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REPOSITIONING UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN AFRICA FOR THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ERA: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

BY

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Abstract

Purpose: This paper examines the imperative for university libraries in developing countries, particularly in Africa, to reposition for the artificial intelligence (AI) era, aiming to enhance service delivery and maintain global relevance. It identifies key challenges to AI adoption and proposes strategic responses to overcome them.

Methodology: the study uses narrative content analysis to review existing literature on AI applications in librarianship, focusing on African university libraries and their readiness for digital transformation.

Findings: University libraries in developing countries demonstrate limited readiness for AI integration due to inadequate digital infrastructure, unreliable power supply, high internet connectivity costs, a shortage of skilled personnel, and the absence of AI-specific policies. Strategic responses include adopting solar power as an alternative energy source, fostering synergies with internet service providers and digital stakeholders, securing adequate funding, formulating AI policies, and retraining librarians to build digital competencies.

Originality/Value: This study contributes to the limited discourse on AI in African university libraries by synthesizing challenges and offering context-specific strategies. It provides a framework for future empirical research on AI-driven library practices in resource-constrained settings, bridging global AI trends with African realities.

Implication:Repositioning African university libraries for the AI era is critical to ensuring their competitiveness in the global knowledge ecosystem. This paper argues that a multi-pronged strategy addressing foundational infrastructure and staff competencies is a prerequisite for meaningful AI adoption.The paper enriches the literature on AI in librarianship by proposing actionable strategies for African university libraries, serving as a foundation for further studies and policy development in the AI-driven library landscape.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, AI Adoption Challenges, African University Libraries, Digital Infrastructure, Library Service Delivery, Library Repositioning.

Papertype: Eploratory research

1.0 Introduction

The educational sector, particularly tertiary institutions, is undergoing significant technological transformation, even the library as a subset of the parent institution is not exempted. In today's university environment, there is an urgent need for university libraries to align with the new trend in order to ensure optimal delivery of library and information services to user communities. Technological advancements have significantly transformed librarianship, profoundly impacting library practices and placing increased expectations on library and information science professionals to adapt and innovate (Benson, Igbokwe & Onyam, 2020). Artificial intelligence (AI) is a transformative technology now pervasive across sectors. Filipec and Woithe (2023) affirmed that the rapid development and integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning technologies have led

transformative changes across various industries, including higher education.

Artificial intelligence use in various business, including libraries is the current trend in technological transformation (Sambo & Ogovive-Tinuoye (2023). The technological breakthrough currently going on across the globe changes all spheres of life and libraries are not in exception (Yakubu, Yagama & Umar, 2023). The universal trends in librarianship demand the deployment of the advance technologies which incorporate emerging endeavours among which AI represent a significant future opportunity throughout its existence in the modern environment. The application of AI to library systems represents a pioneering approach to enhancing the management and protection of records (Mwilongo & Mwangeni, 2022; Osagie & Oladokun, 2024). Librarians can embrace the AI revolution by evaluating these new tools and developing services to support their use (Cox & Tzoc, 2023).

Universities across the globe are undergoing a transformative shift driven by advancements in AI (Odigie, 2024). Universities are now exploring ways to harness AI's power to enhance the student experience and support faculty in their teaching and research efforts (Filipec & Woithe, 2023). No doubt, as universities are being affected, the university libraries as integral component of the educational system are expected to re-adjust and embrace AI tools for its services. The successful integration of AI in libraries requires librarians to be adequately prepared to utilize and harness the potential of this technology. University libraries as critical repositories of knowledge and information must recognize the importance of AI adoption to stay relevant and meet evolving needs (Hubert-Nwangwu & Ijantiku, 2022).

AI is emerging as transformative force in the dynamic field of librarianship bringing in a new era of smarter more user-centric information management (Baber *et al,* 2024). The pace of change brought by the emerging technologies in information exerted a considerable effect on the way people live, work, and plays worldwide (Kalu & Ochepa, 2021). AI technology encourages the library's digital transformation and improves the creation of value services for users (Tshabala & Dube, 2024). No doubt, the traditional roles and responsibilities of libraries and librarians are undergoing a profound transformation due to the influence of AI, reshaping the global information landscape. The versatile applications of AI have also ushered in positive changes across various facets of library services, illustrating its efficacy in saving both time and resources (Rabatseta, Modiba & Ngulube, 2024). According to Benson, Igbokwe and Onyam (2020), the changing landscape of librarianship can only be sustained if library and information science professionals take bold steps to reposition libraries and information centres for the changing society being driven by technological developments. Most importantly, provision of library and information services in university libraries is gradually taking new dimensions in every facet (Mbagwu, Benson & Umunnakwe, 2020).

In the era of artificial intelligence university libraries should actively adapt the changes in the reading environment fully utilize artificial intelligence technology, innovate reading promotion services, improve the quality and efficiency of reading services, and meet the needs of readers with different types, levels and demands (Pan, 2023). The introduction of AI into academic library services has boosted the transmission of information

services even further (Emezaiwakpor, Idiodi & Urhiewhu, 2023). As enunciated by Odigie (2024), universities are navigating a crucial juncture in their evolution. As the world embraces AI technologies transform potential, a fundamental question arises in developing countries, how can libraries leverage AI to enhance service delivery and support the educational needs of students and faculty in the digital age?. While existing studies highlight AI's potential to revolutionize library services worldwide, a critical research gap persists in the underrepresentation of developing countries, especially African university libraries, where low infrastructural readiness, unreliable power supply, and limited digital competencies impede AI implementation. This oversight limits the development of tailored strategies to reposition these institutions for the AI era, underscoring the need for focused analysis on their unique barriers and pathways to sustainable adoption.

This paper specifically aims at defining artificial intelligence and its application in libraries; presenting implication of artificial intelligence to library service delivery; identify factors affecting artificial intelligence application in university libraries; and suggest ways of overcoming identified challenges;

Conceptualizing Artificial Intelligence and Its Application

AI refers to the capability of a machine to imitate intelligent human behaviour. Artificial intelligence (AI) is a part of computer science that deals with giving ability to the machines to look as if they have natural human intelligence. It involves the simulation of human intelligence in machine that are programmed to think like humans and mimic their action (Folorunso & Momoh, 2020). AI serves as a powerful catalyst for transforming global information sharing phenomena, it brings together the world in which people work together and network to learn organization and provision of library products and services to library users (Mwilongo & Mwageni, 2022).AI is making computers or machine intelligent just like human beings in order to make them find solution to complex problems in human fashion. AI works based on perceptual recognition unlike human beings that operate on deep cognition. More so, in the fact that computers can recognize patterns efficiently at a scale and speed that human beings cannot (Omame & Alex-Nmecha, 2020).

AI in libraries corresponds to an emerging and exploratory field that has the potential to facilitate the development of activities in information units (Concha, Zentenco & Alfaro, 2024). AI transcends the automation of routine library tasks, developing intelligent systems that emulate human behavior without requiring librarian intervention. It includes various technologies, such as robotics, which are frequently employed for automated programming of repetitive tasks. Artificial intelligence represents a significant advancement, streamlining and enhancing numerous human tasks through systems designed to mimic human actions, encompassing processes that emulate the ingenuity and innovation of computational technologies. Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to systems that execute tasks in physical or digital environments by perceiving their surroundings, processing vast datasets, and interpreting symbols through non-algorithmic approaches to problem-solving (Bassey & Daniel, 2024; Emumejakpor, Oview & Ekuerhare, 2024).

AI has rapidly become an important part of our everyday life whether we are aware of it or not while our thoughts may go

to science fiction or during self driving cars or a cross section between the two; AI is now embedded in tools we use and rely on daily: web search engines, social media applications, speech recognition services from government agencies and enterprises, and smart devices (Andersdotter, 2023). Artificial intelligence (AI) applications are recognized for extending across various sectors, including healthcare, finance, transportation, and information management, demonstrating their capacity to transform industries by improving efficiency, accuracy, and security. In other words, AI has become integral to nearly every sector of global society, driving transformative changes and fostering competitive advantages across institutions, including libraries, by enhancing efficiency and service delivery (Osagie & Oladokun, 2024; Oyetola et al., 2023). In library contexts, AI extends far beyond traditional automation, which focuses on mechanizing routine operations. Instead, AI enables intelligent systems that emulate librarian behaviors with minimal human intervention, facilitating advanced functions such as data acquisition, curation, information literacy support, user navigation, and infrastructure development (Gujral, Shivarama & Choukimath, 2019; Omame & Alex-Nmecha, 2020).

AI in library settings is designed to complement, not replace, human librarians, enhancing their abilities to provide improved patron services and foster a more accessible and enriching library environment. Library professionals in Africa are increasingly integrating AI technologies into specific library functions to align with global advancements in information management (Abba, 2023). There are many emerging AI technologies that libraries may use to support user services, education, library, management and technical services. Information specialists can leverage the innovative new technology to improve their services and assist consumers in finding and accessing specific information, more quickly and conveniently (Emumejakpor, Oview & Ekuerhare, 2024). Artificial Intelligence technology has not only improved human existence in terms of service delivery, but it has also allow academic libraries at higher educational institutions to expand their scope of activities and expand their horizons of service distribution with ease and precision (Emeziaiwakpor, Idiodi & Urhiewhu, 2023).

Implications of Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Library Services Delivery

The application of AI to library services delivery comes with lots of implication for information practitioners. The various implications associated with the integration of AI to library service delivery in developing countries can be grouped under: strategic and professional, service delivery and user experience, and operational and infrastructural implications

Strategic and Professional Implications

Strategic and professional implications covers - development of new technology-related skills, job displacement, developing strong and viable AI-related policies, adaptation to modern trends of information service delivery and fostering of collaboration and innovation.

Development of new technology-related skills: The integration of AI necessitates the development of new technical and data literacy competencies among librarians. New competencies will also be developed through projects with AI. The acquisition of new skills is a must in this new dispensation. The

technological advancement has no doubt brought about changes in the skills required for functional operations in the new era (Benson, Igbokwe & Onyam, 2020). The task at hand is not just to envision an AI-driven future for Nigerian librarians but also to strategize and cultivate the requisite skills that will empower these professionals to thrive in a rapidly evolving information landscape (David-West & Ig-Worlu, 2023). Tshabala and Dube (2024) citing Luca *et al* (2022) contends that professionals must be firmly grounded in digital literacy-related competencies such as the skills to use emerging technologies, specifically, AI literacy. Libraries that are AI driven will be accustomed to continuously develop their staff skills to provide individual and group user support (Tshabala & Dube, 2024).

Job displacement: No doubt, some library routines will be taken over by robots and other AI technologies, for instance, library assistants engaged in routines services such as shelving of books amongst others may likely be displaced. However, as it has always been with technological drive, librarians are scared of being displaced from their job. As noted by Bridges, McElroy and Welhouse (2024), library workers may also fear losing their jobs or the most rewarding parts of them to AI. However, there is an increasingly new role for librarians like AI curators. IFLA standards make it explicitly clear that AI must augment and not replace human and professional judgment.

Developing strong and viable AI-related policies*:* it is imperative that library and information professionals develop a viable AI policy that will guide and regulate the application of AI to library services delivery. Benson, Igbokwe and Onyam (2020) posit that well-articulated policy is a necessity in the actualization of any goals or objectives, hence the imperativeness of formulating good digital-related policy that will guide the step by step migration into fourth industrial revolutions. Bridges, McElroy and Welhouse (2024) averred that international and national AI policies and regulations are at various stages of development, which makes it challenging to consult the document for library-related guidance. IFLA standards should be refereed to and other standards for AI incorporation to library practice.

Adaptation to modern trends of information service delivery: As noted by Gujral, Shivarama & Choukimath, 2019), the twenty-first century is a field of rapid transformation and technological advancements, organizations must adapt to evolving technologies to meet consumer demands. The importance of AI in academic libraries reinforces human beings adapting it in academic libraries to fit into the modern world (Mwilongo & Mwageni, 2022). Adoption and integration of cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence are required for libraries to effectively offer effective information services that match the demands of the modern world (Oyetola *et al*, 2023). Integration of

AI technologies into all aspects of library services and operations is essential to improve access to information, streamline administrative processes and enrich the learning and research experience for students and faculty using AI. The repositioning of libraries has prompted libraries to refine and align their services towards innovation and embrace user-centric library services (Tshabala & Dube, 2024).

Fostering of collaboration /innovation: Embracing AI according to Kalbade *et al.* (2024) fosters a culture of innovation within academic libraries, paving the way for the exploration and adoption of AI-powered services and technologies. This collaborative environment promotes partnerships between library staff, technologists, and researchers to develop AI-driven solutions tailored to user needs. By integrating AI, libraries can also inspire creative problem-solving, leading to novel approaches in information management and service delivery.

Service Delivery and User Experience Implications

Service delivery and user experience implications focused on enhanced service delivery, enhanced information resource management, and improved relationship with library patrons

Enhanced service delivery:Through the seamless integration of AI-driven tools and applications, libraries transcend traditional boundaries, bolstering their capabilities across diverse domain such as information retrieval, cataloguing, recommendation systems and user engagement (Machado, Meghanandha & Navek, 2022). AI can automate complex and repetitive tasks, reducing human error and improving operational accuracy (Emumejakpor, Oviero & Kuerhare, 2024). Integrating AI in libraries will lead to improved information processing and faster access, making both library staff and users happy (Okoye, 2024). In other words, unless libraries begin to exploit the new technologies and innovate their functions, information and service delivery, they may face obsolescence in this era (Omame & Alex-Nmecha, 2020). Secondly, embracing AIs transformative potential positions libraries at the forefront of innovation, enabling them to deliver high-quality services tailored to the demands of the digital age (Rabatseta, Modiba & Ngulube, 2024).

Enhanced information resources management: AI's potential within academic libraries reflects its capacity to revolutionise information management and service delivery, fostering a dynamic and enriched learning environment for patrons and staff alike (Zondi *et al.,* 2024). As espoused by Cox and Tzoc (2023), librarians can maximize their productivity in other ways using AI tools for instance, chatGPT, can write emails, such as a cold call encouraging a faculty members to use the library's e-reserve services. As pointed out by Osagie and Oladokum (2024), by leveraging AI libraries can achieve higher levels of efficiency in cataloguing, monitoring

and retrieving records, while also fortifying their defenses against various threats. The interpretation of AI technologies in university libraries in Nigeria holds great potentials for improving service delivery and enhancing the overall user experience (Hubert-Nwangwu & Ijantiku, 2023). AI integration offers a chance to transform conventional library operations by improving the effectiveness of jobs like data retrieval and cataloguing (Baber *et al*, 2024). AI according to Mwilongo and Mwageni (2022) has transformed the scope of resources, services, operations, formats, accessibility, preservation and retrieval system in academic libraries. Emerging technologies provide opportunities for library professionals with identifying, collecting, organizing, customizing and delivering information product and services in a range of formats and varieties to the user community both in demand and anticipation at physical and virtual environments (Kalu & Ochepa, 2024).

Improved relationship with library patrons: According to Panda and Chakravarty (2021), libraries can adopt conversational AI platforms to boost their existing relationship with their patrons in the new normal age. The conversational AI enables libraries to be able to hold seamless, synchronous conversations with consumers across whatever channel they happen to be using at the time, no matter where they are. Also, the presence of AI can be a solution for librarians to serve users optimally without leaving their job as information managers (Rudiansyah, 2023). As rightly captured and underscored by Arora, Bansal, Kumar & Suri (2020), there has been phenomenal growth in information. The user needs are also changing rapidly. They now have new model of access to their desired information with change in existing information structure and delivery mechanism, the library and information professionals are adopting new techniques and technologies to sustain and provide the best services to their patrons in the library. AI can also be used to develop programs for efficient reference services, goods, textbook, scanning and appropriate subject categories. Moreover, AI technologies can help the library users locate library materials through smart teaching systems (Moustaphax & Yusuf, 2023).

Operational and Infrastructural Implications

Operational and infrastructural implications cover investment in technologies /digital infrastructure, competitive advantage, financial investments and cost effectiveness.

Investment in technologies and digital infrastructure: Okoye (2024) opined that without investing in new technologies to upgrade their spaces, provide new services, and enhance the user experience, libraries cannot meet the needs of today's patrons, and all of this requires additional funding. Implementation of AI entails more than just adopting cutting-edge technologies; it requires a thoughtful methodology that respects the intrusive values of libraries of libraries while harnessing the potential of AI to enhance

services and user experience (Sangpur & Kumbar, 2021). According to Tshabala and Dube (2024), re-engineering operations, as influenced by AI and cyber physical systems with reliable and secure I.T. infrastructure, allow efficient systems integration thus enabling libraries to respond to both physical and virtual spaces.

Financial investments: According to Baber et al. (2024), integrating AI into library systems requires significant financial investments in infrastructure, funding, and training to ensure seamless adoption and functionality. Adequate funding is essential for librarians to successfully incorporate AI technologies, enabling the acquisition of advanced hardware, software, and skilled personnel. These investments also support ongoing maintenance and updates to keep AI systems aligned with evolving library needs. Moreover, strategic budgeting can facilitate staff upskilling, ensuring librarians are equipped to leverage AI for enhanced service delivery.

Competitive advantage: The new age is already increasing the competitiveness of the information industry. Hence, library professionals must be ready to migrate from where they are to where they should be in the digital space (Benson, Igbokwe & Onyam, 2020). Kalu & Ochepal (2021) contend that as a result of changes associated with technology that libraries must evolve their portfolios, missions and processes by harnessing the power of AI, libraries can now streamline their operations, personalize services and augment information retrieval processes (Odigie, 2024).

Cost effectiveness: By integrating AI, libraries can significantly enhance their ability to meet user needs promptly and efficiently. The time and cost savings realised through AI applications contribute to a more streamlined and effective provision of library services (Rabatseta, Umodiba & Ngulube, 2024). According to McNeal and Newyear (2013), with availability of simple and inexpensive options for virtual creation its easy and cost effective for libraries to explore this opportunity to expand their information services.

Problematic Factors Affecting AI Applications in University Libraries

In as much as AI comes with a lot of benefits for practicing librarians, the critical factor is that not all is bleak for library and information science professionals. Below are some of the factors that affecting the extent to which university libraries can integrate AI to library service delivery, especially in developing countries, they are:

1. ***Low levels of skills and expertise that would manage university libraries in response to AI era:***The integration process of AI to library service delivery may disrupt library operations and demands significant technical expertise and financial investment. Most libraries have not really embrace or align with preliminary ICT-related skiils, let alone the sophisticated AI technologies Osagie and Oladokun (2024) citing Modiba, Ngulube and Maratha (2022) averred that the successful implementation and management of AI

systems require staff with specialised technical skills and knowledge.

2. ***Limited funding available to university libraries****:* as enunciated by Kalbande *et al* (2024), limited funding is a significant barrier as marry libraries operate on tight budgets and cannot afford the high costs associated with AI technologies. This financial constraint often forces libraries to prioritize essential services over innovative AI solutions, hindering their ability to modernize. Additionally, the lack of funds can limit access to skilled personnel needed to implement and maintain AI systems effectively
3. ***Unwillingness by librarians to adopt AI technologies:*** according to Mwilongo and Mwagani (2022), even library staff are reluctant to adopt or adapt AI in their routine services. Abba (2023) citing Wheatley and Hervieux (2019) affirmed that libraries particularly those in universities in developing countries, have had difficulty adopting digital technology and they also show resistance to change when using new technologies for a variety of library functions in developing nations. Libraries appear to resist internal adoption of technology, particularly AI technology due to several serious worries about the possible negative consequences of this disruptive technology on libraries (Emumejakpor, Oview & Ekuerhare, 2024).
4. ***Inadequacy of digital infrastructure in libraries and information centres:***Most university libraries in Africa lack the basic digital infrastructure necessary for the taking of or implementation of AI to library services delivery. No doubt, the low level of technological development in most developing countries may have an adverse effect on the level at which academic libraries may be ready to align with digital move.
5. ***Poor power supply:***Most digital technologies required for seamless integration of AI to library practice depends on power for its success and sustainability, however, the incessant power supply as experienced in most developing countries may like have negative impact on the implementation processes of embracing AI in library service delivery. The unreliable power supply in many developing countries severely disrupts the seamless integration of AI technologies in library services, as consistent electricity is essential for running digital infrastructure and AI-driven tools. Frequent power outages can lead to system downtime, data loss, and reduced efficiency in library operations, undermining the adoption of AI solutions. Moreover, the high cost of alternative power sources, such as generators or solar systems, further strains library budgets, limiting their ability to sustain AI implementation.
6. ***Non-existence of AI policy:***The absence of a well-defined AI policy in many libraries in developing countries creates significant challenges in effectively integrating artificial intelligence into their operations. Without clear guidelines, these institutions struggle to address ethical considerations, data privacy, and equitable access to AI-driven services. This policy gap often leads to inconsistent implementation, limiting the potential benefits of AI in enhancing library functions. Furthermore, the lack of a structured framework hinders collaboration with technology partners and impedes staff training on AI tools.
7. ***High cost of Internet connectivity in developing countries****:* Internet subscription is expensive and some AI tools depends on internet connectivity to function optimally, hence, the high cost associated with connecting to Internet may limit the extent

to which AI technologies can be embraced and adopted in university libraries. The high cost of internet connectivity in developing countries significantly restricts university libraries' ability to fully leverage AI tools that rely on stable and fast internet connections for optimal performance. This financial barrier limits access to cloud-based AI services, hindering tasks like real-time data processing and resource sharing. Additionally, the expense of maintaining consistent internet access often forces libraries to prioritize basic operational needs over investing in advanced AI technologies.

8. ***AI bias in African datasets:*** AI systems in African university libraries often rely on datasets that are incomplete or skewed, reflecting historical under documentation and linguistic biases. For example, AI tools trained on Western datasets may fail to recognize African scholarship or indigenous languages, leading to inequitable service delivery and reduced user trust. This bias exacerbates digital inequities and requires corrective measures like localized datasets and bias audits, as outlined in IFLA's 2025 AI Ethics Guidelines.

All the problems identified above may have informed Mwilongo and Mwageni (2022) suggesting that the opportunities and challenges of applying AI in libraries should lead to more investigations to align the traditions, cultures, environments, employment creation and policies in Africa with the use of AI in academic libraries.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper contributes to existing literature in AI application in the field of librarianship. It provides a framework for further studies relating to AI application to library practices in African university libraries. It established that repositioning university libraries in developing countries is a necessity in contemporary society. Moreover, AI's transformative impact permeates all sectors, librarians cannot downplay the need to ensure that university libraries are reformed and positioned to embrace AI into the scheme of things. It is expected that library and information professionals should not only be ready but also willing to embrace a more robust AI integrated approach to library practice. The paper concludes that repositioning of university libraries in Africa for the AI era is a necessity if they must occupy their place in the global learning space.

Nevertheless, in line with the challenges associated with deployment of AI to university libraries, the following are hereby recommended:

a. ***Procurement of necessary digital infrastructure:*** Librarians should take practical steps towards procuring various AI-related technologies tools that can be applied to library practice. There is need to improve existing digital infrastructure in most libraries and also acquire modern and relevant digital infrastructure (Benson, Oduagwu & Orisakwe, 2023). Heads of libraries should seek for funding agencies and institutions interested in AI applications to higher education.

b. ***Possession of technology related skills:*** as noted by Folorunso and Momoh (2020), acquisition of relevant information technology skills is essential for libraries to prevent people from other disciplines take over their operations. Digital integration demands a new skill sets from library staff, facilitating a seamless transition and fostering a cultural shift towards embracing new roles in the evolving educational landscape.

c. ***Retraining of librarians on the deployment of AI to library services***: Umoh (2023) posit that appropriate training should be given to librarians concerning the technical know-how as regards the adoption

of artificial intelligence in the library. Library and information professionals require technical skills in order to effectively integrate AI tools to library service delivery (Benson, Igbokwe & Orisakwe, 2023). Library associations and stakeholders at the regional and international levels like NLA, LRCN AFLIA and IFLA should organize intensive AI-related workshops that will empower librarians with the AI requisite knowledge needed to function optimally in contemporary age.

d. ***Providing alternative source of power***: Owolabi et al. (2022) emphasized that library managers can address power supply challenges by adopting alternative energy sources like solar panels and generators to ensure consistent electricity for library operations. Implementing solar energy systems can provide a sustainable and cost-effective solution, reducing dependency on unreliable national power grids in developing countries. Generators, while effective for immediate power needs, require regular maintenance and fuel, which can strain library budgets over time. These alternative power solutions are critical for supporting the seamless operation of AI-driven technologies in library service delivery.

e. ***Strong multidisciplinary/cross disciplinary collaboration****:* Librarians should engage in cross and multidisciplinary partnership with experts in computer science and allied disciplines**.** As pointed out by Kalbande *et al* (2024) interdisciplinary collaborations between LIS professionals and AI researchers hold promise for developing innovative AI-driven solutions tailored to academic library needs, this partnership to them can lead to enhanced service delivery and user experience. According to Benson, Igbokwe and Onyam (2020), partnership with other profession(s) such as those in computer engineering and electronic engineering will to a great extent have influence on preparing future librarians. Libraries will no doubt be very successful in the AI era if they effectively collaborate with experts and maximize the potentials of experts rather than trying to be experts (Benson, Oduagwu & Orisakwe, 2023). Partnership according to Bridges, McElroy and Welhouse (2024) provide opportunities to amplify our voices and make wide scale sustainable changes while promoting traditional library values of access, privacy, and academic freedom.Libraries can benefit from collaborating with AI experts, data scientist, and technology vendors to develop and implement AI Solutions tailored to their specific needs (Bassey & Daniel, 2024).

f. ***Implementing AI policies:*** Bassey and Daniel (2024) highlight that well-crafted AI policies are essential for safeguarding user data, ensuring transparency in AI algorithms, and mitigating biases to promote equitable access to library resources. Emumejakor, Oview, and Ekuerhare (2024) further emphasize that these policies must be strategically developed and enforced at every stage before, during, and after AI deployment in African university libraries to ensure sustainable and ethical implementation. Such policies provide a framework for addressing privacy concerns, standardizing AI tool usage, and fostering trust among library users. Additionally, they enable libraries to align AI adoption with institutional goals while navigating the unique socio-technical challenges faced by developing countries.

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