

Full Length Research

Librarians' Attitude Towards the Use of Library Management Software in Cataloguing Library Materials in University Libraries in South-South Nigeria

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This study examined librarians' attitudes towards the use library management software for cataloguing library materials in university libraries in South-South Nigeria. A correlational research survey was adopted for this study and a questionnaire was the instrument used in gathering the data. Total enumeration technique was used to capture all 197 librarians in the selected university libraries in South-South Nigeria. 197 questionnaires were distributed and 138 (70%) retrieved and analyzed using frequency count, percentage, mean, standard deviation and Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The study revealed that librarians possess positive attitude towards the use of Library Management Software (LMS) in cataloguing library materials in university libraries. More so, librarians' level of LMS use for cataloguing is high. It was recommended among other things that library administration and stakeholders should capitalize on the positive attitude of librarians towards the use of LMS by providing additional resources and support for further integration of LMS into libraries, provision of more computers, network/internet connections, adequate power supply to enhance adequate use of the software.

Keywords: Librarians, Attitude, Library Management Software (LMS), Use, cataloguing, University Libraries.

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Introduction

In today's digital era, library management software plays a pivotal role in streamlining the cataloguing process of library materials in university libraries. Librarians, as key stakeholders in the utilization of such software, need to possess the right attitude. Understanding librarians' perceptions and experiences with library management software is crucial for optimizing its use and ensuring efficient cataloguing practices.

Attitude is seen generally as the total of a man's inclination and feelings, prejudices or bias, preconceived notions, ideas, fears and convictions about any specific topic. It refers to a learned emotionally toned disposition to react in a consistent way favourable or unfavourable towards a person, object or idea (Aiyebelehin *et al*, 2017). Everyone has an attitude he/she displays wherever he/she finds him/herself. The attitude display by people (either negative or positive) is a result of the way they think and this shapes the way they relate with other people both at the workplace and in other places. Hence, attitude is seen as a tendency to react positively or negatively (Aderibigbe & Chiemenem, 2019). Beyond the expertise individuals display in their various places of work, they embody a wide range of attitudes that contribute to their effectiveness in bringing out results for themselves and organizations (Ashikuzzaman, 2017).

Librarians' attitude is the behaviour displayed by library personnel either in carrying out their operations (administration, processing of information resources etc) or in responding to users' needs. Librarians' positive attitude towards the use of technology can help facilitate the processing of information resources to satisfy users' information needs which will in turn prompt the users to patronize the library based on previous experience in which his/her information needs were met (Aguolu, 2012). Librarians' Attitudes toward library management software for cataloguing library materials are a critical factor in the efficient and effective functioning of modern libraries. As technology continues to advance, the use of software solutions for cataloguing, organizing, and managing library resources has become commonplace. The revolutionary impact that technology has brought a paradigm shift to the operations of the library which has also changed the cataloguing processes of library materials (Dhakal & Singh, 2016). According to Mason (2004), libraries are a classical example of how automation has changed conventional ways of working, particularly in cataloguing of library resources.

One of the most significant impacts of technology on library cataloguing has been the development of online public access catalogues (OPACs). OPACs allow users to search the library's catalogue from anywhere with an internet connection. This has made it much easier for users to find the information they need. In view of the above, Ejiroghene (2020) argued that ICT has turned the world into a "global village" and everyone to an "electronic neighbour." Technology has made it possible for libraries to share their catalogues with other libraries. This has led to the development of cooperative cataloguing networks, which allow libraries to share the work of cataloguing materials which has saved libraries time and money, and made it easier for users to find materials that are located in other libraries. Consequently, modern technology has led to the development of new cataloguing tools and techniques. For example, libraries now use MARC records to catalogue their materials. MARC records are machine-readable records that contain all of the bibliographic information for a particular item (Ocllc, 2022).

Furthermore, the application of technology in the operations of the library has no doubt improved the output of services to users as technology has been applied in various ways in 21st-century library operations, especially in the cataloguing section (Chukwueke & Onuoha, 2019). Several LMSs have been deployed by several academic libraries to manage their operations in south-south Nigeria. Notable among the LMS used in Nigerian university libraries are Koha, NewGenLib, Strategic Library Automation Management Software (SLAM), Alexadra and many more (Akawu *et al*, 2020). These LMSs have different modules such as circulation, cataloguing and classification, serial management etc., which handle specific tasks. As an illustration, the Koha ILS Cataloguing and Classification Modules could perform copy cataloguing, call number import and export data, union cataloguing, cataloguing various items, reporting, and cataloguing of electronic documents. (Igbunu, Asen & Tyopev, 2020).

While the importance of these software cannot be over-emphasized, the attitudes of library personnel are important and key to ensuring their utmost utilization. Since librarians are the people directly involved in managing the technology, the resulting output could be a reflection of their attitude towards the technology. Librarians' attitude towards these tools influences their implementation, utilization, and impact on library operations. These attitudes can be found to be different from one person to the other. This attitude variation is based on different factors such as their upbringing, experience, education, skill, level of exposure, government policies, organizational policies, environment and others (Oden & Owolabi, 2021).

Like everyone, librarians also have attitude, which either serves as a push to adopt and utilizing new tools software, or serves as discouragement in adopting and utilizing the tools/software. Some people move forward because of their attitudes, which enable them to deal with new difficulties, get through barriers, and fulfill their goals; while others have attitudes that act as anchors and slow them down or prevent them from adopting change and innovation in their lives and workplaces (Ramzan & Ahmad, 2021). So, the attitude of the librarians is either the enabler or inhibitor to maximum use of new technologies. Irrespective of the nonchalant roles of some library staff contributing to bad service delivery in Nigerian university libraries, observation on the other hand equally shows how staff attitude has aided quality service delivery in Nigerian university libraries. This is seen through the providence of information resources for improving the quality of teaching, learning, and research while doing so in conformance with institutional goals. There is a general agreement among library scholars that librarians' attitude and their perceptions towards information technology do affect the implementation and usage of new technologies in libraries, and ultimately the services offered to the users (Ramzan *et al*, 2021).

From the foregoing, librarians in South-South Nigeria university libraries are expected to have positive attitude towards the implementation and use of software in cataloguing library material in university libraries. This study aimed to examine librarians' attitude towards the use of library management software for cataloguing library materials in university libraries in south-south Nigeria.

Research Questions

To guide the study, the following research questions were posed:

1. What are the attitudes of librarians towards the use of library management software for cataloguing of library materials in university libraries?
2. To what extent do librarians use library management software for cataloguing?

Research Hypothesis

The null hypothesis was formulated to guide the study and was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant relationship between Librarians' attitude and the use of Library Management Software for cataloguing Library materials in University Libraries in South-South Nigeria.

Review of Related Literature

Librarians' attitude towards the use of Library management software for cataloguing library materials is a critical factor in the efficient and effective functioning of modern libraries. As technology advancement continues, the use of software solutions for cataloguing increases and carrying out other routine operations of the library becomes commonplace. The attitudes of librarians towards these tools influence their implementation, utilization and impact on the library operations. Attitude is not peculiar to only a set of people rather it is for everyone. According to Ramza, *et al* (2021) "Everyone has an attitude towards an idea or object. Some individuals' attitudes propel them along, helping them to deal with new challenges, overcome obstacles and accomplish their objectives. Others have attitudes that are anchors, slowing them down or stopping them from accepting the innovation and changes in their life and workplaces". It is worth noting that human beings are not born with attitudes; rather they learn them after birth. People develop some attitudes from their own experiences, knowledge, and abilities, while others come from outside sources. It is obvious that a positive attitude breeds hope and aspiration in accepting technology in libraries for positive impact while a negative attitude brings about resistance and hostility to technology. According to Omehia, *et al.* (2021), People with positive attitudes can remain hopeful and see the best even in difficult situations; Positive attitudes are necessary for any successful and significant achievement. Ejedafiru and Lucky (2013) reported that the word attitude has been used to represent librarians' perceptions on the value attached to ICTs in libraries technical processing, collection organization and user services. Attitude can be said to depict the conceptual value of these technologies in the minds of librarians. A display of positive attitude by cataloguers towards ICT application in cataloguing and classification is demonstrated in the study of Orbih and Aina (2014). The authors observed that some of the transformations in cataloguing practices among Nigerian cataloguers are use of online catalogues of reputable libraries, cataloguing of internet resources, display of catalogue in electronic format and use of ICT tools such as computers, Internet, online databases and library software packages.

Idiegbeyan-Ose (2013) in Fajivwe *et al* (2023) who examined Librarians' attitude toward cataloguing and classification posited that it (Librarians Attitude) can be referred to as positive, negative, or neutral feelings and dispositions. Librarians with a positive attitude toward cataloguing and classification tend to enjoy or like it, understand its value, and have confidence in it. However, librarians with a negative attitude toward cataloguing and classification tend to dislike it, and feel afraid to engage in it. They believe that cataloguing and classification is a brain - tasking, time consuming and meticulous job. Some of these librarians are always in a hurry to leave the cataloguing and classification unit when they are posted there, even when corrected, they are not bordered, no sign of seriousness and commitment in them. They also believe that cataloguing and classification require rules and regulations coupled with the use of accurate punctuation marks which might be very difficult for them to learn and therefore lead to their negative attitude toward it (Omehia, *et al.*, 2021).

Ubogu (2012) investigation on the attitude of librarians towards the use of ICT in libraries in some selected universities in Edo and Delta States Nigeria found out that librarians have positive attitude towards use of ICT in libraries. The study also revealed that knowledge of ICT is a precursor to development of positive attitude towards ICT. Also, Alabi (2018) who carried out a descriptive survey on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) Application to Cataloguing and Classification in Nigerian Libraries, revealed that Nigerian cataloguers have positive attitude towards ICT application in performing cataloguing and classification activities. Corroborating this finding, Adekunle, *et al* (2007) found out that librarians have a positive attitude towards the use and implementation of ICT in libraries and explained that the reason for this might include an understanding of the benefits of ICT.

Fajivwe *et al* (2023) who investigated the influence of librarians' attitude toward cataloguing and classification in

academic libraries concluded that the attitude of librarians toward cataloguing and classification can be positive in the essence that they tend to enjoy or like cataloguing and classification, understand its value, and have confidence in it, or negative if they tend to dislike it, and feel afraid to engage in it. If librarians develop a positive attitude toward cataloguing and classification, all the library information resources in an academic library would be catalogued, classified, organized, arranged and shelved in order for the library users to make use of them. But if librarians develop a negative attitude toward cataloguing and classification, some of library information resources might not be catalogued or wrongly catalogued where they would not be useful for the users.

Awujoola and Philip (2020) conducted a research on librarians' attitude and ICT competence on use of library resources and services in two academic libraries in Oyo state. The study concluded that librarians have positive attitude in their service deliveries (to students), pleasant to users; and the library staff attitude had an influence on use of library services by undergraduates. This shows that librarian's attitude in their service deliveries towards students is positive. Achugbue and Ogbomo (2017) who investigated librarians' attitudes toward the use of Information and Communication Technology hardware in these university libraries in South-West and South-South Nigeria revealed that librarians have positive attitude towards usage of ICT hardware in university libraries in south-south and south-west Nigeria. Likewise, Muhammad'Rabiu (2021) research revealed that librarians' ICT attitude is positive

Ocloo and King (2022) who carried out a study on the Adoption and Utilization of Integrated Library Management Systems in Ghanaian Academic Libraries revealed that the most used function of ILMS is cataloguing followed by OPAC and circulation, while acquisition recorded very low usage rates. Alabi (2018) carried out a finding on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) Application to Cataloguing and Classification in Nigerian reveals that cataloguers have embraced use of diverse library software and also utilize online catalogues for copy cataloguing. Akawu *et al* (2020) who conducted a study on the Usability study of Librarika library management software in library services of a private university library in Nigeria revealed that cataloguing module was effective at acceptable level of good (66.67 and 75.00%) and circulation module was effective at acceptable level of good for registration templates (75.00 and 66.67 %), excellent for charging template (83.33 %) and best for discharging template (91.67 %). The efficiency of cataloguing and circulation tasks were achieved at different times and participants were satisfied with the overall interaction with Librarika LMS. However, usability issues such as cumbersomeness were also identified with the cataloguing module and circulation (registration templates) modules. Therefore, the study recommends that cataloguing and circulation (registration templates) modules should be improved upon when designing and developing newer version.

Research Methodology

The design adopted for this study is descriptive survey. The study population comprised 197 librarians from eighteen (18) university libraries in south-south geo-political zone of Nigeria that have adopted the use of LMS in their (cataloguing) operations. Questionnaire was used as the instrument of data collection. Total enumeration sampling technique was used for the study. Descriptive statistics such as frequency and mean as well as inferential statistics (Pearson Product Moment Correlation coefficient) was used to analyze the research questions and hypotheses.

Data Presentation

Table 1: Questionnaire Response

Number of Questionnaire Administered	Number of Questionnaire Returned	Percentage of Questionnaire Returned
197	138	70%

A total of 197 copies of the questionnaire were distributed and 138 (70%) were returned. The response rate of 70% is considered adequate for the study because the standard and acceptable response rate for most studies is 60% and above. This is in line with the assertion of Fincham (2008) that response rates approximating 60% for most research should be the goal of researchers.

Section 2: Analysis of the Bio Data of the Respondents**Table 2: Name of the Institution**

Institution	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Admiralty University of Nigeria, Ibusa, Delta State	3	2.2
Delta state university of Science and Technology, Ozoro, Delta State	9	6.5
Michael and Cecilia Ibru University, Agbarho-otor, Delta State	2	1.4
Edwin Clark University, Kiagbodo, Delta State	4	2.9
Nigerian Maritime University Okerekoko, Delta State	8	5.8
Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, Delta State	18	13.0
University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State	8	5.8
Benson Idahosa University, Benin City	5	3.6
Igbinedion University Okada, Edo State	4	2.9
Glorious Vision University, Ogwa, Edo State	3	2.2
Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State	8	5.8
Niger Delta University Yenagoa, Bayelsa State	4	2.9
University of Africa Toru Orua, Bayelsa State	2	1.4
University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State	13	9.4
Rivers State University, Rivers State	8	5.8
University of Calabar, Cross River State	12	8.7
Arthur Jarvis University, Akpoyubo, Cross River State	8	5.8
University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State	19	13.8
Total	138	100.0

Table 2 shows the distribution of respondents across various universities in Delta, Edo, Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross River, and Akwa Ibom States. The results indicate that 19 (13.8%) of the respondents are from the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, followed by 18 (13.0%) from the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, Delta State and 13 (9.4%) from the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Additionally, 12 (8.7%) of the respondents are from the University of Calabar, Cross River State, while 9 (6.5%) are from Delta State University of Science and Technology, Ozoro, Delta State.

Furthermore, 8 (5.8%) of the respondents each are from Nigerian Maritime University, University of Benin, Federal University Otuoke, Rivers State University, and Arthur Jarvis University, Cross River State. Meanwhile, 5 (3.6%) are from Benson Idahosa University, Edo State, while 4 (2.9%) each are from Edwin Clark University, Igbinedion University, and Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State. Institutions with the least representation include Admiralty University and Glorious Vision University, with 3 (2.2%) respondents each, while Michael and Cecilia Ibru University and the University of Africa Toru Orua, Bayelsa State, recorded the lowest number of respondents, with 2 (1.4%) each.

It can be concluded that the majority of the respondents in this study are from the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State; the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, Delta State; and the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Table 3: Gender of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	41	29.7
Female	97	70.3
Total	138	100.0

From Table 3, it can be seen that there are 41 (29.7%) male respondents and 97 (70.3%) female respondents. This means that there are more female respondents than their male counterparts who participated in the study.

Research Question 1: What are the attitudes of librarians towards library management software for cataloguing of library materials in university libraries?

Table 4: Attitudes of Librarians towards Library Management Software for Cataloguing of Library Materials

Statements	SA	A	D	SD	\bar{X}	SD
I believe that LMS use has improved the cataloging process of materials in my library	74	51	11	2	3.43	0.70
I was excited the that LMS is introduced into my library operation	64	61	11	2	3.36	0.69
I am excited using LMS for cataloguing	67	62	9	0	3.42	0.61
LMS has made cataloging library materials more accurate and consistent.	76	55	5	2	3.49	0.64
I believe that LMS is an essential tool for modern librarians	83	53	2	0	3.57	0.58
LMS has made it easier to share cataloging records with other libraries.	81	51	4	2	3.53	0.63
LMS has made my cataloguing workload easier as a librarian.	68	59	9	2	3.40	0.68
I am confident in my ability to effective use LMS for cataloging library materials.	57	64	15	2	3.28	0.71
I would prefer use of LMS to use traditional manual methods of cataloging library materials.	74	64	0	0	3.54	0.50
I believe that librarians should actively embrace use of LMS for Cataloguing.	94	38	4	2	3.62	0.62
Aggregate Mean/Std. Dev.					3.46	0.64
Criterion Mean					2.50	

The data presented in Table 4 provides insights into librarians' attitudes toward using Library Management Software (LMS) to catalogue library materials in university libraries. The aggregate mean score of 3.46 with a standard deviation of 0.64 suggests a generally positive attitude among librarians towards LMS. When compared to the criterion mean of 2.50, which serves as the threshold for a neutral stance, the aggregate mean is significantly higher. This indicates that librarians predominantly have a favourable perception of LMS for cataloguing purposes. This finding corroborates that of Ajani and Sulyman (2023); Abubakar, Babafemi and Nallah (2019); Oyekale (2018) Adekunle, *et al* (2007) which established that librarians have positive attitudes towards the use of Library Management System (LMS) in university libraries in south-south Nigeria in carrying out their services. The reasons may include an understanding of the benefits of use of LMS as the digital age has unbundled the restrictions of availability of bibliographic records of information resources beyond the four-walls of libraries, which has driven co-operations and collaborations among libraries and librarians, which has helped librarians to easily reach out and seek collaborations whenever anything that could bring anxiety comes up. Moreover, factors such as complete functionality, compliance with library standards, popularity among Nigerian libraries, technical viability and support, web-based interfaces, the ability to switch support providers or its vendor, open source nature, and upgradability as reasons why libraries chose to implement a specific integrated library system, which has helped to alleviate the anxiety level of librarians.

Research Question 2: To what extent do librarians use library management software for cataloguing library materials? The data in Table 5 provides the answer to this question.

Table 5: The Extent to Which Librarians Use LMS for Cataloguing Library Materials

LMS Use Statements	VHL	HL	LL	VLL	\bar{X}	SD	
I actively use the Library Management System (LMS) for cataloguing library materials.	81	52	5	0	3.55	0.57	
I use LMS to create, edit, and update bibliographic records for library materials	101	29	5	3	3.65	0.66	
I frequently search and retrieve catalogued materials using LMS	72	61	4	1	3.48	0.60	
I generate classification numbers and subject headings through LMS	55	71	8	4	3.28	0.70	
I use LMS to check for duplicate records before cataloguing new materials	58	67	12	1	3.32	0.66	
I regularly use LMS to generate reports on catalogued materials	41	82	13	2	3.17	0.65	
I update or modify records in the LMS when necessary	50	68	16	4	3.19	0.75	
I use LMS features to manage authority control for catalogued records	12	77	33	16	2.62	0.80	
I make use of LMS automation tools for batch processing of cataloguing records	24	92	15	7	2.96	0.70	
I follow established cataloguing standards (e.g., MARC, AACR2, RDA) while using LMS	80	56	2	0	3.57	0.53	
Aggregate Mean						3.28	0.66
Criterion Mean						2.50	

The data in Table 6 provides insights into the extent to which librarians use Library Management Software (LMS) to catalogue library materials in university libraries. The aggregate mean of 3.28 with a standard deviation of 0.66 indicates that librarians frequently use LMS for cataloguing tasks. When compared to the criterion mean of 2.50, the aggregate mean is notably higher, suggesting that LMS usage for cataloguing is widespread among librarians. This is in line with Ocloo and King (2022) who finds out that librarians in libraries that have implemented LMS have attested to gaining benefits such time saving, easy work processes, speed of work, digital storage of data, collaboration, visibility of library and global access. However, Akawu, *et al.* (2020) in their findings noted that it is not all librarians that believed they were utilizing the LMS to its fullest potential. Among the reasons mentioned, it's noteworthy that technological difficulties will have an impact on system quality.

Testing of the Hypothesis

1. There is no significant relationship between Librarians' attitudes and the use of library management software for cataloguing resources in University Libraries in South-South Nigeria.

The data in Table 6 provides the answer to this question.

Table 6: Relationship between Librarians' Attitudes and the Use of LMS for Cataloguing Library Materials

	The attitude towards Library Management Software for cataloguing	Librarians' Use of Library Management Software for Cataloguing Library Materials
The attitude towards Library Management Software for cataloguing	Pearson Correlation	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.006
N		.945
Librarians' Use of Library Management Software for Cataloguing	Pearson Correlation	138
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.006
N		.945
Materials		138

The Pearson correlation coefficient ($r = 0.006$) indicates a very weak positive relationship between librarians' attitudes toward Library Management Software (LMS) and their use of LMS for cataloguing resources in university libraries in South-South Nigeria. The p-value (Sig. 2-tailed) is 0.945, which is greater than the standard significance level of 0.05. This suggests that the relationship between librarians' attitudes and their use of LMS for cataloguing is not statistically significant. Since the p-value exceeds 0.05, we fail to reject the null hypothesis, meaning that librarians' attitudes do not have a significant impact on their use of LMS for cataloguing. This implies that other factors, such as institutional policies, training opportunities, or technical challenges, may play a more critical role in determining the extent of LMS usage for cataloguing rather than just librarians' attitudes. This corroborates Ogbomo *et al.* (2023), who identified inadequate technical expertise of staff, inadequate power supply, poor training and retraining of staff, and compatibility of hardware devices etc. as challenges affecting the use of library management software.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the comprehensive findings of the study, it is evident that librarians in university libraries in South-south Nigeria, exhibit a positive attitude towards the use of LMS in cataloguing library materials. This positive attitude suggests librarians' recognition of the values, benefits and effectiveness of using LMS to catalogue Library materials. These findings point to the readiness and willingness among Librarians to embrace to use of the LMS efficiently to carry out cataloguing activities. Furthermore, the study point to the fact that LMS is properly used for cataloguing of library materials in university libraries in South-south Nigeria.

The following recommendations are made from the findings of the study:

1. Library administration and stakeholders should capitalize on the positive attitude of librarians towards the use of LMS by providing additional resources and support for further integration of LMS into libraries. This could involve provision of more computers, network/internet connections, adequate power, more trainings and retraining avenues supply to enhance productivity and adequate use of the software
2. Although, librarians' usage of LMS for cataloguing is high, management and administrators should identify other areas of concern. This could involve looking into usage of the LMS for cataloguing other materials such as electronic resources etc.

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