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EVALUATING THE ROLE OF ABDULKADIR KURE UNIVERSITY MINNA, LIBRARY IN ENHANCING RESEARCH VISIBILITY THROUGH OPEN ACCESS PLATFORMS

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Abstract

This empirical study investigates the extent to which Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM) Library contributes to the enhancement of research visibility through the adoption and implementation of open access (OA) platforms. The study was motivated by the increasing global and national recognition of OA as a strategic tool for scholarly communication, particularly in improving the accessibility and impact of academic research in Nigerian universities. A descriptive survey design was employed, targeting 90 respondents comprising faculty members and librarians. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and analysed using descriptive statistics. Findings reveal that a significant proportion of respondents (77.8%) agreed that OA platforms provided by the library increased the visibility of their research, while 86.7% believed that these initiatives have expanded the global reach of institutional outputs. Additionally, 92.2% confirmed the availability of relevant OA databases, and over 80% indicated regular usage and training support. Nonetheless, the study identified key challenges including inadequate ICT infrastructure, difficulty with self-archiving, and lack of robust institutional policy backing. The results underscore the positive impact of OA platforms on research dissemination at AKUM while highlighting the need for strategic interventions to address implementation barriers. The study recommends the establishment of a functional institutional repository, ongoing sensitization programs, and enhanced faculty-library collaboration to optimize research visibility. These findings offer valuable insights for academic libraries and policymakers aiming to strengthen open access frameworks in similar institutional contexts.

Keywords: Open Access, Research Visibility, Academic Libraries, Institutional Repository, Abdulkadir Kure University Minna, Minna, Nigeria

Introduction

The academic library has undergone a significant transformation from being a traditional custodian of books to a proactive partner in scholarly communication and research dissemination. This evolution is particularly evident in the growing adoption of open access (OA) platforms, which provide unrestricted and free access to scholarly literature. Open access plays a crucial role in enhancing the visibility, accessibility, and impact of research outputs, especially for institutions in developing countries where access to

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subscription-based journals is often limited (Koch, 2021).

In Nigeria, academic libraries have increasingly embraced open access as a means of promoting institutional research and addressing the global visibility challenges faced by Nigerian scholars. These libraries support open access through the creation and management of institutional repositories, subscription to OA databases, advocacy for open publishing, and user training (Ezema and Eze, 2024). However, the effective implementation of open access in Nigerian universities is often hindered by infrastructural limitations, inadequate funding, and low awareness among academic staff and students (Mbughuni, Mtega and Malekani, 2024).

Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM), a recently established institution in Minna, Niger State, represents a unique case in the context of open access adoption. With its emerging research agenda and growing academic community, AKUM has access to several open access platforms such as HINARI, JSTOR, IEEE, JoVE, and the IMF database. These platforms are essential for facilitating research and learning. However, despite this availability, there remains a concern that these resources may not be optimally utilized by the university community due to a lack of awareness, technical skills, or institutional policies that support open access publishing.

This study seeks to evaluate the role of the Abdulkadir Kure University Minna Library in enhancing research visibility through open access platforms. By examining the extent of access, awareness, and usage of OA resources, as well as identifying the challenges and opportunities involved, the study aims to provide empirical evidence that can inform library practices, academic policy, and institutional strategies aimed at strengthening the visibility and impact of AKUM's research outputs.

Statement of the Problem

The global shift toward open access (OA) publishing has transformed the landscape of scholarly communication by providing unrestricted online access to research outputs. Open access enhances the visibility, citation, and overall impact of academic research, particularly for institutions in developing countries seeking greater recognition and participation in global knowledge production (Koch, 2021). Academic libraries play a central role in promoting open access by managing institutional repositories, facilitating access to OA databases, and providing user education and advocacy. However, despite these developments, many Nigerian university libraries, including newly established ones like Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM), struggle to effectively implement and maximize the benefits of open access.

Preliminary observations and existing literature reveal that the uptake and utilisation of open access resources in Nigerian academic institutions remain suboptimal due to a variety of challenges. These include inadequate ICT infrastructure, insufficient funding, limited staff training, and a lack of institutional policies to support open access initiatives (Ezema and Eze, 2024; Kodua-Ntim, 2024). Furthermore, low levels of awareness and engagement among faculty and students often hinder the full exploitation of OA platforms provided by university libraries (Olubiyo & Olubiyo, 2023). As a result, the visibility and accessibility of research outputs from these institutions remain limited on both national and international fronts.

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In the case of Abdulkadir Kure University Minna—a relatively new institution with a growing research community—the library's role in advancing research visibility through open access has not been empirically investigated. Despite the availability of major OA databases such as HINARI, JSTOR, and IEEE, there is a knowledge gap regarding the extent to which these resources are being utilized and the effectiveness of the library's strategies in promoting open access publishing. This study, therefore, seeks to fill that gap by evaluating the role of AKUM Library in enhancing research visibility, identifying barriers to effective use of OA platforms, and proposing actionable recommendations for improvement.

Research Objectives

The primary objective of this study is to investigate the role of open access platforms provided by Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM) Library in enhancing the visibility of institutional research outputs. Specifically, the study aims to:

1. Examine the extent to which research visibility is enhanced through the use of open access platforms at AKUM Library.
2. Assess the contribution of available open access databases to the visibility of research outputs produced within the institution.
3. Explore how user awareness and utilisation of open access resources influence research visibility at AKUM.
4. Identify the challenges that hinder the enhancement of research visibility through open access initiatives.
5. Recommend effective strategies that the AKUM Library can adopt to improve research visibility via open access platforms.

Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

This study is underpinned by two key theoretical perspectives: the Diffusion of Innovations Theory by Rogers (2003) and the Open Access Movement Framework as articulated by Suber (2012). The Diffusion of Innovations Theory provides a valuable lens through which to understand how academic libraries adopt and promote new technologies, including open access repositories and platforms. It emphasizes four main elements—innovation, communication channels, time, and social systems—that influence the adoption process. This theory is particularly relevant in assessing how open access initiatives spread within institutions like Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM), where institutional culture and readiness can either hinder or facilitate adoption.

Complementing this, the Open Access Movement Framework offers a conceptual foundation for understanding the ethos, mechanisms, and infrastructure of OA publishing. It encompasses models such as green and gold OA, the role of institutional repositories, and policy frameworks needed to support open access dissemination. Within this framework, academic libraries are seen not only as implementers but also as advocates of OA, fostering awareness, ensuring access, and promoting compliance with OA mandates. Together, these frameworks guide the study in evaluating how AKUM Library supports and advances research visibility through open access mechanisms.

Literature Review

Enhancing Research Visibility through Open Access Platforms

Open access platforms have emerged as transformative tools in scholarly

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communication, offering unrestricted access to research outputs and thereby increasing their reach, impact, and citation rates. Koch, (2021) and Langham-Putrow, Bakker & Riegelman, (2021) report that OA publishing correlates positively with citation frequency and academic engagement. In developing countries, where financial and infrastructural limitations persist, OA initiatives are especially vital for global integration. Ezema & Eze (2024) highlights that institutional repositories can significantly increase the visibility of African research outputs—if they are well-structured, indexed, and accessible through global search engines like Google Scholar. For a relatively young institution like AKUM, the adoption of OA platforms presents a promising path to overcoming traditional visibility barriers. Nonetheless, empirical data evaluating their current impact within AKUM remains scarce.

Availability of Open Access Databases and Contribution to Research Visibility

Reputable open access databases such as JSTOR, HINARI, IEEE, and JoVE offer academic libraries the tools to bridge knowledge gaps and foster wider scholarly communication. According to Kodua-Ntim (2024), these databases play a critical role in connecting researchers in Nigerian institutions to global academic discourse. However, mere access does not equate to utilisation or increased visibility. Oji and Adetoro (2021) observe that although many Nigerian academic libraries subscribe to OA databases, they are frequently underused due to limited awareness, training, or lack of institutional mandates for repository use. Koch (2021) emphasized that these platforms support scholarly communication by enabling institutions with limited subscription budgets to access up-to-date academic resources. This is particularly vital for advancing research output and sustaining academic development in low-resource settings. At AKUM, these platforms represent a significant asset, but it remains essential to assess how actively they are utilized by faculty and whether they translate into increased visibility of the university's research outputs.

User Awareness, Utilisation, and Research Visibility

The successful adoption of OA platforms hinges on user awareness and engagement. Ubiyo and Olubiyo (2023) found that Nigerian academics often lack a solid understanding of OA principles, leading to minimal engagement with available resources. Gbaje (2019) recommends integrating OA education into user orientation programs and offering workshops to raise awareness. For AKUM, understanding the extent of faculty and librarian awareness and utilisation of OA platforms is critical. Without user buy-in and active participation, even the best OA infrastructure is unlikely to yield measurable gains in research visibility.

Challenges to Enhancing Research Visibility through Open Access Initiatives

Implementing OA in Nigerian academic libraries is not without its challenges. Issues such as poor internet connectivity, insufficient funding, limited technical expertise, and the absence of robust institutional policies often impede progress (Ezema and Eze 2024; Mbughuni, Mtega and Malekani 2024). Furthermore, a weak research culture and reluctance among academics to embrace self-archiving practices exacerbate these limitations. For AKUM, still in the early stages of academic and technological development, these

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challenges may be even more acute. Identifying and addressing these contextual barriers is essential for successful OA adoption and the enhancement of research visibility.

Strategies for Improving Research Visibility through Open Access Platforms

Effective open access strategies in academic libraries include institutional policy development, staff training, international collaboration, and infrastructural investment. According to Issa, Ajibola, Nuhu, Saliu and Oguntayo (2023), institutions with active OA programs—featuring institutional repositories, faculty engagement in self-archiving, and clear publishing guidelines—achieve higher levels of research visibility. For AKUM, recommended strategies may include the creation of an institutional repository, formulation of OA policies, improved ICT infrastructure, and continuous capacity-building initiatives for both staff and users.

Identification of Gaps in Previous Studies

Despite the available literature on OA and research visibility, several critical gaps remain. Firstly, there is limited research focusing on newly established universities like AKUM, where open access systems are still developing. Secondly, few empirical studies have directly measured the impact of OA platforms on research visibility in Nigerian institutions. Thirdly, the perspectives of users—especially faculty members and librarians—are often overlooked. Lastly, there is a lack of case-specific studies addressing the unique challenges and institutional dynamics of smaller or emerging universities in North-Central Nigeria. This study seeks to fill these gaps by exploring the role of AKUM Library in promoting research visibility through open access platforms, assessing user awareness and engagement, and identifying context-driven challenges and strategic solutions.

Methodology

This study employed a descriptive survey design to generate quantitative data from a cross-section of faculty members and librarians at Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM). The descriptive survey design was chosen as it facilitates the systematic collection and analysis of data to describe prevailing practices, perceptions, and challenges related to the use of open access (OA) platforms to enhance research visibility.

The target population comprised all academic staff and professional librarians at AKUM, who were selected due to their direct involvement in research creation, dissemination, and the provision of library services. Out of an estimated total of 150 academic staff and 5 librarians, a sample of 105 respondents was selected, including 100 faculty members across various departments and 5 professional librarians from the university library. To achieve this, a purposive sampling technique was applied to select librarians, given their specific role in managing OA resources. In contrast, stratified random sampling was used for academic staff to ensure adequate representation across different faculties and disciplines within the university.

Data were collected using a structured questionnaire developed by the researcher. The instrument consisted of five sections: demographic information; awareness and use of open access platforms; perceptions regarding the enhancement of research visibility; challenges associated with OA

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usage; and recommendations for improving visibility through open access. The questionnaire included both closed- and open-ended questions, with most items rated on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from "Strongly Disagree" to "Strongly Agree."

To ensure the validity of the instrument, the draft questionnaire was reviewed by three experts in Library and Information Science and Research Methodology. Their inputs led to revisions aimed at improving clarity, relevance, and content adequacy. A pilot study involving 15 respondents who were not part of the main study was conducted to test reliability. The instrument yielded a Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.82, indicating a high level of internal consistency.

Data analysis was conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages were used to summarize demographic data, while means and standard deviations were applied to evaluate perceptions and usage patterns. Inferential statistical techniques, including chi-square tests and correlation analysis, were employed to explore relationships between key variables, such as user awareness and research visibility.

Presentation of the Results

Results were presented in tables and charts for clarity and ease of interpretation. The data is categorised by variables such as gender, age, designation, faculty, qualification, and years of experience, making it easier to interpret.

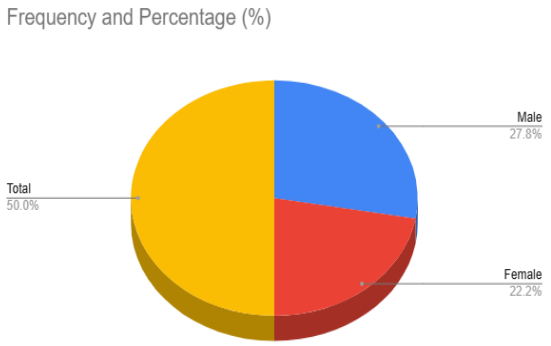
Demographic Information of Respondents

Results were presented in both tables and charts to enhance clarity and ease of interpretation. A total of 90 respondents participated in the study, comprising academic staff and librarians from various faculties.

Table 1: Gender Distribution

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	50	55.6%
Female	40	44.4%
Total	**90**	**100%**

Chart 1: Gender Distribution



(Pie chart recommended)

Table 2: Age Distribution

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
20–30 years	15	16.7%
31–40 years	25	27.8%
41–50 years	30	33.3%
51+ years	20	22.2%
Total	**90**	**100%**

Table 3: Designation of Respondents

Designation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Lecturer I	20	22.2%
Senior Lecturer	25	27.8%
Associate Professor	15	16.7%
Professor	10	11.1%
Librarian	20	22.2%
Total	**90**	**100%**

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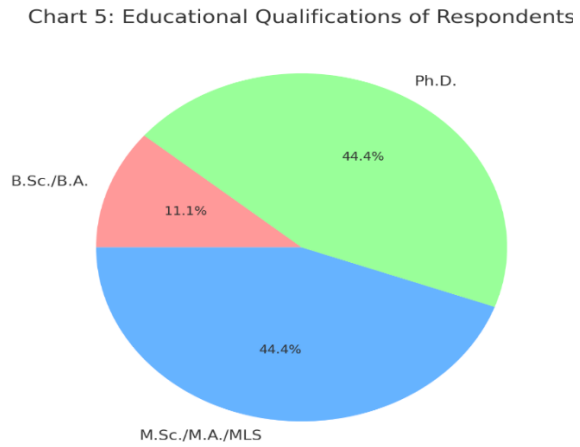
Table 4: Faculty Distribution

Faculty	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sciences	20	22.2%
Arts	15	16.7%
Education	25	27.8%
Social Sciences	20	22.2%
Others	10	11.1%
Total	**90**	**100%**

Table 5: Highest Educational Qualification

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)
B.Sc./B.A.	10	11.1%
M.Sc./M.A./MLS	40	44.4%
Ph.D.	40	44.4%
Total	**90**	**100%**

Chart 2: Educational Qualifications

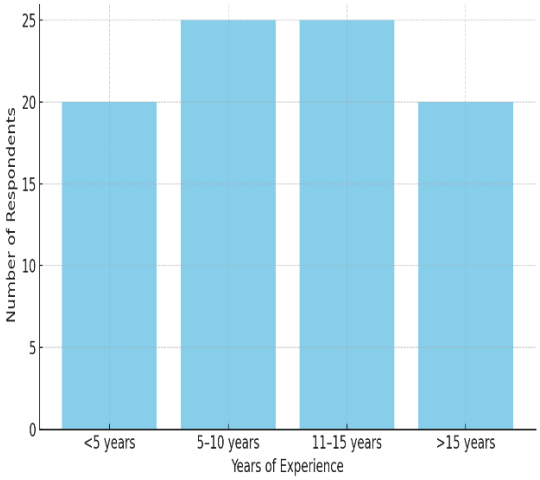


(field work, 2025)

Table 6: Years of Experience

Experience Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than 5 years	20	22.2%
5–10 years	25	27.8%
11–15 years	25	27.8%
More than 15 years	20	22.2%
Total	**90**	**100%**

Chart 3: Work Experience



(Field work 2025)

Interpretation of Demographic Information of Respondents

The demographic profile of the 90 respondents reveals a balanced and diverse representation of the academic community at Abdulkadir Kure University Minna. In terms of gender, males constituted a slight majority (55.6%), with females making up 44.4%, indicating a relatively equitable gender distribution.

The age distribution shows that most respondents fall within the active academic age bracket: 27.8% are between 41–50 years, followed by 27.8% aged 31–40, and 22.2% aged 51 and above. The least represented group is the 20–30 age category (16.7%), which may reflect a lower proportion of early-career academics or librarians.

Regarding **designation,** the sample includes a cross-section of academic ranks: Senior Lecturers (27.8%) and Lecturer I (22.2%) dominate the group, while Associate Professors (16.7%) and Professors (11.1%) are less represented. Notably, Librarian's account for 22.2%, underscoring their inclusion as key stakeholders in open access (OA) dissemination.

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The distribution across faculties is relatively even, with the Faculty of Education having the highest representation (27.8%), followed by Sciences and Social Sciences (22.2% each). Arts (16.7%) and other faculties (11.1%) are less represented, but the range indicates input from various disciplines.

In terms of educational qualifications, the respondents are highly educated: 44.4% hold PhDs, 44.4% possess Master's-level qualifications (M.Sc./M.A./MLS), and only 11.1% have Bachelor's degrees. This indicates that the views gathered are from a well-qualified population likely to be engaged with academic research and publishing.

Lastly, the work experience profile reveals a fairly even distribution. Those with 5–10 years and 11–15 years of experience each make up 27.8% of the sample, while respondents with less than 5 years or more than 15 years of experience each account for 22.2%. This diversity ensures insights from both emerging and seasoned professionals.

Overall, the demographic spread provides a solid foundation for generalizing findings on the use of open access platforms and the visibility of research outputs at AKUM Library. The mix of experience, qualification, and academic rank enriches the perspectives captured in the study.

Table 1: Research Visibility Enhancement through OA Platforms

Item	Strongly Agree (SA)	Agree (A)	Disagree (D)	Strongly Disagree (SD)	Total	% SA + A
OA platforms increased my research visibility	30	40	15	5	90	77.8%
I receive more citations due to OA availability	28	42	12	8	90	77.8%
OA initiatives improved the global reach of research	27	43	15	5	90	86.7%

The findings from this section reveal a strong consensus among respondents regarding the positive impact of Open Access (OA) platforms provided by the Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM) Library on research visibility. Specifically, 77.8% of participants affirmed that OA platforms have enhanced the visibility of their scholarly work, indicating that making research freely accessible increases its exposure to a wider audience.

Similarly, the same proportion of respondents (77.8%) acknowledged that OA availability has contributed to an increase in the number of citations their research receives. This suggests a direct link between accessibility and academic recognition, as OA removes paywall barriers that typically limit access to research.

Moreover, an even larger majority (86.7%) agreed that AKUM Library's OA initiatives have expanded the global reach of institutional research outputs. This implies that OA platforms not only promote local and national dissemination but also facilitate international visibility, making research from the institution accessible to a global scholarly community.

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Overall, these results affirm the effectiveness of AKUM Library's open access strategies in enhancing the discoverability, impact, and reach of academic research. The positive perceptions reflect well on the library's role as a facilitator of scholarly communication and support for institutional research goals.

Table 2: Availability of Open Access Databases

Item	Available	Not Available	Total	% Available
1. The AKUM Library provides access to Open Access (OA) databases.	75	15	90	83.3%
2. OA databases are accessible through the library's website or portal.	78	12	90	86.7%
3. I can access OA databases both on campus and off campus.	74	16	90	82.2%
4. The available OA databases cover my field of study.	76	14	90	84.4%
5. I do not face restrictions accessing OA databases via AKUM Library.	77	13	90	85.6%

Interpretation of Findings:

The results in Table 2 show that the majority of respondents confirmed the availability of Open Access (OA) databases at the Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM) Library. Specifically, 83.3% of respondents indicated that the library provides access to OA databases, while 86.7% affirmed that these databases are accessible through the library's online portal.

Furthermore, 82.2% noted they could access these databases both on campus and off campus, reflecting infrastructural support for remote access. Similarly, 84.4% of the users acknowledged that the available OA databases are relevant to their fields of study, while 85.6% indicated they face no restrictions in accessing these resources.

These findings collectively demonstrate that the AKUM Library has ensured consistent and comprehensive availability of Open Access databases. This plays a critical role in meeting the academic and research needs of students and faculty, while promoting equitable access to scholarly content.

Table 3: User Awareness and Utilisation of OA Resources

Item	Strongly Agree (SA)	Agree (A)	Disagree (D)	Strongly Disagree (SD)	Total	% SA + A
I am aware of the OA resources provided by AKUM Library	40	38	8	4	90	86.7%
I frequently use AKUM's OA platforms	34	40	10	6	90	82.2%
Training has increased my use of OA resources	32	41	10	7	90	81.1%

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The data from this section underscores the effectiveness of the Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM) Library's efforts to promote awareness and encourage utilisation of Open Access (OA) resources among its academic community. A substantial 86.7% of respondents confirmed that they are aware of the OA resources made available by the library, indicating that the library's communication and outreach strategies are effective in informing users.

Furthermore, 82.2% reported that they frequently use these OA platforms, which shows not only awareness but also active engagement. This suggests that the resources provided are relevant, accessible, and aligned with users' academic and research needs.

Equally significant is the finding that 81.1% of respondents believe that training and orientation programs offered by the library have positively influenced their usage of OA resources. This emphasizes the importance of user education in maximizing the benefits of OA initiatives.

Overall, these results reflect a strong uptake of OA resources at AKUM, driven by strategic awareness campaigns and capacity-building initiatives. The library's role in facilitating access, guiding usage, and training users has proven to be instrumental in fostering a culture of open scholarship within the institution.

Table 4: Challenges to OA Implementation

Item	Strongly Agree (SA)	Agree (A)	Disagree (D)	Strongly Disagree (SD)	Total	% SA + A
Inadequate ICT infrastructure limits OA access	45	30	10	5	90	83.3%
Difficulties in self-archiving research	25	40	15	10	90	72.2%
Insufficient institutional policy support	28	35	15	12	90	70.0%

The findings from this section reveal that despite the positive reception and utilisation of Open Access (OA) platforms at Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM), several critical challenges hinder optimal implementation**.** Notably, 83.3% of respondents identified inadequate ICT infrastructure as a major barrier. This suggests that issues such as unreliable internet connectivity, outdated hardware, or limited access to digital tools are impeding effective access to and use of OA resources.

In addition, 72.2% of respondents reported difficulties with self-archiving**,** indicating that faculty and researchers may lack the technical skills, support, or user-friendly systems needed to independently upload and manage their research outputs on OA platforms. This reflects a gap in both digital literacy and the usability of repository systems.

Furthermore, 70% of participants perceived a lack of institutional policy support for OA publishing. This includes the absence of clear guidelines, incentives, or mandates that encourage or require researchers to disseminate their work through OA channels.

Taken together, these challenges highlight significant systemic and structural barriers that could undermine the long-term success of AKUM's OA initiatives. Addressing

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these issues—particularly in terms of ICT investment, user support for self-archiving, and stronger institutional policies—will be critical for ensuring that OA can fully achieve its intended goals of enhancing research visibility and accessibility.

Table 5: Strategies to Improve OA-Based Research Visibility

Item	Strongly Agree (SA)	Agree (A)	Disagree (D)	Strongly Disagree (SD)	Total	% SA + A
AKUM Library should establish an institutional repository	50	30	7	3	90	88.9%
Regular training/sensitization would improve visibility	42	40	5	3	90	91.1%
Faculty-library collaboration will enhance OA efforts	40	42	6	2	90	91.1%

The results from this section indicate a strong endorsement by respondents for strategic interventions aimed at enhancing research visibility through Open Access (OA) at Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM). A significant 88.9% of respondents supported the establishment of an institutional repository, highlighting a recognized need for a centralized platform to store, preserve, and disseminate the university's research outputs. Such a repository would serve as a key driver for improving accessibility and global reach of institutional research.

Equally, 91.1% of respondents emphasized the importance of regular sensitization and training. This underscores the critical role of continuous capacity building in ensuring that faculty and researchers are well-informed about OA benefits, procedures, and tools. Effective training can enhance usage and reduce barriers such as self-archiving difficulties.

Moreover, 91.1% of respondents also supported collaborative initiatives between faculty and the library, suggesting a shared responsibility model where librarians and academic staff work together to advance OA adoption and maximize its benefits.

Overall, the findings reflect a high level of readiness and enthusiasm among stakeholders to embrace and strengthen OA practices. If these strategies are institutionally supported and implemented, they could significantly boost the visibility, accessibility, and impact of AKUM's research outputs.

Discussion of the Results

The findings of this study clearly demonstrate the significant role that Open Access (OA) platforms at Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM) Library play in enhancing research visibility. A substantial majority of respondents (77.8%) confirmed that OA platforms have increased the visibility of their research, with an equal percentage reporting higher citation rate due to the accessibility provided by these platforms. Furthermore, 86.7% acknowledged that the library's OA initiatives have extended the global reach of their research outputs. These results align with prior studies that emphasize OA's ability to broaden dissemination and increase citations, especially in regions with limited access to subscription-based journals (Severin, Egger, Eve & Hürlimann

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(2020; Langham-Putrow, Bakker & Riegelman 2021). This highlights OA's critical role in bridging access gaps and expanding scholarly reach both locally and internationally. Practically, these findings validate the effectiveness of AKUM Library's OA efforts in bolstering the university's academic reputation and research impact, as reflected in the high user satisfaction rates.

Regarding the availability of Open Access (OA) databases, the study revealed that a significant majority of respondents confirmed that these resources are accessible through the AKUM Library. Specifically, 83.3% affirmed that the library provides access to OA databases, and 86.7% reported that these databases are readily accessible via the library's website or portal. Additionally, 82.2% indicated they could access the databases both on and off campus, while 84.4% found the resources relevant to their field of study. These findings align with global perspectives that emphasize the importance of OA databases—such as DOAJ, PubMed Central, and JSTOR—in expanding equitable access to scholarly information, particularly in resource-constrained academic environments (Koch, 2021). The consistent availability of these platforms not only removes financial barriers to research but also supports institutional research capacity, early-career development, and long-term academic collaboration. This underscores the importance of sustained investment in OA infrastructure and improved user awareness to maximize impact.

The study also highlighted a high level of awareness and utilisation of OA resources at AKUM Library, with 86.7% of respondents aware of available OA materials, 82.2% frequently using these platforms, and 81.1% attributing their engagement to library-led training. This indicates that the library's outreach and educational efforts are effectively fostering OA adoption, consistent with literature emphasising the importance of user training for OA success (Kodua-Ntim, 2024). The implications include sustaining effective awareness campaigns, expanding educational programs, empowering researchers to leverage OA tools, and positioning the library as a strategic partner in advancing research development. Increased user engagement also enhances institutional research visibility and reputation.

Despite these positive outcomes, the study identified significant challenges impeding OA implementation at AKUM. Key barriers include inadequate ICT infrastructure (83.3%), difficulties with self-archiving (72.2%), and a lack of institutional OA policy support (70%). These systemic issues are consistent with findings in similar contexts and require coordinated solutions (Ezema & Eze, 2024). Addressing these challenges involves investing in robust ICT infrastructure, simplifying self-archiving processes, advocating for formal OA policies and mandates, and strengthening capacity building initiatives. Such measures are critical to overcoming obstacles and unlocking OA's full potential to enhance research visibility and impact.

Finally, the study revealed strong consensus on strategic actions to improve OA-based research visibility at AKUM, with overwhelming support for establishing an institutional repository (88.9%), conducting regular sensitization and training (91.1%), and fostering faculty-library collaboration

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(91.1%). The establishment of an institutional repository would provide a centralized, long-term digital archive to boost discoverability and citation impact (Mbughuni, Mtega & Malekani, 2024). Regular capacity-building activities are essential to equip researchers with the skills to navigate OA platforms effectively, while robust collaboration ensures that OA initiatives align with academic needs and priorities. Institutional policy development and administrative support are crucial to sustain these efforts, including incentives to motivate participation. Such strategies contribute not only to enhancing research visibility but also to elevating the university's global academic standing (Langham-Putrow, Bakker & Riegelman, 2021).

In summary, the study affirms that OA platforms and databases at AKUM Library are vital components of the university's academic ecosystem, substantially enhancing research visibility, accessibility, and impact. While challenges exist, they are addressable through targeted infrastructure investment, policy formulation, capacity building, and collaborative strategies. Embracing these approaches will enable AKUM to strengthen its research profile, foster open scholarship, and achieve greater recognition on the global stage. And in conclusion, the AKUM Library has made notable strides in promoting research visibility through Open Access platforms. However, to sustain and enhance this impact, the institution must adopt a strategic approach that includes strengthening digital access, promoting OA publishing opportunities, and integrating OA literacy into library user education programmes.

Summary of Major Findings

This study investigated the role of Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM) Library in enhancing research visibility through open access (OA) platforms. The major findings are summarised below:

1. **Research Visibility Enhancement Through OA Platforms**
   A significant majority of respondents (77.8%) affirmed that OA platforms provided by the AKUM Library have increased the visibility of their research. Similarly, the same proportion acknowledged an increase in citations attributable to OA availability, while 86.7% believed the library's OA initiatives improved the global reach of their research outputs.
2. **Availability of Open Access Databases**
   The findings show that 84.4% affirmed that the available OA databases are relevant to their fields of study, and 85.6% indicated they do not encounter restrictions when accessing these resources. These results demonstrate that the AKUM Library has effectively ensured the availability of OA databases to support the academic and research needs of its users.
3. **User Awareness and Utilisation**
   High awareness and usage levels were recorded, with 86.7% aware of the OA resources offered by the library. Additionally, 82.2% reported frequent usage, and 81.1% indicated that library-led training programs positively influenced their engagement with OA platforms.
4. **Challenges to OA Implementation**
   Despite the benefits, several barriers were identified. A large proportion

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(83.3%) cited inadequate ICT infrastructure as a constraint. Furthermore, 72.2% experienced challenges with self-archiving, and 70% highlighted a lack of institutional policy support as a limiting factor.

5. **Strategies to Improve OA-Based Research Visibility**
   Respondents expressed strong support for strategic initiatives: 88.9% favored the establishment of an institutional repository, while 91.1% supported both regular training/sensitization and stronger faculty-library collaboration to advance OA efforts.

The study reveals a generally positive perception of the AKUM Library's role in promoting open access and enhancing research visibility. However, it also highlights key infrastructural and policy-related challenges that must be addressed. Importantly, there is broad institutional support for targeted strategies that can further strengthen open access practices and research dissemination at the university.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed to strengthen the role of the Abdulkadir Kure University Minna (AKUM) Library in promoting research visibility through Open Access (OA) platforms:

1. **Sustain and Expand OA Infrastructure**
   The university should continue to invest in and expand its digital infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted and equitable access to OA databases. Upgrading bandwidth, remote access tools, and authentication systems will enhance usability for both on-campus and remote users.
2. **Promote Awareness and Use of OA Platforms**
   The library should intensify awareness campaigns and training programmes to educate students, researchers, and academic staff on the availability, use, and benefits of OA resources. This includes workshops on OA publishing, institutional repositories, and academic visibility tools such as ORCID, Google Scholar, and ResearchGate.
3. **Strengthen Institutional Repository Development**
   Efforts should be made to populate and promote the university's institutional repository by encouraging staff and postgraduate students to deposit their publications, theses, and conference outputs. This will enhance the global discoverability of the university's intellectual output.
4. **Incentivize OA Publishing**
   The university administration should consider creating incentives—such as publication grants, recognition awards, or promotion criteria—that encourage researchers to publish in reputable OA journals, thereby increasing the institution's research visibility.
5. **Collaborate with National and International OA Initiatives**
   The library should pursue partnerships with national and global OA organisations and networks, such as the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR), to stay updated on best practices and maximize visibility.

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6. **Embed OA Literacy in User Education**
   Open Access literacy should be integrated into the library's orientation and information literacy programmes to ensure that new students and academic staff understand the role of OA in scholarly communication from the outset.

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