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## Open access resources: Panacea to improved library resources and services in Nigeria

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### ABSTRACT

*The inadequacy of information resources is a common challenge facing libraries in developing countries. The open access initiative presents the library with the solution to this challenge by providing access to high-quality journals, books and other information bearing resources. This paper considered what constitutes open access resources, reasons why libraries should embrace them, the sources and web addresses where libraries can find them and the barriers to their integration into Nigerian libraries. The paper recommends that libraries and library associations should embark on awareness campaigns to popularize OA resources, while accreditation authorities make it a minimum requirement for accreditation of programmes. Full support and adequate funding for OA projects were also recommended.*

**Keywords**— Books, Journals, Library, Open access, Nigeria, Repositories

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The inadequacy of information resources appears to be a common challenge facing libraries in developing countries. The prohibitive cost of foreign and local journals and books coupled with attendant poor budgetary allocation to higher institutions and their libraries, usually compound this challenge. The economic recession witnessed in Nigeria in recent times has made the challenge more difficult.

According to Adeyemi (2017) the current economic and financial challenges, which the nation has been going through, have taken its toll on the education sector. Nigeria has never had it so bad, especially in the last one year when most of the institutions, including the federal institutions, have been finding it extremely difficult to survive. Parents whose salaries are not paid for months, or are on half salaries have found it difficult to meet up with obligations to their wards in private and public institutions. It is a vicious cycle. As has been stated at several occasions, the present administration inherited a fragile economy and the level of plundering of our resources could not be fully ascertained. This education sector has been adversely affected by the ongoing economic crisis (Adeyemi, 2017). Similarly, Bamigboye, Ede & Adeyemi (2016) noted that In Nigeria, the educational system is almost completely dependent on government budgetary allocation and with the economic crisis; the sector will no doubt witness its fair share of budget cuts which will affect not only the teachers but also students and families. They observed that global economic crisis has effects on Nigeria economy which has led to depletion of stocks, loss of investment, loss of jobs occasioned by the closing down of many companies, devaluation of the naira, culminating in government inability to fund education.

At this juncture, there is no better option for the Nigerian educational system whose libraries are bedeviled with severe underfunding, but to embrace the open access initiative for their survival. The Open Access Initiative provides libraries the greatest opportunity ever to develop a robust collection of core, relevant and up-to-date electronic journals, books and other electronic materials with little or no cost.

### 2. OBJECTIVES

The major objective of this paper is to create the awareness of how open access resources can help improve library resources and services in view of the effect of harsh economic conditions. The specific objectives are:

1. To examine what constitutes open access
2. To discover why libraries need open access
3. To bring to the fore the various open access initiatives in Nigeria
4. To produce a list of the various sources and web addresses of open access resources
5. To identify barriers to open access integration in Nigerian libraries and to proffer solution to the challenges.

### **3. WHAT IS OPEN ACCESS?**

The phrase “open access” according to the Budapest Open Access Initiative refers to “free availability on the public internet, permitting any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself”. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution and the only role for copyright in the open access domain should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited (Budapest Open Access Initiative, 2011).

Budapest Open Access Initiative (2011) further explained that open access is free of charge to readers, but it does not exclude priced access to print versions of the same work because they are expensive to produce. The Initiative, however, noted that open access also includes printouts by users or print archives for security and long-term preservation. In terms of quality, the same factors that create high standards and high quality in traditional scholarly publications apply, with the same effects, on open access literature (Budapest Open Access Initiative, 2011).

Furthermore, the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing (2003) posited that an Open Access Publication is one that meets the following two conditions:

1. The author(s) and copyright holder(s) grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual right of access to, and a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship, as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies for their personal use.
2. A complete version of the work and all supplemental materials, including a copy of the permission as stated above, in a suitable standard electronic format is deposited immediately upon initial publication in at least one online repository that is supported by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well-established organization that seeks to enable open access, unrestricted distribution, interoperability, and long-term archiving (for the biomedical sciences, PubMed Central is such a repository). In addition, the statement noted that Open access is a property of individual works, not necessarily journals or publishers; and that Community standards, rather than copyright law, will continue to provide the mechanism for enforcement of proper attribution and responsible use of the published work, as they do now.

Specifically, the open access initiative emerged in response to increasing economic and legal constraints introduced by commercial publishers, which made information resources unaffordable to libraries in developing countries. Thus, the primary focus of open access is to remove barriers such as:

- Price, including subscriptions, licensing fees, pay-per-view fees
- Permission e.g. copyright and licensing restrictions.

### **4. WHY LIBRARIES NEED OPEN ACCESS**

Libraries are regarded as the knowledge center for the institutions they are established to serve. They are responsible for the information needs of the organizations they are found. This they do by carefully selecting, acquiring, cataloging and storing information resources of different media and from different sources such as Ebooks, hard copy magazines, and journals, dissertations, reference materials, daily newspapers, textbooks, DVD's / Cassettes / Audiobooks etc. The open access initiative has emerged as the most potential information access reform in the digital age especially in developing countries including Nigeria where libraries of different types and sizes have suffered various degrees of harsh injuries during economic recessions.

Suber (2003) identified the reasons why open access should be prioritized in improving library collections as follows:

- You would own, not merely license, your own copies of electronic journals.
- You would have the right to archive them forever without special permission or periodic payments. Long-term preservation and access would not be limited to the actions taken by publishers, with future market potential in mind, but could be supplemented by independent library actions.
- If publishers did not migrate older content, such as the back runs of journals, to new media and formats to keep them readable as technology changed, then libraries would have the right to do it on their own.
- Access and usage would not be limited by password, IP address, usage hours, institutional affiliation, physical location, a cap on simultaneous users, or ability to pay. You would not have to authenticate users or administer proxy servers.
- You would have the right to lend and copy digital articles on any terms you liked to any users you liked. You could offer the same services to users affiliated with your institution, walk-in patrons, users at home, visiting faculty, and ILL users.
- Faculty and others could donate digital literature and software without violating their licenses, and you could accept them without limiting their usability.
- All use would be non-infringing use, and all use allowed by law would also be allowed by technology. There would be no need for fair-use judgment calls and their accompanying risk of liability. There would be no need to err on the side of non-use. Faculty could reproduce full-text for students without the delays, costs, or uncertainties of seeking permission.
- You would not have to negotiate, either as individual institutions or consortia, for prices or licensing terms. You would not have to remember, consult, or even retain, complex licensing agreements that differ from publisher to publisher and year to year.
- Users who object to cookies or registration would have the same access privileges as other users. The anonymous inquiry would be possible again for every user.
- You would never have to cancel a subscription due to a tight budget or unacceptable licensing terms. Researchers would not encounter gaps in the collection corresponding to journals with unacceptable prices or licensing terms.

## **5. OPEN ACCESS INITIATIVES IN NIGERIA**

In an effort to promote Open Access initiative in Nigeria, in 2008 Ahmadu Bello University's Department of Library and Information Science took a bold step by organized a 2-day workshop in collaboration with EIFL(Electronic Information For Libraries) on "Open Access Repositories: New Model for Scholarly Communication" and a follow-up workshop in November 2009 with the theme "Open Access: Maximizing Research Quality and Impact". These workshops were facilitated by Ezra Shiloba Gbaje(Ph.D.), EIFL Open Access country coordinators nominated by Nigerian University Libraries Consortium (NULIB CONSULTS NIG. LTD) (UNESCO, 2018). As a result of these workshops, two institutions: University of Jos and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria have deployed their institutional repositories (University of Jos's institutional repository, Ahmadu Bello University's institutional repository is only accessible through the university intranet for now). The Department converted its two journals namely The Samaru Journal of Information Studies and The Information Manager from toll access journals to open access journals (UNESCO, 2018).

Other Non-governmental organization involved in Open Access advocacy in Nigeria, including the British Medical Journal West Africa Edition who organized the First Open Access to Health Information Seminar facilitated by Dr. Joseph Ana. UNESCO noted that since these workshops, fifteen open access repositories are listed in the Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR) and ten OA repositories in the Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR). These include DSpace at the University of Jos, University of Nigeria Nsukka repository and Covenant University Repository. UNESCO observed that deployment of the institutional repository has brought the University of Jos Library to prominence to the world community. Presently, any work deposited in the institutional repository is captured immediately by Google and can be searched through the search engine (UNESCO, 2018). Furthermore, UNESCO stated that thirty-eight OA journals published in Nigeria are indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ). Among them African Journal of Reproductive Health – a multidisciplinary international journal published tri-annually by the Women's Health and Action Research Centre, The Annals of African Medicine published by the Annals of African Medicine Society and The Tropical Journal of Pharmaceutical Research published by Pharmacotherapy Group, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Benin, among many others. Five open access journals published in Nigeria are indexed in the Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources (ROAD). Also, Ahmadu Bello University Press, Federal College of Education Akoka, Forestry Association of Nigeria, Science Education Development Institute, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Usmanu Danfodiyo University (Sokoto) and Wilolud Journals have signed the Budapest Open Access Initiative – a major declaration in support of Open Access (UNESCO, 2018).

## **6. SOURCES AND WEB ADDRESSES OF OPEN ACCESS RESOURCES**

- [OpenDOAR](http://www.openoar.org/). Accessible via <http://www.openoar.org/>
- [Registry of Open Access Repositories](http://roar.eprints.org/). Accessible via <http://roar.eprints.org/>
- [RIAN Open Access Irish Research Publications](http://rian.ie/). Accessible via <http://rian.ie/>
- [Open Access Directory \(OAD\) - Subject Repositories](http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Disciplinary_repositories). Accessible via: [http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Disciplinary\\_repositories](http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Disciplinary_repositories)
- [Disciplinary Repositories](http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Disciplinary_repositories). Accessible through [http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Disciplinary\\_repositories](http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Disciplinary_repositories)

### **6.1 Open Access Thesis Collection**

- [DART Europe E-Thesis Portal](http://www.dart-europe.eu/basic-search.php). Accessible via <http://www.dart-europe.eu/basic-search.php>
- [PQDT Open \(US Content\)](https://pqdtopen.proquest.com/search.html) Accessible via <https://pqdtopen.proquest.com/search.html>
- [Thesis Canada Portal](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/services/theses/Pages/theses-canada.aspx) Accessible via <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/services/theses/Pages/theses-canada.aspx>
- [EThOS E -Thesis Online \(British Library\)](http://ethos.bl.uk/Home.do) Accessible via <http://ethos.bl.uk/Home.do>
- [RIAN \(Irish National Research Portal\)](http://rian.ie/) Accessible via <http://rian.ie/>
- [NDLTD \(Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations \)](http://www.ndltd.org/resources/find-etds) Accessible via <http://www.ndltd.org/resources/find-etds>

### **6.2 Open Access Books and Journals**

- [DOAB - Directory of Open Access Books](http://www.doabooks.org/doab): A directory of academic peer-reviewed books from a range of publishers. Accessible via <http://www.doabooks.org/doab>
- [Free eBooks](http://www.free-ebooks.net/all-categories): Free eBooks provides online access to a large number of fiction, non-fiction, academic and textbook e-Books. There are a number of file formats available for download. Standard members are granted access to a maximum of 5 eBooks per month, in either PDF or TXT formats, in addition to unlimited online previews of eBooks in HTML and PDF formats. Accessible via <http://www.free-ebooks.net/all-categories>
- [Google Books](http://books.google.com/books): Search the full text of books from selected libraries and publishers. May include short excerpts and sometimes provides access to the full text. Accessible via <http://books.google.com/books>
- [Hathi Trust](http://www.hathitrust.org/home): HathiTrust Digital Library is a digital preservation repository and highly functional access platform. It provides long-term preservation and access services for public domain and in copyright content from a variety of sources, including Google, the Internet Archive, Microsoft, and in-house partner institution initiatives. Accessible via <http://www.hathitrust.org/home>
- [National Academies Press](http://www.nap.edu/): The National Academies publish the reports issued by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council, all operating under a charter granted by the Congress of the United States. The NAP publishes more than 200 books a year on a wide range of topics in science, engineering, and health, capturing the most authoritative views on important issues in science and health policy. More than 4,000 titles are available in PDF format. Accessible via <http://www.nap.edu/>
- [New Zealand Electronic Text Centre](http://www.nzec.org.nz/): Free archive of New Zealand and Pacific islands books, manuscripts, and journals. Includes an archive of Maori documents, as well as some classics of New Zealand literature, and literature relating to New

Zealand natural history. Accessible via [http://www.nzetc.org/Project\\_Gutenberg\\_Australia](http://www.nzetc.org/Project_Gutenberg_Australia): The books are in the 'public domain' in Australia and all have been prepared by volunteers. Accessible via

<http://ezproxy.cqu.edu.au/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip.uid&profile=ehost&defaultdb=nlebk>

- **InTech Books**: One of the largest open access collection of books in the fields of Science, Technology, and Medicine. Accessible via <http://www.intechopen.com/books>
- **OAPEN**: A collection of freely accessible academic books, mainly in the areas of humanities and social sciences. Accessible via <http://www.oapen.org/home>
- **Open Book Publishers**: Publishes monographs and textbooks which are freely available to read online. Accessible via <http://www.openbookpublishers.com/>
- **ERIC Institute of Education Services** - ERIC is an online library of education research and information, sponsored by the *Institute of Education Sciences* (IES) of the U.S. Department of Education. Accessible via <http://eric.ed.gov/>
- **Springer Open**: Springer Open offers researchers from all areas of science, technology, medicine, the humanities and social sciences a place to publish open access in journals and books. Accessible via <http://www.springeropen.com/>
- **Wiley Open**: Wiley Open Access is a programme of fully open access journals. Accessible via <http://www.wileyopenaccess.com/view/journals.html>
- **DORAS**: Open access institutional repository providing free online access to research publications and theses from Dublin City University. Accessible via <http://doras.dcu.ie/>
- **CORA**: The Cork Open Research Archive gives you free open access to University College Cork's scholarly and scientific research publications and theses. Accessible via <https://cora.ucc.ie/>
- **ARROW**: The repository is a service of the Dublin Institute of Technology Library Services. Accessible via <http://arrow.dit.ie/>
- **NCSE**: Information on research and policy publications in the field of special education on the island of Ireland since 2009, from the National Council of Special Education. Accessible via <http://www.ncse.ie/researches/searchPage.php>
- **ARAN**: ARAN is the digital collection of open access scholarly publications from NUI Galway. ARAN collects preserves and makes freely available scholarly communication, including peer-reviewed articles, working papers and conference papers and conference papers created by NUI Galway researchers. Accessible via <https://aran.library.nuigalway.ie/xmlui/>
- **TARA**: TARA is an open access repository from Trinity College Dublin. Accessible via <http://www.tara.tcd.ie/>
- **Digital Commons Network**: Brings together free, full-text scholarly articles from hundreds of universities and colleges worldwide. Curated by university librarians and their supporting institutions, the Network includes a growing collection of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, working papers, conference proceedings, and other original scholarly work. Accessible via <http://network.bepress.com/>
- **Bielefeld Academic Search Engine (BASE)** - academic content and useful searching features, operated by Bielefeld University Library (Germany). Accessible via <http://www.base-search.net/>
- **PLOS (Public Library of Science)**: PLOS (Public Library of Science) is a "nonprofit open access publisher with a mission to accelerate progress in science and medicine by leading a transformation in research communication". PLOS applies the Creative Commons attribution license to give "free immediate access to, and unrestricted reuse of, original works of all types". Accessible via <http://www.plos.org/>
- **iTunesU**: Educational and cultural institutions have contributed free content including video and audio lectures, lectures notes, iBook textbooks, and more. Accessible via <https://www.apple.com/au/support/itunes-u/using/>

### 6.3 Open Access Subject Repositories

- **arXiv.org**: Open access to over one million academic articles in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Quantitative Biology, Quantitative Finance, and Statistics. Accessible via <http://arxiv.org/>
- **Open Science Directory**: Directory which provides access to over 13000 scientific journals, indexed from DOAJ, eJDS, BioMed Central, HighWire Press and others. Accessible via <http://www.opensciencedirectory.net/>
- **Social Sciences Research Network (SSRN)**: Library of over 700,000 research papers across 30 disciplines. Accessible via <https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/DisplayAbstractSearch.cfm>
- **bioRxiv**: bioRxiv (pronounced "bio-archive") is a free online archive and distribution service for unpublished preprints in the life sciences. Accessible via <http://biorxiv.org/>
- **RePEc (Research Papers in Economics)**: Index to publishing in economics and related sciences created by hundreds of volunteers worldwide. Accessible via <http://repec.org/>
- **CogPrints**: an Online repository for self-archived papers in any area of psychology, neuroscience, and linguistics, and many areas of computer science, philosophy, and biology. Accessible via <http://cogprints.org/>
- **PubMed Central**: PubMed Central (PMC) is a free full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature at the U.S. National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine (NIH/NLM). Accessible via <https://ezproxy.canberra.edu.au/login?url=http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/>
- **DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)**: Free full-text quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals. Accessible via <http://www.doaj.org/>
- **OAister**: Catalogue of millions of records representing open access digital resources which are held in open access collections worldwide. Accessible via <http://oaister.worldcat.org/>
- **CORE (Connecting Repositories) (Open University)**: CORE provides searchable access to millions of research papers from repositories and Open Access journals. Useful for locating theses and dissertations. Best viewed in Firefox or Chrome browsers. Accessible via <https://core.ac.uk/>
- **JURN**: A unique search-engine dedicated to indexing free and open access journals and theses in the arts and humanities, science, biomedical, business and ecology related topics. Accessible via <http://www.jurn.org/>



- [Europe PMC](https://europepmc.org/): access to worldwide life sciences articles, books, patents and clinical guidelines. Accessible via <https://europepmc.org/>

#### 6.4 Data Repositories

- [Registry of Research Data Repositories](http://www.re3data.org/): a global registry of research data repositories. Accessible via <http://www.re3data.org/>
- [Data repositories](http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Data_repositories): a list of repositories and databases for open data in the Open Access Directory wiki. Accessible via [http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Data\\_repositories](http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Data_repositories)
- [Pangaea](http://pangaea.de/): a global repository of data in the fields of geo and environmental sciences. Accessible via <http://pangaea.de/>

#### 6.5 Open Access Repositories of Nigerian Universities

- **Afe Babalola University** - <http://abuai.edu.ng/>
  1. [Afe Babalola University Repository](http://eprints.abuai.edu.ng/) Accessible via <http://eprints.abuai.edu.ng/>
- **Ahmadu Bello University** - <http://www.abu.edu.ng/>
  1. [ABU Zaria Research Publications](http://www.abu.edu.ng/pages/researchworks.php?pageNum_rsPaperSearch=422&totalRows_rsPaperSearch=8449) Accessible via: [http://www.abu.edu.ng/pages/researchworks.php?pageNum\\_rsPaperSearch=422&totalRows\\_rsPaperSearch=8449](http://www.abu.edu.ng/pages/researchworks.php?pageNum_rsPaperSearch=422&totalRows_rsPaperSearch=8449)
  2. [Ahmadu Bello University Institutional Digital Repository](http://kubanni.abu.edu.ng/jspui/) Accessible via: <http://kubanni.abu.edu.ng/jspui/>
- **American University of Nigeria** - <http://www.aun.edu.ng/>
  1. [American University of Nigeria \(AUN\) Digital Repository](http://digitallibrary.aun.edu.ng:8080/xmlui/) Accessible via: <http://digitallibrary.aun.edu.ng:8080/xmlui/>
- **Covenant University** - <http://www.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/>
  1. [Covenant University Electronic Theses and Dissertation Repository](http://www.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/~clr_cu/library/readonline/docsExplorer/#) Accessible via: [http://www.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/~clr\\_cu/library/readonline/docsExplorer/#](http://www.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/~clr_cu/library/readonline/docsExplorer/#)
  2. [Covenant University Repository](http://eprints.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/) Accessible via: <http://eprints.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/>
  3. [Theses & Dissertations](http://theses.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/) Accessible via: <http://theses.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/>
- **Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki** - <https://ebsu.edu.ng/>
  1. [Ebonyi State University Institutional Repository](http://ir.ebsu.edu.ng:8080/) Accessible via: <http://ir.ebsu.edu.ng:8080/>
- **Federal University Lokoja** - <http://www.fulokoja.edu.ng/>
  1. [Federal University Lokoja Institutional Repository](http://repository.fulokoja.edu.ng/) Accessible via: <http://repository.fulokoja.edu.ng/>
- **FEDERAL UNIVERSITY NDUFU-ALIKE IKWO** - <http://www.funai.edu.ng/>
  1. [dspace.funai.edu.ng](http://dspace.funai.edu.ng) <http://dspace.funai.edu.ng/>
  2. [FEDERAL UNIVERSITY NDUFU-ALIKE IKWO REPOSITORY ARCHIVE](http://dspace.funai.edu.ng/xmlui/) Accessible via: <http://dspace.funai.edu.ng/xmlui/>
- **Federal University of Technology** - <http://www.futminna.edu.ng/>
  1. [Federal University of Technology, Minna Institutional Repository](http://dspace.futminna.edu.ng/jspui/). Accessible via: <http://dspace.futminna.edu.ng/jspui/>
- **The Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria.** <http://futa.edu.ng/futacms/>
  1. [Institutional Repository of the Federal University of Technology](http://dspace.futa.edu.ng:8080/jspui/). Accessible via: <http://dspace.futa.edu.ng:8080/jspui/>
- **Federal University Oye Ekiti** - <http://loadedmovies.com/>
  1. [Federal University Oye Ekiti Repository](http://www.repository.fuoye.edu.ng/). Accessible via: <http://www.repository.fuoye.edu.ng/>
- **Federal University Oye-Ekiti** - <http://fuoye.edu.ng/>
  1. [Federal University Oye-Ekiti Institutional Repository](http://repository.fuoye.edu.ng/). Accessible via: <http://repository.fuoye.edu.ng/>
- **Landmark University** - <http://lmu.edu.ng/>
  1. [Landmark University Repository](http://eprints.lmu.edu.ng/). Accessible via: <http://eprints.lmu.edu.ng/>
- **University of Jos** - <http://www.unijos.edu.ng/>
  1. [University of Jos Institutional Repository](http://irepos.unijos.edu.ng/jspui/). Accessible via: <http://irepos.unijos.edu.ng/jspui/>
- **University of Lagos** - <http://unilag.edu.ng/>
  1. [University of Lagos Institutional Repository](http://repository.unilag.edu.ng:8080/xmlui/). Accessible via: <http://repository.unilag.edu.ng:8080/xmlui/>
- **University of Ilorin** - <http://www.unilorin.edu.ng/>
  1. [UILSPACE](http://uilspace.unilorin.edu.ng:8080/jspui/). Accessible via: <http://uilspace.unilorin.edu.ng:8080/jspui/>
- **University of Nigeria Nsukka** - <http://www.unn.edu.ng/> [Open Resources](http://unn.edu.ng/chart/repo). Accessible via: <http://unn.edu.ng/chart/repo>
  1. [University of Nigeria Nsukka Institutional Repository](http://repository.unn.edu.ng:8080/xmlui/). Accessible via: <http://repository.unn.edu.ng:8080/xmlui/>

## **7. BARRIERS TO THE INTEGRATION OF OPEN ACCESS RESOURCES INTO NIGERIAN LIBRARIES**

In spite of the myriads of opportunities that open access present, many libraries in Nigeria have not fully integrated it into their collections. UNESCO (2018) pointed out that with a population of about 173 million, Nigeria being the most populous country in Africa has a very low percentage of its publications available online and in Open Access.

The major barriers include:

### **1. Lack of awareness**

- a. Of the existence of high-quality books and journals in the open access;
- b. Of where such books and journals can be accessed on the web.

### **2. Misconceptions**

- a. About open access journals, books and repositories being of low quality;
- b. About having internet access every time users want to access them;
- c. That OA resources are not peer-reviewed;
- d. That OA cannot be accessed offline or be printed into hardcopy;
- e. That OA is not published by reputable publishers;
- f. That OA does not contain full-text information;
- g. That OA is not recognized by accreditation authorities as library resources.

### **3. Technological Barrier**

- a. Poor internet access/ low bandwidths;
- b. Lack or obsolete ICTs;
- c. Lack of skilled ICT personnel;
- d. No ICT training programme.

### **4. Change factor**

- a. Resistance to open access integration by personnel/ authorities;
- b. Resistance to the adoption of modern technologies by personnel/ authorities.

### **5. Management factor**

- a. Willingness to release funds for OA Project;
- b. Willingness to put in place OA Policy statement;
- c. Limited support from management.

## **8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This paper explored open access resources as a panacea for improved library resources and services in Nigeria. The paper observed that the inadequacy of information resources appears to be a common challenge facing libraries in developing countries. The open access initiative has emerged as the most potential information access reform in the digital age especially in developing countries including Nigeria where libraries of different types and sizes have suffered various degrees of harsh injuries during economic recessions. This paper, therefore, considered what constitutes open access resources; gave strong reasons why libraries should integrate them into their collections; examined the various open access initiatives in Nigeria; listed the sources and web addresses where libraries can find open access resources; and delved into the barriers to the integration of open access resources into Nigerian libraries. Based on the above, the following recommendations were made:

- Given that lack of awareness of high-quality open access resources and accompanying misconceptions are major barriers to OA resource integration, academic libraries and library associations such as NLA, should take the leading role to create awareness through enlightenment campaigns, training programmes and conferences etc. All uncertainties and misconceptions about open access resources should also be corrected and resolved through the various training and awareness campaigns.
- Accreditation bodies such as the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and the National Universities Commission (NUC) should make OA as part of the minimum requirement for accreditation of academic programmes.
- Funding authorities/ management should provide the library with up-to-date ICTs necessary for OA project. Sponsorship of staff training should be prioritized. OA policy framework should be put in place to guide the project.
- Libraries should NOT resist the wind of change in the world. Open access has come to stay and as such taking full advantage of the diverse benefits to improve their services and resources thereby fulfilling the mandate of open access initiatives is expected of all libraries. Remember the library is a growing organism.

## **9. REFERENCES**

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