

Leveraging Academic Social Media to Improve Librarian Research Output in Scopus/Web of Science Indexed Outlets

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Abstract: The present study aimed to investigate the impact of academic social media utilization on the volume of research output by librarians working in the southwestern region of Nigeria. This investigation adopted a descriptive survey research design and a sample of 363 librarians employed in university libraries located in the southwestern region of Nigeria. Descriptive and inferential statistical methods were utilized to analyze the data collected. The results of the study revealed a low level of research output by librarians in Scopus and Web of Science indexed publications. However, the study also demonstrated that librarians who utilized academic social media platforms such as Figshare, Orcid, and ResearchGate had a higher likelihood of having their research published in outlets indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. In conclusion, this study supports the argument that the utilization of academic social media can enhance the likelihood of publication in Scopus and Web of Science indexed outlets. Based on these findings, it is recommended that efforts be made to increase the utilization of academic social media platforms such as Orcid and ResearchGate among librarians in southwestern Nigeria.

Keywords: Academic Social Media, Scopus, Web of Science, Research Output

INTRODUCTION

The academic landscape is constantly evolving, and the need to publish research has become a crucial factor in academic success. Librarians are not exempt from this trend, as they are increasingly expected to produce scholarly research and publish their work in reputable outlets to enhance the quantity and quality of academic output. In Nigerian universities, librarians are awarded full faculty rank and are expected to fulfill a range of academic duties, including teaching, research, and service (Inuwa & Abrizah, 2018). To enhance their reputation, many Nigerian universities are pushing their faculty members, including librarians, to produce more publications in outlets indexed by Scopus and Web of Science (WoS). The reason for this is that publications from these indexed outlets are considered to be of high quality and are respected in the academic community. The outlets have a high citation rate, which boosts the reputation of the universities. However, the high interest shown by Nigerian academics in publishing in Scopus and WoS indexed outlets as a measure of quality requires further explanation.

The trend can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, the Nigerian academic community is striving to gain more international recognition for their research. Publishing in these indexed outlets facilitates this by increasing the visibility and reach of their research. Secondly, Nigerian academics

are aware that many international funding agencies and institutions prioritize research output from Scopus and WoS indexed outlets, which means that academics who publish in these outlets are more likely to secure funding and other research opportunities. Thirdly, Nigerian universities are increasingly emphasizing research output as a crucial metric for career advancement and promotions. Therefore, academics who publish in Scopus and WoS indexed outlets are likely to have an edge over their peers who publish in non-indexed outlets. Finally, the Nigerian academic community is aware that publications in Scopus and WoS indexed outlets are subject to rigorous review and scrutiny, which ensures the quality and credibility of the research being published.

Despite the importance of publishing in Scopus and WoS indexed outlets, Nigerian librarians have been found to have low levels of research output in these outlets (Okeji, 2019). Therefore, there is a need to identify strategies that can improve their chances of publishing in these reputable outlets. One promising strategy is the use of academic social media platforms, which may assist in increasing the likelihood of having research published in outlets indexed in Scopus and WoS.

Academic social media platforms, also known as academic social networks, provide a virtual space for researchers to showcase their work, share ideas, and collaborate with colleagues around the world. These platforms include ResearchGate, Academia.edu, Mendeley, and many others. Academic social media platforms have gained significant popularity among academics globally, and their use is increasing in Nigeria. According to a studies, researchers are using ResearchGate and Academia.edu to promote their research, share ideas, and network with colleagues (Manca, 2018; Ovadia, 2014).

However, while the use of academic social media platforms is on the rise in Nigeria, little or no current research has established a relationship between the usage of these platforms and an increase in research output in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets. Therefore, this study aims to address this gap by investigating the impact of academic social media utilization on the research output of librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets in the southwestern region of Nigeria. The findings of this study will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of academic social media platforms as a strategy for enhancing research output in Nigerian universities.

Statement of the Problem

The problem of limited publication of Nigerian librarians in Scopus and Web of Science indexed outlets has become increasingly pressing in recent years. These outlets serve as important indicators of the research output and quality of universities, and are often used for ranking purposes. Despite the recognition that publishing in these outlets can be a significant challenge for librarians, many are still faced with obstacles such as the demanding peer-review process and high rejection rates. For instance, a study conducted by Okeji (2019) revealed that the publication output of Nigerian librarians in Scopus and Web of Science indexed outlets is low compared to their counterparts in other African countries. This often results in librarians having to resort to less reputable publication outlets, which can negatively impact their career advancement. Academic social media has the potential to provide a solution to this problem. These online platforms offer a wealth of benefits to researchers, including increased connectivity, collaboration opportunities, exposure to quality research, and access to research tools and techniques (Míguez-González et al., 2017). The use of academic social media can thus provide librarians with a valuable support system to enhance their research output and quality. It is with this in mind that the study sought to investigate the impact of academic social media on the publication output of librarians in Scopus and Web of Science indexed outlets.

Objective of the Study

The primary aim of this study is to investigate the impact of academic social media utilization on the research output of librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets in the southwestern region of Nigeria. Besides that, the study also sets out to achieve two specific objectives:

- To determine the amount of research produced by librarians in Scopus/Web of Science indexed outlets in universities in southwestern Nigeria.

- To assess the level of academic social media usage among librarians for research purposes in southwestern Nigeria.

Hypothesis:

- Social media use does not have a significant impact on the research output of librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets in the southwestern region of Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of publication productivity and quality

Publication productivity refers to the number of publications produced by a researcher or research group, while publication quality refers to the impact and influence of those publications (Zhao et al., 2021). Sandström & Van Besselaar (2016) have reported a positive correlation between publication productivity and citation impact, while Aksnes et al. (2019) have suggested that the relationship between quantity and quality may be more complex, with different types of research output (such as articles, reviews, and books) having different relationships with citation impact.

While the Journal Citation Report (JCR) is a widely used tool for evaluating the impact and prestige of academic journals based on citation data, it has been criticized for only covering a fraction of the journals indexed by Scopus and Google Scholar Metrics, particularly in social sciences and humanities. Aksnes et al. (2019) have found that JCR uses a single indicator, the journal impact factor, to measure impact, which does not reflect the diversity and complexity of citation patterns across different fields and disciplines. They have suggested that JCR should be complemented or replaced by other sources of bibliometric data that offer more comprehensive and multidimensional perspectives on research impact.

Scopus, launched by Elsevier in 2004, has emerged as a popular alternative to JCR for evaluating research quality (Mongeon & Paul-Hus, 2016). Scopus offers a broader coverage of journals, especially in social sciences and humanities, and provides a wider range of metrics for evaluating research impact. In Nigeria, the use of Scopus and Web of Science has become increasingly important for librarians in academic institutions. Adetayo et al. (n.d.) have noted that the availability of these databases has allowed Nigerian librarians to more effectively support research activities and collaborate with researchers on publishing projects. However, the high cost of access to these databases remains a challenge for many institutions, particularly those in rural or low-income areas.

Constraints on librarian publication productivity and output in Scopus/WOS indexed outlets

Publication productivity and output are crucial elements of professional development in the library and information science field. However, librarians face several constraints that can hinder their ability to produce high-quality research output. One significant constraint is the long working hours and heavy workload that librarians often face, which can limit their time for engaging in research activities (Adegbaye et al., 2019; Oni & Eziam, 2014). Additionally, the publication process can be challenging, particularly for early-career librarians. Scopus and WoS-indexed journals have rigorous peer-review processes, and manuscripts must meet specific standards before they can be accepted for publication, which can be time-consuming and have a high rejection rate, particularly for journals with high impact factors (Hesterman et al., 2018; Huisman & Smits, 2017).

Inadequate funding and limited access to resources such as data and specialized software can also constrain librarian publication productivity and output. Studies have found that a lack of research skills can significantly impact librarian research productivity (Brown et al., 2015; Crampsie et al., 2020). Moreover, library budgets are often limited, which can restrict librarians' access to funds for conducting research, particularly for early-career researchers.

It is crucial to address these constraints to ensure that librarians can engage in high-quality research and contribute to the development of their field. The availability of Scopus and WoS has allowed Nigerian librarians to more effectively support research activities and collaborate with

researchers on publishing projects (Adetayo, 2022). However, the high cost of access to these databases remains a challenge for many institutions, especially those in rural or low-income areas.

Potential of academic social media in improving publication productivity

In recent years, academic social media platforms such as ResearchGate, Academia.edu, and Mendeley have gained popularity among researchers (Abramo & D'Angelo, 2015; Crunchbase, 2018b, 2018a). These platforms offer scholars opportunities to share their work, connect with other scholars, and stay up-to-date with the latest research in their field. Scholars can collaborate and network, leading to new research projects and publications, while also sharing preprints, conference presentations, and other unpublished works to receive feedback on their work before publication (Li et al., 2012; Mohammadi et al., 2016).

Librarians can also benefit from academic social media platforms by sharing their research and connecting with other scholars in their field. These connections can lead to potential collaborations on new projects and publications (Palmer & Strickland, 2017). By staying up-to-date with the latest research in their field, librarians can integrate new findings into their own work and publications.

One of the significant ways that academic social media can support the publishing process for librarians is through preprint servers such as arXiv and bioRxiv. By sharing their work before it is formally published, librarians can receive feedback and make improvements before submitting it to a journal. Academic social media can also be used to promote and share published works, which can increase the impact of their research by reaching a wider audience. Finally, academic social media can be used to find potential collaborators within and outside the library community, leading to new research projects and publications.

Academic social media and publication output

In recent years, academic social media platforms, such as ResearchGate, Academia.edu, and Mendeley, have gained popularity among researchers. These platforms offer researchers the opportunity to connect with peers, share their work, and discover new research, thereby providing potential benefits to publication productivity and quality. As such, there has been increasing interest in examining the relationship between the use of academic social media and publication productivity and quality.

A number of studies have investigated the relationship between the use of academic social media and research output. Li et al. (2012) conducted a study proposing that researchers who use academic social media platforms had higher citation counts and published more articles compared to those who did not use these platforms. Similarly, Singh et al. (2022) found that ResearchGate citations were strongly correlated with Google Scholar citations, and ResearchGate users had more publications and citations than non-users. In a study by Ortega (2015), it was reported that researchers who used Mendeley had higher publication rates and more citations than non-users.

Moreover, a study by Thelwall & Kousha (2017) found that ResearchGate correlated most strongly with Google Scholar citations, suggesting that ResearchGate is not predominantly tapping a fundamentally different source of data than Google Scholar. Another study by Ovadia (2014) noted that ResearchGate has more features for collaboration and interaction than Academia.edu, which may affect citation counts.

All the literature suggest that academic social media has the potential to impact publication productivity and quality. Through the use of these platforms, researchers are able to connect with peers, share their work, and discover new research, which may lead to increased citations, publication rates, and visibility.

METHOD

Research Design

The study employed a descriptive survey design, which was deemed appropriate for collecting information on the use of academic social media and the research output of librarians in

scopus/WoS indexed outlets in universities located in southwestern Nigeria. The research flowchart is displayed in [Figure 1](#).



Participants

The study population consisted of all 363 librarians working in 32 universities in the region, including federal, state, and private universities. Given the manageable size of the population and the well-defined nature of the target group, the study adopted the total enumeration technique to gather data from all librarians. This approach eliminated the possibility of sampling errors and biases, allowing for a comprehensive examination of the population. The sample size was therefore equal to the total population of librarians in these universities. This method ensured that all librarians had an equal opportunity to participate in the study and provide accurate information.

Instrumentation

The instrumentation used for the research is an anonymous questionnaire with two sections. This approach was selected due to the high literacy level of the librarians in the study population and its suitability for a smaller population. Section 1 of the questionnaire was designed to assess academic social media usage among librarians. This section consisted of nine items and it was measured on a 4-point Likert format scale with (Weekly-4, Monthly-3, Occasionally-2, and Never-1). Participants were asked to rate their frequency of usage of academic social media. Section 2 of the questionnaire was constructed to evaluate the quantity of research conducted by librarians in the context of their professional responsibilities. It consisted of ten items that captured quantity of research output of librarians' both overall and those indexed in Scopus/Web of Science.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the questionnaire, various steps were taken. Firstly, the questionnaire underwent face validity testing where two thesis supervisors evaluated its content and suggested necessary adjustments. These adjustments were made to ensure the accurate response of the sample population.

Additionally, a pre-test was conducted on a sample of librarians from three different universities, where 30 copies of the questionnaire were distributed. The data collected from the pre-test was then used to calculate the internal consistency of the questionnaire through the use of the Cronbach Alpha Coefficient. The coefficient values were calculated based on the collection of items that make up the variables under consideration. The psychometric properties of the measurement scale for academic social media resulted in a reliability score of 0.923 and Quantity of research in Scopus/Web of Science resulted in a reliability score of 0.800.

Method of Data Collection

The data collection process for this study was thoroughly planned and executed with utmost precision to ensure the validity and reliability of the results. A letter of introduction was secured from the Head of the Department of Library and Information Science at Adeleke University, Ede, which was then sent to each university's administration. This letter introduced the survey and the researcher, highlighting the reasons for the study and requesting the librarians' assistance in filling out and returning the questionnaire. To guarantee anonymity and confidentiality, participation in the survey was made voluntary, and the respondents were assured that their information would be kept strictly confidential and used exclusively for academic research purposes. To support the researcher in the administration and collection of the questionnaire, research assistants were recruited and trained on the purpose of the study and how they could assist the respondents in filling out the questionnaire. The questionnaire was physically distributed to the respondents, and for circumstances where librarians were unavailable, a google form was adopted. The respondents were given adequate time to complete the questionnaire before it was collected and combined for analysis.

The population size for the study was 363 librarians in universities in southwestern Nigeria, out of which 312 copies of the questionnaire were returned and found valid for analysis, representing a response rate of 85.9%. This high response rate is a testament to the librarians' willingness to participate in the study and their commitment to the research objectives.

Data Analysis

The data collected through the anonymous questionnaire was carefully analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistical techniques were employed to summarize and describe the sample population's characteristics and their responses to the research questions. These techniques included the calculation of frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations, which provided insights into the data's overall pattern and distribution. Inferential statistical methods, on the other hand, were used to test the hypotheses that were formulated in the study. Linear regression was the inferential statistical tool selected to assess the relationship between the dependent and independent variables. This method helped to determine the extent to which changes in one variable are associated with changes in another variable, providing insights into the study's results and conclusions.

Decision Rule: The decision rule adopted for this study was based on the p-value. The null hypothesis was evaluated by comparing the p-value to the alpha value (0.05). If the p-value was less than the alpha value, the result was deemed significant, and the null hypothesis was rejected. On the other hand, if the p-value was greater than the alpha value, the null hypothesis was accepted, indicating that the result was not statistically significant.

Ethical Considerations

The participants were informed about their right to withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences. The researcher ensured that the participants' well-being was protected, and the collected data were used ethically and responsibly. The participants were also given an opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns before and after the survey, which was essential in creating a trusting environment and promoting their willingness to participate. The use of an anonymous questionnaire further enhanced the protection of participants' privacy and confidentiality. The participants were informed that their responses would only be used for academic research purposes and would not be shared with any third party. In conclusion, the researcher took all necessary ethical considerations into account and implemented them in the data collection process to ensure that the participants' rights were protected and that the information gathered was reliable and trustworthy.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the result obtained from the collection and analysis of data in line with the research objectives and hypothesis.

Table 1. Research productivity of librarians in universities in south-west Nigeria

| | Mean | Std. Dev |
|-----------------------|------|----------|
| Quantity | 2.80 | 1.304 |
| Scopus/Web of Science | 1.96 | 1.244 |

Decision Rule: 1.00-1.49 (Very Low), 1.50-2.49 (Low), 2.5-3.49 (High), 3.5-4.00 (Very High)

In [Table 1](#), it was found that the participants had a limited number of publications in outlets indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, with an average of 1.96. [Figure 2](#) shows the charts for the detailed number of publications for librarians in universities in south-west Nigeria. This result highlights that the focus of Nigerian librarians is on increasing their publication count rather than prioritizing the Scopus/WoS for their work. The reason behind this trend could be attributed to the prevalent emphasis on quantity in Nigerian universities, which might have prompted librarians to prioritize quantity over Scopus/WoS outlets, leading to a lower representation in globally recognized outlets.

The data in [Figure 2](#) shows that journal articles are the most frequently published type of work among the participants, with 491 articles appearing in Scopus and Web of Science in the last three years. In comparison, conference proceedings had a significantly lower representation, with only 186 publications.

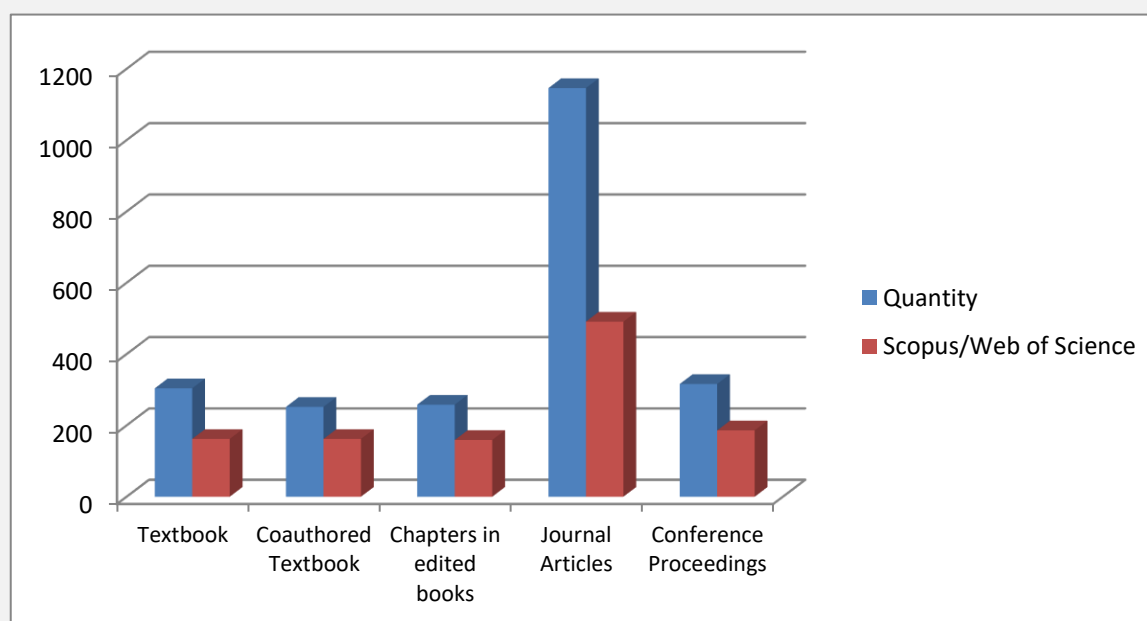


Figure 2. Research productivity of librarians in universities in south-west Nigeria

Similarly, other publication types such as textbooks, co-authored textbooks, and book chapters showed a similar trend, with 162, 162, and 159 instances, respectively. The large disparity between the number of journal articles and other publication types can possibly be attributed to a greater focus on journal articles within the Nigerian academic system.

Table 2. Frequency of Reported Use of Academic social media By Librarians for Research

| S/N | Social Media Platforms | Weekly | Monthly | Occasionally | Never | Mean | Std Dev |
|--------|------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|------|---------|
| i). | Google Scholar | 187(59.9%) | 32(10.3%) | 35(11.2%) | 58(18.6%) | 3.12 | 1.203 |
| ii). | ResearchGate | 153(49.0%) | 38(12.2%) | 53(17.0%) | 68(21.8%) | 2.88 | 1.234 |
| iii). | Academia.edu | 126(40.4%) | 35(11.2%) | 46(14.7%) | 105(33.7%) | 2.58 | 1.315 |
| iv). | Figshare | 31(9.9%) | 17(5.4%) | 24(7.7%) | 240(76.9%) | 1.48 | 0.979 |
| v). | CiteULike | 21(6.7%) | 22(7.1%) | 24(7.7%) | 245(78.5%) | 1.42 | 0.889 |
| vi). | Mendeley | 66(21.2%) | 31(9.9%) | 52(16.7%) | 163(52.2%) | 2.00 | 1.214 |
| vii). | Zotero | 41(13.1%) | 19(6.1%) | 37(11.9%) | 215(68.9%) | 1.63 | 1.070 |
| viii). | ORCID | 56(17.9%) | 29(9.3%) | 60(19.2%) | 167(53.5%) | 1.92 | 1.159 |
| ix). | Publons (ResearchID) | 42(13.5%) | 23(7.4%) | 35(11.2%) | 212(67.9%) | 1.66 | 1.087 |

Decision Rule: 1.00-1.49 (Very Low), 1.50-2.49 (Low), 2.5-3.49 (High), 3.5-4.00 (Very High)

The results from Table 2 indicate that librarians in Nigeria frequently use Google Scholar, ResearchGate, and Academia.edu for research purposes. A lesser number of respondents reported occasional use of Mendeley, ORCID, Zotero, and Publons. The majority of respondents indicated that they never use CiteULike and Figshare for their research activities.

Table 3. The Impact of Academic Social Media Use on The Research Output of Librarians in Scopus/WoS

| Model Summary | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Model | R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate |
| 1 | .555 ^a | .308 | .285 | 1.053 |
| ANOVA ^a | | | | |

| Model | | Sum of Squares | Df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 1 | Regression | 148.083 | 10 | 14.808 | 13.367 | .000 ^b |
| | Residual | 333.456 | 301 | 1.108 | | |
| | Total | 481.538 | 311 | | | |
| Coefficients ^a | | | | | | |
| Model | | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | t | Sig. |
| | | B | Std. Error | Beta | | |
| 1 | (Constant) | .444 | .188 | | 2.356 | .019 |
| | Google Scholar | .085 | .064 | .082 | 1.324 | .187 |
| | Research Gate | .185 | .070 | .183 | 2.644 | .009 |
| | Academia Edu | -.203 | .062 | -.215 | -3.275 | .001 |
| | Figshare | .351 | .095 | .276 | 3.703 | .000 |
| | CiteUlike | -.143 | .118 | -.102 | -1.214 | .226 |
| | Mendeley | .094 | .074 | .091 | 1.259 | .209 |
| | Zotero | .026 | .091 | .022 | .281 | .779 |
| | Orcid | .269 | .081 | .251 | 3.320 | .001 |
| | ResearchID | .144 | .080 | .126 | 1.792 | .074 |

a. Dependent Variable: Quantity of research by librarians in Scopus/web of science indexed publications

The results from [Table 3](#) offer insights into the impact of academic social media use on the research output of librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets in southwestern Nigeria. The analysis shows that the total variance in the research output of librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets that can be explained by academic social media use is 30.8%, as represented by R^2 . This indicates that academic social media use has a significant influence on the research output of librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets.

Furthermore, the adjusted R^2 value of 28.5% suggests that the actual impact of academic social media use on the research output of librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets is 28.5% of the total variance, after adjusting for other factors that may influence the quantity of research. The hypothesis test also revealed that the platforms Figshare, ORCID, and ResearchGate were found to be statistically significant in their impact on the research output of librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets in southwestern Nigeria. These results demonstrate that the use of these platforms is positively related to the research output of librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets in the region.

Discussion of Findings

Research output in the form of publications is an integral aspect of academic evaluation and a crucial marker of an individual's competency ([Alaaraj, 2018](#); [Wilkinson & Durden, 2015](#)). Studies conducted on the publication habits of librarians in southwestern Nigerian universities showed that a majority of them favored quantity over Scopus/WoS indexed outlets quality for their publications. The research conducted by [Okeji \(2019\)](#) found that a limited number of librarians had published in quality journals that were indexed in Scopus or Web of Science. These journals are widely recognized and have a high impact factor in the scholarly community. On the other hand, [Oni & Eziam \(2014\)](#) revealed that a significant percentage of librarians in Edo State (79%) and Delta State (71%) published in print-only journals that lacked indexing in major databases such as Scopus and Web of Science. These findings highlight the need for librarians to prioritize the quality of their research output and aim to publish in outlets that have a higher visibility and impact in the academic community.

The present study found that journal articles were the predominant form of publication among librarians in southwestern Nigeria, in line with previous research that suggests that librarians tend to publish more journal articles compared to other types of publications ([Okeji, 2019](#);

Okonedo et al., 2015). Collaboration, which is often seen as a key factor in enhancing productivity (Akbaritabar et al., 2018), was found to be lacking among librarians in southwestern Nigeria in co-authored textbook publications, which were found to be among the least frequently published on Scopus/Web of Science indexed outlets.

In terms of academic social media usage, the study showed that Google Scholar, Research Gate, and Academia were the most commonly used platforms among librarians in southwestern Nigeria, which is in agreement with the findings of Parabhoi & Kumari (2018) and Salami et al. (2021). On the other hand, Mendeley and ORCID were used less frequently. This could be due to a lack of institutional pressure for librarians to use various academic social media platforms for the dissemination of their research (Salami et al., 2021).

The study conducted by Opesanwo & Mabawonku (2016) revealed no significant relationship between social media and lecturers' research productivity in South-west Nigerian institutions, which may have been due to the limited scope of their study. However, the current study's findings indicate that academic social media platforms, such as Figshare, ORCID, and ResearchGate, have a positive and significant impact on research output by librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets in southwestern Nigerian university libraries. The study's results show that academic social media can explain over 30% of the variation in the research output of librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets.

One of the reasons for this positive impact is the increased connectivity and collaboration opportunities provided by academic social media platforms. Through these platforms, librarians can collaborate with peers, find co-authors, and build networks across institutions and regions. This connectivity can also expose librarians to quality research and provide access to research tools and techniques that can enhance their productivity and research skills. Thus, academic social media platforms can help address the challenge of low publication rates in Scopus/Web of Science indexed outlets by providing access to relevant literature, identifying new research opportunities, and developing research skills necessary for publishing in high-impact journals.

The study's findings have important implications for the academic community in Nigeria and other countries with similar challenges in research output. The use of academic social media platforms can play a vital role in supporting and enhancing research output by librarians and other researchers, particularly in disciplines with low publication rates. By leveraging the benefits of academic social media, librarians can improve their research output and contribute to the development of knowledge in their respective fields.

Furthermore, social media has been recognized as a valuable tool for knowledge creation and sharing that can improve employee productivity (Usrof, 2017). Donelan (2016) found that social media has transformed the higher education landscape by promoting academic advancement and professional development through increased participation, best practice sharing, and technology adoption. Thus, academic social media can also support the professional development of librarians and other researchers.

The study's geographical limitations need to be acknowledged as it was only conducted in southwestern Nigeria, thereby excluding other regions of the country. Although the researcher made efforts to ensure that the study had a broad scope by reviewing relevant literature from different areas and nations, a more comprehensive study covering a wider geographical region would have produced more robust and generalizable results. It's also worth noting that the study did not account for various confounding factors that could have influenced the research results. This includes the researcher's skill and expertise, which can play a crucial role in determining the quantity and quality of their research output. These limitations could have influenced the results and should be considered when interpreting the findings of this study.

CONCLUSION

The results concluded by showing that academic social media usage has a positive impact on research output of librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets, with the platforms Figshare, Orcid and Researchgate having the greatest impact. Additionally, the study found that while librarians in

the region were active on platforms such as Google Scholar, Research Gate, and Academia.edu, they were not utilizing other important platforms such as Mendeley, ORCID, Zotero, and Publons to the same extent.

Despite the limitations of the study, such as the geographical scope and the potential confounding factors, the findings still provide valuable insights into the role of academic social media in the research productivity of librarians in southwestern Nigeria. To address the issue of low publication in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets and the underutilization of most academic social media platforms, the researcher recommends that library management implement policies that make it mandatory for librarians to have accounts on these platforms. This would not only benefit the librarians but also the university as a whole. The results of this study can serve as a basis for further research in other areas and nations, ultimately leading to a better understanding of the impact of academic social media on research productivity.

Implication of the Study

The deductions made from the study indicated that academic social media use was a significant construct that can impact the research output of librarians in Scopus/WoS indexed outlets in southwestern Nigerian university libraries. Therefore, the study's outcome has implications for policy and practice.

Policy Implications

The study found low research output by Nigerian librarians in reputable outlets such as Scopus and Web of Science. To address the issue, policymakers must take a comprehensive approach. This involves addressing the root cause of the problem. The first step to tackle this issue would be to establish clear policies that incentivize university faculty, including librarians, to publish in these outlets. This could be achieved by incorporating publication in Scopus and Web of Science as key criteria for promotion and advancement within universities. Furthermore, it is imperative for policymakers to consider the impact of demographic factors on the adoption of social media in academic research. This study highlights the variability in social media use among librarians in southwestern Nigeria, which may impact their research productivity. Policymakers must therefore develop strategies to support and upskill older librarians, who may be less familiar with the use of social media, to enhance their research output. This could involve organizing workshops and training sessions to enhance their capabilities and confidence in using social media for academic purposes.

Librarianship Practice Implications

The findings of this study have significant implications for librarians and the practice of librarianship. Librarians have a critical role in providing quality services to their patrons, but they also have an academic obligation to contribute to the scholarly community through research and publication. To achieve this balance, the library profession must place greater emphasis on the personal research growth and development of librarians. One key way to do this is by incorporating the use of academic social media into librarianship practice. This will not only enhance the librarians' research productivity, but it will also position them as active contributors to the academic community. It is important to note that this responsibility should not fall solely on the shoulders of university administration, but it should also be a priority for library administration.

Conflict of Interest: There is no financial or personal relationships that might bias their work or influence the interpretation of research results.

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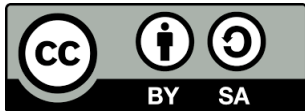
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