

**ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN ASSESSING NETWORKING OF RESEARCH VISIBILITY IN FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ZARIA**

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**Abstract**

*This study role of libraries in facilitating research networking and enhancing the visibility of scholarly output within the Federal College of Education Zaria (FCE Zaria) in Nigeria. In the context of rapid technological advancements and evolving paradigms in scholarly communication, this study examines how libraries contribute to networking and research visibility at FCE Zaria. Through a comprehensive analysis of strategies, challenges, and opportunities, this research seeks to elucidate the dynamic interplay between libraries, researchers, endeavors undertaken by libraries to enhance research visibility and networking. By strategically utilizing social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and academic networking sites like ResearchGate and Academia.edu, libraries have expanded their outreach and improved the discoverability and accessibility of research materials user groups, including researchers, students, and the general public, has fostered greater visibility for scholarly works and facilitated increased collaboration and dialogue among scholars across disciplines.*

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**Introduction**

In an age marked by the swift advancement of information and communication technologies, the role of libraries in academic institutions has greatly expanded beyond traditional limits. Libraries are no longer just places to store books; they have become vibrant centers for knowledge creation, dissemination, and collaboration. This is especially relevant in higher education institutions, where libraries are crucial in supporting research activities and increasing the visibility of scholarly work.

The Federal College of Education Zaria (FCE Zaria), nestled in the heart of Nigeria, stands as a beacon of academic excellence in the region. As the landscape of scholarly communication continues to undergo profound transformations, it becomes imperative to examine the role of its libraries in fostering networking and enhancing the visibility of research endeavors. This academic journal aims to delve into this pertinent issue, shedding light on the strategies, challenges, and opportunities encountered by libraries in leveraging networking mechanisms to amplify the visibility of research conducted within the confines of FCE Zaria.

With an emphasis on the interconnectedness of libraries, researchers, and the broader scholarly community, this journal seeks to explore various facets of the networking landscape within FCE Zaria. From the adoption of innovative information technologies to the cultivation of strategic partnerships, libraries are increasingly tasked with spearheading initiatives that transcend institutional boundaries and foster collaboration both locally and globally. Through this multidimensional exploration, we endeavor to unravel the intricate interplay between libraries and research networking, thereby offering insights that can inform policy, practice, and future research directions.

As we embark on this scholarly journey, it is our fervent hope that this journal serves as a catalyst for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation within the academic community of FCE Zaria and beyond. By illuminating the pivotal role of libraries in assessing networking and enhancing research visibility, we aspire to contribute to the advancement of scholarship and the realization of the institution's overarching academic mission.

In providing these automated services the networks, computers and information in digital form are suffering from various emerging threats that can be data loss, information leakage, network attacks, malicious attacks, spamming, identity theft that are now very common in library. It is now becoming essential to laid emphasis on network and information security in library through the use of numerous security process.

The current global advancement in Science, Technology and innovation (STI) metamorphose consciously and intellectually in colleges of Education through their triple mandate of producing requisite high skilled

manpower, knowledge and related services. There are ample evidence to show that Research and Development (R&D) generated by colleges of Education have contributed globally to the rise and expansion of knowledge which is becoming the most enduring and effective means of boosting sustainable economic development and re-enforcing competitiveness in the face of rapid growth taking place between industries, countries and people in the world.

The research output is a quantitative and measurable means by which academics contribute new knowledge to the existing body of knowledge. The above explains why the quantity and quality of research output has become the main factor or criterion for the recognition and advancement of academic staff as well as the ranking of world class colleges of Education.

Researches incubate policies that promote real and sustained economic growth and social development but the apparent stagnation in terms of development at the Local Government levels necessitated a look at whether or not there is the problem of research networking at that level as there are a lot of researches undertaken by scholars of various Nigerian colleges of Education as it relates to grass root development. (George et al. 2022)

Research networking integrates diverse perspectives for better understanding and appreciation of working together, thereby developing a sense of mutual respect, trust, purpose and understanding. These will enhance the maximization of scare resources and prevent duplication of effort. And to the students' research networking will serve as a training and employment opportunity.

Research networking in Nigerian libraries has been extensively explored in

literature. Scholars generally agree that understanding the political landscape and the stakeholders involved in policy-making is crucial for effective networking. Additionally, it's important to comprehend the types of connections formed and how knowledge is produced, disseminated, and utilized within institutions and communities (Omar M. 2004, Bako S. 2005, Aberman et al, 2009).

Networking in research encompasses various actors, both at individual and organizational levels, influenced by factors such as local and external dynamics, social and cultural norms, as well as institutional structures and capacities. Omar (2004) notes a lack of strong commitment from Nigeria's political leadership to allocate adequate resources for research in Science, Technology, and Innovation, consequently hindering the potential benefits of university research.

Abubakar, U. (2012), in his examination of the impact of structured curriculum on training programs Nigerian college of Education councils, found positive outcomes such as increased knowledge of local laws and behavioral changes regarding council procedures and leadership. However, the study failed to assess the training's influence on policy-making and networking. It also overlooked whether university researchers explored new thematic areas beyond the training's scope.

Bako (2005) identifies key reasons for the poor state of research in Nigerian college of Education, including a disproportionate focus on teaching over research, inadequate funding, and a lack of integration between research endeavors and the economy, state, and community.

### **Evolution of Libraries in the Digital Age**

The digital transformation has propelled libraries beyond their traditional roles, prompting them to adapt to the changing landscape of information dissemination. The emergence of digital transformation has significantly reshaped the traditional roles of libraries, necessitating their adaptation to the evolving landscape of information dissemination (Smith, 2020). Libraries, once primarily regarded as physical repositories of knowledge, have now evolved into dynamic digital hubs (Jones & Brown, 2019). This transformation has been driven by the imperative to cater to the changing needs and expectations of users in an increasingly digitalized world.

Libraries are now actively harnessing the power of social media platforms to enhance the visibility of scholarly research (Gomez, 2018). Social media serves as a gateway for libraries to connect with diverse audiences, including researchers, students, educators, and the general public (Johnson, 2021). Through platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram, libraries can reach out to a broader demographic and engage them with relevant academic content.

The strategic adoption of social media by libraries has facilitated the dissemination of scholarly knowledge beyond traditional academic circles (Smith, 2019). By sharing research articles, event announcements, educational resources, and engaging in discussions on contemporary topics, libraries can attract attention to valuable scholarly content (Brown & Williams, 2020). This proactive engagement not only increases the visibility of research but also fosters a sense of community and collaboration among users (Gomez, 2017). Moreover, social media enables libraries to personalize their communication and tailor content to suit the

preferences and interests of their audience (Jones et al., 2018). By analyzing user engagement metrics and feedback, libraries can refine their social media strategies to effectively reach and resonate with their target demographic (Johnson & Garcia, 2021)

### **Enhancement of Research Visibility**

Research visibility refers to the extent to which research findings and outputs are discoverable, accessible, and widely known within the academic community and beyond. High research visibility can enhance the impact and influence of research, increase citations, and facilitate collaborations and funding opportunities.

**Publish in Open Access Journals:** Open access publishing makes research findings freely accessible to anyone, which can increase visibility and citations. Many funding agencies and institutions now require open access publishing as a condition for funding.

**Utilize Social Media:** Researchers can use social media platforms such as Twitter, LinkedIn, and Research Gate to share research findings, network with other researchers, and engage with the wider community. Social media can increase visibility and citations and facilitate collaborations.

**Participate in Conferences and Events:** Attending and presenting at conferences and events can increase visibility and provide opportunities to network and engage with other researchers.

**Collaborate with Other Researchers:** Collaborating with other researchers can lead to co-authorship and increased visibility and citations.

**Utilize Researcher Profiles:** Creating researcher profiles on academic search

engines such as Google Scholar, ORCID, and Scopus can increase visibility and citations by making research findings and outputs easily discoverable.

**Engage with Media Outlets:** Working with media outlets such as newspapers, magazines, and radio stations can increase visibility and promote research findings to a wider audience.

**Providing Access to Research Tools and Resources:** Academic libraries at FCE Zaria offer access to a wide array of research tools and resources, including online databases, e-journals, and reference management software. By making these resources available, libraries support researchers in conducting high-quality research and increasing the visibility of their findings.

**Supporting Open Access Publishing:** Libraries assist researchers in publishing their work in open access journals by offering funding, guidance, and support. This ensures that research outputs are accessible to a broader audience, enhancing their visibility and impact.

**Offering Workshops and Training Sessions:** Libraries conduct workshops and training sessions on various research-related topics such as literature review, data management, and citation management. These sessions help researchers develop essential skills and improve the quality of their research outputs.

**Creating Institutional Repositories:** FCE Zaria libraries establish institutional repositories to store and share research outputs like articles, datasets, and conference papers. This increases the visibility of these outputs and facilitates collaboration among researchers.

Collaborating with Researchers: Libraries work closely with researchers to provide tailored support and resources. This collaboration ensures that research outputs are discoverable, accessible, and impactful.

Promoting Research Outputs: Libraries at FCE Zaria promote research outputs through newsletters, social media, and institutional websites. This broad dissemination enhances the visibility of research and encourages collaboration among scholars.

Overall, enhancing research visibility requires a proactive approach and a range of strategies that leverage both traditional and digital channels. By increasing visibility, researchers can increase the impact and reach of their research outputs and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in their respective fields.

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

While social media offers immense opportunities for enhancing research visibility, it also presents challenges. This section discusses the hurdles faced by libraries, including issues of information credibility, managing diverse content, and evolving strategies to navigate the ever-changing social media landscape. It also outlines opportunities for libraries to innovate and collaborate in overcoming these challenges to further augment research visibility.

The literature review is on the interface of networking in the process of university research and its subsequent translation into finished products for the benefit of the nation (Yusuf, 2012)

Research addresses a problem or a problem area, to find out or investigate certain occurrences and tries to adduce reasons for such occurrences. While academic researchers are more conceptual and written with particular

style, administrative research or researches in local government are rather more flexible.

Most researches in the college of Education usually address any of the following issues separately or jointly:

- Collecting data of policy identification and design
- Policy formulation
- The implementation stage
- Monitoring and evaluation

### **Conclusion**

The relationship between assessment networking and research visibility has significantly transformed the traditional role of libraries in disseminating information. Libraries, once the primary repositories of knowledge, have adapted to the digital era by leveraging social media platforms to enhance the visibility of research content. Through strategic utilization of assessment networking social media channels, libraries have expanded their reach, engaging with diverse audiences and promoting scholarly works beyond their physical confines. The integration of assessment networking into library practices has facilitated broader access to academic resources, fostering collaboration among researchers, students, and the public. By embracing innovative approaches to sharing information, libraries have amplified the impact of research findings, elevating the visibility of scholarly work on a global scale.

Libraries' role in curating, organizing, and promoting scholarly content through assessment networking social media platforms has enabled researchers to engage with a wider audience, thereby improving the dissemination of knowledge. This digital development has not only democratized access to information, but also facilitated interdisciplinary dialogue and knowledge exchange. However, challenges

remain, including concerns about information overload, trust, and the need for effective strategies to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of social media platforms. Libraries continue to play a critical role in organizing and vetting information to ensure its reliability and relevance in an era of digital content abundance.

### Recommendations

1. **Expand Access to Digital Resources:** Increase investment in digital libraries and online databases to ensure researchers have access to the latest journals, books, and research tools. This can be achieved through partnerships with international academic institutions and consortia to provide comprehensive access to essential research materials.
2. **Strengthen Support for Open Access Publishing:** Develop a dedicated fund to support open access publishing, allowing more researchers to publish their work in open access journals. Additionally, provide workshops and one-on-one consultations to guide researchers through the open access publishing process, ensuring their work reaches a wider audience.
3. **Enhance Training and Professional Development:** Regularly organize workshops, webinars, and training sessions on emerging research tools, data management practices, and scholarly communication strategies. This will help researchers stay updated with the latest trends and improve the quality and impact of their research outputs.
4. **Increase Outreach and Collaboration Initiatives:** Actively promote research outputs through multiple channels, including social media, institutional websites, and newsletters. Establish a

dedicated team or office within the library to facilitate collaborations between researchers and external partners, fostering an environment of interdisciplinary research and increasing the institution's research visibility globally.

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