



Assessment of Local Contents Digitisation among ... Sambo, A. S., Et. al. (2026)

Assessment of Local Contents Digitisation among University Libraries in Kwara State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper assesses local contents digitisation in the university libraries in Kwara state Nigeria. The population of the study was 67 professional librarians in Kwara State universities, Nigeria, during the 2004/2005 academic session. The manageable size of the population warrants the adoption of total enumeration technique, thus, questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection and distributed to respondents physically at their different libraries by the two research assistants, where at the end, a total of 67 questionnaires were recovered and made usable for analysis (100% response rate). The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, the result indicate that universities libraries can boast of good collection of certain local content resources such as inaugural newsletter, books by staff, project/thesis/dissertations, institutional hand book, faculty and departmental journals and so on. The work highlighted some advantages of local content and hindrances of effective digitisation.

Keywords: Local content, Resources, Digitisation, University, libraries

Introduction

The digitisation of local content refers to the process of digitising knowledge, culture and resources (books, archives, oral histories, artworks, or local information) that have been produced or owned by the local community in order to make it accessible and disseminated into a wider community via a library (preferably university libraries). Digitisation of local content resources in the library ensures preservation, access, and accessibility to resources which could become obsolete and deteriorates over time (Global Knowledge Partnership, 2015). Local content is the generation, adaption and sharing of community resources, using information technology (Abubakar & Zainab, 2019). Resources listed by the researchers that could be used as local content resources include: First, research output as an academic institution, a university library has many of the materials for scholarly research, therefore becoming a key provider of local content, and second, university communities serve as a breeding ground for local content. Overall, there are so many benefits that digitisation could offer which include swift and easy access to current resources at far locations that allows users access local content in any parts of the world, even far away from the institution where the information is residing (Osaheni, Lukman, & Ismaili, 2018). Other benefits include good preservation of local content, reduction in usage of analog surrogate materials, greater flexibility of information search and retrieval and absence of problems that normally occur to library materials e.g. Mutilation, facilitation of global library inter-connectivity and an information resource for e-learning. According to Udemba (2021), digitisation promotes an institution's image and profile as it demonstrates their intellectual capacity and eliminates publication delay. Academic libraries were identified to be moving digital in this current era, and thus have identified digitisation of resources in their libraries with different types of services (Rafiq, Ameen, and Jabeen, 2017). The concept of the library being a "knowledge common" has transformed the idea that university libraries are merely repositories of knowledge, to spaces where users can get information through the network servers in digital formats (Duderstadt, 2009). Academic libraries, which is the most mature and progressive segment of the library domain, have become very active in the digitisation process and range from digitisation of books, journals, newspapers, artifacts, works



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of art, music, theses and dissertations to records of historical importance. University libraries in Kwara state thus, contain a wealth of local content from faculty publications, theses/dissertations to rare books, manuscripts and archives. Furthermore, it is essential to note that librarians have knowledge that has been imparted into their role in facilitating the digitization of local content in the university library. In an attempt to address this, this study will highlight the available local content resources within the university library, benefits and constraints of local content digitization and proffer recommendations of local content resources available in Kwara state and beyond.

Statement of the problem

Even with the increasing awareness about digitisation as a tool to preserve and access local content, several challenges have remained a bane to efficient digitisation practices in the university libraries in Kwara State. This, has result to poor utilisation of indigenous information resources like theses, dissertations and rare manuscripts which are prone to degradation, though librarians are in the vanguard of the digitisation initiative, there has been constraints in the way of funding, infrastructure, technical expertise, policy and procedures that need to be addressed. This therefore leads to the purpose of this study as it would examine available local content resources, their benefit as well as hindrance to digitisation of the same resources in the university libraries in Kwara State.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to assess local content digitisation among the librarians in the university's libraries in Kwara State, Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

1. Identify local content resources available in Kwara State university libraries;
2. Determine local benefits of digitization of local content resources and effective service delivery in the library; and
3. identify the hindrances facing in the use of local content resources in the university, libraries, understudy.

Research Questions

1. What are the local content resources available in Kwara State university libraries?
2. What are the local benefits of digitization of local content resources and effective service delivery in the library?
3. What are the hindrances facing in the use of local content resources in the university, libraries, understudy?

Review of Related Literature

It requires suitable hardware such as cameras, computers, scanners, and OCR technology for a successful digitization of local content resources like scholarly journals, thesis, dissertations and conference proceedings and special collection materials (Hanna, 2022). Document and photo digitisation is best achieved using a flatbed scanner; although a book scanner is the most suitable equipment for digitizing books (LibGuides, 2023). Besides, Nneji (2018) and Baro et al, (2013) carried out a survey on the digitisation of information resources in Nigeria and found that a few university libraries have adopted the process. Theses, dissertations, magazines, newspapers, seminar and conference papers, inaugural lectures, official gazettes, annual budgets and reports, circulars, theses, dissertations, manuscripts, textbooks, newsletters, inaugural addresses, handbooks, special issues of Journals, authoritative dictionaries and reference books, directory, journal articles and historical documents have been listed among frequently digitised materials in Baro et al, (2013) and Fatoki (2007) surveys. Furthermore, Obaïke, et al, (2025) carried out research on impact of digitisation of local content resources on effective service delivery to post graduate students in public university, Nigeria. It reveals available local content resources like project works, theses/dissertations, institutional newsletters, bulletins, handbooks and textbook authored by the faculty staff available at 100% rate. Nevertheless, other local content resources include inaugural lectures, exam papers, indigenous journal, chapters of book and faculty/department journals available at 50%. Although some crucial local content resources like student's term papers, senate publications and student magazines are available at 100% non-availability.

Pandey and Misra (2014) also summarises the reasons for digitating local content in libraries such as: preserving of age old and valuable materials for long term use for future generations, provision of new ways of access and use, enabling better and enhanced access to a well-defined portion of the stock of research material, establishing a one stop point for accessing material in different institutions on a subject matter, enabling democracy considerations through access to the public records, making access and retrieval of library materials more efficient, and enabling for development of technical infrastructure and human resources of the institution. Academic libraries are providing services in this form because they understand the relevance of library resources in the field of learning, teaching, research, scholarship, documentation and



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accountability. Beyond mere access, there are benefits that accrue to digitisation as asserted by Anderson and Maxwell (2004 p1) and that "digitization can have benefits that far exceed the advantages afforded by digitization". Jones and Tudur (2018) claim that the digitisation of materials held at the NLW (National Library of Wales) increases the access to and the reuse of the NLW collections. Tietie (2021) has revealed that, the digitisation of library resources provides easy access to and retrieval of library documents at the NGF library and also gives the library users access to digitized documents through the library Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and repository. Benefit like preserving materials that are fragile and deteriorating, such as manuscripts, documents, and rare books is one of the most essential benefits that digitisation provides by making them available as digital surrogates to be stored in secure environments and accessed from remote locations as well. It also facilitates the wider access to textual materials, worldwide access and global usage. Nevertheless, providing large digital local content could make library resources and services accessible and increase library usage (Nwabueze and Urhiewhu, 2015). Through digitisation, library information resources as well as various intellectual productions produced by the faculties could be stored in repositories for easy accessibility, and then it could be made accessible on the web based institutional repositories. Rosenberg (2005) asserts that, "digitalized information resources are services often available via the internet that allow users remote access and use of the resource through the electronic media." Academic libraries in Nigeria universities are not left out in this trend of digitisation of local content. Therefore, Iwhiwhu and Eyekpegaha (2009) identified the problems influencing the effective library digitization projects in Nigerian university libraries as lack of policy and implementation, funding, epileptic power supply, unskilled staff for ICT applications, high cost of purchasing equipment, network fluctuations, lack of maintenance culture, space inadequacy, environmental disasters and lack of internet connectivity. These peculiar problems have affected the state of digitization and the availability of some library resources in some Nigeria academic libraries. However, the availability of extensive digitalized library resources can facilitate access and increase the usage of the resources by users (Nwabueze & Urhiewhu, 2015). Through digitisation, library information resources and the various intellectual output from emanating from faculties can be archived and made available electronically. While Dhule (2018) outlined seven challenges of digitisation in libraries: funding, changing software and hardware, updating software and hardware, legal aspects, technical expertise, technophobia, and technological obsolescence.

Furthermore, (Okocha, 2022; De La Porte, 2019; Mommoh & Abubakar, 2019; Nneji, 2018; Pandey & Kumar, 2018; Udem et al., 2015; Iwhiwhu & Eyekpegaha, 2009; Lopatin, 2006) highlighted the gaps and challenges in various aspects of digitisation processes in libraries, they offer valuable insights into areas that require attention and improvement in the digitisation of text-based materials. Different challenges were observed in these studies such as improper funding, lack of national-level policy for digital preservation and absence of technical infrastructure etc. These challenges were mostly encountered while digitising and preserving cultural heritage resources. This paper recommends that adequate funding be provided to overcome the challenge of digitisation and meet up with recent advancements in technology. In this digitalized local content age Nigerian university academic libraries are not also left behind. Hence, Iwhiwhu and Eyekpegaha (2009) cited the factors militating against successful library digitization project in Nigerian university libraries to include; absence of policy and implementation, funding, epileptic power supply, inadequately trained staff for ICT applications, cost of purchase of equipment, fluctuated network, poor maintenance, space constraint, natural disaster, and lack of Internet connectivity. All these challenges have affected the state of digitization and availability of certain library materials in some Nigeria academic libraries. However, a lot of digitized library information can greatly enhance access and promote the use of library resources by users (Nwabueze & Urhiewhu, 2015). Through digitisation, library information resources and all the various intellectual outputs of the faculties can be archived and electronically available. Dhule (2018) listed seven of the challenges faced in library digitization as funding, changing hardware and software, updating hardware and software, legal issues, technical knowledge, technophobia and technological obsolescence. Apart from these researchers, (Okocha, 2022; De La Porte, 2019; Mommoh & Abubakar, 2019; Nneji, 2018; Pandey & Kumar, 2018; Udem et al., 2015; Iwhiwhu & Eyekpegaha, 2009; Lopatin, 2006) pointed out the gaps and challenges in various library digitisation processes and have made very insightful contributions on the aspects that require better attention in the process of digitizing text-based resources. Various challenges cited includes; lack of funding, lack of a national digital preservation policy and absence of a strong technical infrastructure. The challenges identified were primarily due to the nature of digitized cultural heritages. Thus, to adequately overcome the challenge of digitisation and achieve contemporary technologies, funding should be readily available.



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Research Methodology

The researcher made use of a survey descriptive research design survey in this study was based on the purpose of the study. The study population consists of the entire 67 professional librarians working in the Kwara State University Libraries 2024/2025 academic year. Total enumeration sampling was used for this study due to the relatively small and a size enough size of the study population to manage. Justification for using this sampling procedure is that all the Librarians at various units engaged in some kind of job function/activities relevant to the digitisation process of the library resources. The Questionnaire and observation checklist was the sole instruments used in the collection of data and were administered to the respondent personally by researchers along with two (2) research assistants in all the universities library under study. 67 questionnaires were distributed and 67 were retrieved as the entire questionnaire distributed were usable, thereby achieving a response rate of 100%. Descriptive statistics using the tabular and frequency count presentation forms were employed in the data analysis.

Data Presentation

Table 1: Respondents' Demographic Information

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	39	58.2
Female	28	41.7
Total	67	100
Marital Status		
Single	8	11.9
Married	59	88.0
Total	67	100
Age		
26 – 30	27	40.2
11- 35	8	11.9
Greater than 36	32	47.7
Total	67	100
Year of Experience		
Less than 6 Years	5	7.4
6 – 10 Years	35	52.2
11 – 15 Years	20	29.8
Greater than 20 Years	7	10.4
Total	67	100
Highest Qualification		
Bsc/BLIS	20	29.8
Msc/MLS	41	61.1
Phd	6	8.9
Total	67	100
Designation		
Principal Librarian	10	14.9
Senior Librarian	10	14.9
Librarian I	11	16.4
Librarian II	23	34.3
Assistant Librarian	13	19.4
Total	67	100
University		
University of Ilorin, Ilorin	30	44.7
Kwara State University, Malete	19	28.3
Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin	5	7.4
Landmark University Omu-aran	2	2.9
Summit University, Offa	2	2.9
Ojaja University Eiyenkorin	2	2.9
Thomas Adewumi University, Oko	2	2.9
Ahman Pategi University, Pategi	2	2.9



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University of Offa, Offa	2	2.9
Muhammed Kamaldeen University, Ilorin	1	1.4
Total	67	100

Source: Authors' Fieldwork Survey (2025)

Table.1 shows that majority of the respondents 39 (58.2%) were male and 28 (41.7%) were female while 59(88.0%) married. Also, the table shows that majority of the respondents 37 (47.7%) were within the age range of 36 and above. Indicating that majority are within the age range. More so, the table shows that majority of the respondents 35 (52.2%) has spent between 6 to 10 years in services, meaning that they have understanding on library activities. Furthermore, the Table shows that majority of the respondents 41(61.1%) has Msc/MLIS, 23 (34.3%) were Librarian II.

Research Question 1: What are the local content resources available in Kwara State University Libraries?

Table 2: Availability of the Local Content Resources

Local Content Resources	Available Frequency/ %	Not Available Frequency/%	Remarks
Conference proceeding	10(100)	-	Available
Indigenous journals	10(100)	-	Available
Government and civic resources	-	10(100)	Not Available
Community programs	-	10(100)	Not Available
Indigenous literature and cultural archives	2(20)	-	Not Available
Examination question papers	10(100)	-	Available
Project, theses and dissertation	10(100)	-	Available
Institutional handbooks	10(100)	-	Available
Book chapters	10(100)	-	Available
Students magazine	10(100)	-	Available
Textbooks by lecturers and staff	10(100)	-	Available
Institutional bulletin	10(100)	-	Available
Faculty and departmental journals	10(100)	-	Available
Senate paper/publication	2(20)	-	Not Available
Inaugural news letter	10(100)	-	Available

Source: Authors' Fieldwork Survey (2025)

Table 2: Show an observation checklist of local content resources that are found in the university libraries. As seen, the checklist reports that university libraries have a good prevalence of some local content resources that include, first newsletter, textbooks by university faculty and staff, projects, theses/ dissertations, university handbooks, faculty and departmental journals, students' magazine, university bulletin, book chapters, exam papers, conference proceeding and indigenous journals 10(100), while university libraries contain senate papers/publications, indigenous literature and archives 2(20). Other local content resources which were missing in the university libraries included, government and civic resources, and community programs. It supports that, some essential native content resources are sufficiently available, while some critical local contents including those that indicate community programs, government and civic resources are scarce.

Research Question 2: What are the local benefits of digitisation of local content resources and effective service delivery in the libraries?

Table 3: Benefits of Digitisation of Local Resources

S/N	Attitudes	SA	A	D	SD	Weighed Mean
1	Improved visibility	30	37	0	0	3.44
2	Preserve cultural heritage	57	10	0	0	3.85
3	Increase access	20	16	13	18	2.56
4	Support for research and teaching	29	30	8	0	3.31
5	Reduce pressure on physical storage	24	43	0	0	3.35
6	Collaboration and resources sharing	22	20	16	9	2.82
7	Disaster discovery	19	30	10	8	2.89



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8	Expand access to knowledge	19	30	10	8	2.89
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Source: Field Work Survey, (2025)

Aggregate Mean

3.13

Criterion Mean

2.50

Table 4: Show that the overall mean of 3.13 is higher than the criterion means 2.50 which indicated that librarians identified the advantages of local content digitisation in the University Libraries studied. The entire respondents agreed and strongly agree with all the variables such as preserve cultural heritage (X=3.85), enhance visibility (X=3.44), ease pressure on physical storage space (X=3.35), support teaching and research (X=3.31), disaster discovery/expand access to knowledge (X=2.89), co-operation and resources sharing (X=2.82), increase access (X=2.56) respectively.

Research Question 3: What are the hindrances encounter in the use of local content resources in the university, libraries, understudy?

Table 5: Challenges encountered in the Use of Local Content Resources

S/N	Purposes	SA	A	D	SD	Weighed Means
1	Insufficient institutional support	18	29	19	1	2.95
2	High cost of digitization equipment/software	52	15	0	0	3.35
3	Copyright and intellectual property issues	29	26	12	0	3.25
4	Technical expertise gaps	52	10	0	0	3.85
5	Infrastructure limitation	52	15	0	0	3.77
6	Low awareness	40	7	20	0	3.29
7	Deficiency of standard and policy	38	29	0	0	3.56
8	Fragile source materials	20	16	13	18	2.56

Source: Field Work Survey, (2025)

Aggregate Mean

3.32

Criterion Mean

2.50

Source: Field Work Survey, (2025)

As seen from the table 5, the grand mean score of 3.32, being greater than the criterion mean score of 2.50, suggests that the university libraries understudy were encountering enormous challenges in the digitization of the local content resources which include lack of expertise (X=3.85), lack of equipment (X=3.77), lack of standardized policies (X=3.56), lack of financial ability for purchasing of equipment/software (X=3.35), poor sensitization level (X=3.29), copyright/intellectual property challenges (X=3.25), weak institutional capacity (X=2.95) and frail nature of source material (X=2.56).

Discussion of the Findings

Results are organized according to the research objectives. Research first finding was that local content resources were available at university libraries for use in the operation of services to be rendered. These resources include; inaugural newsletters, lecturer's and staff's textbooks, projects, theses/dissertations, faculty and departmental journals, student's magazines, institutional handbooks, indigenous journals, institutional bulletin, book chapters, examination questions, conference proceedings and so on. This conforms with Lade and Saka (2019); Baro et al., (2013); and Fatoki, (2007), that theses, dissertations, newsletters, newspapers, magazines, seminars, and conference papers, inaugural addresses, handbooks, institutional documents, circulars, annual budgets and reports, ceremonial addresses, directories, technical reports, historical documents and journal articles, being the type of documents that are widely digitised in the libraries. Obaïke, et al, (2025) agreed with that local content resources such as, theses/dissertations, student's projects, institutional newsletters, bulletins, handbook and lecturer's and staff's authored text books all have full availability.

The second finding revealed that libraries agreed that digitisation of local content resources are beneficial in libraries. The respondents strongly agree and agreed with the statement that digitising of local content resources helps to preserve cultural heritage, improve visibility of resources, reducing pressure of storage, support teaching and research, increase discovery/access to knowledge and expand the use, increase access and facilitate collaboration and resources sharing in the libraries. These are in agreement with the statement by Tietie (2021) where he mentioned that digitisation of library resources enable the ease of accessing and retrieval of document at NGF library and access is made possible to digitised documents through the online public access catalogue (OPAC) and the digital repository of the library. Similar point was



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also observed from Udemba (2021) who mentioned that digitisation improve on the reputation of organization and increase visibility thereby projecting the academic status and quality of the institution. He added that it eliminates delay in the publication of research materials.

Third finding in relation to hindrances to the use of local content resources in the university libraries was revealed as gap in the required expertise and infrastructure limitation, lack of policy, high cost of digitisation equipment/software, low level of awareness, copyright and intellectual property, lack of institution support and fragile nature of original source material have been hindrances to the digitisation of local content resources in libraries. This is in line with Dhule (2018) who lists seven challenges associated with digitisation in libraries: funding; shifting of software and hardware; up-gradation of software and hardware; legal issues, technical skills; technophobia and; technological obsolescence.

Conclusion

This study's findings made it known that certain local content materials were not present in the understudied university libraries. In fact, those local content materials were needed to improve delivery of quality service. In addition, the librarians within the understudied university libraries already saw the importance of local content resources, but the institution faced many challenges which called for immediate solutions. Other than the contribution of this study to existing literature, it informs readers about digitisation of local content materials, the advantages and disadvantages. Lastly, it made suggestions as to how library use of local content materials can be optimised.

Recommendations

Arising from the findings of the study and the conclusion drawn, the following recommendations are put forward:

1. University libraries must prioritize providing local content that others do not have available and must digitise all their local materials to promote wider access.
2. Furthermore, managers need to remain continuously updated on the advantages of local content digitizing in the institution in order to promote the perception and awareness in the institution and the rest of the world.
3. Lastly, local content digitising training and retraining must be mandatory and continuous policy, funding and institutional support be given to the libraries to enhance their passivity.

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