

# Academic Librarians' Readiness towards Resource Sharing Activities among the Federal Polytechnic Libraries in Northern States in Nigeria

Dr. Ibrahim Idi Ahmad (*MNLA, CLN*)

Polytechnic Librarian

Federal Polytechnic, P.M.B. 1049, Daura, Katsina State, Nigeria.

**Abstract:-** This paper assessed the Academic Librarians Readiness towards Resource Sharing activities among the Federal Polytechnic Libraries in Northern States in Nigeria. Three (3) objectives and research questions were formulated. Literatures were reviewed on concept of resource sharing activities in Libraries, types of resource sharing activities in libraries, readiness of librarians towards resources sharing activities and challenges associated with resources sharing activities in libraries. Cross sectional survey design was used to collect data from the respondents. A sample of 107 respondents were selected from the population consisted of all Academic Librarians in Federal Polytechnics in Northern Nigeria. The findings indicated that the academic librarians under study generally participate in inter-library loaning, exchange of personnel, and sharing bibliographical data to share resources. However, they do not engage in maintenance of union catalogue, cooperative reference resource sharing, cooperative acquisition and the academic librarians under study believed that their libraries have the necessary resources and infrastructure to provide high-quality resources and deal with challenges that may arise during resource sharing. It was concluded that that the academic librarians have certain level of readiness and the findings suggest that while there is some level of participation in resource sharing among academic librarians in federal polytechnic libraries in northern Nigeria, there are also need to increase their willingness for the activities. Among others, it was recommended that academic librarians explore and adopt other types of resource sharing activities, such as cooperative acquisition building and technology sharing. This could help to improve access to resources and services, reduce duplication of efforts and costs, and foster collaboration among polytechnic libraries in the region.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Academic libraries around the world are tasked with the monumental task of delivering information, resources, and services to their target populations, since they are formed and funded with a specific mandate to serve. In support of this statement, Yusuf (2017) buttressed that a well-equipped library system is a basic prerequisite for an effective academic environment. Furthermore, libraries, regardless of where they are physically located, must assess

and process their resources and services in order to reach the intended library audience (Jegede, 2016). As a result, they are anticipated to be adequately prepared with the necessary resources and services to act as a reference house for user communities to access the appropriate resources and services.

The academic library's primary function and significance is to assist and provide effective services to their patron community in accessing the necessary resources and services for their teaching, learning, research, and other academic activities. However, a survey of the literature revealed that libraries in Nigeria are in disarray, as they have become the custodians of insufficient resources and services as a result of the government's neglect in subsidising education. Furthermore, libraries are faced with numerous challenges in terms of inadequate and irrelevant resources. This is caused by inadequate funding, poor budgetary allocation/implementation and lack of attention by the policy makers/authorities, etc. (Onifade, 2015). In spite of all the efforts made, academic libraries in Nigeria must re-strategize and find long-term solutions to the persistent issues raised in order to meet the teaching, learning, and research demands of the faculty members, students, and other researchers they are designed to serve. One of these ways is by their participation in resource sharing, library collaboration, library consortium, interlibrary loan, and/or partnership activities, as appropriate.

Academic libraries would profit from one another by participating in relationship activities such as partnership, interlibrary loan cooperation, staff exchange, gift and exchange of resources and services, to name a few. It is crucial to highlight that there are numerous benefits that libraries gain from resource sharing activities, which, if correctly implemented, could serve as a panacea for a library's shortfalls in resources, services, and weaknesses in contrast to another. As previously said, no library is capable of being self-sufficient in terms of providing support and services to its patrons. It is neither conceivable or feasible for a library, regardless of size or collection, to be self-sufficient in terms of providing adequate support and services. It is also difficult for a library to acquire all of the resources and services that its users require. Engaging in resource sharing activities is one alternative option for libraries to overcome their weaknesses and improve the availability of their resources and services.

### ➤ *Statement of the Problems*

Resources sharing are exchanged in libraries for the benefit of library users through partnerships, interlibrary loans, cooperative cataloguing, cooperative reference, cooperative acquisition, exchange of personnel, cooperative management information system sharing, and cooperative storage, among other activities. Additionally, it refers to a way of operation in which two or more libraries collaborate, exchange, and share resources and services for the advantage of all parties involved. The activities are carried out solely to meet the needs of library patrons, as it becomes a creative and shrewd method of satisfying patrons' endless demands for resources and services, and through which libraries overcome their weaknesses in the provision of resources and services to their patrons.

Given the preceding arguments, it is clear that the value of resource sharing, partnership, interlibrary loan, and library cooperation activities in libraries is enormous. They include increasing the availability of current resources and services, avoiding duplication in the process of resource and service subscription, extending greater accessibility to resources and services, lowering the cost of resource and service subscription, promoting resource and service utilisation, and bringing libraries to understand the importance of collaborative efforts.

Therefore, resource sharing activities are crucial elements that could be used to develop library resources and services, particularly in developing nations like Nigeria where there is a declining financial resource allocation to libraries, poor budgetary implementation, and a lack of commitment on the part of the authorities towards the development of library resources and services.

However, evidence from the review of related literature, such as Jegede (2016), Yusuf (2017), Dede-Bamfo (2018) and Adetimirin (2019) Ezeani and Okpechi (2018) has shown that there is little or no empirical evidence ascertaining the academic librarians readiness towards resource sharing, cooperation, partnership, consortium or interlibrary loan activities among different libraries in Nigeria. Planning, implementing, and improving library activities heavily depend on librarians' attitudes and preparedness towards resource sharing, cooperation, and interlibrary loan activities. A positive mindset and preparation can go through any obstacles or weaknesses that would otherwise negate an advantage or performance. Several studies, including those by Oseghale and Obiyan, (2015), Jegede (2016), and Adetimirin (2019), have proven that academic librarians are the key players who steer the course of operations in each individual library. Therefore, the researcher has not come across any scientific research that looks at the importance of academic librarians in Nigerian resource sharing operations. This indicates another empirical gap or problem of the study. As such, this study was conducted with the view of reducing.

### ➤ *Research Questions*

The study meant to answer the following research questions:

- What types of resource sharing activities are practiced in the libraries under study?
- What is the academic librarians' readiness towards resource sharing activities in the libraries under study?
- What are the challenges associated with academic librarians readiness toward resource sharing activities.

### ➤ *Research Objectives:*

- Find out the types of resource sharing activities practiced in the libraries under study.
- Determine the academic librarians' readiness towards resource sharing activities.
- Find out the challenges associated with the academic librarians' readiness toward resource sharing activities.

### ➤ *Significance of the Study*

The significance of the study is summarized in the following points:

The Federal Government of Nigeria through Federal Ministry of Education and National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) as a regulatory body for Nigerian polytechnic education would find this study very significant in identifying the types of resource sharing activities that are being practiced by Federal Polytechnic Libraries. This understanding will help the commission in designing its programs towards assisting Nigerian libraries to meet the ever-increasing demand of their users

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TetFund) will also immensely benefit from the findings of the study as a guide for by understanding the critical area of the federal polytechnic libraries that requires urgent attention in terms of funding and other assistance.

Finally, the study will immensely contribute to the empirical history and literature in filling the gap by examining the academic librarians' readiness towards resource sharing activities in federal polytechnic libraries in Nigeria by using the framework.

## **II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### ➤ *The Concept of Resource Sharing Activities in Libraries*

Resource sharing activities are opportunities for two or more libraries to share and trade resources and services for the benefit of their patrons. It has always been at the heart of the existence of libraries and librarians working in various organisations in order to meet the demands of their users. Therefore, librarians are charged with creating, evaluating, acquiring, storing, preserving and disseminating resources to their users for their academic and research activities (Jegede 2016). Historically, John Harris, the University Librarian of the University College, Ibadan (now University of Ibadan) was the brain behind the introduction of library co-operation or resource sharing activities in Nigeria. The incorporation

of these activities in the library operational system helped the libraries to join hands in forming partnership for the exchange and sharing of resources and services. Resource sharing activities are agreement among libraries to share and exchange resources and services (Yusuf, 2017).

As a result, the notion simply means that libraries collaborate to share and exchange resources, as well as users' rights to access electronic databases, electronic and print books, journals, and other resources among libraries for teaching, learning, and other research activities. As a result, the aforementioned library resources and services are critical to the existence of institutions. Kannappanawar and Hiremath (2019) in his study investigated the practice of resource sharing activities among Academic Libraries in Federal Universities in the South-South of Nigeria. The survey research design was employed for the study. The population consisted of the federal universities in the zone, except the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun. A questionnaire and interview methods were used to collect data for the study. The findings showed that the only forms of resource sharing activities practiced amongst the studied libraries were inter-library lending and inter-library study facilities.

Among librarians, resource sharing activities have become a popular desire and practice. The primary goal is to enhance the quantity and scope of resources and services, respectively. Other facilitating factors include rising resource acquisition and processing costs, a shortage of educated employees, insufficient storage capacity, and rising user demand. To address these issues, libraries must collaborate, exchange, and share books, journals, preprints, catalogues, lists of publications, new additions, and other materials in order to meet the needs of library users. Resource sharing activities among libraries are modes of operation in which two or more libraries agree to enter into cooperative agreements in order to share and trade ventures for the aim of sharing the resources of the libraries (Yusuf, 2017).

#### ➤ *Types of Resource Sharing Activities in Libraries:*

The types of resource sharing activities comprise the following:

- *Inter-Library Loan:*

Inter-library loan is a process of lending out resources and services among libraries. It is important to remember that resource sharing involves a task that necessitates inter-library loan across libraries in order to serve those who use their services.. In view of this, Oseghale and Obiyan (2021) reiterated that "lending and borrowing between and among libraries are investments that pay off and it is essential to formulate guidelines that can facilitate information sharing activities". Resources and services borrowed out either by libraries in partnership programmes could be online transactions or by transporting physical materials and services to another library through courier or Speed-Posted.

- *Bibliographic Access:*

The organisation of resources, such as books, journals, serial publications, or any other information carriers, that will aid in the uniquely identifying of such an item and its use in libraries is referred to as bibliographic information. Therefore, bibliographic access in libraries includes providing access point, technique and platform as well as the medium that facilitates the use of resources and services by the users in a given library (Ejedafiru, 2010). In order to help users locate, pick, and retrieve resources, bibliographic access involves the systematic description and evaluation of resources. Historically, cataloguing departments have been thought to be the only ones with access to bibliographic resources.

- *Co-operative Acquisition/Collection Development:*

Cooperative acquisition among libraries is the coming together of two or more libraries to purchase or acquire their resources and services for the benefit of their libraries and library users in general. This is essential to ensure the adequate coverage of materials and services so as to render effective support and services to target users (Rangelova, Ilieva, Boyanow, and Manewa 2020). Cooperative acquisition among libraries refers to the collaboration of two or more libraries to purchase or acquire resources and services for the benefit of respective libraries and library users in general.

- *Co-operative Processing:*

This refers to the method by which libraries collaborate in joint ventures. This is for the cooperative processing of resources and services among library members. Different libraries use a computer network to acquire and handle resources and services through inter-library lending, partnership, library co-operation, and exchanging resources and services. They can have the job of cataloguing exchanged and shared by all the libraries for effective resource sharing activities in libraries in the following ways, as stated by Rangelova, Ilieva, Boyanow, and Manewa (2020).

- *Co-operative Storage of Resources:*

This is a process of collective cooperative storage by libraries. Libraries within the library co-operative venture collectively to store resources and services for safe keeping in order to be used by users. With the rapid information explosion, the growth of the literature in different fields of knowledge and the demand of resources and services by the clientele all over, libraries are faced with limited space for storing books and other resources as well as services. As such, they need a second option of housing the literature in their individual libraries for their patron community. Co-operative storage activities among different types of libraries serve as a medium through which they protect resources and service for the use of the patron in the future.

- *Co-operative Reference Services for Library Users:*

Co-operative reference services refer to partnership agreements among libraries, which enable their patrons to use reference materials that cannot be loaned out to users of another library. Not all reference materials in the libraries

are meant for borrowing out but with the activities of library partnership, users can consult a variety of reference materials of different libraries.

- *Co-operative Cataloguing Processing in Libraries:*

This is a process through which participating libraries will have a central processing unit of their resources and services in a certain control centre as per the terms of agreement. This co-operative cataloguing allows libraries to process the acquired resources in their technical section through their agreement entered for resource sharing, activities. Yusuf (2017) explained that: Co-operation among different types of libraries purposely is to enable the libraries to share and exchange their resources in their environment and beyond, which can be done through the use of library co-operative cataloguing, and this can be enhanced among library members globally.

- *Exchange of Personnel and Training Facilities*

*The exchange of personnel among libraries implies sharing or exchanging staff expertise among the libraries to undertake certain services according to the agreement entered by them. Most of the time, the recruitment of an expert on permanent basis may be difficult due to financial inability and the staff needed to render certain library support and services is for only a specific period of time. Such expertise may be required only for a short period on demand. As such, exchange of staff and training facilities will cater for the problem of staff inadequacy. So, with effective partnership this personnel problem will be minimized (Aina and Chigbu 2019).*

- *Gifts and Exchange of Resources and Services:*

Gifts on their own are the process of giving out resources and /or services voluntarily from one library to another in the participating group without compensation, while exchange is the act of giving or taking resources and services in return to another or vice versa.

➤ *Academic Librarians Readiness towards Resource Sharing Activities*

Academic librarians' readiness is vital for establishing and maintaining partnerships for resource sharing initiatives. Readiness for the purposes of this study refers to academic librarians' willingness and ability to execute and carry out the obligations entrusted to them in order to continue the partnership entered into by their library administration for resource sharing activities. One major barrier that libraries need to acknowledge when seeking alliances is cultural perception and their effort to render effective support and services to the library community. For library users, the library might just be a place to drop in and use computers between classes or grab a cup of coffee. Libraries and librarians must contend with the widespread misunderstanding that some users only need internet documents for their study. Some faculties, particularly in the sciences, are unaware of the extent to which they conduct research and complete other academic tasks at the library.

In Nigeria, Aina and Chigbu (2019) highlighted individual and group efforts in the past aimed at fostering co-operation activities among some university libraries. An example of a group of university libraries comprising of Ahmadu Bello University, Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Ibadan, University of Benin, University of Ilorin and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka was given. These were attempts at enhancing library co-operation among Universities, promoting co-operative acquisition, the production of an index to Nigerian theses and dissertations, the production of an index to Nigerian periodicals, the establishment of reference libraries in selected university libraries, the setting up of reference libraries, the formation of a consortia of e-library, etc.

Moreover, Rangelova, Ilieva, Boyanow, and Manewa (2020) noted that the Department of Library and Information Science of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria had established a departmental repository where it preserves records on theses and dissertations submitted by its students and also paper/publications of its staff, including their curriculum vitae, a sign that librarians welcomed digitization. He also noted that the Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM) has established its Institutional Digital Repository (IDR), which contains over 2 million digital records on its members, programmes, financial and administrative records.

Ezeani and Okpechi (2018) approached criteria for academic librarians' readiness in resource sharing activities from her experience as an academic librarian at Texas University. In her article, "Hitching Your Wagon to the Right Star: A Case Study in Collaboration," The author and her colleagues collaborated with a freshman orientation program to introduce college freshmen to the library. This article is important for organizations that do not have a history of the roles academic librarians play in the resource sharing activities. From the library's initial approach to, and eventual long-term resource sharing activities with, the orientation program.

Based on the current research and for the purposes of this study, it can be said that studies that are undertaken in Nigeria with the primary goal of assessing librarians' readiness for resource sharing activities among federal polytechnic libraries have been seen by the researcher, this study has closed this gap.

➤ *Challenges Associated with Resource Sharing Activities in Libraries are:*

- *Funding:* The biggest barrier to resource sharing across libraries has been identified as inadequate finance.
- *ICT Infrastructure:* ICT infrastructure is one of the challenges facing resource sharing activities in Libraries. ICT infrastructure was insufficient to allow resource sharing operations.
- *Resources Adequacy:* libraries were not able to effectively engage in resource sharing because of inadequate resources.

### III. METHODOLOGY

The research design used for this study was a cross sectional survey design because it is relevant in collecting the data related to this research. It is also a design that compares two or more groups in terms of attitudes, beliefs, opinions, practices or operational activities. As such, the researcher can collect all the needed data from the target respondent at a single time and population of the study comprises all the nineteen (19) Federal Polytechnics, Polytechnic Librarians and all the Academic Librarians as stated in Table 1 below:

Table 1 Population

S/N	Geo-political Zone	Year of Establishment	Population (Academic Librarian)
<b>North Central</b>			
1	Federal Polytechnic, Idah	1977	15
2	Federal Polytechnic, Bida	1977	16
3	Federal Polytechnic, Sahndam	2022	7
4	Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa	1983	4
5	Federal Polytechnic, Offa	1992	25
6	Federal Polytechnic, Wannune	2021	9
<b>North East</b>			
1	Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi	1979	14
2	Federal Polytechnic, Mubi	1979	16
3	Federal Polytechnic, Kaltungo	2019	5
4	Federal Polytechnic, Damaturu	1993	13
5	Federal Polytechnic, Monguno	2022	7
6	Federal Polytechnic, Bali	2007	9
<b>North West</b>			
1	Hussani Adamu Federal Polytechnic, Kazaure	1991	5
2	Federal Polytechnic, Daura	2019	11
3	Federal Polytechnic, Kauran Namoda	1983	11
4	Kaduna Polytechnic	2020	10
5	Waziri Usman Federal Polytechnic, Birnin Kebbi	1977	11
6	Federal Polytechnic, Kabo	2022	12

Source: NBTE WEBSITE, 2022 and Preliminary Survey, 2023,

These are the procedures used for selecting a sample from the population using certain guidelines to ensure that the sample judiciously represented the population. Based on division of the population of the federal polytechnic into three (3) strata or group, each stratum or subgroup has the number of federal North West from which the sample was drawn.

Stratified sampling technique was used in selecting the secondary population of the study. The researcher first

divided the population into subgroups or strata, depending on the number and type of subgroup or stratum in the research. After dividing the population, then the researcher applied simple random sampling technique through random selection to obtain the appropriate number of the objects from each subgroup or stratum. The proportions of 50% of the federal polytechnics from each stratum were selected using stratified simple random sampling technique with random selection, which gave the (9) federal polytechnic libraries.

Table 2 Federal Polytechnics Selected

SN	Polytechnic Name	Geopolitical zone	Academic Librarians	Polytechnic Librarian
<b>North Central</b>				
1.	Federal Polytechnic Bida	North central	16	1
2.	Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa	North central	4	1
3.	Federal Polytechnic Offa	North central	25	1
<b>North East</b>				
4.	Federal Polytechnic Bali	North east	9	1
5.	Federal Polytechnic Bauchi	North east	14	1
6.	Federal Polytechnic Damaturu	North east	13	1
<b>North-west</b>				
7.	Federal Polytechnic Daura	North west	11	1
8.	Hussaini Adamu Federal Polytechnic, Kazaure	North west	5	1
9.	Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna	North west	10	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>107</b>	<b>9</b>

Source: Field Study, 2023

#### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This paper presents the data collected from the academic librarians under study using questionnaire, the data collected were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSSv20) to provide frequency tables of the respondents' demographic variables, percentages, weighted mean and standard deviation.

Table 3 Response Rate

SN	Federal Polytechnic Libraries	Questionnaire administered	Questionnaire returned
1	Federal Polytechnic Bida library	16	14
2	Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa library	4	4
3	Federal Polytechnic Offa library	25	21
4	Federal Polytechnic Bali library	9	9
5	Federal Polytechnic Bauchi library	14	14
6	Federal Polytechnic Damaturu library	13	13
7	Federal Polytechnic Daura library	11	11
8	Hussaini Adamu Federal Polytechnic, Kazaure library	5	5
9	Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna library	10	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>101</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 3 presents the responses of the questionnaire collected from the academic librarians in federal polytechnic libraries in northern Nigeria. 107 copies of questionnaire, which corresponded to the number of the sampled academic librarians, were administered in the 9 selected federal polytechnic libraries in northern Nigeria out of which 101 copies of the questionnaire were returned. It was discovered that 6 copies of the questionnaire, which is about 5.6% were not returned. It, therefore, implied that 94.4% of the questionnaire were filled and returned. After scrutinizing the responses, it was observed that the returned copies of the questionnaire were filled appropriately and found usable for data analysis.

Table 4 Gender of Academic Librarians in Polytechnic Libraries in Northern Nigeria

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	74	73.3
Female	27	26.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey

Table 4 presents the gender disparity among the librarians in federal polytechnic in the northern Nigeria. It is shown that there 74 (73.3%) males whereas the female counterpart is 27(26.7%) of the 101 academic librarians that working in the polytechnic. Both the male and female librarians were engaged in the survey to understand their readiness towards resources sharing activities. Nevertheless, the number of male academic librarians in the federal polytechnic in northern Nigeria is more than the female counterpart. It can be stated that the difference between the number of male and female academic librarians could be due to various factors such as differences in interest, qualifications, experience, and societal biases. The disparity may not be unconnected to the number of male graduates that mostly pursue western education compared with the females in the northern part of Nigeria and subsequently engaging in public service. It may also be connected to the cultural restriction in the northern part of Nigeria,

Table 5 Educational Qualification Academic Librarians

SN	Educational qualification	Frequency	Percent
1.	BLIS	30	29.7
2.	MLIS	63	62.4
3.	PHD	8	7.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 5 showcases the various highest educational qualifications obtained by the librarians under study. Based on the data presented in the table, it is indicated that the academic librarians that possessed master's degrees are 63 constituting 62.4% out of the 101 academic librarians that participated in the survey. It can also be seen that the academic librarians that held first degree (B.Sc.) certificates are 30 representing 29.7% whereas the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) holders were 8 which is about 7.9%. There could be several reasons why the academic librarians in the survey possessed different levels of educational qualifications.

These data have shown that majority of the academic librarians with M.Sc qualifications in federal polytechnics in northern Nigeria are more than those academic librarians with B.Sc. and PhD qualifications. This level of qualification held by most of the academic librarians in the northern Nigeria may be linked to the passion for and need by the librarians in Nigeria to attain high level of skills and to cope with the needs and aspirations of the library users who vehemently seek and search for information to support their educational requirement.

Table 6 Years of Working Experiences in Polytechnic Libraries in Northern Nigeria

SN	Years range	Frequency	Percent
1	1-5	14	13.9
2	6-10	27	26.7
3	11-15	39	38.6
4	16-20	18	17.8
5	Above 20	3	3.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 6 presents the data about the years of working experience by the academic librarians engaged in the survey. The data shows that academic librarians that were between 11 to 15 years were the highest among the respondents. The data also revealed that 27 academic librarians in federal polytechnic in northern Nigeria worked between 6 to 10 years. 18 academic librarians worked between 16 to 20 years, followed by 14 academic librarians that worked between 1 to 5 years while only 3 academic librarians

worked for above 20 years. From these data, it can be understood that 39 academic librarians who constituted 38.6% had more years of working experiences than the rest of the academic librarians that worked between 1 to 5 years while only 3 academic librarians worked for above 20 years. From these data, it can be understood that years of working experience are basically viable to enable the respondents provide reliable statistical information needed

Table 7 Types of Resources Sharing among Polytechnic Libraries in Northern Nigeria

SNO	Types of Resource Sharing Activities	Yes	No	$\bar{X}$	Std.
1.	Cooperative acquisition building	79(78.2)	22(21.8)	1.22	.415
2.	Cooperative library resources processing	82(81.2)	19(18.8)	1.19	.393
3.	Consortia resources sharing	89(88.1)	12(11.9)	1.12	.325
4.	Exchange of Personnel	48(47.5)	53(52.5)	1.52	.502
5.	Cooperative reference resource sharing	76(75.2)	25(24.8)	1.25	.434
6.	Inter-library loaning	41(40.6)	60(59.4)	1.59	.494
7.	Technology sharing	84(83.2)	17(16.8)	1.17	.376
8.	Maintenance of union catalogue	68(67.3)	33(32.7)	1.33	.471
9.	Sharing of bibliographical data	48(47.5)	53(52.5)	1.51	.502

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 7 presents the various types of resources sharing activities that polytechnic libraries could participate in to sharing information resources. The academic librarians in the polytechnics were asked to provide their opinions and the following responses were offered. According to the data, the academic librarians emphasized the participated in inter-library loaning share resources ( $\bar{X}$ =1.59, Std. = .494). The respondents highlighted that they engaged in exchange of personnel ( $\bar{X}$ =1.52, Std. = .502). In the same manner, the respondents stressed that they participated in sharing bibliographical data to share resources ( $\bar{X}$ =1.51, Std. = .502)

Contrary to the preceding findings, the respondents accentuated that they did not engage in maintenance of union catalogue ( $\bar{X}$ =1.33, Std. = .471). The respondents

pointed out they did not engage in cooperative reference resource sharing ( $\bar{X}$ = 1.25, Std. = .434). It is also found that they federal polytechnics in northern Nigeria did not join in cooperative acquisition building with other federal polytechnics in northern Nigeria ( $\bar{X}$ =1.22, Std. = .415). The data equally indicated that the respondents did not participate in cooperative library resources processing ( $\bar{X}$ =1.19, Std. = .393). The data indicated that the respondents did not engaged in Technology sharing ( $\bar{X}$ = 1.17, Std. = .376), and Consortia resources sharing ( $\bar{X}$ = 1.12, Std. = .325). Based on the data presented, it can be concluded that academic librarians under study generally participate in inter-library loaning, exchange of personnel, etc.

Table 8 Academic Librarians Readiness to Share Resources among Polytechnic Libraries

SN	Readiness to Share Resources	SA	A	N	D	SD	$\bar{X}$	Std.
1.	Our library has the necessary infrastructure and technology to participate in resource sharing activities	17 (16.8)	17 (16.8)	1 (1.0)	34 (33.7)	32 (31.7)	2.53	1.500
2.	Our library staff has the necessary skills to participate in resource sharing activities	8 (7.9)	22 (21.8)	5 (5.0)	18 (17.8)	48 (47.5)	2.25	1.438
3.	Our library has a clear policy and procedure for participating in resource sharing activities	7 (6.9)	16 (15.8)	4(4.0)	24 (23.8)	50 (49.5)	2.07	1.344
4.	Our library has enough staff to support resource sharing activities	0 (0)	11 (10.9)	4 (4.0)	57 (56.4)	29 (28.7)	1.97	.877
5.	Our library has enough financial resources to support resource sharing activities	3 (3.0)	9 (8.9)	13 (12.9)	34 (33.7)	42 (41.6)	1.98	1.086
6.	Our library has the necessary legal framework to participate in resource sharing activities	2 (2.0)	18 (17.8)	12 (11.9)	43 (42.6)	26 (25.7)	2.28	1.097
7.	Our library has the necessary resources to provide high-quality resources to other libraries	43 (42.6)	28 (27.7)	12 (11.9)	14 (13.9)	4 (4.0)	3.91	1.209
8.	Our library staff is trained on the best practices of resource sharing activities.	7 (6.9)	15 (14.9)	16 (15.8)	21 (20.8)	42 (41.6)	2.25	1.322
9.	Our library has a clear understanding of the	25 (24.8)	7 (6.9)	14 (13.9)	31 (30.7)	24 (23.8)	2.78	1.514

benefits of resource sharing activities								
10.	Our library is prepared to deal with any challenges that may arise during resource sharing activities	35 (34.7)	19 (18.8)	4 (4.0)	29 (28.7)	14 (13.9)	3.32	1.529

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Key: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)

Table 8 presents the opinions of the academic librarians in federal polytechnics in northern Nigeria regarding their readiness to participate in resources sharing among themselves. Based on the data presented, the respondents believed that their libraries have the necessary resources to provide high-quality resources to other libraries ( $\bar{X}$ = 3.91, Std. = 1.209). The respondents also aired their views that their libraries were prepared to deal with any challenges that may arise during resource sharing activities ( $\bar{X}$ = 3.32, Std. = 1.529). In the same vein of views, the respondents emphasized that their libraries had clear understanding of the benefits of resource sharing activities ( $\bar{X}$ = 2.78, Std. = 1.514). It is found from the data that they respondents affirmed that their libraries had the necessary infrastructure and technology to participate in resource sharing activities ( $\bar{X}$ =2.53, Std. = 1.500).

Opposing to the preceding views, the respondents confirmed that their libraries did not have the necessary legal framework to participate in resource sharing activities ( $\bar{X}$ =2.28, Std. = 1.097). The respondents stated that their library staff had no necessary skills to participate in resource sharing activities ( $\bar{X}$ = 2.25, Std. = 1.438). The respondents were affirmative that their library staff were not trained on the best practices of resource sharing activities ( $\bar{X}$ = 2.25, Std. = 1.322). The respondents declared that their libraries did not have clear policy and procedure for participating in resource sharing activities ( $\bar{X}$ = 2.07, Std. =1.344). In addition, the respondents acknowledged that their libraries did not have enough to support resource sharing activities ( $\bar{X}$ =1.98, Std. = 1.086). Equally too, the respondents stated that they did not have enough staff to support resource sharing activities ( $\bar{X}$ = 1.97, Std. = .877).

It can be concluded from the data presented that academic librarians under study believed that their libraries have the necessary resources and infrastructure to provide high-quality resources and deal with challenges that may arise during resource sharing. However, on the other hand, the respondents identified several barriers to resource sharing,

**V. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS**

- The findings about the demographic information of the academic librarians in under study indicated that there are more male than their counterpart in federal polytechnics in northern Nigerian. Majority of the academic librarians held MLIS qualifications compared with B.LIS and PhD respondents. Most of the academic librarians involved in the study had between 11 to 15 years of working experiences.

- The findings showcased that the academic librarians under study generally participate in inter-library loaning, exchange of personnel, and sharing bibliographical data to share resources. However, they do not engage in maintenance of union catalogue, cooperative reference resource sharing, cooperative acquisition etc.
- The findings further indicated that the academic librarians under study believed that their libraries have the necessary resources and infrastructure to provide high-quality resources and deal with challenges that may arise during resource sharing.

**VI. CONCLUSION**

The data collected and analysed about the academic librarians readiness towards resources sharing in federal polytechnics in northern Nigeria revealed that the academic librarians have certain level of reediness and the findings suggest that while there is some level of participation in resource sharing among academic librarians in federal polytechnic libraries in northern Nigeria, there are also need to increase their willingness for the activities.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- To address these gaps in knowledge and skills, it is recommended that academic librarians in federal polytechnic in northern Nigeria receive additional training and support in these areas. This could include workshops, courses, and other forms of professional development focused on improving their readiness.
- To enhance resource sharing activities among polytechnic libraries in northern Nigeria, it is recommended that academic librarians explore and adopt other types of resource sharing activities, such as cooperative acquisition building and technology sharing. This could help to improve access to resources and services, reduce duplication of efforts and costs, and foster collaboration among polytechnic libraries in the region.
- It is recommended that efforts should be made to educate academic librarians in federal polytechnics in northern Nigeria on the benefits of resource sharing, particularly in terms of improving access to resources, reducing costs, and enhancing collaboration. It may also be necessary to address the concerns and reservations that the respondents have towards resource sharing.



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