# COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES, POLICIES, ICT ADOPTION AND SERVICE DELIVERY IN SELECTED AMERICAN AND NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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**Abstract**

*University libraries are vital components of educational institutions, serving as centers of knowledge and enhancing learning and research among students and staff. This paper discusses a comparative study of university libraries in Nigeria and America, discovering their services, organizational structures, policies, ICT adoption and histories. The study identifies similarities and differences in how these libraries function, adapt to technological advancements, and cater to the diverse needs of their respective student populations. In both Nigeria and America, University libraries play vital roles in supporting academic curricula, promoting teaching and learning, and providing access to a wealth of learning resources. Common practices include offering collections of printed books, reference materials, and multimedia resources. However, they also exhibit distinctive features in their adoption of digital technologies, staffing levels, and access to funding and resources. While Nigerian University libraries often face with funding constraints and limited access to digital resources, America counterparts embrace technology with enthusiasm, providing e-books, online databases, and interactive learning tools. These differences reflect the diverse educational landscapes and resource availability in each country. The findings underscore the resilience and dedication of University libraries in both nations, striving to meet the evolving needs of students and staff in an ever-changing educational landscape. The concludes by advocating for continued efforts to support these libraries, recognizing their essential paper role in nurturing well-rounded individuals, fostering research skills, and inspiring lifelong learners.*

**Keyword:** Histories, ICT, Organisational structure, Policies, Services, University libraries

**Introduction**

A university library is established to serve three purposes, to support teaching and learning, the research and the community services around the university. It is a system with divisions and units that are properly organized and managed to provide services to meet the objectives and goals of the university. The library is generally regarded as the heart of a university and so it must provide quality services that will promote the standard of education and research. A library is a "collection of books and other forms of records and resources housed, organised, and interpreted to meet the broad varying needs of students, staff and others for information, recreation and inspiration". Academic library for a developed country, serve as a tool for intellectuals' development which in turn to economics, political development and social happiness and survival. Intellects in its various dimensions mean the absence of ignorance of situations. In general library is used to provide information about its community. The acquisition of knowledge dispels ignorance; therefore, the main objective of library is to serve as a Centre for information where people acquired the needed knowledge to reduce their ignorance about their environment.

University library is a library that is established to take care of the information need of students, lecturers, researchers and other community of scholar. The Academy library continues to bring man in contact with the word in the fulfilment of its function as a repository of knowledge in all forms and shapes. It has also become over the years a dynamic Centre for research for economic development among nations, including both Nigerian and United States of America (Sobalaje, 2015). The history of Academic library development in Nigeria dates back to pre-independence time when the University of Ibadan and its library were established in 1948. Since Nigeria's independence in 1960, there has been a steady and sustained expansion in the establishment of educational institutions at all levels particularly universities as successive governments have continued to invest heavily in higher education (Adebayo, 2020; Olanrewaju & Adeyemi, 2019). It must be noted that Academic libraries, being integral academic parts of the universities and others higher institute of learning in Nigeria, emerged simultaneously with their parent institutions, which makes the total number of higher institutions in the country to equal the number of Academic libraries available in Nigeria.

According to Yacob-Haliso (2016), academic libraries are institutions established to meet the diverse information needs of students, lecturers, researchers, and the broader community of scholars. Similarly, Wolpert (2021) describes academic libraries as cost-effective providers of information services and knowledge products designed to support a resident academic community. However, achieving cost efficiency and sustainable service delivery remains one of the major challenges affecting the performance of academic libraries in Nigeria, primarily due to inadequate funding, technological constraints, and limited resource allocation (Adebayo, 2020). (Akintunde 2004) was of the viewed that libraries in many tertiary institutions have either accreditation or failed them because libraries are regarded as tools for Academic excellence. The academic institutions play a major role in the manpower development of any nation providing the high, as well as middle level manpower for the acceleration of social, economic and political advancement of a nation. According to Okiy (2007), quoting Edoka (2000) that the general functions of Academic libraries are as follows:

1. To provide; information materials required for the academic programs of the parent institution.
2. Research information resources in consonance with the needs of faculty and research students.
3. Information resources for recreation and personal self-development of users.
4. Study accommodation in a useful variety of locations.
5. Protection and security for these materials.
6. Specialized information service to appropriate segments of the wider community
7. To co-operate with other libraries at appropriate levels for improved information services.

**Libraries in Nigeria and America (USA)**

Nigeria has the largest number of University libraries in Africa, National Universities Commission accredited 380 University libraries. The Federal University Libraries 51, State University Libraries 61, Private University Libraries 148 and Distance Learning Centre's have 20 (NUC, 2023). While United States of America has over 3,697 University libraries both federal, state and private (IFLA, 2022)

**Examples of University Libraries in Nigeria and United States of America**

| **University Libries in Nigeria** | **Year of Est.** | **University Libraries in America** | **Year of Est.** |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1.Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan | 1948 | 1.HarvardUniversity Library | 1638 |
| 2. Nnamdi Azikiwe Library, University of Nsukka Enugu | 1962 | 2. Yale University library | 1771 |
| 3. Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library, Obafemi Awolowo university of Ile Ife | 1962 | 3. Columbia University Library | 1756 |
| 4. Kashim Ibrahim Library, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. | 1962 | 4. University Library of New York | 1831 |
| 5. Central Library-Rivers State University of Science and Technology | 1979 | 5.Geogia State University Library: Alanta, Geogia | 1788 |
| 6. Babcock University Library, Ilishan Remo, Ogun State, | 1999 | 6.Duke University Library, Durham North Carolina | 1861 |

**Source-** NUC, 2023

**History of Univesity Libraries in Nigeria and America**

| Names of Universities | History |
|---|---|
| **1. Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan** | The history of Academic library development in Nigeria dates back to pre-independence times when the University of Ibadan and its library were established in 1948. Established in 1948, the University of Ibadan, UI as it is fondly referred to, is the first University in Nigeria. Until 1962 when it became a full-fledged independent University, it was a College of the University of London in a special relationship scheme. The University, which took off with academic programs in Arts, Science and Medicine, is now a comprehensive citadel of learning with academic programs in sixteen Faculties namely, Arts, Science, Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Agriculture, the Social Sciences, Education, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Technology, Law, Public Health, Dentistry, Economics, Renewable Natural Resources and Environmental Design and Management. The Faculties of the Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Public Health and Dentistry are organised as a College of Medicine.<br>The University of Ibadan Library is named after Professor Kenneth Dike, the first indigenous Principal and former Vice-Chancellor. It was established out of the desires of the founding fathers and matriarch of the icon of higher education in Nigeria, to cut a niche for research and sound teaching in the University of Ibadan. It was a massive project with great vision of sustained quality services and enduring capacity for expansion. The library is ranked favourably in the comity of libraries in the Commonwealth.<br>The Kenneth Dike Library contains over 700,000 volumes and seats 1,250 readers. It is open to all senior staff, and students, and to senior staff of the University College Hospital, Ibadan, as well as Alumni of the University. |
| **2. Kashim Ibrahim Library, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria** | Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria is one of Nigeria's first generation universities, opening its doors in 1962. Like other universities, its functions include teaching, research, and community service.<br>With these as the propelling force, the Kashim Ibrahim Library (KIL) of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, was built to be the height of excellence in university education in Nigeria. It is reputed to be the "biggest and the best university in all of Nigeria, if not Africa." Situated in the Northern part of Nigeria, it is indeed Nigeria's largest and the North's most prestigious university with a student population of approximately 35,000. The library is located in the main campus and there are satellite libraries on other campuses. Nok (2006) describes the Ahmadu Bello University Library as the largest completed university library building in Sub-Saharan Africa, with an area of 1,582 metre and the capacity for 500,000 volumes and study space for 2,000. He states that, "its grandeur and size are not likely to be replicated in the Nigerian university library building scene for some to time to come. |

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| | Today, online and CD-ROM searches are a common feature among staff and students of the University. With a staff strength of 115 professionals and 301 para-professionals, 92 non-professional staff in the entire university library system, the library management is striving to upgrade the IT skills of the staff to enable them cope with challenges of the information age(QAU, 2023) |
| **3. Harvard University Library** | Harvard Library was founded in 1638. At the beginning of its establishment, the library had only 400 books left by John Harvard. Harvard Library is considered as the oldest library in the United States, the largest university library and the largest academic library network in the world. Harvard Library ranks the third largest collection in the United States, after the Library of Congress and the Boston Public Library. Its collections include nearly 20 million volumes, 400 million manuscripts, 10 million photographs, and one million maps. Its largest main library is the Widener Library, which is the landmark building of Harvard Yard. Harvard Library is open to current Harvard affiliates, providing services for 6700 undergraduates, 14,500 postgraduates, 2400 faculty members and 10,400 scientific researchers including affiliated hospitals. Additionally, some resources and spaces are open to the public. According to the statistics in 2013, 733,890 books<br>were circulated, 131,041 consultations answered, 20,000 researchers supported, 1700 introductory services held, 42,000 pictures viewed, 17,000 files downloaded, 47,000 documents scanned and transmitted, and 48,700 copies were interlibrary-borrowed. The cumulative opening time reached 55,176 hours for a total of readers of about 19,000. (Zhao, Lin. & Zhang, 2019) |
| **4. Columbia University Library** | The Columbia University Libraries began with the 1756 donation of the estate and library of Joseph Murray to the university, then known as King's College. Columbia University Libraries is a top-tier academic research library, serving as one of the world's most important centers of research and learning. The libraries build, sustain, and make discoverable collections that transcend traditional boundaries of format and domain, keeping pace with a dynamic and rapidly evolving information environment and creating unique opportunities for users to encounter global thought. As vital partners in the University's research and learning ecosystem, the libraries connect users with rich and distinctive collections, foster meaningful learning experiences, and provide innovative research support for a large, diverse user population.<br>The libraries' collection includes resources in more than 450 languages and primary source materials that span over 4,000 years of human thought. The collection is comprised of 13 million volumes, over 160,000 journals and serials, as well as extensive electronic resources, manuscripts, rare books, microforms, maps, and graphic and audio-visual materials. The libraries employ more than 350 staff and hosts over 4 million physical and 20 million virtual visitors each year. A leader in strategic partnerships for shared collections, collaborative collection development, and reciprocal borrowing and use, Columbia University Libraries is |

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| | a key node in a network connecting users to a boundless multitude of resources around the world (John ,2018) |

**Policies and Regulations of Libraries in Nigeria and America**

| Policy/Regulation | Nigeria | America |
|---|---|---|
| Collection Development Policy | The Resource Development librarian shall work in close coordination with the faculty liaison/Book Officer to select new resources, analyses the scope of the existing stock, and plan for future acquisitions in the respective subject areas. | Specifies guidelines for selecting and acquiring resources that align with the curriculum and educational objectives. |
| Hours of operation | Libraries are typically open from 8:00am to 10:00pm, throughout the week | Libraries are typically open 24hour (24/7). |
| Borrowing policies | Undergraduate (UG) 7 books for two weeks, Postgraduate (PG) 10, Senior Staff (S/S) 15 "for four weeks, Junior Staff 3 "for two weeks and Honorary/Alumni – can use the library for reference purpose only e.g. KASHIM IBRAHIM LIBRARY | Readers may borrow books for up to one semester (28 days for some items), but once other readers need to use them, borrowers will receive letters or e-mails informing them of an appointment. This book must be returned within 10 days to ensure that all readers have equal access to information. |
| Renewal policies | Books can be renewed for an additional 2 weeks if they are not in high demand. | Books can borrow the whole semester except if there is a request for another students e.g. Harvard library |
| Fines | Library customers who lose library books shall pay the cost of replacement at the current price in addition to 10% handling charges. ,Overdue fines for defaulting customers shall be as determined by the library management. | if the fine is not paid in time, it will appear on the final bill. If the users are professors or employees, the library will send a ticket to them through the finance department. Failure to pay a fine will affect the right to borrow and use. The fine is usually $0.5 or $2 per day, the book reserved is $0.02 per minute, and the laptop |

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| | | overdue is $14.4 per day. If it is lost or not returned, the amount of the fine is the total amount of the price plus the fine, or the minimum of $100. |
| Access to the library | Students and staff have free access to the library. | Students and staff have free access to the library. |
| Code of Conduct | Sets expectations for library users regarding behavior, noise levels, and respecting others' rights to use library resources. | Establishes guidelines for appropriate behavior in the library, such as maintaining a conducive study environment. |
| Internet and Computer Use Policy | To fulfill its mission of providing access to information of all types in a wide range of format, the Library provide access to internet services, digital repository, C-D, search online and offline database and OPAC. The Library ICT policy shall deal with the overall management of electronic resources and services in the library. | They borrow computer charger, headphones to the client, |
| Copyright Policy | Defines how copyrighted materials can be used within the library, including photocopying, scanning, and copyright compliance | Ensures compliance with copyright laws and guidelines for using copyrighted materials for educational purposes. |
| Printing and photocopy | The Library shall charge for printing of pages. | Free |

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|---|---|---|
| Food and Drink Policy | Are not allowed(ABU, 2014) | The consumption of food and drinks, within reason, is permitted in many library locations. However, library customers are asked to be considerate of others and to avoid consuming food items that create messes, smells, and/or noise. Library customers are expected to dispose of all trash and take responsibility for cleaning spills, food crumbs, etc. Food ordered for delivery to the library should be picked up outside of the library.<br>➢ Snack food, sandwiches, and drinks in closed containers are permitted in all areas of the library.eg ASU Library |

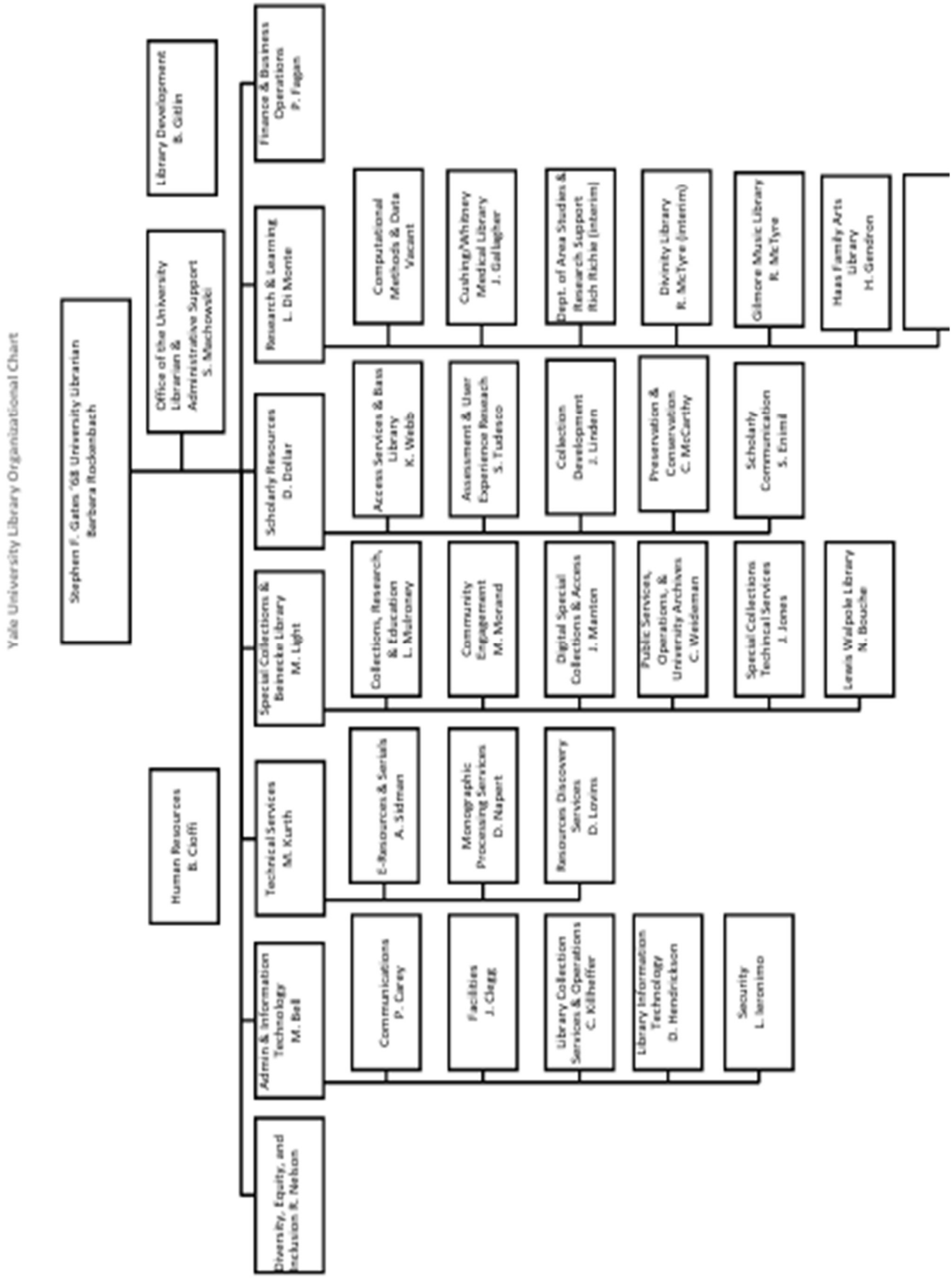
**Source-** Harvard Library 2020.

**The organizational structure of American university libraries can vary from one university to another.**

1. **University Librarian**: This is the highest-ranking individual in the library's organizational hierarchy. The UL is responsible for the overall management, administration, and strategic planning of the library. They often report to the university administration and collaborate with other academic departments.
2. **Deputy Librarian:** Depending on the size and complexity of the library, the deputy librarian who oversee specific areas such as collections, technology, services, or administration. These positions are responsible for managing their respective departments and collaborating with the library departmental, faculty and other liaison libraries.
3. **Department Heads or Managers:** The library is typically divided into various departments or units, each focusing on different aspects of library services. Some common departments include:
   - **Collection Development:** Responsible for acquiring, managing, and organizing the library's physical and digital collections.
   - **Public Services:** Manages user interactions, reference services, circulation, and user education.
   - **Technical Services:** Handles cataloging, metadata creation, and processing of library materials.
   - **Digital Initiatives and Technology:** Focuses on digital resources, online platforms, and technological infrastructure.
   - **Archives and Special Collections:** Manages rare materials, manuscripts, and historical archives.

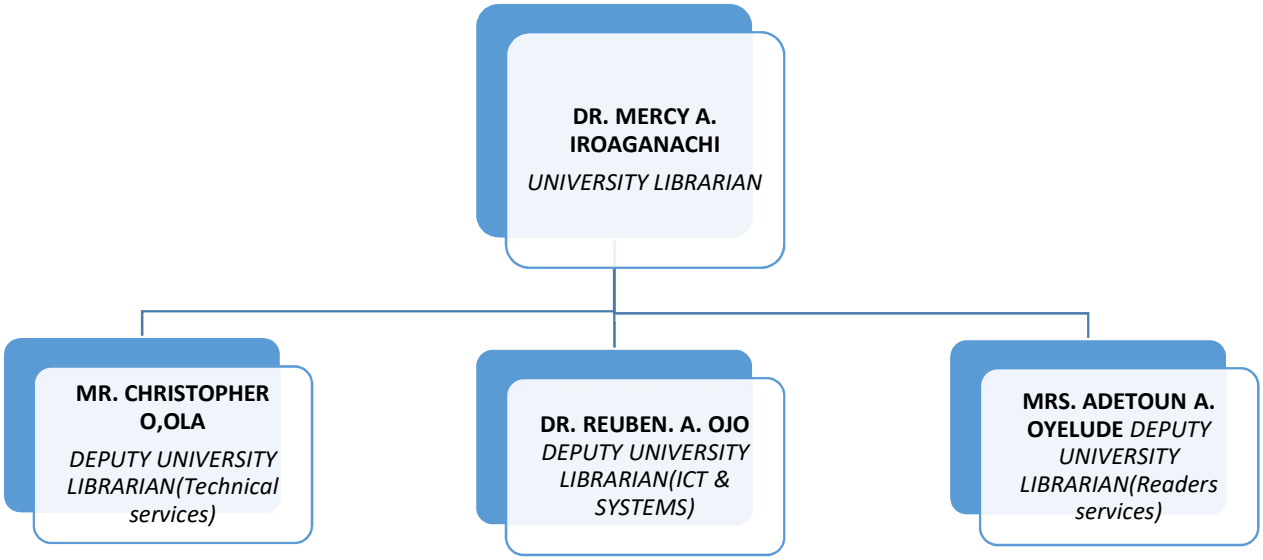
- **Outreach and Engagement:** Develops programs to engage the university community and promote library resources.

4. **Librarians and Staff:** Within each department, there are librarians and staff members who perform specific roles. Librarians are often subject specialists and provide research assistance, teach information literacy, and contribute to collection development. Staff members handle various tasks such as shelving, circulation, maintenance, and administrative support.
5. **Advisory Boards:** Some university libraries might have advisory boards consisting of faculty, students, and community members. These boards provide input on library services, collections, and strategic planning.
6. **Faculty Liaisons:** Many university libraries have librarian liaisons assigned to different academic departments or disciplines. These liaisons work closely with faculty to provide specialized research support, collaborate on collection development, and integrate information literacy into the curriculum.
7. **Collaboration with IT and Academic Departments:** University libraries often collaborate with the university's IT department for technology infrastructure and support. They also work with academic departments to ensure that library services and resources align with the university's educational goals.

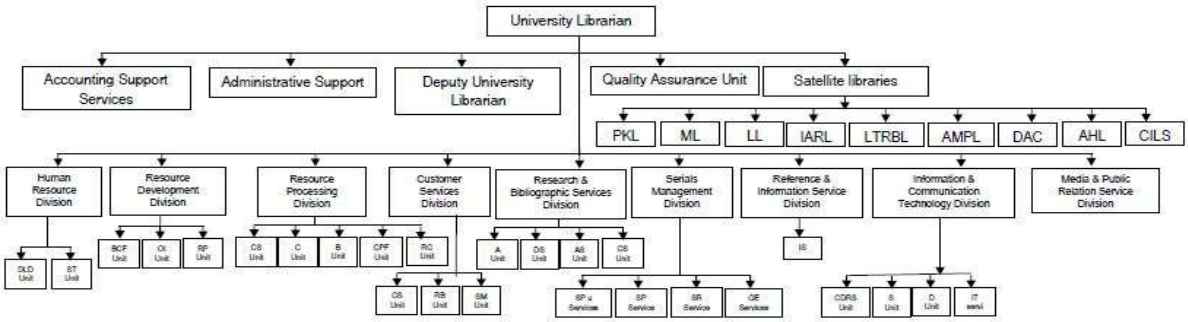

Yale University Library Organizational Chart
Stephen F. Gates '68 University Librarian
Barbara Rockenbach
Office of the University Librarian & Administrative Support
S. Machowski
Library Development
B. Gitlin
Finance & Business Operations
P. Fagan
Research & Learning
L. Di Monte
Computational Methods & Data
Vacant
Cushing/Whitney Medical Library
J. Gallagher
Dept. of Area Studies & Research Support
Rich Richie (interim)
Divinity Library
R. McTyre (interim)
Gilmore Music Library
R. McTyre
Haas Family Arts Library
H. Gendron
Scholarly Resources
D. Dollar
Access Services & Bass Library
K. Webb
Assessment & User Experience Research
S. Tudesco
Collection Development
J. Linden
Preservation & Conservation
C. McCarthy
Scholarly Communication
S. Enimil
Special Collections & Beinecke Library
M. Light
Collections, Research, & Education
L. Mulroney
Community Engagement
M. Morand
Digital Special Collections & Access
J. Manton
Public Services, Operations, & University Archives
C. Weideman
Special Collections Technical Services
J. Jones
Lewis Walpole Library
N. Bouche
Human Resources
B. Ciolfi
Technical Services
M. Kurth
E-Resources & Serials
A. Sidman
Monographic Processing Services
D. Napert
Resources Discovery Services
D. Lovins
Admin & Information Technology
M. Ball
Communications
P. Carey
Facilities
J. Clegg
Library Collection Services & Operations
C. Kilheffer
Library Information Technology
D. Hendrickson
Security
L. Ieronimo
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion R. Nelson

## Organisational Structure of Nigerian University Library

### Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan




### ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY LIBRARY COMPLEX




**Key:**

**Satellite Libraries:** PKL- President Kennedy Library; ML-Medical Library; LL-Law Library; IARL- Institute for Agricultural Research Library; LTRBL-Lee T. Rails Back Library; AMPL-Abdullahi Mohammed Public Library; DAC- Division of Agricultural Colleges Library; AHL-Arewa House Library; CILS-Centre for Islamic and Legal Studies Library

**Human Resources Division:** DLB-Departmental Library Division Unit; ST- Staff Training Unit

**Resource Development Division:** BCF-Bibliographic Clearing and Filling Unit; OL-Ordering and Invoices Unit; RP-Receiving and Processing Unit

**Resource Processing Division:** CS-Catalogue Services Unit; CU-Classification Unit; B-Bindery Unit; CPF-Card Production Verification and Filling Unit; RC-Retrospective Conversion Unit

**Customer Services Division:** CS-Circulation Service Unit; RB-Reserve Book Services Unit; SM-Shelf Maintenance Services Unit

**Research & Bibliographic Services Division:** A-Africana Unit; DS- Document Services Unit; AS-Arabic Services Unit; CS-Carrel Services Unit

**Serials Management Division:** SPu-Serials Public Services; SP-Serials Processing Services; SR-Serial Recording Services; GE-Gifts and Exchange Services

**Reference & Information Service Division:** IS-Information Services

**Information & Communication Technology Division:** CDRS- CD-ROM Search Services Unit; S-Systems Unit; D-Digitization Unit; IT-Internet Training Unit;

**Services of University Libraries in The USA and in Nigeria**

Library services refer to the various activities, programs, and assistance offered by libraries to meet the informational, educational, recreational, and research needs of their patrons. These services aim to provide access to various materials, support learning and literacy, facilitate research, and foster community engagement. Library services can vary widely depending on the type of library of the universities, the resources they have available, and the needs of their users.

Here are examples of library services of following Universities:

| Names of Universities | Services |
|---|---|
| **KASHIM IBRAHIM LIBRARY SERVICES** | ➢ Resource Development<br>➢ Customer Services<br>➢ Resource Processing<br>➢ Reference & Information Service<br>➢ Serials Management<br>➢ Research & Bibliographic Services<br>➢ Human Resources<br>➢ Information & Communication Technology<br>➢ Media & Public Relations |
| **HARVARD LIBRARY SERVICES**: | 1. **Teaching, Learning and Research Services**<br>The mission of Harvard Library is: to advances scholarship and teaching by committing itself to the creation, application, preservation and dissemination of knowledge. Harvard Library is excellent in integrating teaching, learning, and research. |
| | 2. **Refined Services**<br>The refinement of Harvard Library's service exists everywhere. In the library of Harvard Business School, according to the different needs of readers, it can provide simple self-service and deep-seated one-to-one consulting services, such as solving difficult problems, providing information, prediction of discipline dynamics, tracking service of academic activities, literatures, academic evaluation and so on. |
| | 3. **Characteristic Services**<br>The collections of Harvard Library have different characteristics, with different service objects and contents. Taking Yenching Library as an example, the library is aimed to collect and sort out academic and research literatures about East Asia. |
| | 4. **Services for Special Groups**<br>Harvard Library is committed to providing equal services to all readers, so it strives to provide the disabled readers with possible services, including on-site borrowing, retrieval, online search, copying, reference and any other booking services. All libraries have accessible facilities for disabled readers. Every library website has a detailed introduction of facilities and equipment for |

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| | disabled readers, such as entrances and exits, elevators, toilets, as well as workstations, photocopying, printing, scanning equipment and multimedia resources for wheelchair users. |
| | **5. Borrowing Services:**<br>Readers may borrow books for up to one semester (28 days for some items), but once other readers need to use them, borrowers will receive letters or e-mails informing them of an appointment. This book must be returned within 10 days to ensure that all readers have equal access to information. |
| | **6. International Exchanges:**<br>In addition to the close cooperation and exchanges with the libraries of universities in the United States (especially among the eight Ivy League members), Harvard Library have also exchanged frequently with other libraries all over the world. For example, in 2004, Harvard Hilles Library donated 150,000 books to the Sun Yat-sen University Library in China. In 2006, the first Sino-American University Library Director Forum was co-sponsored by Peking University Library and Harvard Library. |
| | **7. Consultation Services**<br>Harvard Library website provides contact information for each employee, which can be consulted by e-mail, telephone and other means. The library website provides online consultation services. Readers can leave messages and ask questions online and get answers from professionals. For example, on the Harvard Library Reference Platform (Ask a Librarian), users can ask questions and browse. Generally, they can get reply within 24 business hours. |
| | **8. Management System**<br>Like other libraries, books borrowed must be returned within the stipulated date. Although there is no limit on the number of books borrowed, once the book in hand is reserved by other readers, it must be returned within 10 days. If it is overdue, it will be fined and the right to borrow may be cancelled. |

**Source - Zhao, Lin. & Zhang, Y. 2019**

**Information and Communication Technology used for Nigerian University Libraries and American University Libraries:**

Libraries employed technologies to speed up their daily activities and reduce their operating costs. Many repetitive activities were upgraded using technologies. ICT allows integration of library activities and increases efficiency and enables users to have remote access to information and around the clock access. New technologies provide unlimited information from different sources and facilitate reformatting data from different sources (Sivakumaren, Geetha, & Jeyaprakash,).

The American Library Association (1983) defines IT as "the application of computers and other technologies to the acquisition, organization, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information. The computers are used to process and store data, while telecommunications technology provides information communication tools, which make it possible for users to access databases and link them other computer networks at different locations." IT and ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) are used somewhat interchangeably. The following table contained examples of ICT used in American university libraries and Nigerian University libraries:

| Nigerian University Libraries | Information and Communication Technology(ICT) |
|---|---|
| | 1. **Computer Systems and Internet Connectivity:** The availability of computer systems and internet connectivity in Nigerian University libraries has transformed access to information. Students can now conduct research and access a vast array of educational resources from the comfort of their library spaces. The internet also facilitates communication and collaboration among students and lecturers at their comfort zone. Computers are also used to automate manual library functions. Acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation, and serials control are now automated, with much library software available in the market. Online public access catalogues (OPAC) have replaced the card catalogue. The libraries studied here have yet to join other libraries in bringing benefits of the above advances in information technology to their patrons.<br>2. **CD-ROM:** The libraries have CD-ROMs. CD-ROM is a storage device for many databases. Some books and journals are published in CD-ROM, and have CD-ROMs attached.<br>3. **Digital Catalogs and Databases:** With the adoption of digital cataloging systems and databases, Nigerian University libraries have modernized their book management processes. Students can easily search for books, e-books, and other materials using keywords or filters, expediting the retrieval of relevant resources. The use of digital databases has also expanded the collection of academic journals and research materials accessible to students E.g. KOHA, OPAC, JSTOR,<br>4. **E-Books and Digital Libraries:** E-books have gained popularity in Nigerian University libraries due to their accessibility and portability.<br>5. **Multimedia Resources:** To address various learning styles and engage students effectively, Nigerian University libraries integrate multimedia |

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|---|---|
| | resources into their collections such as Audio books, educational videos, and interactive software complement traditional learning materials, making learning more interactive and engaging for students.eg Kenneth Dike Library, Ibadan University and Bayero University Library, Kano<br>6. **Interactive Whiteboards and Projectors:** Interactive whiteboards and projectors have transformed traditional classroom settings into interactive and dynamic spaces. In library classrooms, educators can present multimedia content, conduct group discussions, and facilitate collaborative learning activities, creating immersive learning experiences. Eg. Kashim Ibrahim Library at Learning Common, Kaduna State University Library<br>7. **Libraries' Websites and Online Portals:** Nigerian University libraries maintain their websites or online portals to keep students and faculty informed about library services, upcoming events, and available resources. These websites serve as valuable resources for students, providing access to library catalogues, research guides, and online learning materials.<br>8. **E-mail:** This is a component of Internet connectivity. It is used for instant communication. Nigerian University libraries have an e-mail address.<br>9. **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology:** RFID technology has developed library management in some Nigerian University. By utilizing RFID tags on books and student IDs, libraries can automate book checkouts, returns, and inventory management, leading to improved efficiency and better service delivery<br>10. **Antenna/Mast:** The libraries have antenna/masts installed at various points on their campuses. These serve as telephone links between the institutions and service providers. With the mast, municipal area networking (MAN) can be carried out. People can then access information from their offices or workstations outside the library. (Etebu, 2010). |
| **American University Libraries** | 1. **Online Catalogs and Databases:** University libraries often have online catalogs and databases that allow users to search for books, journals, articles, and other resources available in the library's collection. These systems are user-friendly and provide advanced search capabilities.eg HOLLIS, CLIO<br>2. **Electronic Resources and E-books:** Many libraries offer electronic resources such as e-books, e-journals, and digital databases. These resources can be accessed remotely by users with a valid university login, making it convenient for research and study.<br>3. **Digital Archives and Repositories:** Universities often digitize historical documents, manuscripts, photographs, and other archival materials. These digital archives allow researchers to access rare and valuable materials online.<br>4. **Collaboration Spaces:** Libraries have evolved to offer collaborative spaces equipped with modern technology. These |

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|---|---|
| | spaces may have large screens, interactive whiteboards, and group study areas that allow students to work together effectively.<br>5. **Computer Labs:** Libraries frequently provide computer labs with access to software applications relevant to different fields of study. These labs may offer both Windows and Mac computers to cater to various user preferences.<br>6. **Wireless Internet Access:** Most university libraries offer free Wi-Fi access, allowing students and faculty to connect their personal devices and access online resources anywhere within the library.<br>7. **3D Printing and Maker Spaces:** Some libraries have incorporated 3D printing facilities and maker spaces where students and researchers can experiment with technology, design, and construction.<br>8. **Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR):** Some libraries have started exploring VR and AR technologies for educational purposes. These technologies can provide immersive learning experiences and visualization tools.<br>9. **Library Apps:** Many libraries have developed mobile apps that provide easy access to library resources, services, and even real-time availability of study rooms and computers.<br>10. **Online Tutorials and Learning Resources:** Libraries often create online tutorials and guides to help users make the most of their resources. These resources can range from how to search for academic articles to how to properly cite sources.<br>11. **RFID Technology:** Radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology is used for efficient check-out and check-in of books. It allows for automated tracking of library materials and reduces the need for manual handling.<br>12. **Data Visualization Tools:** Libraries might offer tools and resources for data visualization, helping researchers interpret and present complex data effectively. |

**Summary:** The bellow is the summary of comparative analysis between Nigerian University Libraries and American University Libraries

**Similarities Between Univesirty Libraries in Nigeria and America**

| **Similarity** | **Nigeria & America** |
|---|---|
| Purpose | University libraries in both Nigeria and America are designed to provide students and staff with access to information and resources that can help them succeed in university and community life. |
| Collections | The collections University libraries in Nigeria and America are similar, with emphasis on books, journal, magazines, newspapers, audiovisual materials, and online database. |
| Policies and regulations | The policies and regulations of University libraries in Nigeria and America are also similar, with a focus on providing students and staff with free access to the library, allowing students and staff also to borrow information resources |
| Organizational structure | The organizational structure of University libraries in Nigeria and America are also similar, with a head librarian who is responsible for the overall management of the library and a team of librarians and library assistants who are responsible for providing library services to students and staff. |
| Learning Spaces | Both provide conducive learning spaces where students and staff can study, read, and conduct research in a quiet and comfortable environment. |

**Differences Between University Libraries in Nigeria and America**

| **Difference** | **Nigeria** | **America** |
|---|---|---|
| History | Nigerian university libraries were first established in 1948 -1962 | The American university were established in 1638 |
| Staffing | University libraries in Nigeria have fewer professional librarians and more para professional librarian than University libraries in America.eg 115 and 305 | University libraries in America are generally, more professional librarian than those in Nigeria.eg Yale university library has over 500 professional librarians |
| Funding | University libraries in Nigeria may receive less funding than University libraries in America. | University libraries in America receive more funding from the government than those in Nigeria. |
| Technology | University libraries in Nigeria may have less access to technology than University libraries in America. | University libraries in America generally better equipped with technology than those in Nigeria.eg HOLLIS is used both as catalog and database |
| Collection Size and Diversity | Some University libraries in Nigeria may have smaller collections with limited diversity due to resource constraints. | University libraries in America often have larger and more diverse collections, catering to a wide range of subjects and interests.eg Harvard library has more than 20 million collections |

**Conclusion**

University libraries remain indispensable components of the broader educational framework in both Nigeria and the United States of America. Without effective library systems, no meaningful academic or research endeavor can be successfully sustained. As the intellectual backbone of higher education institutions, libraries play a crucial role in enhancing knowledge acquisition, research competence, and professional skills necessary for national development. In both countries, university libraries contribute significantly to achieving the overarching goals of higher education, which include the production of skilled and relevant manpower for national growth, the inculcation of sound moral and societal values, and the development of intellectual capacity that enables individuals to engage critically with their local and global environments. Therefore, strengthening and adequately supporting university libraries is essential for fostering academic excellence, promoting innovation, and ensuring sustainable educational and socio-economic advancement

**Way Forward**

The following recommendations were made based on the conclusion of the study:

1. Nigerian university libraries should require more financial support from both government and institutional authorities to improve their infrastructure, expand digital collections, and provide access to up-to-date learning and research materials comparable to their American counterparts.

2. Library staff and users in Nigerian University should require continuous training to enhance their digital literacy and technological competencies. Regular workshops, seminars, and capacity-building initiatives should be organized to ensure that librarians are proficient in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence tools for information retrieval, digital cataloguing systems, and data management platforms.

3. Comprehensive and adaptive library policies should be developed to align with global standards, addressing issues such as resource sharing, open access initiatives, and collaborative cataloguing. These policies should be periodically reviewed to reflect emerging trends in library and information science.

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