

THE ROLES OF LIBRARY CONSORTIA IN ENHANCING DIGITAL RESOURCE AVAILABILITY AND UTILISATION IN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION LIBRARIES IN OGUN AND OYO STATES, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examined the roles of library consortia in enhancing the availability and utilisation of digital resources in Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo States, Nigeria. Using a survey research design, data were collected from 98 students across the Federal College of Education, Oyo, and the Federal College of Education, Abeokuta via structured questionnaires administered through Google Forms. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviation with SPSS. The findings of the study revealed that although most users were aware of the existence of digital resources provided through library consortia and acknowledged the role of library consortia in providing access to high-quality and up-to-date digital resources, actual usage of such resources remained low due to poor internet connectivity, lack of training, content irrelevance, and limited awareness of available resources. The study concluded that while users have a high level of awareness about digital resources provided through library consortia and the crucial role it plays in improving availability, its impact is hindered by technical barriers and inadequate user training. It recommends that academic libraries conduct regular awareness campaigns and user training, ensure alignment of digital resources with users' needs, and that government and institutions invest in ICT infrastructure and sustainable funding to maximize the benefits of library consortia.

Keywords: *Resource utilisation, library consortium, library services, digital resources, colleges of education.*

Introduction

In today's information-driven society, the professional goal of any librarian is to provide the most effective and efficient services to users. However, the demand for library resources, particularly digital information, continues to grow exponentially while most libraries, especially in developing countries, face limitations in funding, staffing, and access to up-to-date materials (Onunka et al., 2023). Colleges of Education in Nigeria are not exempted from this challenge, as they

often struggle to meet the information needs of their students and staff due to the limited availability of digital resources. This shortfall undermines the libraries' ability to support teaching, learning, and research effectively, making it imperative to explore sustainable models of cooperation and resource sharing that can improve service delivery and resource accessibility in these institutions.

Several studies have affirmed the persistent problem of limited access to and low utilisation of digital resources in academic

libraries across Nigeria. For instance, Babarinde and Onifade (2019), in their study on digital resource use in Southwestern Nigerian tertiary institutions, found that although digital resources were available in some libraries, their usage remained low due to poor awareness, inadequate ICT infrastructure, and insufficient user training. Similarly, Abiola (2019) reported that academic libraries struggled with outdated systems and lack of technical support, which hindered effective utilisation of electronic resources. These findings highlight a systemic issue that affects not only digital resource availability but also the libraries' capacity to deliver timely and relevant information services to users.

In response to these challenges, the concept of library consortia has emerged as a viable solution to improve access to digital content. Library consortia involve collaborative partnerships where member libraries pool resources, share subscriptions to electronic databases, and collectively bargain for better licensing agreements. According to Kumar and Gupta (2023), library consortia play a vital role in developing countries by mitigating resource shortages and enhancing inter-library cooperation. These partnerships allow institutions to reduce operational costs, share digital infrastructure, and improve service delivery. The integration of information and communication technology (ICT) into library services further strengthens the potential of consortia to expand digital access and utilisation among member libraries.

Despite the acknowledged benefits of library consortia, few empirical studies have focused specifically on their role in enhancing digital resource availability and

utilisation in Colleges of Education libraries (Andrew & Ibraheem, 2022; Okhakhu & Ogbe, 2022; Abdul, 2023). Most existing researches have concentrated on universities, public libraries, or private institutions, leaving a gap in literature regarding teacher training colleges. Furthermore, studies have rarely examined the perspectives of both professional and para-professional staff or adopted a comparative approach across states.

Additionally, limited attention has been paid to the practical effectiveness of library consortia within the context of regional collaborations among educational institutions in Southwest Nigeria. This study, therefore, seeks to address these gaps by examining the roles of library consortia in enhancing the availability and utilisation of digital resources in Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo States. It aims to investigate the extent of participation in library consortia, assess the benefits derived, and identify the challenges faced by these institutions in maximizing consortium membership. The study also hopes to provide practical recommendations that can guide policymakers, library administrators, and stakeholders in improving digital access through cooperative strategies.

Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to investigate the roles of library consortia in enhancing digital resource availability and utilisation in Colleges of Education Libraries in Ogun and Oyo States. The specific objectives are to;

1. Determine level of users' awareness of digital resources provided through library consortia in colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo states

2. Assess library users' knowledge of the role of library consortia in digital resources in Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo states.

3. Evaluate the Challenges in Utilizing Digital Resources through Consortia in Colleges of Education Libraries in Ogun and Oyo States.

4. Explore strategies for improving the library consortia in enhancing digital resources utilisation in Colleges of Education Libraries in Ogun and Oyo States.

Literature Review

Library consortia are cooperative arrangements among libraries designed to enhance access to information, improve service delivery, and increase operational efficiency through shared resources. Derived from the Latin word *consort*, meaning partnership, a consortium typically consists of libraries working together to achieve common goals that would be difficult to realize individually. As Burke (2021) note, the term consortium refers to this collaborative model, which has become essential in the face of limited budgets and the growing demand for diverse information resources. No single library can independently meet all the information needs of its users, making collaboration through consortia a powerful strategy for achieving economies of scale and broader access to electronic resources under favorable licensing terms (Pereira & Franco, 2020).

The development of library consortia gained momentum with the rise of information and communication technologies (ICT), which enabled the sharing of digital resources and facilitated greater cooperation among

institutions. Haishuang, Danhui and Hongshen (2020) observe that consortia emerged as transformative entities, addressing challenges in resource access by offering joint purchasing power and centralised services. These networks can operate on local, national, or international levels and often formalise their collaboration through agreements that outline shared goals and responsibilities. According to Gupta and Bhatt (2024), a consortium not only extends the purchasing and service capabilities of its members but also enhances value creation by fostering resource sharing and coordinated service delivery. As Gonda and Papatheodorou (2021) emphasise, in today's digital-first world, library consortia are indispensable for sustaining comprehensive library services, particularly in enabling access to costly digital collections and expanding user privileges across member institutions.

Library Consortia's Role in the Availability and Affordability of Digital Resources

Library consortia play a crucial role in enhancing the accessibility and affordability of digital resources among member institutions. Through collective membership, libraries especially those with limited funding gain access to a wide range of electronic resources such as e-books, e-journals, and research databases that may otherwise be unaffordable. As noted by Wijetunge (2019), the shared resource pool developed by consortia enables institutions to provide high-quality digital materials to their users, thereby levelling the academic and research playing field. Consortia also promote cost-sharing mechanisms for licensing and content acquisition, significantly reducing the financial burden on individual libraries. Saunders and

Corning (2020) highlight that group licensing agreements negotiated by consortia can lead to substantial cost savings, making it feasible for financially constrained institutions to participate in the global knowledge economy. In addition to economic benefits, library consortia facilitate technological collaboration among members. This includes shared access to digital preservation tools, advanced search systems, and cloud-based services. Furthermore, they enable knowledge exchange among professionals, fostering innovation and improving digital library operations. Olubiyo and Olubiyo (2023) describe this form of collaboration as a driving force for technological advancement, enhancing the user experience by optimising digital content delivery and performance.

Another significant contribution of consortia is the establishment of common technical standards, particularly in cataloguing and metadata interoperability. These shared standards ensure that electronic resources from different institutions are easily discoverable and accessible across platforms. Consortia are also committed to improving user interfaces and access platforms. They work collaboratively to develop user-friendly systems that support resource discovery and accommodate emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence. Model (2019) observed that such initiatives not only enhance accessibility for all users, including those with disabilities, but also enrich the overall experience of navigating vast digital collections.

Furthermore, library consortia serve as platforms for collaborative research and innovation. Members can jointly explore emerging trends such as AI and machine

learning applications in digital preservation. Rupchan (2024) noted that these collaborative efforts lead to innovative solutions in digital library management and content curation by combining the expertise of diverse institutions. Library consortia also enhance the visibility and impact of institutional research. By providing broader dissemination channels, they enable smaller institutions to increase global access to their research outputs, leading to improved citation rates and academic recognition. Kumar and Gupta (2023) affirm that consortia support the elevation of lesser-known institutions by extending the reach and influence of their scholarly work. Additional benefits of library consortia include access to international funding opportunities, cost reduction through shared licenses, professional development, improved access to rare resources, enhanced communication and collaboration tools, and reduced administrative workloads. They also foster reputation building, joint research and publication initiatives, and the development of new services and technologies. Moreover, consortia encourage diversity, inclusion, and community engagement, while enabling the assessment of emerging trends and promoting lifelong learning (Alegre, Berbegal-Mirabent & Martin-Sanchez, 2025).

Challenges confronting Library Consortium and the use of Digital library

The implementation and sustained operation of library consortia and digital libraries face a variety of challenges that limit their effectiveness in facilitating equitable access to digital resources. Among the major constraints are organisational inefficiencies, technological limitations, financial instability, licensing complexities, and

issues related to data privacy and user engagement. Organisational issues often emerge as a major barrier to the success of library consortia. These include poor communication among consortium members, ineffective governance structures, and occasional conflicts or disputes that hinder collective decision-making (Ugodu, Ibenne & Durodolu, 2025). Such organisational weaknesses can delay project implementation and reduce the efficiency of collaborative activities, ultimately limiting the impact of the consortium. Technological challenges also present considerable obstacles, especially in the areas of infrastructure and interoperability. The lack of compatible digital platforms among member institutions often impedes seamless resource sharing and integration. This fragmentation leads to inconsistent service delivery and hinders users from fully utilising the available digital resources. Chunyan and Jianing (2020) observed that technical incompatibility among library systems remains a major barrier to the harmonious exchange of resources within consortia. Moreover, the risk of cyber-attacks, insufficient digital preservation measures, and outdated technological systems further compound these issues, leading to instability and inefficiency in digital library operations (Magsi et al., 2025). Financial constraints represent another critical issue confronting library consortia. Although these collaborative efforts are often established with the intent to minimise operational costs through shared purchases and services, the reality of maintaining a robust digital infrastructure can be financially demanding. Many consortia, particularly in developing countries, struggle to secure adequate funding for innovation, license renewals, and platform upgrades. Nche (2021) noted

that while consortia are viewed as cost-saving mechanisms, the maintenance and renewal of digital content subscriptions often surpass the financial capacities of member libraries, thereby threatening the sustainability of such initiatives. In addition to financial limitations, licensing and access restrictions pose significant hurdles. Libraries participating in consortia frequently encounter challenges when negotiating collective licensing agreements due to varying terms imposed by publishers (Nesta, 2019). These challenges include restrictions on the number of concurrent users, regional limitations, and inconsistent licensing models that make it difficult to provide equitable access to all users. Machovec (2015) highlighted that the proliferation of electronic resources has led to a complex landscape of licensing agreements, each with unique terms and conditions, thus complicating access for multiple institutions under a single consortium.

Another critical issue is the challenge of ensuring equitable access to digital resources across consortium member institutions. Variations in technological infrastructure and financial capacity among libraries often lead to unequal distribution of resources and benefits. Atkinson (2019) reported that smaller or newly established institutions frequently lack the necessary infrastructure to take full advantage of consortium offerings. This disparity results in a digital divide within the consortium itself, with well-funded libraries gaining more than their less-resourced counterparts. Furthermore, data privacy and security remain growing concerns in the context of digital libraries and consortia. The increasing demand for user data in delivering personalized services must be balanced with adherence to data protection

laws such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Failure to comply with these regulations can expose libraries to legal risks and undermine user trust. Rege et al. (2019) argued that data privacy regulations are increasingly shaping the way library consortia manage user information. Many libraries continue to struggle with implementing comprehensive data protection strategies, thereby putting sensitive user information at risk of breaches or unauthorised use.

Strategies for Effectiveness Library Consortia in Enhancing Digital Resources Utilisation

The article Strategic Cooperation and Consortia Building for Indian Libraries: Models and Methods by Ghosh, Biswas and Jeevan (2006) critically examine the state of library services in India and the effectiveness of cooperative consortia strategies in expanding access to digital resources. Using a mixed-method approach that includes personal interviews, email interactions, and extensive literature searches, Ghosh et al. identify existing challenges in digital library resource sharing and the transformative role of collaborative initiatives such as the INDEST and INFLIBNET consortia. Their findings suggest that while consortia models significantly reduce costs and improve access to electronic resources, challenges such as uneven adoption, inadequate funding, and the lack of standardised agreements hinder their full impact. By strategically negotiating licensing agreements, leveraging networked technologies, and fostering inter-institutional collaboration, the study highlights pathways for optimising digital resource utilisation in developing library systems.

Che, Njiraine, and Ondieki (2022) examines strategies for enhancing the effectiveness of library consortia in facilitating digital resource utilisation from the University of Nairobi Library. The study employs a descriptive case study design, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative approaches to collect and analyse data from the University of Nairobi Library. Findings indicate that the Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium (KLISC) plays a pivotal role in resource sharing, enabling wider access to digital resources through cooperative collection development and institutional repository support. However, limitations such as interoperability issues, inadequate standardisation, and restricted cross-searching capabilities hinder optimal resource utilisation. The study proposes the adoption of cloud computing, increased local content in shared repositories, and the development of a unified bibliographic catalogue to improve digital resource access and integration within academic libraries.

The article Pandemic Impacts on Library Consortia and their Sustainability by Machovec (2020) examines the challenges and adaptive strategies of library consortia in response to the financial and operational disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Employing an observational and analytical approach based on industry reports and institutional experiences, the study explores how consortia primarily in North America have addressed budget shortfalls, adjusted licensing agreements, and leveraged collaborative frameworks to maintain digital resource accessibility. Findings indicate that while some consortia benefited from financial reserves and government relief programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program, others faced

reductions in funding, staffing, and subscription services, significantly impacting resource-sharing efforts. Machovec emphasises the need for flexible pricing models, increased institutional collaboration, and strategic negotiations with publishers to ensure continued access to digital resources despite economic constraints.

An evolving landscape by Grogg and Rosen (2020) explores the evolving strategies of library consortia in the United States to maximise digital resource utilisation through collaborative negotiation and content acquisition. Using qualitative interviews with consortia leaders, the study investigates how licensing agreements, open access trends, and intra-consortia partnerships have shaped digital resource accessibility over time. Findings indicate that while cooperative frameworks have strengthened libraries' bargaining power, challenges such as budget constraints, fragmented governance, and inconsistent adoption of new models persist. The study highlights the necessity for adaptable policies, enhanced inter-consortia engagement, and strategic licensing innovations to ensure sustainable and effective access to digital resources in academic libraries.

Methodology

The study adopted a survey research design to examine the role of library consortia in enhancing digital resource availability and utilisation in Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo States, Nigeria. A total of 98 students from Federal College of

Education, Oyo, and Federal College of Education, Abeokuta, were selected as respondents. Data collection was carried out through a structured questionnaire designed to assess respondents' awareness, accessibility, and challenges in utilising digital resources provided through consortia and the strategies for effective library consortia via online Google form. The gathered data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, simple percentages, mean, and standard deviation, with the aid of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.

Result Presentation and Interpretation

Demographic Information

The highest number of respondents were from FCE, Oyo (51.0%), while FCE, Abeokuta had slightly fewer participants (49.0%). In terms of gender distribution, female respondents constituted the majority (55.1%), with males making up 44.9%. Faculty representation indicates that Pure Sciences had the highest share of respondents (34.7%), while Education recorded the lowest (10.2%). Regarding academic levels, 200 Level students comprised the largest group (35.7%), followed by 300 Level (33.7%) and 100 Level (30.6%). Lastly, respondents with two years of library usage experience accounted for the highest proportion (42.9%), while those with three years had the lowest representation (26.5%). This implies that the majority of users have two years of library experience, indicating that engagement with digital resources tends to peak in the mid-years of study rather than early or later years.

Table 1: Level of users' awareness of digital resources provided through library consortia in Colleges of Education Libraries in Ogun and Oyo states

S/N	Items	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Mean	S.D
1	Online academic journals (e.g., JSTOR, ScienceDirect, etc.)	4 (4.1%)	15 (15.3%)	46 (46.9%)	33 (33.7%)	3.10	.806
2	E-books accessible through consortia platforms	5 (5.1%)	6 (6.1%)	40 (40.8%)	84 (48.0%)	3.32	.807
3	Digital databases for research (e.g., ProQuest, EBSCOhost)	7 (7.1%)	12 (12.2%)	42 (42.9%)	37 (37.8%)	3.11	.884
4	Open educational resources (OER) provided through the consortium	4 (4.1%)	28 (28.6%)	41 (41.8%)	25 (25.5%)	2.89	.836
5.	Institutional repositories and thesis collections available online	12 (12.2%)	27 (27.6%)	39 (39%)	20 (20.4%)	2.68	.937
	Average Mean					3.02	

Decision Rule: if mean is ≤ 1.75 = Low, $1.76 - 2.50$ = Moderate, $2.51 - 3.25$ = High, $3.26 - 4.00$ = Very High

The results in Table 1 indicate that users in Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo states generally have a high level of awareness (Mean = 3.02) regarding digital resources provided through library consortia. Among the specific resources evaluated, e-books accessible through consortia platforms received the highest mean score (3.32), suggesting that users are very highly aware of their availability and possibly engage with them frequently. Awareness of online academic journals (Mean = 3.10) and digital databases for

research (Mean = 3.11) also falls within the high awareness category, indicating that users recognize and utilize these essential scholarly resources. However, open educational resources (OER) (Mean = 2.89) and institutional repositories (Mean = 2.68) recorded lower awareness levels, though they still fall within the high category. These findings suggest that while users are knowledgeable about mainstream digital resources, awareness of OER and institutional repositories may require further promotion and user engagement efforts.

Table 2: Library users' knowledge of the role of library consortia in digital resources in Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo states.

S/N	Items	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	S.D
1.	The library consortium has contributed to an increase in the availability of digital resources.	1 (1.0%)	16 (16.3%)	40 (40.8%)	41 (41.8%)	3.23	.757
2.	Digital resources through the library is more affordable because of the consortium.	4 (4.1%)	16 (16.3%)	43 (43.9%)	35 (35.7%)	3.11	.823
3.	The library provides access to quality academic databases through the consortium.	0 (0%)	5(5.1%)	48 (49.0%)	45 (45.9%)	3.41	.589
4.	The digital resources available through the consortium meet my academic needs.	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	58 (59.2%)	40 (40.8%)	3.41	.494

5.	Through the consortium, I have access to current and relevant digital resource.	1 (1.0%)	7 (7.1%)	49 (50.0%)	41 (41.8%)	3.33	.654
6.	The library consortium helps reduce the cost of accessing digital resources.	0 (0%)	7 (7.1%)	43 (43.9%)	48 (49.0%)	3.42	.625
7.	I can easily access the consortium's digital resources at any time.	6 (6.1%)	24 (24.5%)	39 (39.8%)	29 (29.6%)	2.93	.888
	Average mean					3.26	

Decision Rule: if mean is ≤ 1.75 = Strongly Disagree, $1.76 - 2.50$ = Disagree, $2.51 - 3.25$ = Agree, $3.26 - 4.00$ = Strongly Agree

The result in Table 2 revealed that library users' have a deep understanding of the role of library consortia in providing digital resources in Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo states with an average mean of 3.26. Respondents agree that the library provides access to quality academic databases through the consortium, with a mean score of 3.41, and also agree that the digital resources available meet their academic needs, with an equal mean of 3.41. These results indicate that users perceive a significant benefit from the consortium in terms of both content quality and relevance to their studies. Similarly, they acknowledge having access to up-to-date materials through the consortium (mean = 3.33) and notice an increase in the number of digital resources available (mean = 3.23), further affirming the value added by consortium membership. Affordability is another area where users express agreement. With a mean score of 3.11, users believe that

accessing digital resources has become more affordable due to the consortium. Additionally, the belief that access would be significantly reduced without the consortium is supported, with a high mean score of 3.42, showing strong consensus on the consortium's vital role in resource provision. However, the ease of accessing consortium resources at any time receives a slightly lower mean score of 2.93, although it still falls within the Agree category. This suggests that while access is generally perceived as easy, there may be occasional limitations in terms of availability, usability, or awareness of access procedures. The results imply that academic library users are well aware of the critical role that library consortia play in ensuring the availability, affordability, and quality of digital resources. Users perceive these collaborations as instrumental in expanding access to relevant, current, and cost-effective academic content.

Table 3: Challenges in Utilizing Digital Resources through Consortia in Colleges of Education Libraries in Ogun and Oyo States

S/N	ITEMS	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	S.D
1.	I experience technical issues (e.g., poor internet connectivity) when trying to access digital resources.	2 (2.0%)	6 (6.1%)	45 (45.9%)	45 (45.9%)	3.36	.692
2.	Some of the digital resources provided through the consortium are not relevant to my academic needs.	1 (1.0%)	5(5.1%)	48 (49.0%)	44 (44.9%)	3.38	.634

3.	I have not received adequate training on how to use the digital resources provided by the consortium.	3 (3.1%)	14 (14.3%)	50 (51.0%)	31 (31.6%)	3.11	.758
4	I encounter access restrictions or usage limitations when using consortium-provided digital resources.	11 (11.2%)	32 (32.7)	32 (32.7%)	23 (23.5%)	2.68	.959
5.	I am not fully aware of the digital resources available through the consortium.	5 (5.1%)	21 (21.4%)	42 (42.9%)	30 (3.6%)	2.99	.855
6.	The available digital resources do not fully meet my academic needs.	8 (8.2%)	20 (20.4%)	30 (30.6%)	40 (40.8%)	3.04	.973
	Average Mean					3.09	

Decision Rule: if mean is ≤ 1.75 = Strongly Disagree, $1.76 - 2.50$ = Disagree, $2.51 - 3.25$ = Agree, $3.26 - 4.00$ = Strongly Agree

The table 3 presents findings on the challenges faced by college libraries in utilizing digital resources through library consortia, based on users' perceptions. The findings revealed that there are some challenges faced by college library in utilising digital resources through library consortium with an average mean of 3.09. Respondents agree that they encounter technical issues such as poor internet connectivity when trying to access digital resources, as reflected in a high mean score of 3.36. There is also agreement that some digital resources provided through the consortium are not relevant to users' academic needs, with a slightly higher mean of 3.38, which is the highest in the table. These findings point to infrastructural and content-related challenges that limit the usefulness and accessibility of the digital resources. A mean score of 3.11 indicates that many users feel they have not received adequate training on how to use the digital

resources available through the consortium. This highlights a gap in user education and support services. Similarly, a mean of 3.04 shows agreement that the available resources do not fully meet users' academic needs, suggesting issues with content scope or subject coverage. Lower but still notable agreement is seen in users' awareness and access. A mean of 2.99 suggests that many respondents feel they are not fully aware of all the digital resources available through the consortium. Additionally, access restrictions or usage limitations are recognized as a challenge, though with a slightly lower mean of 2.68, indicating comparatively less agreement but still a recognized issue. The results imply that academic libraries face multiple challenges in maximising the benefits of digital resources offered through consortia. Users point to technical issues, inadequate training, limited awareness, and content relevance constraints as significant barriers.

Table 4: Strategies for improving the library consortia in enhancing digital resources utilisation in Colleges of Education Libraries in Ogun and Oyo States

S/N	ITEMS	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	S.D
1.	I believe increasing awareness of consortium-provided digital resources will improve their usage.	1 (1.%)	9 (9.2%)	39 (39.8%)	49 (50.0%)	3.36	.692

2.	I think more training sessions are needed to help users effectively utilize digital resources.	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	51 (52.0%)	46 (46.9%)	3.38	.634
3.	Expanding the variety of digital resources available through the consortium would better meet users' needs.	3 (3.1%)	10 (10.2%)	47 (48.0%)	38 (38.8%)	3.11	.758
4.	Improved collaboration between libraries and consortia would enhance access to digital resources.	1 (1%)	12 (12.2%)	47 (48.0%)	38 (38.8%)	2.68	.959
5.	Investing in better ICT infrastructure (e.g., internet access, computers) would make it easier to use digital resources.	1 (1%)	7 (7.1%)	43 (43.9%)	47 (48.0%)	2.99	.855
6.	Users' feedback should be regularly collected to improve digital resource services provided by the consortium.	0 (0%)	2 (2.0%)	43 (43.9%)	53 (54.1%)	3.04	.973
7.	I believe government or institutional support is important for strengthening the role of library consortia.	0 (0%)	3 (3.1%)	43 (43.9%)	52 (53.1%)	3.11	.907
	Average Mean					3.09	

Decision Rule: if mean is ≤ 1.75 = Strongly Disagree, $1.76 - 2.50$ = Disagree, $2.51 - 3.25$ = Agree, $3.26 - 4.00$ = Strongly Agree

The result presented in table 4 revealed that respondents generally agree that the identified strategies will be effective in enhancing digital resources utilisation through library consortia with an average mean of 3.09. The respondents also agree that increasing awareness would improve usage, with a mean score of 3.36, indicating strong support for better information dissemination. Training sessions are also considered essential, as reflected in a mean of 3.38, showing widespread recognition of the need to equip users with the skills to navigate digital resources effectively. Additionally, respondents acknowledge that expanding the variety of available digital resources (mean 3.11) would better meet users' needs. Improved collaboration between libraries and consortia received a mean of 2.68, suggesting it is valued but perceived as slightly less critical. The results imply that while users recognise the

importance of digital resources, key areas require attention to maximise their utilisation. Regular feedback collection (mean 3.04) is strongly supported, indicating a preference for user-driven improvements. Investment in ICT infrastructure, with a mean of 2.99, is seen as necessary to address technical barriers affecting access. Institutional or government support, scoring 3.11, is also deemed essential for strengthening library consortia. These findings highlight the need for targeted strategies in awareness, training, infrastructure development, and policy support to enhance the effectiveness of digital resource provision.

Discussion of Findings

The findings indicate that users in Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo states generally have a high level of awareness of digital resources provided

through library consortia, with an average mean of 3.02. This aligns with findings by Shashidhara (2021), who emphasized that library consortia play a crucial role in increasing access to electronic resources but require strategic awareness campaigns to maximize usage. Additionally, Sona and Padhi (2020) highlighted that academic libraries must actively promote electronic resources to ensure optimal utilisation by students and faculty. These findings suggest that while users recognize the availability of digital resources, targeted awareness programs and user engagement strategies are necessary to enhance the visibility and utilisation of open educational resources and institutional repositories.

Findings also showed that library users strongly agreed that consortia improved the availability and affordability of digital resources, with mean scores above 3.30 in most items. Respondents acknowledged access to high-quality and up-to-date academic resources, which they believed would not be possible without consortium membership. These perceptions align with Wijetunge's (2019) assertion that consortia enable institutions to access otherwise unaffordable high-quality digital materials through shared subscriptions. Saunders and Corning (2020) also emphasized the role of consortia in cost-sharing and group licensing, making resource access economically feasible for member libraries. Thus, the study affirms that library consortia serve as critical enablers of equitable access to scholarly resources by mitigating financial and content availability barriers in Colleges of Education.

The study identified several key challenges affecting the utilisation of consortium-provided digital resources, including technical issues (e.g., poor internet),

irrelevant content, inadequate training, and limited awareness. These constraints align with Nche (2021), who observed that financial constraints often hinder the sustainability of consortia. Additionally, respondents reported that some consortium resources did not meet their academic needs, echoing concerns raised by Atkinson (2019) about unequal access and institutional disparities within consortia. These challenges point to the need for improved ICT infrastructure, tailored resource curation, and user support systems to maximize the effectiveness of consortia-based services.

To enhance the effectiveness of library consortia, respondents advocated for increased awareness campaigns, more user training, expanded digital content, and improved ICT infrastructure. These strategies align with recommendations by Che, Njiraine, and Makori (2022), who highlighted the value of training and cloud-based solutions in maximizing digital access through consortia. Similarly, Ghosh et al. (2006) emphasized the role of strategic licensing, inter-institutional collaboration, and policy support in strengthening consortium performance. The study's findings reinforce the view that proactive engagement, user-centered design, and institutional support are vital to fully realizing the benefits of consortia in enhancing digital library services.

Conclusion

This study examined the roles of library consortia in enhancing digital resource availability and utilisation in Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo States, Nigeria. The findings reveal that while there is high level of awareness among library users about the digital resources provided

through library consortia, this awareness does not consistently translate into active usage of the digital resources provided. Nonetheless, users acknowledge that consortia significantly improve the availability of digital resources, bridging the gap caused by individual library funding limitations. These findings affirm that library consortia are essential collaborative mechanisms for advancing equitable access to digital academic content, especially in resource-constrained educational environments.

However, the study also uncovered critical challenges limiting the full utilisation of consortium-provided resources. These include technical barriers, inadequate user training, lack of tailored content, and inconsistent awareness. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted strategy involving improved ICT infrastructure, user education, continuous feedback mechanisms, and strong institutional or governmental support. By implementing these measures, Colleges of Education libraries can optimize the benefits of consortia membership, enhance digital literacy among users, and better support teaching, learning, and research in the digital age.

Recommendations

Base on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made;

1. Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo states implement targeted awareness campaigns and structured training programs to improve users' engagement with lesser-known digital resources, such as open educational resources (OER) and institutional repositories.
2. Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo states should further improve the usability of digital resources provided through library consortia by addressing occasional limitations in availability, enhancing user awareness of access procedures, and optimizing resource delivery to ensure seamless and equitable utilisation.
3. Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo states should address technical infrastructure challenges, improving training programs, expanding awareness initiatives, and ensuring that consortia-provided resources align more closely with users' academic needs.
4. Colleges of Education libraries in Ogun and Oyo states should prioritize awareness campaigns, expanding resource variety, improving ICT infrastructure, and securing institutional or government support to ensure sustainable and effective consortia collaboration.

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