An Open Access Journal Available Online

The Role of Academic Libraries towards the Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals: The Nigerian Perspective

Omorodion Okuonghae[1] & Magnus Osahon Igbinovia[2]*

[1]Samuel Adegboyega University, Ogwa, Edo State
[2]Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Nigeria
okuonghaeo@yahoo.com
magnus.igbinovia@aauekpoma.edu.ng

Abstract: The study investigated how academic libraries can enhance the actualization of the United Nations' developmental agenda in Nigeria, in a bid to make the world a better place for all. To this end, three (3) pertinent research objectives were generated to guide the conduct of the study which translated into the questions for the study. The survey type of the descriptive research design was adopted for a population of 270 librarians from 18 academic libraries across the six (6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Total enumeration was adopted as sampling technique, while questionnaire was used to collect data. Out of the 270 copies of questionnaire distributed, 202 were retrieved and found useable, constituting 75% response rate. The descriptive statistics was used in analyzing the data for the study. The study showed that academic libraries contribute to the actualization of the sustainable development goals in Nigeria by providing conducive learning space and information resources to users. On ways academic libraries can foster attainment of SDGs, the study revealed that these libraries should engage in collaboration that supports information dissemination and strive to bridge the information needs of government and non-governmental institutions. Moreover, the study found that the major challenges of academic libraries in the provision of information services for the attainment of SDGs are poor networking among libraries and library professionals and inadequate/irregular training of library staff. Thus, recommendations were made in view of the challenges discovered and the study's objectives.

Keywords: Academic libraries, Library services, Sustainable development goals, Nigeria

Introduction

In the quest to solve critical societal problems, Heads of States under the umbrella of United Nations came together in September 2015 and unanimously adopted a framework for development known as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs also known as Global Goals is an agenda to transform our world, a transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which is expected to run for the next 15 years, could also be referred to as 2030 agenda for sustainable development. The development framework consists of 17 goals and 169 targets across all aspects of human endeavors which according to IREX (2016) are interrelated. Thus, SDGs could be considered as a system with goals working together to make the world a better place. Regardless of this interrelatedness, Igbinovia (2016) reported that Nations and institutions must adopt goals that can be well managed through concentrated efforts for success. In line with this, Nations, institutions, societies, professional bodies and even individuals are doing so much to ensure the actualization of SDGs.

It is pertinent to state that one common element that cuts across all goals and targets in the framework is information. This implies that adequate information is germane for the realization of SDGs. Therefore libraries as information institutions are crucial to the actualization of this global agenda and cannot afford to be docile. This corroborates the assertion of Igbinovia and Osuchukwu (2018) that librarians as information professionals are rightly positioned to foster the attainment of SDGs through information and knowledge sharing. Investigations have been carried out by Benson, Anyanwu, Onuoha and Nwaura (2016); Igbinovia (2016, 2017); Ono, Iida and Yamazaki (2017); and Igbinovia and Osuchukwu (2018) to assess the relationship between libraries/librarians and the actualization of SDGs. Therefore, the concept of library and how it enhances the attainment of the global agenda is worthy of scholarly attention.

A library has been variously defined and its definition has changed as advances in technology permits and as necessitated by the need to be accommodative of issues that tend towards societal and national development. The conventional definition of library according to Eberhart (2010) is a "collection of resources in a variety of formats that is (1) organized by information professionals or other experts who (2) provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and (3) offer targeted services and programs (4) with the mission of educating, informing, or entertaining a variety of audiences (5) and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole" (p.1). While academic libraries are libraries attached to academic or higher institutions of learning which focus majorly on teaching, learning and research.

However, libraries are taking up new roles to cater for societal needs which prompted measures like the library development strategy for 2015-2018 by the ENFIELD Council. The strategy acknowledges the changing role of libraries and places them at the heart of every community. Libraries are thus considered to engineer community development by constantly accommodating new roles and rendering new services. Also, the Beyond Access Initiative (2013) shows how libraries are powering development through information access and community partnership. Recently, during the adoption of the UN's agenda for SDGs, libraries have actively keyed-into the agenda, making impact in critical areas of society.

Academic libraries like other types are providing access to information germane to SDGs realization. Much more than information access, Igbinovia (2016) averred that while some conventional library services will directly support the UN's agenda to transform our world, there is need to take up new roles in line with the agenda. This study therefore investigates how academic libraries via their services can aid the actualization of SDGs from the Nigerian perspective.

Statement of the problem

The actualization of the global goals (SDGs) in most African countries (Nigeria inclusive) is very slow in relation to the efforts made by the international organizations in meeting the 2030 deadline. More than two years into its adoption, there seems to be a poor level of sensitization or awareness of these goals by the public, yet awareness is instrumental to the realization of the agenda. Therefore, the lack of awareness on what constitutes SDGs, how it can be implemented and its impact on the quality of life poses a major challenge to developing countries in general and Nigeria in particular. In Nigeria, investigations like that of Omisore, Babarinde, Bakare and Asekun-Olarinmoye (2017) showed that majority of the respondents to their study are unaware of what the sustainable development goals are or how they affect their own development. This shows the low level of awareness and knowledge of SDGs related issues by Nigerians. How then can these goals be achieved if people do not know about them or how they fit into the implementation of the goals?

Sustainable development goals' related discourses in various platforms have revealed that for the global goals to be achieved, academic libraries must stand up to their responsibilities of not just providing information resources, but must act as catalyst for social and economic development through regular information literacy training and provision of timely, relevant, accurate and adequate information. The implication of this is that the attainment of the SDGs in Nigeria is not possible without the academic libraries playing its role as an agent of societal development. However, it is unclear what services academic libraries ought to performed in order to stimulate developmental actions across the 17 goals as a result of the dearth in empirical research that addresses such issue. Therefore, this study intends to examine how the identified gap could be

filled by investigating academic libraries (via their services) as a panacea for the attainment of the sustainable development goals in Nigeria.

Objectives of the study The main objective of the study is to examine academic libraries as a panacea for the attainment of the sustainable development goals in Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. investigate the contributions of academic libraries towards the attainment of SDGs in Nigeria;
2. identify ways academic libraries can foster the attainment of SDGs in Nigeria; and
3. examine the challenges experienced by academic libraries in information service delivery for the attainment of SDGs in Nigeria.

Research questions

Based on the identified objectives for the study, the following research questions were asked to guide the study:

1. What are the contributions of academic libraries towards the attainment of SDGs in Nigeria?
2. What are the ways through which academic libraries can foster the attainment of SDGs in Nigeria?
3. What are the challenges experienced by academic libraries in the provision of information services for the attainment of SDGs in Nigeria?

Review of related literature

The SDGs comprised of some interrelated goals targeted at making the world a better place by eliminating HIV/AIDS, hunger and poverty as well as promoting gender equality, good health, quality education, environmental degradation, sanitation, climate change

amongst others. The 17 goals were adopted to transform the world without leaving any region behind by 2030. The SDGs, also known as the global goals or the 2030 Agenda, were adopted to bring about significant change and improvement in every society as well as build on the achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs) which came to an end in 2015. As opposed to the MDG which brought unequal level of development among different countries of the world, the framework for the SDG was designed to apply to all countries irrespective of their level of development. The goals are distinctive and peculiar to solving societal challenges and as such should be acted upon by all countries regardless of population size and economic strength in order to spur prosperity and transformation of the world while protecting it. The United Nations recognizes that ending poverty must be systematically carried out alongside addressing economic growth, educational, social, health, climatic and environmental issues (United Nations, 2015).

Though implementation of SDGs is unanimously agreed upon, governments are to make conscious effort to personalize and adopt this agenda by establishing national frameworks that supports the actualization of SDGs. Thus, governments should follow-up and closely monitor the implementation of the 17 goals and continuously evaluate how they impact of the development of all citizens through strategic feedback mechanisms. This evaluation should be done across local, state, national and regional levels which

will inform on how the goals are making global impact in line with the United Nations' agenda.

The 17 goals of the United Nations aimed at transforming our world bothers on critical life issues including the eradication of poverty, putting an end to hunger, ensuring healthy living and promotion of well-being, quality education for all, ensuring gender equality, providing clean water, renewable energy, sustaining decent work and inclusive economic growth, ensuring innovation and infrastructural development, reducing inequality, improving sustainable urbanization, enhancing sustainable consumption and production, climate action and environmental sustainability, conservation of life below water, protecting life on land, ensuring peace and inclusive access to justice, and partnership (United Nations, 2015 and Leal Filho, et.al., 2018).To ensure high chances of success, the goals are broken down into 169 targets across critical aspects of environment, economy and society. Since the adoption of the goals, countries, organizations, agencies and governments have taken different measures and steps to ensure the attainment of these sustainable goals. While different organizations (Non-Governmental Organizations inclusive) are playing their part in the attainment of the goals, academic libraries as

information based institutions are also contributing significantly towards the realization of the goals in Nigeria.

Academic libraries are those libraries in higher institutions of learning or post-secondary school level which caters for the teaching, learning and research needs of institutional members (Umoh, 2017). They are unique and distinctive as their parent body. Academic libraries could be found in colleges of education, polytechnics and universities. The library provides the platform for users (which usually include researchers, students and lecturers) to access different information and information resources in different formats in order to meet their information need. The academic library is established to foster learning and development in the society by rendering different quality information related services to the citizens to enable them make informed decisions and solve societal problems, as well as enable the citizenry to play active role in the society (Drotner, 2015). Through their vital services, academic libraries have positioned themselves to be potent vehicle for societal development and lifelong learning among the citizenry.

Over the years, academic libraries have contributed to the paradigm shift in Nigeria higher institution of learning from being teaching-centered to learning-centered. In addition to the provision of information literacy training, academic libraries provide the following roles:

1. Provision of materials to support whatever curricula are offered at the institution.
2. Provision of access to highly skilled subject specialists to assist library users (students, researchers and lecturers) in research and access to library resources.
3. Carrying out library instruction/user education programmes to library users so as to guide them in the use of library resources.
4. Provision of both quiet and collaborative spaces conducive to all types of learning.
5. Provision of the most up-to-date technological tools that might be used in future workplaces.
6. Provision of Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) or Current Awareness Services (CAS).

Furthermore, as with other types of libraries, academic libraries provide information for all its users. It is no more a secret that the attainment of the SDGs requires citizens to have access to timely, accurate and adequate information. The promotion of sustainable development in the 21st century also demands access to information. This is one major way academic libraries in Nigeria are helping the Nigerian government in the attainment of the global goals.A major hindrance to the actualization of the SDGs in Nigeria is the poor level of awareness and knowledge

on SDGs by the public which impact on how they respond to policies and frameworks tilted towards the achievement of the developmental agenda. In Nigeria, studies show that majority of the population is unaware of what the sustainable development goals are neither do they have good knowledge of SDGs or how they affect their own development (Omisore, Babarinde, Bakare&Asekun-Olarinmoye, 2017).It is imperative to state that without awareness and knowledge of the goals by all stakeholders which includes everyone, there will be great impediment to the achievement of the goals and by extension, a challenge to global development (Ajimobi, 2017). Information and knowledge provide access to economic opportunities, personal and societal development. Unrestricted access to quality information equips people to make informed decisions with the potential of improving their lives and well-being. Communities and societies with access to quality information for all citizens are better equipped to eliminate poverty and close the inequality gap, perk up agriculture, offer quality education, sustain good health, advancement in culture, research and innovation (IFLA, 2016). As stated in target 16.10: a well-informed society

contributes significantly to the advancement of the country since the provision of timely and current information has the capability to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. The provision of information will ensure that there is accountability and access to justice for all (Bradley, 2016).

Academic library services that foster the attainment of SDGs are:

1. Promotion of universal literacy inclusive of media literacy, information literacy and digital literacy.
2. Bridging information gaps and helping government and non-governmental organizations to understand local information needs and indigenous knowledge.
3. Advancing digital inclusion through unrestricted access to Information & Communications Technologies (ICT), and dedicated staff to help people develop new digital skills (Advancing Sustainable Development, 2017)
4. Supporting research endeavors towards innovation and development.
5. Preserving and providing access to the rich cultural heritage around the world.

Through quality information service delivery, libraries in higher institution of learning have been able contribute to the actualization of SDGs as well as help improve the digital and information literacy skills of the citizens (Emezie & Igwe, 2017). Some

of the existing initiatives of library support to SDGs may include:

1. Bridging the digital divide gap by providing digital literacy training for library users
2. Provision of information and research space to help decision makers achieve the SDGs
3. Provision of Open Access resources in different areas such as health, agriculture and environment.
4. Media and information literacy programmes for marginalized persons to make an important contribution to achieving universal literacy (Bradley, 2016)

Conclusively, academic libraries play roles which no other organizations play. They are the institutions in a society that assist people in exercising their right to information. They safeguard and provide access to cultural heritage, enhancement of community, civil society, organizations and government in capacity building skills. In order to help Nigeria achieve the global goals set by the UN, academic libraries raise general awareness by strongly supporting the broader development targets of access to information, improved service delivery and thereby setting a platform towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Methodology

The survey type of the descriptive research design was employed in carrying out this study. This type of research design was dimmed fit in a bid to elicit data from the librarians in order to determine how academic libraries can enhance the actualisation of SDGs. Thus, the population of this study is 270

librarians from selected academic libraries in the six geopolitical zones that make up Nigeria. Public or government owned institutions were selected for this study because according to Christian (2008) they account for significant proportion of the scholarly researches conducted in this regard and given their higher number of library users.

The population was derived by selecting one university library, one polytechnic library and one college of education library in each of the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, to ensure proper representation of all types of academic libraries for the study. The institutions which were all public or government owned were selected based on the ease of accessibility to the researchers. Total enumerative sampling technique was adopted for the study making the sample size 270 professional librarians. The instrument that was used in collection of data was a self-designed questionnaire. The descriptive statistics of frequency, mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the data collected.

Presentation of results

Out of the 270 copies of questionnaire distributed for the study, 202 were retrieved and found useable, constituting 75% response rate. The Table 1 below shows the response rate for the study across all academic libraries covered in the study.

Table 1: Questionnaire administration and response rate

Geo-Political Zone	Name of Institution	No. of Librarian	Questionnaire Returned	Response Rate (%)
North Central	University of Ilorin, Ilorin	26	19	73
	Benue State Polytechnic, Ugbokolo	11	9	82
	Federal College of Education, Kontagora	14	11	79
North East	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi	19	13	68
	Federal Polytechnic, Mubi	15	12	80
	Federal College of Education (Technical), Gombe	12	11	92
North West	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria	25	18	72
	Federal Polytechnic, Birnin-Kebbi	13	13	100
	Federal College of Education, Kano	14	11	79
South East	Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki	11	9	82
	Federal Polytechnic, Nekede	15	9	60
	Federal College of Education, Eha-Amufu	10	7	70
South West	Lagos State University,	16	10	63

	Federal Polytechnic, Ede	16	11	69
	Federal College of Education, Oyo	13	6	46
South South	Delta State University, Abraka	14	13	93
	Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi	16	10	63
	Federal College of Education, Obudu	10	10	100
Total		270	202	75

Demographics analysis of the study

This section focused on the study demographics. The distribution presented in table 2 covered the gender, age range and working experience of the respondents.

Table 2: Study Demographics

Gender distribution		
Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	94	46.5
Female	108	53.5
Total	202	100.0
Age distribution		
Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
20-30 years	14	6.9
31-40 years	87	43.1
41-50 years	81	40.1
51-60 years	16	7.9
61 years and above	4	2.0
Total	202	100.0
Working experience		
Working Experience	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1-5 years	39	19.3
6-10 years	49	24.3
11-15 years	66	32.7
16-20 years	23	11.4
21-25 years	11	5.4
26-30 years	6	3.0
31 years and above	8	4.0
Total	202	100.0

From Table 2, it is revealed that there are more females 108(53.5%) than male 94(46.5%) in the libraries studied. This is accounted for by the fact that most of the respondents are female and by implication there are more female in academic libraries than male. The Table 2 also depicted that majority of the personnel in the academic libraries studied are within the age range of 31-40 years which is followed closely by those within the age range of 41-50

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years. However, only 4 respondents are 61 years and above. This implies that majority of the library personnel are middle aged expected to have enough experience of the library profession. Moreover, majority of the respondents 66 (32.7%) had worked in the library profession between 11-15 years which justifies the age range of majority of the respondents. This is followed by 49(24.3%) of the respondents who had spent 6-10 years on the job. The minimum experience accumulated by

the library personnel are those above 31 years, as most library staff would be close to retirement age by this time.

Response to research questions
This section will resent results from the analysis in relation to each of the research raised for the study.

Research question 1: What are the contributions of academic libraries towards the attainment of the sustainable development goals in Nigeria?

Table 3: Contributions of academic libraries towards the attainment of the sustainable development goals in Nigeria

Contributions of Academic Libraries	Strongly Agreed		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		$\bar{x}$	S.D
	No.	%			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Provision of media literacy programmes for marginalized populations to make an important contribution to achieving universal literacy	52	25.74	27	13.37	100	49.50	23	11.38	2.53	0.39
Provision of information literacy programmes for the information sick populace in order for them to make informed choices	100	49.50	37	18.32	60	29.70	5	2.48	3.15	0.28
serving as the heart of the research and academic community in Nigeria	101	50	20	9.9	30	14.85	51	25.24	2.85	0.57
preserving and providing access to the world's culture and heritage	51	25.25	100	49.50	40	19.80	11	5.45	2.95	0.23
Provision of selective dissemination of information and current awareness services	64	31.68	80	39.60	25	12.37	33	16.33	2.87	0.38
Giving out instructions on the most efficient use of appropriate resources	100	49.50	74	36.63	20	9.90	8	3.96	3.32	0.20
Provision of accurate, up-to-date information.	88	43.56	66	32.67	28	13.86	20	9.90	3.10	0.31

Provision of Information resources for library users	102	50.49	70	34.65	25	12.38	5	2.48	3.33	0.19
Provision of both quiet and collaborative spaces conducive to all types of learning	91	45.05	100	49.50	7	3.47	4	1.98	3.38	0.13
Assisting library users in information search and retrieval from different database across the globe	99	49.01	75	37.13	18	8.91	10	4.95	3.30	0.20
Grand Mean									3.08	

Table 3 above shows that there are numerous contributions made by academic libraries in achieving sustainable development goals in Nigeria. The result shows that majority of the respondents with mean value of 3.38 was of the opinion that provision of both quiet and collaborative spaces conducive for learning contributes to the attainment of SDGs. This is followed by those who opined that provision of Information resources for library users contributes to achieving SDGs with mean value of 3.33. The least respondents with a mean value of 2.53 opined that provision of media literacy programmes for marginalized populations to make an important contribution to achieving universal literacy. With criterion mean of 2.5 and a calculated mean of 3.08, the study showed that academic libraries through their services contribute to the attainment of sustainable development goals.

Research question 2: What are the ways academic libraries can foster the attainment of the sustainable development goals in Nigeria?

Table 4: Ways academic libraries can foster the attainment of the sustainable development goals in Nigeria

Ways Academic Libraries can foster development	Strongly Agreed		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		$\overline{x}$	S.D
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Organizing sensitization campaign through different media on the different SDGs and their specific targets	100	49.50	41	20.29	30	14.85	31	15.35	3.04	0.41
Organizing periodic information literacy training for members of the populace	88	43.56	65	32.18	37	18.32	12	5.94	3.13	0.26
Closing gaps in access to information and helping government, civil society, and business to better understand local information needs	120	59.41	32	15.84	30	14.85	20	9.90	3.25	0.33

Promoting universal literacy	99	49.00	56	27.72	37	18.31	10	4.95	3.21	0.26
Advancing digital inclusion through access to Information & Communications Technologies (ICT), and dedicated staff to help people develop new digital skills	75	37.13	57	28.22	50	24.75	20	9.90	2.93	0.34
Forming a consortium or collaboration with UN depository libraries that support dissemination of information and research to help decision makers achieve the SDGs	132	65.35	40	19.80	25	12.38	5	2.48	3.48	0.19
Providing a network of delivery sites for government programmes and services	54	26.7	68	33.66	70	34.65	10	4.95	2.82	0.28
Grand Mean									3.12	

Table 4 above investigates the possible ways academic libraries in Nigeria can in an increased measure enhance its contribution to SDGs. Majority of the respondents constituting a mean of asserted that forming a consortium or collaboration that support dissemination of information and research to help decision makers is crucial to achieving the SDGs. This is followed by closing information gaps and helping government, civil society, and business to better understand local information needs with a mean of 3.25 where the most possible ways for libraries to support SDGs. The least of them with a mean of 2.82 was providing a network of delivery sites for government programmes and services. It is however worthy of note that all the listed ways would to a measure help libraries in promoting sustainable development.

Research question 3: What are the challenges facing academic libraries in the provision of information services for the attainment of the sustainable development goals in Nigeria?

Table 5: Challenges facing academic libraries in the provision of information services for the attainment of the sustainable development goals in Nigeria

Challenges	Strongly Agreed		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		$\bar{x}$	S.D
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Inadequate library infrastructure	110	54.46	60	29.70	30	14.85	2	0.99	3.38	0.18
Poor funding	100	49.50	80	39.60	12	5.94	10	4.95	3.34	0.19
Poor policy by parent institution	143	70.79	39	19.31	15	7.43	5	2.48	3.58	0.15
Too much external interference	98	48.51	70	34.65	20	9.9	14	6.93	3.25	0.25
Inadequate/Irregular training of library staff	177	87.62	12	5.94	10	4.95	3	1.48	3.79	0.09

Poor networking among libraries and library professionals	186	92.07	10	4.95	5	2.48	1	0.49	3.89	0.05
Poor library usage by Nigerians	106	52.47	89	44.06	4	1.98	3	1.49	3.48	0.11
Grand Mean									3.53	

Table 5 above elicited data on the challenges faced by academic libraries, in rendering services that contributes to SDGs actualization. Majority of the respondents with a mean of 3.89 noted poor networking among library and library professionals as a challenge to achieving SDGs. This is closely followed by those who indicated inadequate/Irregular training of library staff as libraries' challenge to supporting the attainment of SDGs. The challenge with the least response of 3.25 was external interference.

Discussion of Results

The study revealed that academic libraries contribute to the attainment of SDGs in Nigeria. This finding is in agreement with Bradley (2016) that academic libraries contribute to sustainable development through the provision of various information services. The information sciences revealed by this present study to contribute to the attainment of SDGs include the provision of both quiet and collaborative spaces conducive to all types of learning. This is in line with Iroka and Ndulaka (2014) that libraries promote sustainable development in Nigeria by expanding individual's learning process and their ability to think critically. Also, Boyi (2013) noted that education is instrumental in driving sustainable national development in Nigeria, and this is done by creating conducive atmosphere for learning. By implication, the conducive learning environment provided by academic libraries makes it convenient for people to learn and consequently, increasing their mental capacity towards sustainable development. Another academic library service revealed by this study that promotes SDGs is the provision of information resources to the library users.

In line with the aforementioned, Maria and Chinemerem (2019) opined that SDGs will be easily achieve if people have access to health, environmental and agricultural information resources at their disposal. These information resources will equip them with the right information and knowledge to made developmental strides and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. It is implied that academic libraries in Nigeria are contributing to sustainable development by providing people with the conducive environment for learning that increases their mental capacity for development. Also, by providing information resources on critical areas of development, academic libraries would drive the attainment of SDGs in Nigeria.

Also, the findings from the study showed that academic libraries can help foster the attainment of the sustainable development goals in Nigeria through

different ways. This revelation corroborates the assertion of IFLA (2016) that the library plays a major role in the attainment of development in any nation. This present study showed that one of the major ways academic libraries foster the attainment of SDGs is by forming a consortium or collaboration that support dissemination of information and research to help decision makers achieve the SDGs. Also the study showed that access to information and helping government, civil society, and business to better understand local information needs. This is in agreement with the findings of a group named 'Advancing Sustainable Development' (2017) that academic libraries can aid the achievement of the sustainable development goals through closing gaps in access to information and helping government, civil society, and business to better understand local information needs, promoting universal literacy and advancing digital inclusion through access to information and communications technologies and dedicated staff to help people develop new digital skills. In addition, Dahlman (2019) on the issue of collaborating to promote SDGs opined that government should create collaboration with all stakeholders in a bid to improve necessary policies in order to solve the challenges bothering on the actualisation of SDGs. By implication, academic libraries as information based institution are strategically positioned to enhance the attainment of sustainable development in Nigeria. This they do by providing unrestricted access to information to all and building a system that enhances the collaboration of

developmental stakeholders towards setting up a framework that enhances the attainment of SDGs.

Moreover, the study revealed that academic libraries face several challenges in the provision of information services for the attainment of the sustainable development goals in Nigeria. This finding supports Drotner (2015) assertion that in a bid to provide library and information services, academic libraries encounter numerous challenges of which poor funding and irregular training of library staff are top on the list. However, this study revealed top academic libraries' challenges to achieve SDGs to include poor personnel and institutional networking, and inadequate/Irregular training of library staff. The study earlier advocated creating collaboration or partnership among development stakeholders as a vehicle to the attainment of the SDGs, which is in consonance with this identified challenge faced by academic libraries as regards SDGs. Thus, the library personnel and the academic libraries should strive to create synergy to improve efforts and achieve greater success towards SDGs. In buttressing the place of collaboration to achieving SDGs, Igbinovia (2016) affirmed that collaborations of libraries among themselves and with government and non-governmental organisations will create synergy that will enhance libraries' contribution to achieving SDGs. Therefore, SDGs as a universal agenda is a development framework involving the contribution of everyone in the society regardless of socio-demographic distributions, political inclinations among others. Meanwhile

the challenge of training was corroborated by Jaiyesimi (2016) who gave challenges to implementing SDGs in Africa to include poor capacity building which entails the training of personnel to make them more skillful and improve their proficiency level.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The drive towards SDGs is a universal agenda to transform our world. To achieve this transformation, we must have a rethink towards the approaches that have left libraries out of national planning, implementation, decision making and monitoring process. With the invaluable and constantly changing roles of academic libraries in the society, it is difficult for a country to attain or sustain national development without the contributions of academic libraries. Therefore, academic libraries in Nigeria must be up and doing by strengthening their conventional roles and taking up new ones that aligns with SDGs

Based on the findings and the conclusions drawn from this study, the researcher recommends the following:

1. Libraries in Nigeria should form a network that reaches the local level and which can be used to sensitize and deliver programmes including government programmes in some cases where information dissemination is difficult.

2. Libraries must support government in capacity building skills through information literacy programmes.

3. The government and parent institutions should fund library adequately in a bid to train personnel for developmental functions.

4. Adequate ICT infrastructures should be put in place in libraries to enable them provide public access to ICT and support digital inclusion for all categories of persons in the country who seem to be discriminated.

5. Libraries should periodically organize sensitization campaigns on SDGs using different media and platforms.

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