

## **Preparing Library and Information Science Educators and Librarians to Collaborate in Teaching 21st Century Skills: Issues of Concern in Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

*This exploratory work aims to teach librarians and library and information science educators to collaborate in teaching 21st century skills: Nigerian concerns. The study was guided by five research objectives. To choose library educators and librarians in Nigeria, descriptive survey, multi-stage, and stratified sampling approaches were used to create the study's population and sample size. To acquire information about them for data collection, an online survey questionnaire was created and disseminated through email. SPSS, percentages, and frequency counts were used to evaluate the data. Recommendations were made and a conclusion was reached based on the information received.*

**Keywords:** Collaborative Work, LIS Educators, 21st Century Skills, Librarians, Nigeria in Africa.

### **Introduction**

Collaboration encourages people to rethink, articulate, and get clarification about their skills. It acts as a mirror, allowing them to see their own strengths and weaknesses. Teams operate better together and fill each other's deficiencies since two heads are better than one. The discrepancy or void between theoretical knowledge of library and information science abilities and practices and actual application of those skills and practices by LIS students necessitated or formed the foundation for this article. This work is almost always intended to prepare library and information science educators and librarians to collaborate and take students along by coupling theoretical knowledge with practice, as well as working together to teach students the skills they need to succeed in the twenty-first century.

Collaboration between librarians and library educators is critical to achieving high levels of performance and results (Latham, Gross, & Whitte, 2013). It benefits both parties, as well as the pupils as a result (Abioye, 2013). In keeping with the conference theme of "re-envisioning and promoting resilient libraries beyond global crises: challenges, tactics, and innovations," collaboration is required to see things from a different perspective than one's own. Collaboration is defined as a partnership between two or more persons who have agreed to collaborate or carry out an activity that will benefit both them and society (Hue, 2016).

### **Statement of the Problem**

The dynamics of knowledge management and library employers' demand for qualitative service delivery in information architecture have created a growing demand for library and information science educators to rethink their services in order to bridge the gap between theory and practice in librarianship in recent history. As a result, it's critical to investigate the benefits of LIS educators and librarians collaborating in the teaching of 21st-century skills (Bennett & Simning, 2010). Furthermore, particularly in Nigeria, there is a paucity of literature on the topic. Given the aforementioned, a study like this that incorporates the experiences of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, becomes invaluable. As a result, the

purpose of this study is to prepare librarians and library and information science educators to participate in the teaching of 21st century skills: Nigerian challenges.

### **Literature Review**

As with many other professions, the library and information science field has undergone transformations and paradigm shifts as a result of technological improvements in both theory and practice. Due to the additional responsibilities, they must embrace teamwork in order to unite the force and conquer the challenges that come with the new jobs (Perez, 2015). LIS education has been around in Nigeria for a long time etymologically, the level of collaboration between LIS educators and practicing librarians appears to be very low, which is what the current study aims to address in order to avoid impeding quality assurance, curriculum development, and LIS graduate employability.

### **Recommendations**

LIS educators and librarians should develop a positive attitude and perception towards collaboration in many areas such as research, teaching, publication, curriculum development e.t.c.

Different 21st century skills should be inculcated to the students by librarians and LIS educators especially entrepreneurial skills. Openness towards collaborative work will enhance collaboration between LIS educators and practicing librarians. E.t.c.

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