Awareness and Adoption of Self-Archiving Practice among Academic Authors in Nigerian Federal Universities: A Review of Related Literature

Musa Abdu Auyo[1](PhD)
Department of Library and Information Science, Bayero University Kano
maauyo.lis@buk.edu.ng

Alkasim Hamisu Abdu
Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano State
alkasimhamisu@yahoo.com

Auwalu Dansale Yahaya
Bayero University Kano Library, P.M.B BUK 3011
auwaludansale@yahoo.com
dansalegwaleg@gmail.com

Abstract
This paper reviews and highlights the Awareness and Adoption of Self-Archiving Practice among Academic Authors in Nigerian Federal Universities: A Review of Related Literature. The paper further presents the concept of Academic publishing, need for self-archiving practices, academic authorship in Nigeria. The paper further presents some potential of Academic Authors awareness on Open Access Repository, institutional repositories and self-archiving, requirements for the successful Adoption of Self-Archiving Practices, as well as the challenges associated with Institutional Repositories in Nigerian Libraries. The awareness of the adoption of self-archiving practices among academic authors has become inevitable if they are to remain, objective, respectful and relevant to modern societies. Exploring the concepts, significance, requirements and acceptance of such practices has also become necessary and significant to all academic disciplines. The paper further recommends for the provision of adequate and special training to Academic authors particularly in Nigerian Federal Universities, on the importance of self-archiving adoption and how to sustain it through open access repositories. There is also the need to enlighten and sensitize the academic authors on the existence and importance of various repositories used to deposit open access publication in the modern world. The concept of open access repositories should be a major component in the University Library services operations in Nigerian universities.
Keywords: *Self-archiving, Academic Authors, Federal University Library, Nigeria*

1.1 Introduction

Academic publishing has changed tremendously with the spread of open access journals and the shift to online publishing (Basiru and Tonlagha, 2022). Self-archiving is an emerging innovation that alter the scholarly communication system to be more responsive with numerous potentials and benefits. This practice entails making scholarly works freely available on the internet through open access repository. Abdu and Maidabino (2019) observes that, the practice is not popular among researchers in the sub-Saharan Africa. Thus university libraries in Nigeria should strive to motivate self-archiving practice among academic authors in order to allow access to research

literature for individual and national development.

Abdu and Maidabino (2019) recommend that governments in Nigeria need to support self-archiving in universities. The agencies that could be used in this direction include, ministries of education, National Universities Commission (NUC), Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and National Educational Research Council (NERC).

2.1 Literature Review

2.2 Concept of Self-Archiving

Self-archiving practices showcase the research value of institutions as well as individual researchers (Mohammed, 2013). Self-archiving in open access institutional repositories provides another platform for data mining that could be used synergistically with other information infrastructure to build a robust information environment in an institution (Amy, 2012). Self-archiving process could be classified into three types as identified by Pinfield (2009) including; *Preprint self-archiving, Post-print self-archiving* and *Publisher copy self-archiving.*

In direct self-archiving, scholars deposit their work personally from any available computer terminal. In some cases, they receive training on the procedure from librarians or repository agents. While in mediated self-archiving, repository agents, faculty sub-staff or librarians deposit the work on behalf of the researchers. This intermediary assistance is offered to motivate researchers to cooperate with self-archiving project in an institution, as it enables researchers to concentrate on their primary assignment (Abdu and Maidabino, 2019).

2.3 Need for Self-Archiving

The state of research publishing in local academic journals in Nigeria has been on the rise in recent times. But unfortunately, most of these publications are not openly accessible

(Ridwan, 2015). Although, with appropriate training, self-archiving takes a relatively very little proportion of researchers time (Carter, 2011). Thus, Salawu (2010) adds that the creation of institutional repository and their communication to the international community will enhance the globalization of Nigeria's research publications. According to Gindau and Harande(2019) the quality of academic works so much depends on the citation of relevant and current information resources consulted. According to Nwokedi and Nwokedi (2018) Open access Institutional Repository is fast becoming one of the best avenues utilized by institutions in making their research knowledge or output widely available and accessible to the outside world via the World Wide Web.

Pinfield (2004) indicated that the best way to achieve major improvements in scholarly communication is to make se-lf-archiving mandatory. In addition, Koulouris, Kyriaki-Manessi, Giannakopoulos, & Zervos (2013) submitted that self-archiving put together institutional research outputs that could be useful for assessment and evaluation. According to Abdu and Maidabino (2019) self-archiving started with depositing of pre-print journal articles, that is a research paper before it undergoes refereeing and editing by journal publishers. Post-print depositing implies depositing papers where the depositing involves the version of a paper after the author revised the paper based on the recommendation of the journal editors.

2.4 Academic Authorship in Nigeria

In the study by Creaser, Fry, Greenwood, Oppenheim, Probets, Spezi and White (2010) in Europe, only six percent of authors associated with self-archiving. They further identified that only a small number of authors (less than 5% of survey respondents) had an unfavorable view of Open Access. However, Ubogu (2021) emphasizes that the vital aim of doing research is to publish the

result and thereby communicate the new information primarily to peer and to humanity at large. Scholars like Oguche (2016) reports that most academics in Nigeria publish their works to gain financial reward, to gain personal prestige, to communicate their results with colleagues, and to advance in their promotion.

According to Ridwan (2015) there is now a growing call for academic and research institutions in Nigeria to establish Institutional Repositories where their scholars and researchers are required or mandated to deposit or archive their research output. Nwokedi and Nwokedi (2018) noted that the most important reason academics publish all over the world including Nigeria, is for the purpose of advancing their career.

2.5 Awareness of Academic Authors on Open Access Repository

Institutional repositories according to Okede and Owate (2020) are concerned with knowledge generation from a community for the purpose of socio-political and economic development. However, Creaser, Fry, Greenwood, Oppenheim, Probets, Spezi and White (2010) stated that levels of Open Access awareness do not necessarily equate to levels of repository awareness. Christian (2008) describes Open Access Repository as a digital repository of scholarly outcome produced by scholars, students and researchers of an institutions that are openly available to both inside users and outside the organization. Abdu and Maidabino (2019) propose that universities and governmental agencies should support self-archiving effort in the Nigerian universities in form of awareness campaign and training. Nwokedi and Nwokedi (2018) reported that unfortunately, the knowledge of open access institutional repository is very low among the major stakeholders in the country. These authors added that Open access Institutional Repository is fast becoming one of the best

avenues utilized by institutions in making their research knowledge or output widely available and accessible to the outside world via the World Wide Web.

They further suggest that

- The National Universities Commission (NUC) should organize series of conferences and capacity building workshops to educate and train stakeholders in academic and research institutions in Nigeria on the benefits of establishing Institutional Repository.

- Knowledge of Open Access Institutional Repository if enriched among academic authors, they will be in a better position to advocate for change in policies within their institution and at national level.

3.1 Institutional Repositories and Self-Archiving

The immediate objective of the library is to collate available achievements in research within the institution and also provide a remote promotion of the institution to the world, when the output of its researches is accessible and valued (Okede and Owate, 2020). Gosh and Das (2007) argued that institutional repositories facilitate the free availability and dissemination of scholarly research globally. This reduces the problems created by Journal access barriers common in developing countries.

Institutional Repositories according to Ridwan (2015) are valuable for research and development which can offer instant access to information and knowledge resources being generated on the continent. Anene, Alegbeleye, & Oyewole (2017) note that Institutional Repositories have the potential to increase the visibility and provide a better picture of Nigeria's scientific and technological research outputs and specialization; increase the accessibility and impact of research both in Nigeria and at the global level; and preserve and maintain the

research outputs of Nigeria's universities and research institutes.

Okede and Owate (2020) state that Institutional repositories are concerned with knowledge generation from a community for the purpose of socio-political and economic development. Nwokedi and Nwokedi (2018) argue that although Institutional Repository are relatively quick and expensive open access software, there should be proper Infrastructure, such as software, hardware, staff who should be properly trained and proper rules and guidelines to maintain the various policies and to manage the system. These authors further summarized the following as benefits of institutional repositories for self-archiving:

- Institutional Repositories offer the opportunity for academic libraries to collect, preserve and disseminate an institution's scholarly output.
- Institutional Repositories provide access to wealth of scientific and technological information and knowledge which are very essential for development.
- Institutional Repositories offer many benefits to the academic institutions community as well as other people and communities around the world.
- Institutional Repositories make it possible to collect content in one location, capture and provide open access to the intellectual output of a university, as well as preserve content that may be otherwise unavailable or out of publication.

3.2 Requirements Successful Adoption of Self-Archiving Practices

Self-archiving practices involves preservation of information resources in an electronic environment. Thus, are called electronic information resources. According to GausulHoq and ArmanulHaque (2018) described electronic information resources, are information resources that are produced, preserved, managed, used and shared by electronic means. As viewed by Gwarzo, Ali and Yahaya (2021), libraries have transformed into digital and virtual libraries where books, journals and magazines have changed to e-books, e-journals and e-resources. Thus require functional and reliable institutional repositories to succeed. However, according to Nwokedi and Nwokedi, (2018) a typical cost for developing an institutional repository in Nigeria will cover the following:

- cost for a server, subscription for adequate bandwidth,
- cost for building an alternative energy source,
- computer staff time for running and maintaining the ICT facilities,
- costs of purchasing scanning equipment, library staff time in formatting documents etc
- computer staff time for running and maintaining the ICT facilities

Moreover, Okede and Owate (2020) reported that University Libraries in Africa have always acquired locally published materials as well as those published elsewhere which relate to their particular country. Some of these materials may include what has been produced within the institution, e.g., Thesis and Dissertation, Research Reports, Papers presented at Conferences and Journal Articles written by members of academic staff and the community.

Institutional Repositories help libraries to reduce the costs in purchasing academic articles and journals because they can get these articles and journals from another institution's Institutional Repositories (Nykanen, 2011).

Creaser, Fry, Greenwood, Oppenheim, Probets, Spezi and White (2010) discovered that over half of the authors surveyed in Europe had deposited a peer-reviewed journal article in a repository in the past five years.

For the successful adoption of self-archiving practices academic authors Abdu and Maidabino (2019) recommend the following with reference to Nigeria:

- Policies should formulated in favour of self-archiving practice. For instance, additional marks may be given to a publication that is self-archived. Marks should be given to each of the three stages of self-archiving, that is, preprint depositing, post-print depositing and depositing publishers copy of a work.
- Nigerian universities should incorporate self-archiving as a condition to access institutional research grant.
- Government and its agencies should make self-archiving a condition in accessing public research grant.
- Universities need to first of all host an institutional repository. It is a common practice for a group of universities to form consortia to host a single repository.
- To make the process seamless there should be a unit that would assist researchers to identify, select and post content to an open access repository.
- Popularity of a repository as well as its proximity with an institution should always be considered in selecting a repository.

3.3 Challenges Associated with Institutional Repositories in Nigerian Libraries

Electronic information resources is one of the technological advancement that make information easily accessible (Okiki 2013). As emphasized by Nwokedi and Nwokedi (2018), it is essential to explore the benefits as well as the challenges of Institutional Repositories to make sure it is worthwhile to the library as well as the institution.

Institutional Repositories help libraries to reduce the costs in purchasing academic articles and journals because they can get these articles and journals from another institution's Institutional Repositories (Nykanen, 2011). However, Musakali&Moli, (2011) emphasized that the high cost of internet bandwidth in Nigeria makes it much difficult for academic institutions in Nigeria to afford adequate bandwidth to host digital repositories.

Generally, a copyright holder has the exclusive right to determine whether the work shall be available in a closed or open access format (Oguche, 2016). Thus, Nwokedi and Nwokedi, (2018) stated that another issue that may affect the development of Institutional Repository is intellectual property right.

In addition to low internet bandwidth availability in the sub-Saharan African region which serves as an obstacle to the deployment of institutional repository, Nwokedi and Nwokedi, (2018) also lamented that the initial financial cost for an open source software adopted by most institutions for creating Institutional Repositories is not high but the recurrent costs, especially staff costs (i.e. time spent drafting policies, developing guidelines, publicizing, training, supporting users and creating metadata, specialists Information Technology consultancy) is significant.

Conclusion

The awareness on the adoption of self-archiving practices among academic authors has become inevitable if they are to remain, objective, respectful and relevant to modern societies. Exploring the concepts, significance, requirements and acceptance of such practices has also become very necessary and as significant to all academic disciplines. Efforts have been made by this paper to highlights on the usefulness of self-archiving awareness as it affects their academic development, the need for it to be adopted and

challenges for the successful adoption of institutional repositories through which academic authors Nigerian federal universities sustain and foster their image in the eyes of academic community by depositing their write-ups in open access repositories for effective access and visibility among themselves.

Way forward

There should be adequate and special training to Academic authors particularly in Nigerian Federal Universities on the importance of self-archiving adoption and how to sustain it through open access repositories. There is also the need to enlighten and sensitize the academic authors on the existence and importance of various repositories used to deposit open access publication in the modern world. The concept of open access repositories should be a major component in the University Library services operations in Nigerian universities.

References

Abdu, A. H., and Maidabino, A. (2019). Self-Archiving Practice Among Authors in Nigerian Federal Universities: A Review of Related Literature. *Dala Journal of Library and Information Practice*, 1,(1). Bi-annual journal of the Nigerian Library Association, Kano State Chapter, Maiden edition.

Amy, B. (2012). Beyond Mandate and Repository, Toward Sustainable Faculty Self-Archiving. *Learned Publishing*, 25(1), 29–34.https://doi.org/10.1087/20120105

Anene, E., Alegbeleye, B. and Oyewole, O. (2017), "Factors Contributing to the Adoption of Institutional Repositories in Universities in South-West Nigeria: *Perspectives of Library Staff. Library Philosophy and Practice*", available at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1508

Basiru, A. and Tonlagha (2022). Predatory versus Reputable Journals: Perspective of Nigerian Libraries. *A Compendium of 2022 conference papers presented at NLA Abuja* 3rd to 8th July, 2022.

Creaser, C., Fry, J., Greenwood, H., Oppenheim, C., Probets, S., Spezi, V., & White, S. (2010) Authors' Awareness and Attitudes Toward Open Access Repositories, *New Review of Academic Librarianship*, 16:S1, 145-161, DOI:10.1080/13614533.2010.518851

GausulHoq, K.M. & Armanul Haque M.D. (2018). Student perception of electronic resources use in Rajshahi University library. *International Journal of Library and Information Science, 10.7:78-84.*

Gosh, S. B, and Das, A.K. (2007) Open access and Institutional repositories in a developing country perspective: A case of India. *IFLA Journal* 33(3).

Gwarzo, S.M., Ali, A. and Yahaya, A.D. (2021). Perception of Agricultural Students on the Use of Electronic Information Resources in Federal Colleges of Agriculture in Northern Nigeria. *International Journal of Business Review and Entrepreneurship*, Vol. 2 Issue 1, 1-8

Koulouris, A., Kyriaki-Manessi, D., Giannakopoulos, G.,& Zervos, S. (2013). Exploratory Research Regarding Faculty Attitudes Towards the Institutional Repository and Self-Archiving. *Procedia - Social and*

Behavioral Sciences, 73, 777–784

Mohammed, A. (2013). Institutional digital repository: an option for scholarly communication in Nigeria, *International Journal of Environmental Research*, 5(6), 21-30.

Nykanen, M. (2011). Institutional repositories at small Institutions in America: Some current trends. *Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship*, 23(1), 1-19. http://doi.org/101080/1941126X.2011.551089

Okede, G.W and Owate, C. N. (2020). Institutional Repositories and Copyright Law Issues in Nigeria. *Asian Journal of Educational Research*,. 8,(3), 9-14

Okiki, O. C. (2012). Electronic Information Resources Awareness, Attitude and Use by Academic Staff Members of University of Lagos, Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*.834.

Oguche, D. (2016). "Enhancing scholarly communication in Nigeria: the role of open access institutional repositories", *Nigerian Current Legal Problems*, 7(2), 344-366.

Pinfield, S. (2004). Self-Archiving Publications. In *G. E. Gorman & F. Rowland*, (Eds.) (pp. 118–145). Facet.

Ridwan, S. (2015), "Institutional repository: a roadmap to open access and resources sharing in Nigeria (issues and challenges)", *International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research*,6 (1), 26-35