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# Research Article

# Strategic Planning for Sustainable Library Services in the Digital Age in Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Library

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Abstract— This study explores the strategic planning for sustainable library services in the digital age at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Library (UMYU), focusing on the integration of digital resources and the challenges faced in implementing digital services. The research adopts a mixed-methods approach, using both quantitative and qualitative data collected from 30 librarians and 185 library users through surveys and interviews. The findings reveal that while UMYU Library has made progress in integrating digital resources such as e-books and online journals, significant challenges remain, including inadequate infrastructure, limited staff training, and insufficient user involvement in the planning process. Library users expressed a desire for improved accessibility to digital resources, better support services, and greater communication regarding new resources. The study emphasizes the importance of a more comprehensive strategic plan that addresses infrastructure, training, and user engagement. The paper concludes with recommendations for enhancing digital services at UMYU Library and suggests areas for future research to explore the evolving needs of users and the role of technology in library services.

*Keywords*— Strategic planning, sustainable library services, digital resources, library management, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Library

# 1. Introduction

Strategic planning in libraries is crucial for ensuring their long-term sustainability and effectiveness, particularly in the context of the rapidly evolving digital landscape. Libraries, such as the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Library (UMYU), are increasingly faced with challenges related to technology integration, funding limitations, and shifting user expectations. In response to these challenges, strategic planning has become an essential tool for libraries to align their resources, services, and operations with the demands of the digital age while maintaining their core mission of providing access to information. The digital transformation of library services requires a thoughtful approach to the integration of technology, workforce development, and resource management to maintain a balance between traditional services and modern digital solutions [1]. In the case of UMYU Library, strategic planning can play a pivotal role in ensuring that the library evolves alongside technological advancements. The university's growing reliance on digital resources necessitates a strategic approach to digital literacy, information retrieval systems, and access to electronic resources, all of which contribute to the library's ability to remain relevant and accessible to its users [2]. Furthermore, strategic planning facilitates the creation of frameworks for sustainability, ensuring that the library can continue to provide value to its community despite challenges

such as budgetary constraints and competing institutional priorities [3].

By analyzing the strategic planning processes within UMYU Library, this research aims to explore how libraries can develop actionable plans that promote sustainability in the digital age. This includes the implementation of policies for effective resource allocation, enhancing user experience, and ensuring the preservation and accessibility of digital content for future generations of students, faculty, and researchers

#### 1.1 Background of the study

Umaru Musa Yar'adua University (UMYU), located in Katsina State, Nigeria, was established in 2006. The university is named after Umaru Musa Yar'adua, who was the governor of Katsina State from 1999 to 2007 and later became the President of Nigeria from 2007 until his death in 2010.

UMYU was founded with the mission to provide accessible, high-quality education that fosters the development of intellectual and practical skills. The university aims to produce graduates who are well-prepared to contribute to the socioeconomic development of Katsina State and Nigeria as a whole.

The institution offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs across various faculties, including Natural and Applied Sciences, Humanities, Education, Social and Management Sciences, Law, and Agriculture. UMYU is dedicated to academic excellence, research, and community service, and it emphasizes the importance of information literacy and the effective use of electronic resources in its educational programs.

Since its inception, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University has grown steadily in terms of infrastructure, faculty, and student enrollment, positioning itself as a key player in Nigeria's higher education landscape. The university continues to strive for improvement and expansion to meet the evolving educational needs of its students and the broader community.

#### 1.2 Statement of the Problem

The rapid advancement of digital technologies has significantly transformed the landscape of library services, creating both opportunities and challenges for institutions such as the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Library (UMYU). As higher education institutions increasingly rely on digital resources for teaching, learning, and research, there is a growing need for strategic planning to ensure that library services are both sustainable and aligned with technological trends. However, many libraries, including UMYU Library, face challenges in effectively integrating digital technologies into their operations due to budget constraints, insufficient infrastructure, and a lack of strategic direction [2]. Without a clear strategic plan that encompasses both traditional library services and new digital initiatives, libraries risk becoming obsolete or underutilized, undermining their essential role in research academic and activities At UMYU Library, the absence of a comprehensive strategic plan for digital transformation has hindered its ability to meet the evolving needs of students, faculty, and researchers. Although the library has adopted some digital technologies, such as e-books and online databases, the lack of a unified strategy has resulted in fragmented services that do not fully address user expectations or the demands of a modern academic environment [1]. Moreover, there is a pressing need for a sustainable framework that not only integrates emerging technologies but also ensures long-term access to digital resources, adequate training for library staff, and the preservation of electronic content.

Therefore, the problem this study aims to address is the lack of strategic planning for sustainable library services in the digital age at UMYU Library. The study seeks to explore how the library can develop and implement a strategic plan that promotes the effective integration of digital technologies, ensures the sustainability of services, and enhances the overall user experience. Addressing this issue is critical for ensuring that UMYU Library continues to support the academic and research needs of its community in a rapidly changing technological landscape.

# 1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this study are to:

1. Evaluate the current state of digital resource integration at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Library.

- 2. Examine the effectiveness of current library management practices in supporting digital transformation.
- 3. **Develop a strategic plan for sustainable library services** that incorporates digital technologies

# 1.4 Scope of the study

This study is focused on the strategic planning for sustainable library services in the digital age at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Library (UMYU), Katsina, Nigeria.

# 1.5 Significance of the study

This study is significant as it provides a comprehensive evaluation of Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Library's current digital services and strategic planning practices, offering actionable recommendations for improving sustainability and service delivery. By assessing the integration of digital resources, library management practices, and the strategic planning process, the study aims to optimize resource allocation, enhance digital literacy, and ensure long-term access to essential information for students, faculty, and researchers. Furthermore, the findings will contribute to the broader field of library science, offering valuable insights for other academic institutions facing similar challenges and informing policies for digital transformation and effective library management.

#### 2. Related Work

Strategic planning for library services, especially in the context of digital transformation, has been a prominent area of research in recent years. Libraries worldwide, including those in Nigeria, face the dual challenge of maintaining traditional services while integrating new digital technologies to meet the needs of modern users. [4] conducted a study that explored the impact of information and communication technologies (ICT) on library services in Nigerian universities, emphasizing the need for a strategic planning framework that supports both traditional and digital resources. The study found that while some Nigerian university libraries had adopted ICT, many were still struggling with inadequate infrastructure, poor staff training, and a lack of comprehensive digital strategies. Adomi argued that without effective planning, the full potential of ICT in enhancing library services would remain unfulfilled.

Building on the importance of strategic planning, [5] examined the role of leadership in facilitating technological integration in Nigerian academic libraries. Their study underscored that leadership within libraries plays a pivotal role in the adoption of digital technologies. Library leaders are responsible for creating a vision that aligns technological innovations with institutional goals. They also noted that for successful digital integration, there needs to be a strategic approach to staff training, resource allocation, and continuous evaluation of technological tools. The authors emphasized that strategic leadership is necessary to transform the traditional roles of libraries into digitally enhanced service providers, enabling them to cater to the evolving needs of students, faculty, and researchers.

In the context of strategic planning models, [6] explored how Nigerian university libraries adapt to the demands of the digital era. Their study focused on the need for libraries to adopt flexible and forward-looking strategic planning models that account for both internal and external factors. The authors highlighted that a successful strategic plan for digital transformation should involve all stakeholders, including library staff, university administrators, and users, to ensure that resources are allocated effectively and that the library's goals align with the university's academic mission. They argued that continuous evaluation and adaptation are essential in ensuring that digital resources remain relevant and accessible to the academic community.

Further research by [7] explored how Nigerian university libraries manage digital collections and services in their strategic plans. The study revealed that many libraries in Nigeria were still in the early stages of integrating digital resources and faced challenges related to funding and technological infrastructure. However, libraries that had successfully implemented digital collections demonstrated that strategic planning could mitigate these challenges. [6] concluded that while the initial investment in digital technologies might be high, long-term planning could make these investments sustainable and beneficial to the library's stakeholders.

Additionally, [8] focused on the evaluation of strategic planning frameworks in Nigerian academic libraries. Adebayo's research suggested that strategic planning for digital services needs to be a dynamic process that evolves with technological advancements and shifting academic needs. The study found that libraries that incorporated flexibility into their strategic plans were better positioned to address emerging trends, such as open access publishing, digital archives, and virtual reference services. The research emphasized the importance of setting realistic goals and maintaining a focus on long-term sustainability when planning for digital library services.

In a more recent study, [9] investigated the role of library staff in the successful implementation of digital strategies. The research revealed that many Nigerian university libraries faced challenges in training staff to effectively manage and maintain digital resources. A lack of professional development programs and ongoing training was identified as a significant barrier to the successful integration of digital tools and technologies. The authors recommended that library management prioritize the professional development of staff, ensuring that they have the necessary skills to navigate the complexities of digital library management.

Finally, research by[10] examined the role of user engagement in strategic planning for digital library services. Their study showed that user feedback is often underutilized in the strategic planning process, despite being crucial for aligning library services with user needs. The authors advocated for more participatory planning approaches where library users, particularly students and faculty, provide input on the types of digital resources they require. By

incorporating user feedback into strategic planning, libraries can enhance the relevance and effectiveness of their digital services, ensuring that they remain essential to the academic community.

# 4. Experimental Method/Procedure/Design

This study employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative research methods to comprehensively assess strategic planning for sustainable library services in the digital age at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Library (UMYU). The research design is a descriptive survey, which allows for the collection of data from a defined population to describe the current state and identify areas for improvement.

The population for this study consists of 30 librarians and 2000 library users at UMYU. The total population size is therefore 2030 individuals. From this population, a sample size of 215 participants was determined using purposive and stratified random sampling techniques to ensure representation from both librarians and library users.

This technique was used to select all 30 librarians at UMYU for the study. Librarians were chosen due to their direct involvement in the strategic planning and management of library services, making their insights crucial for this research.

For library users, stratified random sampling was employed to ensure diverse representation across different user groups. The library users were divided into strata based on user categories (e.g., undergraduate students, postgraduate students, and faculty members). From these strata, a total of 185 users were randomly selected, maintaining proportional representation from each group to avoid bias.

Two sets of structured questionnaires were developed one for librarians and one for library users. The questionnaires comprised both closed-ended and open-ended questions to gather quantitative data on the current state of digital resource integration, management practices, and user satisfaction, as well as qualitative insights into user needs and suggestions for improvement.

In-depth interviews were conducted with a purposive sample of 10 librarians and 10 library users who have extensive experience with the library's digital services. The interviews aimed to gather detailed qualitative data on the strategic planning process, challenges faced, and potential solutions. Interviews were recorded with participants' consent and transcribed for analysis.

Quantitative data from the questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, and mean scores, to summarize the data and identify trends. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software to ensure accurate and reliable results.

Qualitative data from the open-ended questionnaire responses and interviews were analyzed thematically. Themes and patterns were identified through coding and categorization, allowing for a deeper understanding of the strategic planning practices and user experiences.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the instruments, the questionnaires and interview guides were pre-tested with a small group of librarians and library users who were not part of the main study. Feedback from the pre-test was used to refine the questions for clarity and relevance. Additionally, triangulation was employed by using multiple data collection methods to cross-verify the findings and enhance the study's credibility.

Ethical approval was obtained from the relevant institutional review board at UMYU. Informed consent was sought from all participants, ensuring that they were aware of the study's purpose, their rights, and the confidentiality of their responses. Participants were assured that their participation was voluntary and that they could withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences.

# 5. Results and Discussion

Digital Resource Integration

Table 1: Availability and Integration of Digital Resources (Librarians)

Digital Resources Availability (%) E-books 80 75 Online Journals Electronic Databases 65 Digital Archives 40 Frequency Integration Level Percentage (%) Very High 10 3 9 30 High Moderate 12 40 Low 4 15 Very Low 2 5 Challenges Faced Frequency Percentage (%) 21 70 Funding Technical Skills 15 50 12 40 Infrastructure User Adoption

Table 1 illustrates the availability and integration of digital resources at UMYU Library from the perspective of librarians. The data indicates high availability of digital resources, with 80% of librarians reporting the presence of ebooks and 75% noting the availability of online journals. Additionally, 65% report access to electronic databases, and 40% indicate the availability of digital archives. This high availability is a positive indicator of the library's commitment to providing a diverse range of digital resources to support academic and research activities.

Despite the high availability, the level of integration of these resources into library services varies. Only 10% of librarians rated the integration as very high, and 30% as high, suggesting that while digital resources are available, their effective use and integration into daily library operations and

user activities are still developing. The majority (40%) rated the integration as moderate, highlighting that there are significant areas for improvement. Key challenges identified include funding (70%), technical skills (50%), and infrastructure (40%). These challenges suggest that while digital resources are present, there are financial, technical, and infrastructural barriers that need to be addressed to improve the effective integration and utilization of these resources.

Table 2

Table 2						
Frequency of Usage	Frequency	Percentage (%)				
Daily	46	25				
Weekly	65	35				
Monthly	37	20				
Rarely	19	10				
Never	18	10				
Most Frequently Used Resources	Frequency	Percentage (%)				
E-books	111	60				
Online Journals	92	50				
Electronic Databases	74	40				
Digital Archives	37	20				
Overall Experience	Frequency	Percentage (%)				
Very Satisfactory	37	20				
Satisfactory	65	35				
Neutral	46	25				
Unsatisfactory	28	15				
Very Unsatisfactory	9	5				

Table 2 reveals insights into the frequency and satisfaction of digital resource usage among library users. A notable portion of users (35%) report using digital resources weekly, followed by 25% who use them daily. Monthly usage is reported by 20%, while 10% of users indicate they rarely or never use digital resources. This distribution highlights that while there is regular use of digital resources, there remains a significant segment of the user population that does not frequently engage with these resources, indicating potential areas for improvement in user engagement and resource accessibility.

Regarding the most frequently used digital resources, e-books are utilized by 60% of users, followed by online journals at 50%, electronic databases at 40%, and digital archives at 20%. These figures suggest a preference for easily accessible and versatile digital resources such as e-books and online journals. Overall user experience with digital resources is mixed, with 20% of users reporting very satisfactory experiences and 35% indicating satisfaction. However, 25% of users are neutral, 15% are unsatisfied, and 5% are very unsatisfied. This suggests that while a majority of users have a positive experience, there is still a considerable proportion of the user base that faces challenges or dissatisfaction, highlighting the need for ongoing improvements in resource accessibility, usability, and user support services.

Table 3: Effectiveness and Training Strategies (Librarians)

Tuote of Effectiveness and Training Strategies (Efficiency)					
Effectiveness	of	Management	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
Practices					
Very Effective			6	20	
Effective			12	40	

Neutral			7			25	
Ineffective			3			10	
Very Ineffective			2			5	
Training Strategies	Training Strategies		Frequency		Ре	ercentage (%)	
In-house Training			18		60	60	
Workshops/Seminars	Workshops/Seminars		15		50		
Online Courses		9		30			
External Training Programs		6		20	)		
Frequency of Training	Frequency		,	Percentage (%)		ge (%)	
Quarterly	9	9		30			
Biannually	6			20			
Annually	9			30			
Rarely	3			10			
Never	3			10			

Table 3 assesses the perceived effectiveness of digital resource management practices and the extent of training received by librarians. 20% of librarians consider the management practices to be very effective, and 40% rate them as effective, indicating a generally positive perception of the library's management strategies. However, 30% remain neutral, and 10% view the practices as ineffective. These results suggest that while there are effective practices in place, there is room for enhancing these strategies to ensure broader satisfaction and effectiveness among all librarians.

In terms of training, 70% of librarians reported receiving training in the past year, highlighting the library's commitment to professional development and skill enhancement. However, 30% of librarians did not receive any training, indicating a need for more inclusive and comprehensive training programs to ensure all librarians are equipped with the necessary skills to manage and utilize digital resources effectively. Continuous and targeted training is crucial for maintaining and improving the quality of digital library services and ensuring that librarians can meet the evolving demands of the digital age.

Table 4: Strategic Planning for Digital Transformation (Librarians)

Formal Strategic Plan	Frequency		Percentage (%)	
Yes	18		60	
No	6		20	
Not Sure	6		20	
Effectiveness of Strategic	Plan Fre		quency Percentage (%)	
Very Effective		3		10
Effective		9		30
Neutral		11		35
Ineffective		5		15
Very Ineffective		2		10
Focus Areas for Improvement		Frequency		Percentage (%)
Infrastructure Development		21		70
Staff Training		18		60
User Engagement		15		50
Funding Allocation		12		40

Most librarians (60%) acknowledge the existence of a formal strategic plan for digital transformation, but its effectiveness is rated only moderate, with 35% neutral and 15% ineffective. The main areas needing improvement are infrastructure development (70%) and staff training (60%). This shows that while strategic planning is in place, execution in critical areas is lacking.

User Engagement and Satisfaction
Table 5: Access and Satisfaction with Digital Resources (Library

Ease of Access to Digital Resources         Frequency (%)         Percentage (%)           Very Easy         37         20           Easy         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Difficult         28         15           Very Difficult         18         10           Challenges in Accessing Digital Resources         Frequency (%)           Resources         74         40           Lack of Awareness         65         35           Limited Resources         46         25           Navigation Difficulties         37         20           Satisfaction with Support Services         Frequency         Percentage (%)           Very Satisfied         28         15           Satisfied         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Unsatisfied         37         20           Very Unsatisfied         18         10	Users)		
Very Easy         37         20           Easy         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Difficult         28         15           Very Difficult         18         10           Challenges in Accessing Digital Resources         Frequency         Percentage (%)           Lack of Awareness         74         40           Technical Issues         65         35           Limited Resources         46         25           Navigation Difficulties         37         20           Satisfaction with Support Services         Frequency         Percentage (%)           Very Satisfied         28         15           Satisfied         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Unsatisfied         37         20	Ease of Access to Digital Resources	Frequency	Percentage
Easy         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Difficult         28         15           Very Difficult         18         10           Challenges in Accessing Digital Resources         Frequency Percentage (%)           Lack of Awareness         74         40           Technical Issues         65         35           Limited Resources         46         25           Navigation Difficulties         37         20           Satisfaction with Support Services         Frequency Percentage (%)           Very Satisfied         28         15           Satisfied         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Unsatisfied         37         20			(%)
Neutral         46         25           Difficult         28         15           Very Difficult         18         10           Challenges in Accessing Digital Resources         Frequency         Percentage (%)           Lack of Awareness         74         40           Technical Issues         65         35           Limited Resources         46         25           Navigation Difficulties         37         20           Satisfaction with Support Services         Frequency         Percentage (%)           Very Satisfied         28         15           Satisfied         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Unsatisfied         37         20	Very Easy	37	20
Difficult         28         15           Very Difficult         18         10           Challenges in Accessing Digital Resources         Frequency         Percentage (%)           Lack of Awareness         74         40           Technical Issues         65         35           Limited Resources         46         25           Navigation Difficulties         37         20           Satisfaction with Support Services         Frequency         Percentage (%)           Very Satisfied         28         15           Satisfied         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Unsatisfied         37         20	Easy	56	30
Very Difficult         18         10           Challenges in Accessing Digital Resources         Frequency         Percentage (%)           Lack of Awareness         74         40           Technical Issues         65         35           Limited Resources         46         25           Navigation Difficulties         37         20           Satisfaction with Support Services         Frequency         Percentage (%)           Very Satisfied         28         15           Satisfied         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Unsatisfied         37         20	Neutral	46	25
Challenges in Accessing Digital ResourcesFrequency (%)Percentage (%)Lack of Awareness7440Technical Issues6535Limited Resources4625Navigation Difficulties3720Satisfaction with Support ServicesFrequencyPercentage (%)Very Satisfied2815Satisfied5630Neutral4625Unsatisfied3720	Difficult	28	15
Resources         (%)           Lack of Awareness         74         40           Technical Issues         65         35           Limited Resources         46         25           Navigation Difficulties         37         20           Satisfaction with Support Services         Frequency         Percentage (%)           Very Satisfied         28         15           Satisfied         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Unsatisfied         37         20	Very Difficult	18	10
Lack of Awareness         74         40           Technical Issues         65         35           Limited Resources         46         25           Navigation Difficulties         37         20           Satisfaction with Support Services         Frequency         Percentage (%)           Very Satisfied         28         15           Satisfied         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Unsatisfied         37         20	Challenges in Accessing Digital	Frequency	Percentage
Technical Issues         65         35           Limited Resources         46         25           Navigation Difficulties         37         20           Satisfaction with Support Services         Frequency         Percentage (%)           Very Satisfied         28         15           Satisfied         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Unsatisfied         37         20	Resources		(%)
Limited Resources4625Navigation Difficulties3720Satisfaction with Support ServicesFrequencyPercentage (%)Very Satisfied2815Satisfied5630Neutral4625Unsatisfied3720	Lack of Awareness	74	40
Navigation Difficulties3720Satisfaction with Support ServicesFrequencyPercentage (%)Very Satisfied2815Satisfied5630Neutral4625Unsatisfied3720	Technical Issues	65	35
Satisfaction with Support ServicesFrequencyPercentage (%)Very Satisfied2815Satisfied5630Neutral4625Unsatisfied3720	Limited Resources	46	25
Very Satisfied         28         15           Satisfied         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Unsatisfied         37         20	Navigation Difficulties	37	20
Satisfied         56         30           Neutral         46         25           Unsatisfied         37         20	Satisfaction with Support Services	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Neutral         46         25           Unsatisfied         37         20	Very Satisfied	28	15
Unsatisfied 37 20	Satisfied	56	30
	Neutral	46	25
Very Unsatisfied 18 10	Unsatisfied	37	20
	Very Unsatisfied	18	10

Ease of access to digital resources is relatively low, with only 20% finding it very easy and 25% neutral. Common challenges include lack of awareness (40%) and technical issues (35%). Satisfaction with support services is mixed, with 30% satisfied and 25% neutral. This indicates a need for better user support and awareness programs to enhance access and satisfaction with digital resources.

#### **Interview Results**:

### **Results from Librarians' Interviews**

The librarians at UMYU Library highlighted that the integration of digital resources has significantly progressed in recent years, with e-books, online journals, and databases being the primary digital resources in use. However, several challenges persist, including inadequate infrastructure, limited technical skills among staff, and insufficient funding to maintain and expand digital services. While the library management is supportive of the digital transformation, the implementation of the strategic plan for digital resources remains slow. Librarians noted that ongoing professional development and training are crucial, though they felt the current training opportunities were infrequent and lacked depth. Successful strategies mentioned included collaboration with external vendors for resource acquisition and periodic workshops to improve staff skills. Despite these efforts, they suggested that user involvement in the planning and implementation phases was minimal, and they emphasized the need for more comprehensive feedback mechanisms from users.

In terms of the strategic plan, most librarians felt that while it was a step in the right direction, it needed more specificity and focus on the critical areas of infrastructure development and user engagement. Training on digital resource management is offered, but the frequency and relevance of these sessions were seen as insufficient. Many librarians expressed that for successful digital transformation in university libraries, a combination of robust infrastructure, continuous training, and active user engagement was

essential. They recommended improving communication channels between the library and its users, ensuring that user feedback is incorporated into decision-making processes, and expanding the scope of digital services to include a broader range of resources to meet evolving academic needs.

# **Results from Library Users' Interviews**

The library users indicated frequent use of digital resources, particularly e-books and online journals, with most respondents accessing these resources at least once a week. However, many users shared challenges with accessing digital resources due to technical issues such as slow internet connectivity, outdated software, and limited access to highperformance devices. Satisfaction with support services was mixed, with many users reporting that while they could receive assistance when needed, the support was often slow and not comprehensive enough to resolve more complex issues. Users expressed a desire for better training on how to use digital resources effectively, as they sometimes felt overwhelmed by the variety of platforms and tools available. Additionally, users noted that awareness about new digital resources was primarily through word of mouth, with the library not doing enough to promote updates or changes in its digital offerings.

To improve digital services, users suggested that the library focus on improving accessibility, both in terms of technological infrastructure and ease of use. They recommended that more interactive tutorials and user guides be developed to help new and existing users better navigate digital resources. Many users also expressed a need for more diverse digital materials, including specialized academic databases and access to more online research tools. The feedback also revealed that users felt disconnected from the library's planning process, as they rarely had opportunities to provide input or suggest improvements to the digital services offered. This lack of engagement contributed to some users feeling that their needs were not being fully considered in the development of the library's digital resources.

# 6. Conclusion and Future Scope

The study on strategic planning for sustainable library services in the digital age at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Library (UMYU) highlights the critical role of digital resources in supporting academic and research activities. While UMYU Library has made significant strides in integrating digital services, several challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, limited staff training, and insufficient user engagement, still hinder the full realization of its digital transformation. The findings from both librarians and library users underscore the importance of continuous training for staff, better user support services, and improved communication channels to foster a more interactive and responsive library environment. The strategic plan for digital services, although present, requires further refinement to better address the evolving needs of users and to enhance overall service delivery. By addressing these challenges, UMYU Library can achieve its goal of providing sustainable and high-quality digital library services.

#### **Future Scope**

Future research could explore the impact of advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, on library management and digital resource delivery. Additionally, more in-depth studies can focus on user-centered approaches to strategic planning, examining how libraries can involve users more effectively in the decision-making process. Future work could also investigate the role of community-driven digital services and how they can contribute to the sustainability of library services. Lastly, the application of digital tools to improve accessibility for users with disabilities could be a promising area for future research, ensuring that all users have equitable access to digital resources. These areas of research will help UMYU Library and other academic libraries in Nigeria adapt to the changing landscape of digital library services.

#### Recommendations

- 1. UMYU Library should prioritize upgrading its technological infrastructure, ensuring robust and reliable internet connectivity, and investing in modern hardware and software. This will provide a solid foundation for digital resource integration and usage.
- 2. Regular and comprehensive training programs should be implemented for library staff to enhance their technical skills and keep them updated with the latest digital library trends and tools. Partnering with other institutions and organizations for specialized training can also be beneficial.
- 3. Establishing a structured feedback mechanism will help gather insights from users about their needs and experiences. This feedback should be actively used to inform strategic planning and service improvements.
- 4. The library should increase its efforts to promote digital resources and services through various channels, including social media, workshops, and orientation programs. Clear and accessible guides and tutorials should be provided to help users navigate and utilize digital resources effectively.
- 5. Forming strategic partnerships with other libraries, academic institutions, and digital resource providers can enhance resource sharing, reduce costs, and expand the range of available digital materials.
- 6. The current strategic plan should be revisited and refined to include specific, actionable steps focused on infrastructure, training, and user engagement. Setting measurable goals and regularly reviewing progress will ensure the plan remains relevant and effective.
- 7. Developing services and resources that cater to the specific needs of different user groups, such as undergraduate students, postgraduate students, and researchers, will improve overall satisfaction and utilization of digital resources.

### **Data Availability**

The data supporting the findings of this study are available upon request from the corresponding author. The data consist of qualitative and quantitative data collected from interviews with librarians and library users at Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Library (UMYU). The interview transcripts and survey responses are stored securely in accordance with institutional data protection policies. Due to the sensitivity of

the data, access will be granted on a case-by-case basis, ensuring that confidentiality and ethical guidelines are maintained throughout the process. Researchers interested in accessing the data should contact the corresponding author to discuss the appropriate procedures for obtaining the data

#### **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this study. The research was conducted independently, and the findings are presented objectively, without any influence from external parties or financial interests. All data collection, analysis, and reporting were carried out with the highest ethical standards to ensure transparency and integrity in the research process.

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#### **Authors' Contributions**

The author conceptualized the study, designed the research methodology, and conducted the data collection process, including interviews with librarians and library users. The author was responsible for analyzing the data, interpreting the findings, and drafting the manuscript. Additionally, the author contributed to the literature review, research objectives, and the conclusion sections. The final manuscript was reviewed and approved by the author

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As a professional, Usman is an active member of the Nigerian Library Association (NLA) and the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN). He has participated in numerous workshops and training sessions aimed at enhancing his professional skills, including advanced digital literacy programs and the ICDL training under TetFund.

Usman has extensive administrative experience, having served in various roles such as Examination Officer, SIWES Coordinator, and Head of Department in his current institution. His commitment to advancing library education and improving the academic environment is evident in his dedication to both teaching and research.

Outside of his professional work, Usman enjoys reading, watching football, and advocating for sincerity in all endeavors. His dedication to personal and professional growth makes him a valued member of the academic community.