Editorial

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The collection of studies and articles in this Issue discusses various aspects of library services and information management in different contexts. The first paper by Appiah focuses on the obstacles visually impaired students encounter in accessing resources at public university libraries in Ghana. Through a quantitative survey involving 80 visually impaired students, the study identifies format barriers, mobility issues, a lack of assistive technology, and negative attitudes as key challenges.

In optimising copyright in Ghana's academic libraries, the second paper by Adu seeks to enhance the benefits of the copyright system in Ghanaian academic libraries. A mixed methods approach involving questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions with 530 postgraduate students, 38 library staff, and 4 head librarians as respondents for study.

In the third paper, Agyei and colleagues investigated knowledge and usage of reference management software at the University of Health and Allied Sciences in Ho, Ghana. Data collected using questionnaires revealed gender differences in reference management software usage, with Mendeley being the most recognised and used reference management software. The study emphasised the importance of library-organised training sessions for enhancing reference management software knowledge and application, primarily for citation insertion and bibliography generation.

The fourth by Ekoko investigates the digital literacy skills and informal learning practices of students at the Petroleum Training Institute in Nigeria. A survey involving 220 students unveils their engagement in informal learning activities, including social networking, reading web pages, books, and online courses.

Although African libraries in the past years have improved significantly in terms of digitisation and housing of intellectual properties electronically, they seem to lack in the field of Research Data Management. Hence, in the fifth paper Alex-Nmecha and Onifade examined research data management practices, readiness, and challenges among librarians in Nigeria. Utilising electronic questionnaires across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, the findings reveal a lack of awareness and skills among librarians regarding research data management policy and data organisation.

To understand the role of Nigerian libraries in the face of prevailing educational and societal requirements, the sixth paper by David-west, Onuoha and Chukwueke highlights the fundamental role of libraries in a nation's educational and societal development. While acknowledging the significant challenges faced by Nigerian libraries, the paper advocates for a collaborative approach involving librarians, educators, and government. Key solutions include the formulation of a national policy and increased funding to meet the heightened expectations and demands placed on libraries.

In their paper on ethical practices in information service provision in academic libraries in Uganda with special reference to Makerere University Business School Library, Kaddu and Ssekitto investigated ethical practices in information services at Makerere University Business School (MUBS) library using a qualitative approach. The study highlights various services offered at MUBS library and the librarians' commitment to principles such as equitable access, privacy protection, and intellectual property rights.

Lastly, Igbinovia and colleagues investigated the impact of COVID-19 outbreak on librarianship to explore the profound changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic in library services and the professional

landscape. The paper examined the adjustments in service delivery, the 'new normal' created by the pandemic, and potential barriers to adaptation. The paper critically assesses library services, innovations, and experiences during the pandemic, offering insights into the future of libraries based on expert predictions.