

Before scanning the document, it has to be registered	62 (17.6%)	144 (40.8%)	139 (39.4%)	8 (2.3%)	2.74	0.770
Metadata, which is information that describes digitized documents to enables users find, manage and use them easily is created.	42 (11.9%)	192 (54.4%)	103 (29.2%)	16 (4.5%)	2.74	0.724
Backup sources which serve as alternative in adverse situations such as virus attacks or system breakdown are provided	62 (17.6%)	146 (41.4%)	133 (37.7%)	12 (3.4%)	2.73	0.786
Before digitization of printed materials, copyright approval is obtained	78 (22.1%)	112 (31.7%)	147 (41.6%)	16 (4.5%)	2.71	0.860
Proofreading of scanned document is done	63 (17.8%)	145 (41.1%)	121 (34.3%)	24 (6.8%)	2.70	0.840
Typeface, heading styles to make the scanned document more attractive and readable is done if need be	55 (15.6%)	150 (42.5%)	128 (36.3%)	20 (5.7%)	2.68	0.803
Columns, headers and footers are reinserted in scanned document is done if need be	50 (14.2%)	146 (41.4%)	137 (38.8%)	20 (5.7%)	2.64	0.793
Type of printed materials being digitized in the libraries					2.43	0.836
Thesis/ dissertation	85 (24.1%)	71 (20.1%)	169 (47.9%)	28 (7.9%)	2.60	0.939
Journals	57 (16.1%)	104 (29.5%)	168 (47.6%)	24 (6.8%)	2.55	0.842
Abstracts	54 (15.3%)	85 (24.1%)	190 (53.8%)	24 (6.8%)	2.48	0.833
Catalogues	57 (16.1%)	69 (19.5%)	203 (57.5%)	24 (6.8%)	2.45	0.842
Inaugural/public lectures	57 (16.1%)	66 (18.7%)	202 (57.2%)	28 (7.9%)	2.43	0.854
Conference proceedings	37 (10.5%)	111 (31.4%)	173 (49.0%)	32 (9.1%)	2.43	0.799
Rare books	61 (17.3%)	46 (13.0%)	218 (61.8%)	28 (7.9%)	2.40	0.864
Staff publications	46 (13.0%)	75 (21.2%)	204 (57.8%)	28 (7.9%)	2.39	0.812
Past examination question papers	45 (12.7%)	62 (17.6%)	218 (61.8%)	28 (7.9%)	2.35	0.802
Old newspapers	40 (11.3%)	81 (22.9%)	196 (55.5%)	36 (10.2%)	2.35	0.813
Archival materials	32 (9.1%)	97 (27.5%)	184 (52.1%)	40 (11.3%)	2.34	0.797
Grand mean = 2.74					2.74	0.798

Decision rule: 1.0-1.74 = Strongly disagree; 1.75-2.49 = Disagree; 2.50-3.24 = Agree; 3.25-4.00 = Strongly agree

The result on Table 1a shows that the engagement of librarians in digitization practices of printed library collections in federal university libraries in Northeastern

Nigeria is high with grand mean of $\bar{x} = 2.74$, $SD = 0.798$ on a 4 point Likert scale. Digitization practice of librarians was measured by five indicators (type of printed

material selected and digitized, digitization process, equipment used in digitization, implementation of digitization policy and personnel involvement in digitization). Details from the analysis depict that personnel involvement in digitization ($\bar{x} = 2.90$) indicates high among indicators of digitization practice of librarians, followed by implementation of digitization policy ($\bar{x} = 2.88$), then digitization process ($\bar{x} = 2.74$), followed by type of printed materials digitized which was low ($\bar{x} = 2.43$). The inference of this analysis is that librarians in the federal university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria engagement in digitization practice is high. This agrees with the finding of Nneji (2018) who discovered that the digitization practice of library resources in Donald E. U. Ekong Library, University of Port Harcourt is very high.

The results further suggest that digitization practice in terms of personnel involved in digitization, implementation of digitization policy, digitization process and equipment used for digitization are high. However, Furthermore, the result indicated that the type of materials being digitized with mean of 2.25 is low. Finding indicates majority of the respondents were in agreement that all the type of materials being at a very low level. The results showed majority (55.8%) of the respondents indicated that thesis/dissertation are not digitized in their libraries (Mean=2.60), followed by 192(54.4%) respondents who indicated that journals are not digitized in their libraries; abstracts 214(60.6%); catalogues 227(64.3%); inaugural /public lectures 230(65.1%), followed by conference proceedings 205(58.1%), followed by rare books 246(69.7%). Relatively large number 204(65.7%) of the respondents indicated that staff publications are not digitized in their libraries, followed by 246(69.7%) of the respondents who

indicated that past examination question papers are not digitized in their libraries; furthermore, findings revealed that 232(65.7%) and 224(63.4%) respondents indicated that old newspapers and archival materials are not digitized in their libraries respectively. Judging from the fact that the percentage of all types of resources digitized were low as depicted in the table, this implies that digitization of printed library collections in federal university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria is low, thus the libraries are not measuring up to expectation in terms of digitizing valuable printed materials. The finding is in contrast with the finding of Jagboro, Omotayo & Aboyade (2012) that materials of high demand by patrons especially when such materials are available in limited copies or are on restricted access, materials that are of local and unique needs, items that are of immediate and curricular importance and materials that are difficult to handle are being digitized.

Table 1b shows the result of the available equipment used by librarians in digitizing printed library collections in the federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria. The outcome reveals that the digitization equipment was divided into hardware and software. The findings reveal that all the hardware equipment under investigation in this study comprising computers, scanners, digital cameras, printers, internet facilities, photocopying machines and software were available at the libraries in almost all the federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria. The result reveals that majority of the respondents were in agreement that the equipment are available in their libraries depicting and computers (97.5%); Scanners (94.6%); printers (92.9%); internet facility (90.4%) among others equipment were available. However, KOHA software was available for digitization in the libraries in

Chinyere N. Ikonne, Vincent E. Unegbu and Muhammad Yahaya Sulaiman: Influence of institutional support on digitization practices of librarians in federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria

Northeastern Nigeria. Others such as Book Expert (36.3%); LIMB™ (34.3%) and Next star Plus Workflow Software (31.7%) were few in the libraries in federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria. This finding corroborates the finding of Adogbeji and Akporhonor (2021) and Benson, Adogbeji and Akporhonor (2021) which documented that desktop computers, laptops and scanners were the major hardware facilities used while Dspace, KOHA and Endnote were the major software used for digitization in five federal university libraries in Northern and Southern Nigeria university libraries. However, the result signifies that acquisition of digitization equipment is prioritized over modern digitization software, which are also crucial for optimum digitization practice in libraries.

The result of Table 1b revealed that the level at which librarians make use of the equipment and software for digitization practices is low, despite their availability at the libraries in almost all the federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria. The extent of utilization of these ICT facilities could be attributed to hardware and software obsolescence, inadequate skilled personnel to manage the process of digitization or managements the libraries do not put in place adequate priority and policy towards digitization of printed materials.

Research question two: What is the type of institutional support prevalent in the federal university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria? The data in Table 2 are used to answer this question.

Table 1b: Equipment used in digitization

Digitization equipment	Available		Use for digitization	Not Available		
	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	
Hardware: N=353						
Computers	344	97.5%	106	30%	9	2.5%
Scanners	334	94.6%	84	23.8%	19	5.4%
Printers	328	92.9%	77	21.8%	25	7.1%
Internet facility	319	90.4%	102	28.9%	34	9.6%
Photocopying machine	295	83.6%	68	19.2%	58	16.4%
Digital cameras	284	80.5%	53	15%	69	19.5%
Barcode reader	200	56.7%	27	7.7%	153	43.3%
Storage devices	175	49.6%	227	64%	178	50.4%
Digitization machines	137	38.9%	116	23.9%	216	61.1%
Software used for digitization: N=353	Number	Percent			Number	Percent
KOHA	220	62.3%	161	45.6%	133	37.7%
Book Expert	128	36.3%	28	7.9%	241	68.3%
LIMB™	121	34.3%	-	-	232	65.7%
Next Star Plus Workflow Software	112	31.7%	-	-	241	68.3%

Table 2: The type of institutional support prevalent in the federal university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria

Institutional support	SA (4)	A (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	Mean	Std.
Funding support					2.50	0.654
<i>My institution management ...</i>						
has put in place funding policy to guide what is allocated to library for digitization project	42 (11.9%)	187 (53.0%)	120 (34.0%)	4 (1.1%)	2.76	0.668
is aware that with current level of funding, the library cannot effectively carry out digitization of printed materials	50 (14.2%)	179 (50.7%)	108 (30.6%)	16 (4.5%)	2.75	0.752
explore alternative sources of funding to support digitization of printed materials	5 (1.4%)	179 (50.7%)	157 (44.5%)	12 (3.4%)	2.50	0.589
and relevant agencies provide adequate funding to the library for digitization	16 (4.5%)	100 (28.3%)	217 (61.5%)	20 (5.7%)	2.32	0.649
ensure that funds allocated to the library are fully and timely utilized for digitization	15 (4.2%)	62 (17.6%)	252 (71.4%)	24 (6.8%)	2.19	0.614
Policy support					2.49	0.729
<i>My institution management ...</i>						
includes the library management in formulating digitization policy	66 (18.7%)	161 (45.6%)	118 (33.4%)	8 (2.3%)	2.81	0.759
approach to the digitization policy implementation faces poor processes due to weak economic position of the institution	66 (18.7%)	128 (36.3%)	143 (40.5%)	16 (4.5%)	2.69	0.825
provide policy on library collection that supports digitization	31 (8.8%)	108 (30.6%)	190 (53.8%)	24 (6.8%)	2.41	0.745
has included digitization among other library activities policy	14 (4.0%)	115 (32.6%)	200 (56.7%)	24 (6.8%)	2.34	0.663
put in place a policy that support separate budget for digitization	14 (4.0%)	78 (22.1%)	229 (64.9%)	32 (9.1%)	2.21	0.654
Infrastructure support					2.31	0.739
<i>My institution management ...</i>						
is aware that without technological infrastructure support, librarians cannot be able to digitize	61 (17.3%)	137 (38.8%)	135 (38.2%)	20 (5.7%)	2.68	0.824
tries in making available necessary modern infrastructure for library digitization to be feasible	24 (6.8%)	101 (28.6%)	184 (52.1%)	44 (12.5%)	2.30	0.772
provides adequate equipment for digitization for digitizing printed materials	40 (11.3%)	53 (15.0%)	228 (64.6%)	32 (9.1%)	2.29	0.784
is giving due recognition to the library in terms of infrastructural support	24 (6.8%)	68 (19.3%)	233 (66.0%)	28 (7.9%)	2.25	0.695
provides adequate technological development	23 (6.5%)	60 (17.0%)	234 (66.3%)	36 (10.2%)	2.20	0.703

Chinyere N. Ikonne, Vincent E. Unegbu and Muhammad Yahaya Sulaiman: Influence of institutional support on digitization practices of librarians in federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria

also provides the necessary technical experts support needed by librarians to smoothly operate available infrastructure for digitization	9 (2.5%)	71 (20.1%)	225 (63.7%)	48 (13.6%)	2.12	0.653
Training support					2.27	0.675
<i>My institution management ...</i>						
organizes in-house training for librarians to acquire digitization skills	39 (11.0%)	171 (48.4%)	135 (38.2%)	8 (2.3%)	2.68	0.696
sensitizes library staff on the importance of digitization of library printed collection	34 (9.6%)	116 (32.9%)	170 (48.2%)	33 (9.3%)	2.43	0.791
Invites experts to train librarians in digitization skills	15 (4.2%)	51 (14.4%)	242 (68.6%)	45 (12.7%)	2.10	0.658
creates digitization team that relates with other institutions for access to online training on digitization practices	5 (1.4%)	67 (19.0%)	232 (65.7%)	49 (13.9%)	2.08	0.616
creates a digitization unit in the library where training and digitization related matters takes place	10 (2.8%)	50 (14.2%)	248 (70.3%)	45 (12.7%)	2.07	0.615
Grand mean					2.39	0.699

Decision rule: 1.0-1.74 = Strongly disagree; 1.75-2.49 = Disagree; 2.50-3.24 = Agree; 3.25-4.00 = Strongly agree

Table 2 shows the result of institutional support and reveals that institutional support in federal universities libraries in Northeastern Nigeria was very low (overall mean score of $\bar{x} = 2.39$, $SD = 0.699$) on a scale of 4point Likert-type). The result additionally revealed that funding support was available ($\bar{x} = 2.50$), while policy support ($\bar{x}=2.49$), infrastructure support ($\bar{x}=2.31$) and training support ($\bar{x}=2.27$) were available at minimal level. The low overall score signifies that institutional support extended to these libraries in general is low. Funding support being the highest with just (Mean 2.50), while policy support with (Mean 2.49), infrastructure support with (Mean 2.31) and training support with (Mean 2.27) were available but at very low level.

The finding reveals that management of the institutions under study do not provide adequate institutional support required to motivate librarians on digitization practices and weaken the effectiveness information service delivery

rendered by the libraries. This finding agrees with the finding of Iwu-James, Haliso, Soyemi and Madukoma (2021) which revealed poor institutional support among academic librarians in South-West, Nigeria. Likewise, this study affirms the finding of Makhaya and Oganje (2019) who revealed inadequate institutional support at a conventional university in Kenya. In disparity, this study disagrees with the finding of Ajayi, Detayo, Gbotoso, and Salvador (2021) which showed institutional support was predominant in private university libraries in South-West, Nigeria. Furthermore, this study is in disparity with the study of Nwachukwu and Omofowa (2022) who submitted that organizational support was well perceived in Nigerian universities. Similarly, the finding of this study is in contrast with the study of Babalola Alegbeleye and Adegbaeye (2020) who revealed that organizational support was high among librarians in public universities in South-South, Nigeria.

H01: Institutional support has no significant influence on digitization practices of librarians in the university libraries in

Northeastern Nigeria. This hypothesis is tested with the data in Table 3.

Table 3: Influence of institutional support on digitization practices

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.813	0.170		10.638	0.000
Institutional support	0.363	0.070	0.265	5.152	0.000

Dependent variable: digitization practices
 R = 0.265
 R² = 0.070
 Adjusted R² = 0.068
 F (1, 352) = 26.542
 DF (T-Statistic) = 351
 P < 0.05

The result shown in Table 3 reveals that institutional support positively and significantly influenced digitization practices of librarians in federal university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria (Adj. $R_2 = 0.068$, $F(1, 352) = 26.542$, $p < 0.05$). The result illustrates that institutional support has a positive and significant influence on digitization practices. The result further shows that institutional support accounted for 7.0% ($R^2 = 0.070$) of the variation in the dependent variable (digitization practices) of librarians in federal university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria. The $\beta = 0.265$ and t -value of 5.152 affirms that the regression coefficient for institutional support is statistically significant, this further gives the empirical evidence that institutional support has a significant influence on digitization practices. This finding corroborates earlier reports of Nwachukwu and Omofuwa (2022); Oyovwevotu, (2017); Tuiloma (2022); Iwu-James et al. (2021); Umar and Olubunmi (2021); Babalola et al. (2020) and Lazarus et al. (2019) which all showed the effectiveness of institutional support among librarians in university libraries.

Conclusion

Even though institutional support is essential to the librarians' pertaining digitization of valuable printed materials to improve their services in the age of the information explosion, the study found that academic institutional support extended to librarians on digitization practices is very low. Librarians require adequate institutional support for preservation of information for posterity and to providing wider, timely and easier accessibility to their collections. It is essential for universities to pay adequate attention and make adequate provision for digitization practices support especially in terms of providing: funding, training, infrastructural and policy support since this study identified these factors as essential in improving digitization practices of librarians. It is expected that providing these forms of support will trigger more commitment among professional and paraprofessional librarians propelling them to increase their level of effort towards digitization practices.

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are hereby set forth:

1. There is the need for federal university administrators, management of the federal university libraries and relevant agencies to encourage digitization practices by providing adequate funding, infrastructural, policy and training support institutional support to the libraries.
2. There is need for university and library management to put in place funding policy that is supportive to digitization practices, in addition to explore alternative sources of funding. Even though there are digitization equipment and software available, however, a lot still need to be done to improve their present state.
3. University and library managements should acquire modern software and hardware equipment crucial for optimum digitization practice in the libraries, as well as tackling maintenance challenges.

References

- Abotalebi, P., and Biglu, M. H. (2017). Identification of competencies for professional staff of academic medical libraries in Iran. *Open Access Library Journal*. <https://www.researchgate>.
- Adogbeji, B.O. & Akporhonor, B. A. (2021). Reasons for digitization and its challenges. *Journal of Applied Information Science and Technology* 14(2), 1- 17
- Ajayi, F.F., Detayo, A.J., Gbotoso, A.O., & Salvador, M. Y. (2021). Institutional support and collection development practices in private university libraries in South-West Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/6571>.
- Babalola Y. T., Alegbeleye, G.O. & Adegbaye, S. I. (2020). Perceived organizational support and librarians' commitment: Evidence from public universities in South-South Nigeria. *Journal of applied Information Science and Technology*, 13(1), 30 - 40
- Benson O. Adogbeji & Akporhonor, B. A. (2021). Reasons for digitization and its challenges in Nigerian university libraries. *Journal of Applied Information Science and Technology*, 14 (2).
- Falola, H. O., Adeniji, A. A., Adeyeye, J. O., Igbinnoba, E. E., & Atolagbe, T. O. (2020). Measuring institutional support strategies and faculty job effectiveness. *Heliyon*, 6(3), e03461. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2020.e03461>
- Irenea, K. O., Bribena,& Eru, J. (2019). Funding academic libraries in nigeria for effective services : Alternatives to resource development and library management. *Communicate: Journal of Library and Information Science*, 21(1) 104-111
- Iwu-James, J., Haliso, Y. L., Soyemi, O. D. & Madukoma, E. (2021). Influence of institutional support on research productivity of academic librarians in South-West, Nigeria. *Global Journal of Applied, Management and Social Sciences*, 219, 95 – 103.
- Jagboro, K. O., Omotayo, B. O., & Aboyade, W. A., (2012). Digitization of library collection in developing countries: The Hezekiah Oluwasanmi library experience. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. Paper 823. <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/823>.

Chinyere N. Ikonne, Vincent E. Unegbu and Muhammad Yahaya Sulaiman: Influence of institutional support on digitization practices of librarians in federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria

- Lazarus, G. N., Jinadu, I., Eddy-Ugorji, D. C. & Imam, A. (2020). Institutional support for professional competence of librarians to improve the codification and preservation of traditional knowledge in the libraries. *Tropical Journal of Education*, 2(1/2), 22 - 44.
- Makhaya, B. K., & Ogange, B. O. (2019). The effects of institutional support factors on lecturer adoption of elearning at a conventional university. *Journal of Learning for Development*. 6(1), 64 - 75.
- Morris, S. E., & Presnell, J. (2019). Collection development and the historical record: Are we forgetting monographs as primary sources? *Collection Management*, 44(2-4), 379 - 388. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01462679.2019.1597798>
- Muhammad (2022). *Leadership styles, ICT skills and digitization practices of printed library collections by librarians in public university libraries in Northeastern Nigeria*. Babcock University, Ilisan-Remo, Ogun State, Nigeria.
- Nwachukwu, C., & Omofowa, S. (2022). Perceived organizational support and job-related wellbeing in Nigeria universities. *Nigerian Journal of Management Sciences*. 23(2).
- Ogbu, K. N., Abubakar, A., & Batagarawa, S. A. (2021). Digitization of information resources in public libraries and museums in South-East, Nigeria: Problems and prospects. *Journal of Information and Knowledge Management*, 11(4), 138 - 145. <https://doi.org/10.4314/ijikm.v11i4.13>.
- Okogwu, F. I., & Ekere, F. C. (2018). Collection development policies of electronic resources in university libraries in Southeast Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-Journal)*, 1758. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1758>
- Onwudinjo, O. T., Ogbonna, U. A., & Nwadiogwa, O. J. (2015). Utilization of Law Library Collections for Improving Academic Performance by Undergraduate Law Students of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-Journal)*, 1223. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1223>
- Oyovwevotu, L. (2017). Institutional support, job satisfaction and employees' commitment in public university libraries in South-East geo-political zone, Nigeria. (PhD thesis). Babcock University, Ogun State, Nigeria
- Pandey, R., & Kumar, V. (2020). Exploring the impediments to digitization and digital preservation of cultural heritage resources: A selective review. *Preservation, Digital Technology and Culture*, 49(1), 26-37. <https://doi.org/10.1515/pdte-2020-0006>
- Sahabi, M.K & Otofo, E.E (2021) Academic library and challenges of service delivery in Nigerian universities in the digital era. *Information Impact: Journal of Information and Knowledge Management*, 12 (2,) 51-61. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ijikm.v12i2.4>
- Smith, R., & Johnson, P. (2017). Financial Support and Library Resources: A Longitudinal Analysis. *Library Quarterly*, 87(2), 143-160.
- Tuiloma, S. Charles R. Graham, C. R., Arias, A.M.M., & Caicedo, D. M. P. (2022). Providing institutional

Chinyere N. Ikonne, Vincent E. Unegbu and Muhammad Yahaya Sulaiman: Influence of institutional support on digitization practices of librarians in federal universities in Northeastern Nigeria

support for academic engagement in online and blended learning programs. *Educ. Sci.* 12, 641. <https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci12100641>
Umar, M. Y., & Olubunmi, O. K. (2021).

Institutional support and job satisfaction of employees in federal university libraries in North-East Geo-Political Zone. *Jewel Journal of Librarianship*, 16(3), 188–199. <https://www.jeweljournals.com>.