

# Need for Research Colaboratuion among Librarians of Hussaini Adamu Federal Polytechnic Kazaure and Federal Polytechnic Daura

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**Abstract:-** The study investigated need for research collaboration among librarians of Hussaini Adamu Federal Polytechnic Kazaure and Federal Polytechnic Daura. The goal of research collaboration among the librarians is to come together in conducting research and discover new ideas as a group in order to improve research, knowledge-sharing, effective support, and services among the teeming patron community. Survey research design was used for the study and the target population of the study is the librarians of the two polytechnics who are working in the services library and the department of library and information science. The total number of population is 22 and the entire population of the study was sampled because the number can management to be use. The instruments used for the data collection was questionnaire which consist of three sections. Section A. was sought to obtained information about the demographic data of the respondents. Section B. contain questions related to the variables of the study and section c. covered question related to the challenges associated with the partnership and research collaboration. A descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data such as simple percentage, frequency count and mean score with use of table. The study found that there are shortages of librarians in the two federal polytechnic under study, there is dire need for the research collaboration between the two polytechnics but at present, the collaboration is very low. The followings are some of the recommendation of the studyThe management of the two polytechnics under study should educate librarians on the need for research collaboration.. The management of the two polytechnics under study should create awareness on the benefits of research collaboration with colleagues outside the library

## I. INTRODUCTION

Research is the investigation and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions. The most significant element that promotes and expedites economic development is research because it is the only source for expanding the boundaries of knowledge, skills, training, and competence for the labor force.

Though the idea has gained widespread recognition, very few studies have attempted to define what exactly qualifies as a research collaboration. According to Moseley (2021), a research collaboration is defined as "the working together of researchers to achieve the common goal of producing new scientific knowledge." In addition to the drive created by globally applicable research issues, collaborative research initiatives appear to have been influenced by numerous other social, economic, and political factors. This definition is based on the dictionary definition of collaboration. The requirements of organizations that sponsor research can be ranked highly among them. Funding agencies seem to be encouraging more and more collaborative research ventures through the allocation of funds, particularly in the field of social research.

According to Ultimo (2021), collaboration can be defined as a partnership, a union, or the act of creating something jointly. It is possible for two or more individuals, whether they are close friends or total strangers, to collaborate. When collaborating, one needs to be receptive to the possibility of coming up with something greater than what could be accomplished separately.

Academic librarians and their libraries have found that the only way to enhance the services they provide to library users is to increase the amount of information available through partnerships and resource collaboration. This type of collaboration is known as interlibrary collaboration, which is the practice of one library using the resources of another library and vice versa. Therefore, a collection of libraries cooperating for the benefit of all parties involved might be referred to as a resource sharing system.

Globally, polytechnic education is typically designed and focused on producing future leaders and highly skilled, specialized workers in science and technology who are vital to the nation's sustainable growth and development. All of those dreams cannot be realized unless scholars actively collaborate through partnerships and research collaborations. When two or more groups of people work together to share and exchange knowledge and expertise in order to complete a project or meet a common goal in research activities, this

is known as collaboration or partnership. According to Ultimo (2021), collaboration can be defined as a partnership, a union, or the act of creating something together for goals. It is possible for two or more people, whether they are close friends or total strangers, to collaborate. When collaborating with others as researchers, it's important to be open to the possibility of creating something greater than what could be accomplished separately.

The roles and support services offered by academic librarians in the institutions of higher learning environment is increasingly challenging due to the proliferation of online content, high demand of resources by users and the modern shift in academic activities (Fari & Ingawa 2020). As a result, they must look for an alternative ways to demonstrate their potentialities for partnership especially in the area of research collaboration more than ever before.

The fundamental tenet of research collaboration is that neither researchers nor librarians are capable of becoming self-sufficient during their academic careers. The growth of all forms of literature, the increased reliance on information to enable the digital society to function, the rising cost of information materials, and the rapid increase in technology availability suggest the need for effective resource sharing services. Partnerships are required to address this norm, as does resource sharing in research activities.

Most of researches on academic librarians' participation in partnerships or research collaborations employed a positivist method to arrive at their conclusions (Fari & Ingawa 2020, Chigwada 2020, Gbaje, Moseley 2021, Yani and Odigie 2018). Due to the empirical methodology's heavy reliance on surveys for data collecting, many studies may lack the rigor and depth necessary to fully understand the phenomena under investigation. An in-depth examination and comprehension of the event from those involved would be an alternate strategy for exploring a new phenomenon including human experience, as there has been a void in the literature about the methodological approach (Creswell and Creswell 2017). Thus, the purpose of this study was to investigate the roles of academic librarians as research partners and the competences required to improve their performance in research partnerships. The research was designed as a qualitative study.

Adams (2012) opines that academic librarians are growing their networks of partnerships and research collaborations globally in order to provide better services to the patrons of their individual libraries. According to the author, when the degree of intellectual power shifts away from the Atlantic axis, such trends are likely to upend the current quo of knowledge production. Adams (2012) draws attention to the emergence of innovative regional networks that are shifting the global distribution of research activity and bolstering the skills and capabilities of developing research economies. Adams (2012) adds that when collaboration and co-authored publications are employed in tandem, knowledge and other learning activities can be transferred and merged in research collaboration among librarians. Similar to this, Adams (2012) sees co-authorship

as a reliable indicator of research collaboration because few scientists willingly give up credit for their publications, leading us to believe that co-authorship represents real-world interactions between individuals and groups.

#### ➤ *Statement of the Problem*

Need for research collaboration among academic libraries of Hussaini Adamu Federal Polytechnic Kazaure and Federal Polytechnic Daura entail an avenue where two or more libraries, organization or institutions come together to join in writing and research findings. There is a dire need for the activities considering the similarities of the two institutions intern of courses, staff and location. When the activities are practices, it will enhance cordial relationship, increase productivity that uphold result in satisfying the needs of library patron community, as it becomes wise path of forming cordial relationship and overcoming the libraries weakness in the area of resources and services provision (Tanko 2012). In view of the above assertions, it is evident that the need and readiness of the academic librarians towards forming of partnership and research collaboration activities in libraries is enormous. However, evidence from the review of related literature, such as Obasola (2015), Adam and Usman (2013), Awa, & Kalu, (2017) has shown that there is little empirical evidence ascertaining the need and reasons why librarians are engaging in partnership for research collaboration. Therefore, the reasons for Need for research collaboration among academic libraries numerous. It is against the aforementioned problem that this study investigated the Need for partnership and research collaboration among academic libraries of Hussaini Adamu Federal Polytechnic Kazaure and Federal Polytechnic

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Research collaboration no doubt support the participants to have reliable better research activities and engagement. Naszuoke (2001) stated that librarians must demonstrate a wide range of skills and attributes in their work, whether they are collaborating on research alone or with a group. There is a wealth of data demonstrating how collaborative research produced in higher education has aided in the growth and dissemination of knowledge worldwide. Atkinson (2019) opines that librarians need to possess certain traits and skills, either individually or collectively. Among the essential personal attributes he listed were: The ability to establish and maintain connections with others; knowledge of social media and other technologies; ability to manage time and multitask; ability to communicate and use general social skills; and ability to plan, organize, prioritize, and negotiate tasks.

Enakhire, Chista and Tella (2020) conducted a study on the collaboration of librarians, drawing conclusions from observational and interview research reports from three institutions in Zimbabwe and Nigeria. The challenges listed include the detrimental effects of a bad work attitude, cultural and stylistic parameters, such as concept, attitude, and professional barriers; the impact of policies and procedures that dominate collaboration; the exploitation of weak members; a lack of clarity and justification for

collaboration/partnership; members' resistance to change in collaboration; a lack of socialization; and the size of the group.

In the context of library literature, the term "research collaboration" refers to cooperative relationships between two or more parties who come together to conduct research activities (Atkinson, 2019). It also frequently refers to the idea of working toward common goals (American Association of School Librarians, 2018). According to Atkinson (2019), working together also contributes to "enhance[ing] services for all patrons." Consequently, as collaboration is frequently a larger partnership connection in which parties come together and work towards shared or unique goals, the concepts of cooperation and coordination can also be incorporated in the concept of collaboration.

This study had examined how librarians collaborate with school personnel to foster and grow collaboration between the two organizations, using the more extensive definition that includes cooperative efforts between two organizations. Even though librarians are frequently urged to work together, it has been shown that successful collaborations have greater buy-in from all parties involved. Consequently, since collaboration affects both the final product and the actions of the collaborative members, positive attitudes and a desire for cooperation are essential for every business.

### III. BENEFITS OF RESEARCH COLLABORATION

The concept of research collaboration among librarians in Nigeria has taken unprecedented importance not because Nigeria is going through a period of austerity measures, but rather because of the current era of information explosion and the requirement of research activities, The departments of library and information sciences and library services department are always searching for innovative approaches to their research as well as more effective methods to use technology to serve both new and existing populations.

No single person has the resources, expertise, or knowledge to handle every research issue; librarians, funding agencies, and the scientific community themselves tend to favor programs that enlist the participation of reputable experts from every important field of expertise. Making wise partner selections can save a great deal of time and money. Thirdly, interdisciplinary cooperation is frequently more likely to result in breakthroughs than strict adherence to tried-and-true techniques. Fourthly, working together is highly valued in the private sector. Legislation inside institutions, industry (which values academics' knowledge and reputation), and academia itself (which can gain from both short- and long-term private financing sources) are all supportive of institutions and academia. Finally, collaborations are easier now than before with the current invention and social changes.

The proliferation of information and communication technology has made it easier for potential collaborators to

find each other and to sustain their collaboration. Examples of these technologies include telephones, handsets, fax machines, and email; shipping services like one-day delivery; and travel to national and international conferences. Higher education institutions are under pressure to strengthen member collaborations in order to strengthen their capacity to produce and disseminate knowledge and to maximize impact on practices in order to accomplish the goals of their respective institutions, given the rise in the 21st century and the heightened demand for knowledge. No library, no matter how large, and its librarians can successfully satisfy its consumers from the materials (Song, 2000).

These days, the value of a library and its librarians is determined more and more by the assistance and services they provide in assisting users in gaining access to global knowledge, resources, and information than by the materials themselves. Song (2000) went on to say that the degree to which information resources and services are used has evolved into a benchmark for assessing a nation's economic progress and power. "Cooperation and joint research between librarians is a universal language spoken indifferent dialects," Naszuoke (2001) claimed in her contribution. Enhancing librarian collaboration and library services is the aim of these joint endeavors. Today the following elements make cooperation a strategic subject for libraries: globalization of the economy and social changes shaping the so-called information society involve the globalization of the activities of all institution including libraries and the librarians.

Collaborating on research projects together has several advantages for librarians working at academic institutions. Concisely, researchers can be more expressive and productive in a shorter amount of time. Researchers are better able to utilize their unique skills and conduct research in a more efficient manner. The workflow can be more flexible when there is collaboration, so nobody has to do it completely. Collaborators divide the task and focus on their strongest areas of expertise. Working together on research projects offers the chance to make up for lack of experience, education, or training. By contributing complementary qualities, the partners expand the skill set accessible in the research and establish a mutually beneficial and symbiotic relationship between the research and itself (Olanusi and Falade, 2023).

While upholding the principles of our distinct viewpoints as librarians and information workers, there is a chance to resolve gaps in the caliber of our theory and research by collaboration with scholars both inside and beyond the library profession. Practically speaking, librarians have a very useful resource at their disposal that is frequently disregarded. We have discovered that other colleagues in departments of social science, education, and/or business are creating and evaluating theories that apply to libraries and librarians, as well as to patrons and even staff members. A librarian's creative teamwork can frequently identify a multitude of projects that could be beneficial to all of the institutions.

According to Naszuoke (2001), research collaboration is a clear-cut, mutually advantageous partnership that at least two associations enter into to accomplish and share goals in research and other academic activities. The relationship entails a dedication to shared objectives and relationships, a cooperatively created structure and shared accountability, reciprocal authority and accountability for accomplishments, resource and reward sharing, and joint publication among members. Olanusi and Falade (2023) have identified three types of research collaboration First, cooperation between academic librarians, specifically between librarians in the same institution and between librarians from various institutional libraries; Secondly, cooperation between the university library and academic staff and/or special study and research centers within a university; Thirdly, cooperation among university libraries in their institutional capacity to address shared issues and improve service delivery in their respective service areas.

In the literature on libraries and information science, research collaboration is a crucial concept that has been highlighted alongside others like cooperation, networking, and interlibrary lending. They are critical to the development of the field of library and information science (LIS) both scientifically and professionally. It supports faculty and librarians' ability to improve teaching and learning, research, library and information services, and cost-benefits in sharing human resources. It also helps academic libraries and library and information science schools accomplish their shared goals. (Aytac, 2010)

Nowadays, researchers from all around the world, especially those in higher education, frequently collaborate on projects. Academics can now cooperate with colleagues anywhere in the world because to the change brought about by information and communication technology and its attendant facilities, which have made the entire world into a global village. All agreements wherein information, resources, knowledge, and services are shared and published by two or more parties and are between academic institutions, corporate bodies/organizations, polytechnics, universities, and any combination of two or more parties are referred to as "research collaborations" (Tella, Akinboro, and Hammed, 2012).

Librarians must be willing to cooperate and work with other organizations in order for libraries and the people they serve to benefit. This will not only make libraries more valuable to their users, but it also raises and improves the level of job satisfaction and research for librarians. Collaboration frequently results in new connections, ideas, support, and collaborative alliances. Collaboration in research can also aid in obtaining the financing, materials, space, equipment, personnel, and programming that are required (Awa, & Kalu, 2017).

In library and information science, research collaboration is highly valued for several reasons, including the generation of new knowledge, the advancement of the field and profession, and improved decision-making,

problem-solving, and management in the workplace. It is a crucial element and a crucial function of academic librarians as practitioners and researchers, as well as faculty members. In the subject of library and information science, more and better research is always needed. But not all practitioners of library and information science are deeply engaged in research. Research partnership for competences should be developed by faculty, schools, and librarians, since it advances the theory and practice of library and information science. In Awa and Kalu (2017).

The goal of all research collaboration activities is to increase cooperation between information scientists and librarians in general. However, there are some particular advantages for both libraries when they form strong research collaboration activities, which are listed below. Significantly lower operating expenses, a greater capacity to offer services at a lower cost and with greater efficiency, a greater degree of interpersonal collaboration, a notable decline in negative rivalry, and exposure to international library practices for librarians better library collaboration, standardized library procedures, the capacity to draw in funding from international donor organizations and business, support for digitalization and infrastructure, and the avoidance of duplication in resource purchases.

#### IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Survey research design was used for the study and the target population of the study is the librarians of the two federal polytechnics who are working in the library services departments and the department of library and information sciences. The total number of population is 22 and the entire population of the study was sampled because the number is management to be use. The instruments used for the data collection was questionnaire which consist of three sections. Section A. sought to obtain information about the demographic data of the respondents. Section B. contains question related to the variables of the study and section C. covered question, related to the challenges associated with the research collaboration. A descriptive statistics was used to analyses the data collected.

##### ➤ Objectives of the Study

The major objective of this study is to examine need for research collaboration among libraries of Hussaini Adamu federal polytechnic Kazaure and federal polytechnic Daura. To achieve the objective, the following specific objective are develop:

- Determine whether or not librarians in the in the two Federal Polytechnic libraries engaged in research collaboration between themselves
- Find out the benefits of forming research collaboration between the two Polytechnics..
- Identify challenges associated with research collaboration among the participants.

➤ Research questions

The following research questions will be drawn to guide the study

- Did the librarians under study engage in research collaboration?
- What are the benefits derived in forming research collaboration?
- What are the challenges associated with research collaboration between the two polytechnics?

**V. RESULT OF THE STUDY**

The analysis and interpretation of data obtained from the participants using questionnaire on their demographic information, their engagement in research collaboration activities, the benefits they derived in forming research collaboration and challenges associated with research collaboration among the participants under study.

➤ *The Response Rate of Participants*

**Table 1 Response Rate of Population**

S/N	FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC	QUESTIONNAIRE DISTRIBUTED	QUESTIONNAIRE RETRIEVED
1	Hussain Adamu Federal Polytechnic, Kazaure	11	9
2	Federal Polytechnic Daura	14	13
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>

The table 1 above, shows that 25(100%) questionnaire was distributed among the participating librarians in the institutions under study, and 22(88%) was retrieved and found useful for the study.

**Table 2: The Participants' Gender**

MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
16(73%)	6(27%)	22(100%)

Table 2 shows that out of the total participants 22(100%), 16 (73%) were male librarians and only 6(27%) are female. This shows that, there high number of male librarians in the two federal polytechnic under study.

**Table 3 Qualification of the Participants**

S/N	Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
1	ND	5	23%
2	HND	4	18%
3	BLIS	10	45%
4	MLIS	2	9%
5	PhD	1	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 2 shows the qualifications of the librarians under study Out of which 10(45%) have Bachelor degree in Library and Information Science. Follow by 5(23%) with National Diploma in Library and Information Science, then 4(18%) are having Higher National Diploma. 2(9%) are having Masters in Library and Information Science, while only 1(5%) of the participants is having Doctor of Philosophy in Library and Information Science. This shows that participants with first degree are majority in the two institutions under study.

For analyzing the data, the data collected from the respondents strongly agreed and agreed as well as strongly disagreed and disagreed were collapsed into two. Such as agreed and disagreed for better understanding, clarification and easy analysis as follows: strongly agreed (SA) and agreed (A) are collapsed as agreed (a), while strongly disagreed (SD) and disagreed (D) are collapsed as disagreed (D).

**Table 4: Need for Research Collaboration**

S,N	ITEM	St.A	A	D	S.D	Total
1	There is need for research collaboration among librarians as it carry more weight in undertaking.	11	8	0	3	22
2.	Published papers with colleagues enhance productivity and cooperation	10	11	0	1	22
3.	Published with colleagues in the same institution and neighboring polytechnic encourage collaboration	8	13	1	0	22
4.	It allows many greater research input and synergy when there is join research	9	11	2	0	22
5.	Published join research papers with colleagues' outside the	11	11	0	0	22

	department yield more experiences					
6.	My profession allow collaboration to support and mentor others	12	10	0	0	22
7.	There need to engage in research collaboration as it serves time, cost and sharing of resources.	13	8	1	0	22

Table 4 shows the responses based on the need for research collaboration, 22(100%) agreed that Published join research papers with colleagues outside the department yield more experiences and my profession allow collaboration to support and mentor others. Follow by 21(95.5%) agreed that published with colleagues in the same institution and neighboring polytechnic encourage collaboration, Published with colleagues in the same institution and neighboring polytechnic encourage collaboration and there need to engage in research collaboration as it serves time, cost and sharing of resources.

This is followed by 20 (90.9%) which indicated that, It allows many greater research input and synergy when there is join research and lastly 19(86.4%), agreed that there is need for research collaboration among librarians as it carry more weight in undertaking while 3(13.6%) disagreed. The result corroborate the finding of Bahr and Zemon (2000) that there is the need for research collaboration among the librarians as it increases mutual relationship and better support services.

**Table 5: Benefits of Research Collaboration**

S,N	ITEM	St.A	A	D	S.D	Total
1	Through Partnership and research collaboration there is sharing of skills	10	11	1	0	22
2.	Research collaboration is part of mentoring	14	8	0	2	22
3.	It will generates new insight that individual working on his own may not have	10	11	1	0	22
4.	It allows may greater research input	15	7	0	0	22
5.	It provides intellectual companionship Relationship	12	10	0	0	22
6.	It enhances quality of research publication	11	11	0	0	22
7.	It serves time and cost due to sharing of resources and services	11	9	1	1	22

Table 5 revealed that the respondents agreed on the benefit of research collaboration among librarians of the two federal polytechnics. The results show that, 22(100%) agreed that research collaboration is part of mentoring, it allows may greater research input, it provides intellectual companionship relationship and it enhances quality of research publication. This is followed by 21(95.5%) which show that through research collaboration there is sharing of skills generates new insight that individual working on his own may not have.

Lastly, 20(90.9%) which revealed that It serves time and cost due to sharing of resources and services. The results of the findings revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that research collaboration allows brainstorming; teamwork and it yield good benefits among the participants as it allows sharing of skills, techniques and knowledge among others. This shows that the benefit of research collaboration among librarians of the two institutions. This finding is in line with Adams (2012) who posited that collaborative research might also provide researchers with unique opportunities to work with other researchers that would otherwise not be expresses.

**Table 6: Challenges Associated with Research Collaboration**

S,N	ITEM	St.A	A	D	S.D	Total
1	Lack of internet Access and its connectivity	12	8	1	1	22
2.	Struggle over ranking of Authorship	9	11	2	0	22
3.	Lack of skills and competency of authors on ICT	13	9	0	0	22
4.	Differences in opinion idea	15	6	0	1	22
5.	Lack of research funding	10	12	0	0	22
6.	Delay \ non contribution by others	8	13	1	0	22
7.	Lack of awareness on the benefit of collaborative research	10	10	1	1	22

Table 6 revealed that Lack of skills and competency of authors on Information and Communication Technology facilities and lack of research funding as a challenges constitute 22(100%) of the challenges which follow by 21(95.5%) differences in opinion idea and Delay \ non contribution by others. Lastly, 20(90.9%) Lack of internet Access and its connectivity, Struggle over ranking of

Authorship and Lack of awareness on the benefit of collaborative research. From the results of the findings, one can see those challenges such as collaborative research findings problem of internet access and connectivity as well as skills and competency of Authors on ICT are the major challenges of research collaboration among the academic librarians. From the results of the findings, one can see those

challenges such as collaborative research funding, problem of internet access and connectivity as well as skills and competency of authors on ICT are the major challenges of research collaboration among the academic librarians. This finding is in line with Atkinson (2019). Study that librarians are facing many challenges while collaborating with revealed each other, which include lack of fund, time factor, limited Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructural facilities, political and cultural problems and strong collaborative climate.

## VI. SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

The findings of the study revealed that:

- There are shortages of librarians in the two federal polytechnic under study.
- There is dire need for the research collaboration between the two polytechnics but at present, the level of collaboration is very low.
- The benefits of research collaboration among the librarians is consider measurable.
- There is need for training to create awareness for research collaboration between the two federal polytechnic.

## VII. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, of the study the following conclusion were drawn:

The need for research collaboration among librarians of the two federal institutions is low. It also concluded that awareness of the benefit of research collaboration among the librarians of the two polytechnics need to be intensify more with colleagues outside their institution. Lack of Information and Communication Technology facilities competency and lack of research funding are among the challenges research collaboration in the library under study. The study has also conclude that competences in ICT knowledge /skills and provision of fund by government are among the major strategies for improving research collaboration between the two federal institutions.

## RECOMMENDATION

Based on the finding of the study, the following recommendation were made:

- The management of the two polytechnics under study should educate librarians on the need for research collaboration.
- The management of the two polytechnics under study should create awareness on the benefits of research collaboration with colleagues outside the library.
- Academic librarian should be involved in training and retraining in ICT for effective research collaboration and communication.
- The management of the university library under study should provide adequate funding for research collaboration among librarians.

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