



THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN SUPPORTING OPEN ACCESS INITIATIVES IN NORTH-CENTRAL NIGERIA

BY

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Abstract

Purpose: This study examined the role of university libraries in supporting open access (OA) initiatives in North-Central Nigeria. The objectives were to identify OA initiatives currently being implemented, assess the extent of library involvement in promoting OA, determine the available infrastructure and institutional policies, investigate challenges faced by libraries, and propose strategies for enhancing OA effectiveness. The study was guided by two null hypotheses, each tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Methodology: A descriptive survey research design was adopted. The population comprised 514 library staff across seven universities in North-Central Nigeria, with a census sampling technique employed to ensure comprehensive coverage. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and were analysed using descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, means) and inferential statistics (independent t-test and Pearson product-moment correlation).

Result: Institutional repositories were the most widely implemented OA initiative, while other initiatives such as OA journals and open educational resources were less common. Libraries demonstrated a generally high level of involvement in OA promotion, although the use of OA resources among staff and students was not significantly associated with library advocacy alone. The study found a significant positive correlation between infrastructure availability, supportive policies, and the effectiveness of OA support. Major challenges identified included inadequate funding, limited ICT facilities, insufficient staff training, and weak policy enforcement. Recommended strategies included developing and enforcing OA policies, investing in ICT infrastructure, training library staff, strengthening repositories, and establishing partnerships with international OA organizations.

Conclusion: University libraries in North-Central Nigeria play a critical role in promoting Open Access, although the extent of their impact is contingent on institutional policy support as well as the availability of necessary infrastructure. Improving these aspects will allow libraries to better fulfil their functions in promoting knowledge dissemination and increasing the academic visibility of the region.

Keywords: Open Access, University Libraries, Institutional Repositories, Infrastructure, North-Central Nigeria

Paper type: Empirical

Introduction

Free access to knowledge remains limited due to the high cost of research materials, which creates inequities in global academic participation. Open Access (OA) is an

innovative approach that advocates for the elimination of the prices and permissions for research outputs and grants unrestricted free online access to scholarly literature. This strategy can enable unrestricted access to knowledge accelerating scientific progress. By

granting unfettered access to research outputs, especially from areas with well-established scholarly traditions, open access can aid in bridging knowledge gaps around the world. According to Kiesewetter (2023), this has been fostering inclusive academic growth. Understanding how the primary institutional actors grant this access is crucial because it highlights the libraries, which are the most important component of the system.

As venerable establishments committed to knowledge access and preservation, libraries have broadened and modified their missions to meet the changing demands of their patrons and the changing information landscape. While libraries have traditionally focused on the curation of physical collections, they now deal with the complexities of the digital world, negotiating contracts for the digital resources and innovating other methods of information dissemination. However, their primary responsibility has always been to ensure that their clients, students and researchers, and the entire community be able to find and use reliable and relevant information. Achieving this goal requires not only acquiring useful materials but also developing skills in digital curation, promoting sustainable access strategies, and ensuring long-term preservation. Supporting open scholarship, is a logical progression toward the fulfillment of this mission in the digital age (IFLA, 2020). All library types are different yet they embrace this evolution in various ways.

University libraries act as the core hubs for research and scholarly communication within their institutions. Their traditional role in providing access to costly subscription-based journals and databases remains crucial. However, recognizing the limitations and inequities of the subscription model, they increasingly champion alternative pathways to knowledge. This involves actively supporting Open Access initiatives by promoting OA publishing avenues for faculty, curating and providing access to high-quality OA journals and repositories, and establishing and managing institutional repositories (IRs) to archive and provide open access to the

university's own scholarly output, such as theses, dissertations, and faculty preprints/postprints. Their role extends beyond mere provision to active advocacy and infrastructure development for open scholarship (Pinfield et al., 2020). This proactive engagement positions them uniquely to drive OA adoption locally.

Open Access initiatives encompass a range of strategies and models aimed at making peer-reviewed scholarly literature freely available online without financial, legal, or technical barriers beyond internet access. Major OA models encompass Gold OA journals, Green OA repositories, and transformative publishing agreements between institutions and publishers, and policies mandating OA archiving of publicly funded research. The benefits are substantial: research receives wider dissemination and increased citation impact, researchers in under-resourced institutions gain critical access to the latest findings, taxpayers see greater return on publicly funded research investment, and societal challenges can be addressed more effectively with openly available knowledge. OA thus fosters a more equitable, efficient, and impactful global research ecosystem (UNESCO, 2021). Realizing these benefits, however, requires active promotion and support within academic communities.

University libraries are uniquely positioned to lead the promotion and support of OA awareness and usage within their institutions. They leverage their expertise in information dissemination, user education, and scholarly communication to demystify OA concepts for faculty, students, and administrators. This involves conducting workshops on OA publishing options, copyright considerations, and author rights retention; providing guidance on identifying reputable OA journals and compliant archiving in repositories; advocating for institutional OA policies; and integrating OA resources seamlessly into discovery services and research guides. Removing obstacles related to understanding and participation allows libraries to assist their academic communities in gaining the ability to

participate fully in the OA movement and realize its local advantages (Cox et al., 2021). Having said that, there are reasons libraries have not been able to realize this fully and, in some cases, for some regions, it has to do with context.

In spite of the important role they play, university libraries, like those in the North-Central Nigeria, are faced with multifaceted challenges in effectively supporting OA initiatives. Persistent issues include unreliable and expensive internet connectivity hindering access to and management of digital resources; chronic underfunding limiting investments in necessary infrastructure (like a robust IR platform), staff training, and advocacy programs; and an unskilled library workforce with respect to OA publishing models, repository management, copyright law, and digital preservation. In addition, faculty and university leadership are generally unaware of or hold misconceptions about OA, while few strong institutional or national OA policies exist that mandate deposit or provide clear guidelines. Under these constraints, the possibilities of libraries as OA enablers are highly constrained (Ezema & Onyancha, 2020; Igwe, 2021). Consequently, it is crucial to understand how these challenges play out and are circumvented within the socio-economic and infrastructural conditions of North-Central Nigeria.

Nigeria, as a significant knowledge producer in Africa, faces barriers to global scholarly participation, rendering its open access context particularly pertinent. The Nigerian higher education sector is huge, comprising universities that output considerable research; yet challenges remain, such as limited access to international subscription databases, high APCs for gold OA, and infrastructural deficits to shore visibility and impact of these researches. OA offers a useful channel for putting Nigerian scholarship on the global radar and improving local access to international knowledge, which is crucial for national development priorities. Realization of such potentials demands institutional efforts, where university libraries should assume

principal roles in mediating these complex considerations and translating them into feasible gradual steps appropriate for the Nigerian environment (Igwe, 2021). This national imperative encourages an examination of the specific characteristics of North-Central geopolitical zone.

Examining North-Central Nigeria region provides an essential perspective for comprehending the nuanced dynamics of OA support within a regional context. The region comprises of Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, and plateau states, as well as the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. These states have federal, state, and private universities, each exhibiting diverse resources and infrastructures, thereby serving as a near-ideal microcosm of higher education in Nigeria. These universities significantly contribute to national research. The region faces significant challenges, including irregular electricity supply, inadequate broadband access in certain states, and financial difficulties that may be more pronounced than those in coastal states. Further investigation is required to comprehend how university libraries in this socio-economic context maintain open access and to formulate effective, context-specific strategies (Popoola & Haliso, 2022). Such regionality, therefore, calls for localized research systems that can offer highly relevant actionable insights.

The existing literature reveals a significant gap regarding the specific strategies, effectiveness, and challenges faced by university libraries in North-Central Nigeria concerning OA support. While studies explore OA awareness in Nigeria broadly (e.g., Ezema, 2020; Onyancha, 2020) or library challenges generally (e.g., Adebayo, 2021), there is a scarcity of empirical research concentrating on the operational realities and strategic interventions of libraries within this particular zone. Understanding the extent of their engagement in OA advocacy, repository development, faculty training, policy formulation support, and resource curation, and how these activities are impacted by local constraints, is largely unexplored. This gap hinders the development of targeted

support mechanisms and best practices relevant to universities operating within the unique conditions of North-Central Nigeria (Olatoregun & Awoyemi, 2022). Filling this knowledge void is precisely where this research positions its contribution.

Therefore, this research is fundamentally driven by the need to investigate the current state and efficacy of university libraries in North-Central Nigeria concerning their role in supporting OA initiatives. The core problem stems from the tension between the recognized potential of OA to transform scholarly communication and address access inequities in Nigeria, and the insufficient understanding of how key institutional facilitators, university libraries, are navigating this terrain within a region facing distinct infrastructural and resource limitations. Without a clear picture of their activities, challenges, and successes, it is difficult to leverage their potential fully or design interventions that effectively enhance OA adoption and utilization within these institutions. Hence, this study aims to offer a detailed evaluation, transcending general national survey to provide specific insights relevant to the North-Central context. The primary objective is to produce evidence-based recommendations for enhancing library capacity and institutional open access frameworks within the region.

Statement of the Problem

Access to scholarly writing plays a crucial role in academic research, teaching, and innovation. In several developing countries, like Nigeria, university libraries are grappling with tight budgets, limited journal subscription, and infrastructure issues that hinder their ability to provide sufficient access to research materials. These obstacles have made the Open Access (OA) movement an appealing solution to make academic content more accessible. Open access initiatives, such as institutional repositories, open journals, and awareness campaigns, hold the potential of boosting research visibility, encouraging academic collaboration, and narrowing the

knowledge gap between institutions in the Global North and South.

Despite OA's global expansion, little is known about how North-Central Nigerian university libraries are interacting with and supporting it. Although some libraries in this area have made an effort to adopt open access (OA) practices, anecdotal evidence indicates that implementation is still uneven. Institutions aren't providing much support, researchers aren't particularly enthusiastic about it, and the required tools aren't available. Moreover, there is limited documentation of the strategies adopted by these libraries, the problems they're running into, or what kind of impact their OA efforts are having in the region.

Therefore, this study seeks to examine how university libraries in North-Central Nigeria are supporting open access initiatives, the extent to which these initiatives are integrated into library operations and services, and the challenges faced in their implementation. By identifying gaps and best practices, the research aims to contribute to policy and practice that will strengthen open access engagement in university libraries.

Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to examine the role of university libraries in supporting open access initiatives in North-Central Nigeria. Specifically, the study is aim to:

1. Identify the open access initiatives currently being implemented by university libraries in North-Central Nigeria.
2. Assess the level of involvement of university libraries in promoting awareness and usage of open access resources among academic staff and students.
3. Evaluate the infrastructure and institutional policies available in university libraries that support open access publishing and dissemination.
4. Determine the challenges university libraries face in supporting open access initiatives in the North-Central region.

5. Propose strategies for enhancing the effectiveness of university libraries in promoting open access in Nigerian universities.

Statement of Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study and was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

- H1:** There is no significant relationship between the level of library involvement in open access promotion and the usage of open access resources among academic staff and students.
- H2:** There is no significant relationship between the availability of infrastructure and institutional policies and the effectiveness of open access support in university libraries.

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design and was conducted in North-Central Nigeria, covering seven universities. The population of the study consisted of library staff in the seven selected universities in North-Central Nigeria. The total population was 514 library staff, distributed as follows: Federal University of Lafia (53), Federal University of Lokoja (36), Federal University of Education Kontagora (35), University of Ilorin (75), University of Abuja (83), University of Jos (117), and Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University (115). The study employed a census sampling technique, where the entire population of library staff in the seven universities was targeted. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire developed by

the researcher. The researchers personally administered the questionnaire with assistance from trained research aides. Data collected were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, and means, were used to answer the research questions. Inferential statistics were employed to test the null hypotheses at the 0.05 level of significance. Specifically, the independent-samples t-test was used to examine the relationship between library involvement and OA usage, while Pearson product-moment correlation analysis was used to determine the relationship between infrastructure adequacy and the effectiveness of OA support in university libraries.

Result and Discussion

Table 1 shows each university’s response rate. The study achieved an impressive overall response rate ranging between 91% and 98% across the seven surveyed universities in North-Central Nigeria. Specifically, Federal University of Lafia recorded a 96% response rate, Federal University of Lokoja recorded a 92% response rate, Federal University of Education Kontagora recorded a 94% response rate, University of Ilorin recorded a 91% response rate, University of Abuja recorded a 93% response rate, University of Jos recorded a 98% response rate, and Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University recorded a 95% response rate. Such high response rates reflect the strong commitment and willingness of library staff to contribute to research on open access initiatives, and they enhance the reliability and generalizability of the findings. According to Babbie (2013), response rates above 70% are generally considered very good in survey research, hence the response levels obtained in this study surpass the recommended threshold, strengthening the validity of the results.

Table 1: Response Summary by University

University	Staff (Total)	Respondents	Response Rate (%)
Federal University of Education Kontagora (FUEK)	35	32	91.4
Federal University of Lafia (FULafia)	53	52	98.1

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Federal University of Lokoja (FULokoja)	36	34	94.4
Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University (JOSTUM)	115	112	97.4
University of Abuja (UNIABUJA)	83	77	92.8
University of Ilorin (UNIILORIN)	75	70	93.3
University of Jos (UNIJOS)	117	106	90.6

Research Objective 1: *Identify the open access initiatives currently being implemented by university libraries in North-Central Nigeria.*

As shown in Table 2, institutional repository (IR) is the most widely implemented OA initiative, with 90.7% of libraries supporting it. Other initiatives include open access journals (70.2%) and open educational resources (55.5%), while activities such as OA consortia membership and hosting OA conferences (54.0% and 35.6%) remain less common. This indicates that repositories serve as the cornerstone of OA adoption, providing platforms for collecting, preserving, and

disseminating research outputs. This finding aligns with Suber (2012), who emphasized repositories as the backbone of the OA movement globally. However, the relatively lower involvement in OA publishing, OERs, and conferences suggests that libraries in North-Central Nigeria are still operating at a basic level of OA integration rather than actively shaping scholarly communication. This implies that libraries have laid a solid groundwork but need to diversify their OA activities beyond repository management, embracing publishing support, OER integration, and regional or international consortia.

Table 2: Open Access Initiatives Currently Implemented

Initiative	Count	Percentage
Institutional Repository	438	90.7
Open Access Journals	339	70.2
OERs	268	55.5
OA Consortia	261	54.0
Support Self-Archiving	395	81.8
Hosting OA Conferences	172	35.6

Research Objective 2: *Assess the level of involvement of university libraries in promoting awareness and usage of open access resources among academic staff and students.*

The study, as indicated in Table 3, found high levels of involvement (mean scores 3.2–3.7 on a 1–4 scale). Activities such as workshops, orientation programs, seminars, and social media campaigns were commonly reported. These findings demonstrate that libraries were not only providing OA infrastructure but also playing a central role in advocacy and awareness creation. However, universities with smaller number of staff such as Federal University of Lokoja and Federal University of

Education Kontagora reported relatively lower involvement, suggesting disparities in outreach capacity. This resonates with the argument of Pinfield, Salter, and Bath (2017) that library advocacy is critical to embedding OA practices in academia. The implication is that libraries are effective promoters of OA usage, but smaller library institutions require targeted support, including funding and training, to sustain effective advocacy and close the gap with larger universities.

Table 3: Extent of Library Involvement in OA Promotion

Item	MeanScore	N
Promotes institutional repositories	3.42	483
Collaborates to upload research outputs	3.33	483
Supports OA journals	3.4	483
Offers training on OA publishing	3.29	483
Promotes OA via seminars	3.34	483

Research Objective 3: Evaluate the infrastructure and institutional policies available in university libraries that support open access publishing and dissemination.

Table 4 reveals that while nearly all libraries reported having repository software (97.3%) and ICT infrastructure (82.8%), adequacy levels varied widely. Larger universities rated infrastructure adequacy higher (mean 3.6–3.7), while smaller ones reported lower adequacy (mean 2.5–2.7). Institutional policy support for OA, as shown in Table 5, was also reported by most respondents (85.3%), though a minority indicated either no policies (4.3%) or uncertainty (10.4%). This suggests a policy-practice gap, policies may exist but are not

always well communicated or enforced. These findings echo those of Alemayehu (2010), who noted that infrastructure and supportive policy frameworks are determinants of OA adoption in Africa. The implication is that the role of libraries is both technical and strategic: they maintain repositories and ICT systems while also advocating for stronger and clearer institutional policies. Bridging the policy-practice gap is crucial for ensuring sustainability.

Table 4: Infrastructure Supporting OA

Infrastructure/Policy	Count	Percentage
Repository Software	470	97.3
OA Policy Document	416	86.1
Dedicated ICT infra	400	82.8
Strategic plan with OA	405	83.9
No infrastructure	10	2.1

Table 5: Policy Support for OA

Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	412	85.3
No	21	4.3
Not Sure	50	10.4

Research Objective 4: Determine the challenges university libraries face in supporting open access initiatives in the North-Central region.

The most pressing challenge, as demonstrated in Table 6, was limited ICT infrastructure, followed by lack of Incentives. Cultural barriers such as academic resistance, lack of incentives, and low awareness were also

reported. Larger universities reported fewer severe challenges (average scores closer to 2.5), reflecting their better resource base. These findings highlight that OA challenges are both structural and cultural. Smaller

universities particularly struggle with compounded issues of funding and technology. This is consistent with Okonedo and Opeke (2019), who observed that funding and ICT constraints limit OA development in Nigerian libraries. The implication is that libraries' potential is constrained by systemic

underfunding and lack of institutional buy-in. Without dedicated investments in ICT and staff training, OA support will remain uneven. It is essential for policy-makers to ensure fair funding distribution and introduce incentives to encourage academic engagement with OA.

Table 6: Major Challenges to Supporting OA

Challenge	MeanScore
Inadequate Funding	2.82
Lack of Institutional Policy	2.82
Low Staff Capacity	2.85
Inadequate ICT infrastructure	2.89
Resistance from Academics	2.82
Lack of Incentives	2.87
Lack of Awareness	2.84

Research Objective 5: Propose strategies for enhancing the effectiveness of university libraries in promoting open access in Nigerian universities.

Respondents strongly endorsed a range of strategies, as evident in Table 7, with the highest support for: partnering with international OA bodies (M = 3.40), extending OA awareness beyond the library (M = 3.40), establishing repositories and encouraging self-archiving (M = 3.38), and dedicated funding and regular training (M = 3.35 and 3.37). These results show that libraries recognize the importance of both external collaboration and internal institutional culture-building. Respondents also emphasized funding and these measures could significantly enhance Nigeria's visibility in global scholarly communication.

training, indicating awareness that sustainability depends on consistent investment. This aligns with the recommendations of Chan et al. (2015), who argue that capacity building, funding, and international collaboration are the cornerstones of successful OA in the Global South. The implication is that libraries are not merely passive implementers; they are forward-thinking actors proposing viable strategies. Adoption of

Table 7: Strategies to Enhance OA Support

Strategy	MeanScore
Dedicated funding	3.35
Regular training	3.37
Partner with international OA	3.4
Extend awareness beyond library	3.4
Establish repos & self-archive	3.38
OA deposit mandates	3.41
Support collaborative OA publishing	3.36

Discussion of Hypotheses

Two null hypotheses were formulated to guide this study and tested at the 0.05 level of significance. The results (in Table 8) and interpretations are discussed below:

Hypothesis One (H1): There is no significant relationship between the level of library involvement in open access promotion and the usage of open access resources among academic staff and students.

The independent samples t-test revealed a mean involvement score of 16.85 for users of OA resources compared to 16.46 for non-users, with a t-value of 1.836 and $p = 0.0684$. Since the p-value is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis was retained. This result suggests that while libraries with higher involvement tend to report more OA usage, the relationship is not statistically significant. Other factors, such as incentives, culture, and mandates, likely influence OA usage. This agrees with Pinfield, Salter, & Bath (2017). Libraries must complement advocacy with institutional policies and incentive structures to encourage OA usage.

Hypothesis Two (H2): *There is no significant relationship between the availability of infrastructure and institutional policies and the effectiveness of open access support in university libraries.*

Pearson product-moment correlation analysis showed a moderate positive correlation ($r = 0.462$, $p < 0.001$) between infrastructure adequacy and library involvement in OA support. Since the p-value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis was rejected. This indicates that infrastructure and policies significantly influence OA effectiveness. Libraries with robust ICT facilities, policy frameworks, and repository systems are more active in OA promotion. This is consistent with Alemayehu (2010) and Chan et al. (2015). To boost open access efforts, colleges need to put money into IT systems, storage platforms, and put open access rules into action. These findings show that while libraries play a key role in open access, how well they do depend on both staff buy-in and support from the wider school. This means libraries can't go it alone, they need support from their institutions to make open access work.

Table 8: Hypothesis Test Results

Hypothesis	Measure(s)	Test	Statistic	p-value
H1: Involvement vs OA Usage	Involvement total (5–20)	t-test	t=1.836, Means: Users=16.85, Non- users=16.46	0.0684
H2: Infrastructure vs Involvement	Infra adequacy vs Involvement	Pearson r	r=0.462	0.0

The research indicates that university libraries in North-Central Nigeria play a crucial role in promoting Open Access (OA) adoption. They've made significant strides by setting up repositories, raising awareness, and building essential infrastructure. However, the level of support varies from one institution to another, with smaller universities often facing more challenges. The data reveals a moderate positive correlation ($r = .46$, $p < .001$) between the adequacy of infrastructure and library engagement, highlighting the need for more investment in information and communication technology (ICT) and supportive policies. While there is a connection between library involvement and OA usage, it isn't statistically significant ($p = .068$), suggesting that other

elements, like incentives for academics, might also influence this relationship. Overall, university libraries are key to making knowledge more accessible in Nigeria, but their impact could be significantly improved with better funding, infrastructure, and policy enforcement.

Summary

This study investigated the role of university libraries in supporting open access (OA) initiatives in North-Central Nigeria. Based on the analysis of responses from library staff across seven universities, the following key findings emerged:

1. **OA Initiatives Implemented:** Most libraries have institutional repositories as their major OA initiative. Other initiatives such as OA journals and open educational resources are gaining ground, though less widespread.
2. **Library Involvement in Promotion:** Libraries demonstrate a generally high level of involvement in OA advocacy and awareness creation. However, the degree of involvement varies across institutions, with larger universities being more active.
3. **Infrastructure and Policies:** Adequate ICT infrastructure and supportive policies were found to significantly influence OA adoption. Universities with well-developed repository systems and institutional OA policies were more effective in OA dissemination.
4. **Challenges:** Major challenges include inadequate funding, limited ICT facilities, insufficient staff training, and weak policy enforcement. Cultural barriers such as lack of incentives for academics and low awareness further limit OA uptake.
5. **Strategies:** Respondents strongly recommended increased funding, regular training, partnerships with international OA bodies, and the establishment of institutional repositories with self-archiving mandates.

Conclusion

The study concludes that university libraries in North-Central Nigeria are playing an increasingly important role in the promotion of open access initiatives. Institutional repositories remain the cornerstone of OA support, but effective promotion requires more than technical infrastructure. While libraries are actively involved in advocacy, their efforts alone do not significantly influence usage without broader institutional incentives. On the other hand, infrastructure adequacy and the presence of formal institutional policies have a significant and positive relationship with OA effectiveness. Overall, university libraries are positioned as both facilitators and advocates of OA. However, their success is dependent on

consistent institutional investment, policy support, and cultural shifts in the academic environment.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. **Strengthen Institutional Repositories:** Universities should expand and maintain robust repositories, ensuring that self-archiving policies are enforced and academics are supported in depositing their works.
2. **Develop and Enforce OA Policies:** University management should adopt formal OA policies mandating deposit of publications, supported by incentive structures for academics who publish in OA outlets.
3. **Invest in Infrastructure:** Significant investment is needed in ICT facilities, high-speed internet, and repository management systems to ensure seamless access and dissemination of OA resources.
4. **Capacity Building for Librarians:** Regular training and professional development programs should be organized to equip librarians with the technical and advocacy skills needed to drive OA initiatives.
5. **Raising Awareness:** Libraries need to broaden their outreach on open access (OA) beyond just the library staff. This means getting faculty, students, and administrators involved too. Hosting workshops, seminars, and online campaigns can really help boost OA awareness across the board.
6. **Financial Support:** It's crucial for universities and government bodies to set aside specific funds for OA initiatives. They should also look into external grants and international collaborations to keep OA efforts going strong.
7. **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Libraries should work together both regionally and globally, joining OA

consortia and networks to share resources, knowledge, and best practices.

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