

## The Role of Library Education in Nigeria: Empowering Information Professionals for National Development

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Library education plays a crucial role in the educational landscape by equipping information professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the evolving needs of society. In a country where access to information is paramount for individual and national development, the role of library education becomes even more significant. This paper explores the importance of library education, its impact on information professionals, and its contribution to national development across various domains. This paper argued that libraries promote inclusive education, bridge the digital divide, empower marginalized groups, and foster community development. Library education plays a crucial role in training information professionals who can lead and support these initiatives, thereby contributing to national development. The paper argued further that empowering information professionals, and library education enhances their ability to contribute to the development of a knowledgeable and informed society. This paper concludes that library education encompasses a wide range of knowledge and skills that empower librarians to serve as information professionals, advocates, and agents of change. Thus, by addressing areas such as specialized library services, advocacy, international collaboration, indigenous knowledge, and social issues, library education equips librarians with the tools to meet the diverse information needs of society and contribute to national development. The paper therefore recommends that investing in library education is crucial for building a strong and dynamic library workforce that can adapt to emerging trends, advocate for the library profession, and make a positive impact on individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole.*

**Keywords:** *Library Education, Information Professionals, National Development, Empowerment, Nigeria*

### **Introduction**

Library education plays a crucial role in shaping information professionals and equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the evolving needs of society. In Nigeria, where access to information is vital for individual and national development, the role of library education has become even more significant in recent years where the management of information and knowledge has become the currency of the 21st century (Omeluzor, 2020; Onuoha et al., 2020). Library education plays a vital role in the development and advancement of a nation's educational system. In Nigeria, a country with a diverse population and a growing need for knowledge and information, the role

of library education cannot be overstated (Glowacki et al., 2021). Library education plays an important role in Nigeria by equipping information professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the evolving needs of society. In a country where access to information is crucial for individual and national development, the role of library education becomes even more significant (Ubogu, 2019).

Library education plays a vital role in equipping librarians with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the diverse information needs of society. Through a focus on information literacy, community outreach, collaboration with educational institutions, digital skills, research, and innovation, library education empowers librarians to be catalysts for positive change

(Akussah, Maxwell; Asante, Edward; & Adu-Sarkodee, 2015). Investment in library education, Nigeria can create a strong and vibrant network of libraries that serve as information hubs, promote lifelong learning, support research and innovation, and contribute to the overall development of individuals and the nation as a whole. Besides, the library plays a multifaceted role in the nation's educational landscape. It facilitates access to information, promotes literacy, supports research, preserves cultural heritage, fosters digital literacy, encourages community engagement, and empowers librarians through professional development. Recognizing the significance of library education and investing in its growth is crucial for Nigeria's progress in education, research, and social development (Haux, 2006). Hence, by prioritizing library education, Nigeria can build a knowledge-based society that thrives on the power of information and embraces lifelong learning (Kaur et al., 2018).

Across the globe, the library plays a pivotal role in empowering information professionals and promoting national development (Mitchell, 1996). Through structured curricula, library schools provide librarians with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively manage information resources, promote information literacy, support research and scholarship, preserve cultural heritage, promote lifelong learning, and bridge the digital divide (Van Kerkhoff & Lebel, 2006). As Nigeria continues to strive for economic growth and social progress, investing in library education becomes imperative for building a knowledgeable and informed society (Amit-Danhi & Shifman, 2018). The government, academic institutions, and other stakeholders should recognize the significance of library education and provide adequate support to strengthen the profession and its impact on the nation. In addition, Libraries played a significant role in professionalizing librarianship. Through structured curricula, library schools have been able to equip students with theoretical knowledge and

practical skills necessary for effective information management (Adeoye & Popoola, 2011). Library science programs cover a wide range of subjects, including information organization, reference services, cataloging, classification, digital libraries, research methods, and information technology (Musa et al., 2015). This comprehensive education prepares librarians to handle the complex challenges of the digital age. Libraries also promote information literacy among the population. Information literacy is the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively use information (Musa et al., 2015). Librarians, trained through library education programs, are at the forefront of teaching information literacy skills to students, researchers, and the general public. They play a crucial role in bridging the digital divide by guiding accessing and utilizing information resources effectively (Salman et al., 2017).

Library has been instrumental in supporting research and scholarship. Academic libraries are the backbone of research institutions, providing access to a wide range of scholarly resources (Onuoha et al., 2020). Librarians, with their specialized knowledge and skills, play a pivotal role in helping researchers navigate through vast amounts of information and locate relevant resources. Library education programs train librarians to understand the research process, manage digital repositories, and provide research support services, thereby contributing to the advancement of knowledge in various fields. Nigeria is rich in cultural heritage, with diverse ethnic groups and a long history. Library education has been crucial in preserving this cultural heritage and training librarians in the management and preservation of archival materials, rare books, manuscripts, and other cultural artifacts (Meghini et al., 2019). Librarians are equipped with the skills to digitize and create digital repositories, ensuring that valuable cultural resources are accessible to future generations (Matienzo & Rudersdorf, 2014). This preservation of cultural heritage not only promotes national

identity but also contributes to tourism and economic development (Karadkar et al., 2017). Libraries also promote the concept of lifelong learning by training librarians in user education and outreach programs (Bankston et al., 2021). Librarians are trained to design and deliver information literacy programs for different age groups, including children, youth, and adults. These programs aim to enhance critical thinking skills, foster a love for reading, and empower individuals to become lifelong learners (Khan et al., 2022). If a culture of continuous learning can be promoted, library education plays a vital role in building an informed and knowledgeable society.

## **II. Role of Library Education in Bridging the Digital Divide**

In a rapidly evolving digital landscape, library education is essential for bridging the digital divide in Nigeria. Librarians are trained to leverage information and communication technologies (ICTs) and provide digital services to users (Abu Rumman, Ayman & Alheet, 2019). They play a crucial role in digital literacy training, teaching people how to use computers, access the internet, and utilize online resources (Zheng et al., 2021). Library education programs equip librarians with the skills to manage digital libraries, develop online databases, and provide e-services (Deepa et al., 2022). Education in library and information science recognizes the need to promote digital citizenship and online safety among library users. Librarians are trained to educate users on responsible online behavior, privacy protection, and cybersecurity. They learn about digital literacy initiatives, online safety resources, and strategies for promoting digital citizenship (Rafi, JianMing, et al., 2019). Library education programs also incorporate courses on information ethics, online research skills, and digital citizenship education. It cannot be overemphasized that by promoting digital citizenship and online safety, librarians empower users to navigate

the digital world responsibly and safely. This digital inclusion contributes to social and economic development by ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital era.

Scholars across different settings have reasoned that libraries facilitate access to information for students, researchers, and the general public (Kwafoa et al., 2014). Libraries serve as repositories of knowledge, providing resources in various formats, including books, journals, newspapers, and digital materials (Sawarynski & Baxa, 2019). Through library education, individuals acquire the skills to navigate and effectively use these resources, promoting lifelong learning and intellectual growth (Aju & Tofi, 2020). In a country where illiteracy rates remain a significant challenge, library education plays a crucial role in promoting literacy. Libraries serve as learning hubs, offering a conducive environment for reading and studying (Itsekor & Nwokeoma, 2017). The provision of access to a wide range of reading materials, and libraries encourage reading habits and foster a love for learning among individuals of all ages. Library education equips librarians with the necessary skills to engage and guide library users, especially children, in developing their literacy skills. The library is also instrumental in supporting research and academic excellence. Libraries are essential for students, researchers, and academics, providing them with access to scholarly resources needed for their studies and research endeavors (Harisanty et al., 2022). Library education equips librarians with research and information retrieval skills, enabling them to assist users in locating relevant and credible information (Akanbiemu et al., 2021). Through effective library education, librarians can contribute to enhancing the quality of research and academic output in Nigeria (Rasul & Singh, 2010).

## **II. Role of Library Education in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage**

Nigeria is a culturally diverse nation with a rich heritage. Library education plays a pivotal role in preserving and promoting the country's cultural heritage. Libraries serve as custodians of historical documents, manuscripts, and other valuable artifacts (Sharma & Balamurugan, 2020). Librarians trained in library education are equipped with the knowledge and skills to preserve these materials, ensuring their long-term accessibility and safeguarding Nigeria's cultural identity (Slade et al., 2014). In today's digital age, libraries across the globe are adapting to the changing landscape of information and technology. Librarians are trained to handle digital resources, manage online databases, and provide guidance on internet usage and digital literacy skills (Bhati & Kumar, 2020). Library education empowers librarians to embrace and leverage technology, making libraries relevant and accessible in the digital era.

Library education recognizes the importance of preserving and promoting the country's rich cultural heritage (Albright & Crow, 2021). Librarians are trained to collect, organize, and preserve cultural materials such as manuscripts, rare books, photographs, and audiovisual resources (Kumar, 2010). They receive instruction on conservation techniques, digitization, and metadata management for cultural heritage materials. Library education programs also emphasize the role of libraries in promoting cultural heritage through exhibitions, workshops, and community outreach (Albright & Crow, 2021). Moreover, by preserving and providing access to cultural materials, librarians contribute to the preservation of Nigeria's diverse cultural heritage for future generations (Harrison et al., 2017). Libraries serve as community centers that foster social development and community engagement. Library education equips librarians with skills in community outreach, organizing educational programs, and promoting information literacy (Mutiso et al., 2018).

Through these initiatives, libraries become integral to community development efforts, empowering individuals, and promoting social cohesion (Mawere & Sai, 2018).

Library education encourages librarians to collaborate with local schools, universities, government agencies, and non-profit organizations to address the educational and informational needs of the community (Opele, Adeyeye, Iyanda, & Olagoke, 2020). Library education plays a fundamental role in the professional development of librarians (Kodua-Ntim & Fombad, 2020). It equips them with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in their roles, stay updated with the latest trends in information management, and adapt to evolving user needs (Kodua-Ntim & Fombad, 2020). Additionally, library education promotes advocacy for the library profession, raising awareness about the importance of libraries and the value they bring to society (Dilek-Kayaoglu & Demir, 2014). Through professional development and advocacy, library education contributes to the recognition and support of libraries in Nigeria (Rafi et al., 2022). Library education emphasizes the importance of ongoing professional development and continuing education for librarians. Librarians are trained to engage in lifelong learning, stay updated on emerging trends and technologies, and enhance their professional competencies. They learn about professional organizations, conferences, and online resources for professional development. Library education programs also encourage librarians to actively participate in the professional community, network with colleagues, and share best practices. Hence, by investing in their own professional growth, librarians ensure that they are well-equipped to meet the evolving needs of library users.

Library education focuses on transforming libraries into vibrant community hubs. Libraries are no longer just repositories of books; they have evolved into spaces that foster creativity, collaboration,

and community engagement (Harrison et al., 2017). Library education programs emphasize the importance of developing user-centered services and creating inclusive spaces that cater to the diverse needs of the community (Audunson et al., 2019). Librarians are trained to organize events, workshops, and cultural activities that promote learning, dialogue, and social interaction (Featherstone, 2014). This community-centric approach ensures that libraries become integral parts of the social fabric, contributing to community development and cohesion. Library education plays a crucial role in preserving indigenous knowledge and traditional practices (Ngulube & Lwoga, 2008). Librarians are trained to recognize the value of indigenous knowledge systems and incorporate them into library collections and services (Lwoga & Ngulube, 2007). By documenting and preserving local languages, oral traditions, folklore, and traditional medicine practices, libraries contribute to the preservation and promotion of Nigeria's cultural heritage (Grainger et al., 2020). Library education programs emphasize the importance of cultural sensitivity and inclusivity, ensuring that indigenous knowledge is respected and valued (Opele et al., 2019).

The role of libraries in fostering entrepreneurship and economic development has also been recognized in the literature. Librarians are trained to provide business and entrepreneurial support services, assisting aspiring entrepreneurs in accessing market research, business plans, and financial resources (Tian et al., 2023). Library education programs incorporate courses on business information resources, market research, and intellectual property rights. By facilitating access to relevant business information and providing training and mentorship opportunities, libraries contribute to the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises, job creation, and economic empowerment (Asdar et al., 2015). Scholars have established the advocacy role of librarians in promoting information rights

and freedom of expression. Librarians are trained to uphold ethical principles and professional values, advocating for unrestricted access to information, intellectual freedom, and privacy rights (Emery et al., 2014). Library education programs equip librarians with the knowledge and skills to navigate legal frameworks, copyright issues, and intellectual property rights (Obioha, 2011). Librarians, as information professionals, play a critical role in ensuring that individuals have access to diverse and unbiased information, fostering a democratic and informed society (Delam & Eidi, 2020).

### **III. Role of Library Education in Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing and Professional Development**

Library education encourages collaboration and knowledge sharing among librarians, researchers, and other information professionals. Librarians are trained to actively participate in professional networks, attend conferences, and engage in research and publication activities (Haqani & Ahlan, 2015). Library schools often foster a culture of collaboration and encourage students to work on group projects, engage in peer learning, and share best practices. Library education promotes collaboration between libraries and educational institutions at all levels. Librarians are trained to work closely with schools, colleges, and universities to support teaching, learning, and research activities (Haqani & Ahlan, 2015). They guide information resources, research methodologies, and academic integrity (Tondeur et al., 2019). Library education programs include courses on instructional design, curriculum integration, and educational technology. By collaborating with educational institutions, librarians enhance the quality of education, foster a culture of scholarship, and contribute to academic excellence. By promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing, library education contributes to the professional

growth of librarians and the advancement of the library and information science field in Nigeria (Omeluzor et al., 2013).

Library education recognizes the importance of continuous professional development for librarians (Central et al., 2019). The field of library and information science is constantly evolving, driven by technological advancements, changing user needs, and new information management practices (Ghahramanian et al., 2017). Library education programs incorporate courses on emerging technologies, information management trends, and research methodologies (Iyanda & Opele, 2015). They also emphasize the need for librarians to engage in lifelong learning and professional development activities. By investing in continuous professional development, library education ensures that librarians remain competent, adaptable, and equipped to meet the evolving challenges of the information age (Awogbami et al., 2020). The increasing importance of digital preservation and access to information has been recognized among library educators. With the growing reliance on digital resources and the proliferation of born-digital materials, librarians need to be equipped with skills in digital curation, preservation, and access (Nakata et al., 2008). Library education programs incorporate courses on digital archiving, metadata management, and digital preservation strategies (Renwick, 2011). Librarians are trained to ensure that digital materials are properly preserved, organized, and made accessible to users, thus ensuring the long-term availability of valuable digital resources for research, education, and cultural preservation.

In today's digital age, the spread of misinformation and fake news poses significant challenges. Library education addresses these challenges by emphasizing information ethics and critical information literacy skills. Librarians are trained to evaluate information sources, recognize biases, and promote fact-checking and

critical thinking skills among users. Library education programs include courses on information ethics, media literacy, and combating misinformation. By equipping librarians with the tools to navigate the complex information landscape, library education contributes to the promotion of accurate and reliable information, fostering an informed citizenry. Library education also promotes the development of inclusive and accessible libraries that cater to the needs of diverse user groups (Nkwabi & Mboya, 2019). Librarians are trained to design library spaces, services, and programs that are accessible to individuals with disabilities, the elderly, children, and other marginalized groups. Library education programs incorporate courses on universal design, accessibility standards, and assistive technologies. By ensuring that libraries are inclusive and welcoming to all, library education plays a crucial role in promoting equal access to information and empowering marginalized communities (Adeleye et al., 2019).

The management of research data has become increasingly important in the academic and research sectors. Scholars have argued for the need for librarians to have expertise in research data management (Wattimena et al., 2020). Librarians are trained to assist researchers in organizing, describing, preserving, and sharing their research data (Andreeva & Kianto, 2012). Library education programs include courses on data management planning, data curation, and data sharing policies. By providing support and guidance in research data management, librarians contribute to the advancement of research and scholarship in Nigeria. Library education emphasizes the role of public libraries in community development. Public libraries serve as information hubs, providing access to educational resources, job information, and community services (Audunson et al., 2019). Library education programs highlight the importance of community needs assessment, user-centered services, and community engagement strategies (Salman et

al., 2017). Librarians are trained to develop programs and services that address the specific needs of their communities, such as literacy initiatives, vocational training, and civic engagement activities (Harrison et al., 2017). By actively contributing to community development, public libraries enhance social cohesion and empower individuals to improve their lives.

Library education also emphasizes the importance of advocacy for library funding and support (Boté & Térmens, 2019). Librarians are trained to advocate for adequate funding for libraries, both at the national and local levels (Kodua-Ntim & Fombad, 2020). They play a crucial role in raising awareness about the value of libraries and their contributions to education, research, and community development. Library education programs include courses on advocacy strategies, fundraising, and stakeholder engagement (Dawuda & Ibrahim, 2021). By advocating for library funding and support, librarians ensure that libraries have the resources and infrastructure necessary to fulfill their vital role in Nigerian society (Uganneya et al., 2013).

#### **IV. Role of library in fostering Information Literacy for Lifelong Learning**

Library education places a strong emphasis on information literacy, which is the ability to identify, evaluate, and effectively use information (Bankston et al., 2021). Librarians are trained to teach information literacy skills to students, professionals, and the general public (Chipeta et al., 2014). These skills enable individuals to navigate the vast amount of information available and make informed decisions. Library education programs incorporate courses on designing information literacy programs, teaching methodologies, and assessment strategies. By promoting information literacy, librarians contribute to lifelong learning and empower

individuals to become critical thinkers and active participants in society (Itsekor & Nwokeoma, 2017). Similarly, community outreach and extension services is part of library education. Librarians are trained to reach out to underserved communities, rural areas, and marginalized populations to provide access to information and library services (Albright & Crow, 2021). They develop programs and initiatives that address specific community needs, such as mobile libraries, book clubs, literacy campaigns, and career guidance services (Harrison et al., 2017). Library education programs include courses on community engagement, program development, and evaluation. By extending library services beyond the physical library space, librarians contribute to social inclusion, education, and skills development.

The importance of digital skills in today's workforce has been documented in the literature. Librarians are trained to provide training and support for digital literacy, computer skills, and information and communication technologies (ICT) (Tiwasig, 2021). They assist individuals in acquiring the skills necessary to navigate digital platforms, use productivity tools, and access online resources. Library education programs include courses on digital skills training, emerging technologies, and e-learning platforms (Jalil et al., 2021). By equipping individuals with digital skills, librarians contribute to reducing the digital divide and enhancing employability in the digital age. Too, library education focuses on nurturing research and innovation within the library and information science field (Kaarst-Brown et al., 2004). Librarians are trained to conduct research, contribute to scholarly publications, and engage in professional development activities (Füller et al., 2004). Library education programs include courses on research methodologies, data analysis, and scholarly communication (Awodoyin et al., 2016). By fostering a research culture among librarians, library education contributes to knowledge creation, evidence-

based practice, and advancements in the field.

## **V. Role of Library Education in Disaster Management and Recovery**

Library education includes training on disaster management and recovery. Librarians are equipped with the knowledge and skills to develop disaster preparedness plans, mitigate risks, and respond effectively in the event of natural or man-made disasters (Arshada et al., 2020). They learn about techniques for salvaging damaged materials, disaster response protocols, and the use of technology for disaster recovery. Library education programs also emphasize the importance of disaster prevention through proper storage and environmental control measures (Balcik et al., 2010). By being prepared for disasters, librarians can protect valuable collections and ensure the continuity of library services. Library education also extends to the importance of user-centric services and design thinking principles (Bhati & Kumar, 2020). Librarians are trained to understand the needs and preferences of library users and develop services and spaces that meet those needs (Douglas & Becker, 2015). They receive instruction on user experience research, usability testing, and service design methodologies. Library education programs also incorporate courses on space planning, interior design, and technology integration for optimal user experience (Qian et al., 2021). By focusing on user needs and enhancing the overall library experience, librarians contribute to increased user satisfaction and engagement.

Also, library education promotes the principles of open access and open educational resources (OER) (Odigwe & Owan, 2020). Librarians are trained to advocate for the use of open-access materials and to support faculty and researchers in publishing their work in open-access journals (Issa et al., 2020). They also learn about OER platforms, licenses, and strategies

for promoting the use of OER in education. Library education programs emphasize the importance of reducing barriers to knowledge by providing free and open access to scholarly resources (Issa et al., 2020). By promoting open access and OER, librarians contribute to equitable access to information and educational resources. Library education includes training in library management and leadership skills. Librarians learn about budgeting, strategic planning, human resource management, and organizational leadership (Rendell et al., 2020). They acquire the knowledge and competencies needed to effectively manage library resources, develop policies, and lead teams. Library education programs also emphasize the importance of staying abreast of emerging trends and technologies in the library field (Belrhiti et al., 2018). By developing strong management and leadership skills, librarians can drive innovation, lead change, and ensure the efficient and effective operation of libraries.

Library education recognizes the role of libraries in supporting entrepreneurship and business development (Cheong et al., 2020). Librarians are trained to provide resources, information, and guidance to aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners. They learn about business research, market analysis, and industry trends (Dickson & Weaver, 2008). Library education programs also incorporate courses on business planning, financial literacy, and intellectual property rights (Woodside et al., 2020). By assisting entrepreneurs and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship, librarians contribute to economic growth and job creation in Nigeria. It acknowledges the growing importance of data analytics and visualization in the information profession (Damar et al., 2018). Librarians are trained to work with data sets, apply statistical methods, and analyze data to derive meaningful insights (Carroll et al., 2014). They learn about data visualization techniques and tools to effectively communicate data findings (Saberri et al., 2019). Library education programs include



courses on data analysis, data management, and visualization software. By developing skills in data analytics and visualization, librarians can support evidence-based decision-making in various fields, such as research, policy-making, and business.

Library education includes training on copyright law and intellectual property rights. Librarians learn about copyright regulations, fair use, and licensing agreements (Rights et al., n.d.). They acquire knowledge of copyright compliance, copyright infringement issues, and the legal framework for intellectual property protection (Depoorter, 2014). Library education programs also emphasize the importance of educating library users about copyright and promoting ethical use of information. By understanding copyright laws and advocating for intellectual property rights, librarians ensure that information is used responsibly and legally. Library education recognizes the importance of specialized library services to cater to specific user groups and their unique information needs (Abu Rumman, Ayman & Alheet, 2019). Librarians are trained to develop and manage specialized libraries, such as medical libraries, law libraries, and corporate libraries (Federer, 2018). They learn about collection development, subject-specific information resources, and specialized research techniques. Library education programs also incorporate courses on cataloging and classification standards specific to different disciplines. By providing specialized library services, librarians contribute to the advancement of knowledge in specific fields and support specialized professionals.

## **VI. Role of Library Education in Advocacy and Policy Development**

Library education emphasizes the role of librarians as advocates for the library profession and information access (Oleribe et al., 2019). Librarians are trained to engage in advocacy efforts to promote the value of

libraries, secure funding, and influence policy decisions (Novignon et al., 2021). They learn about advocacy strategies, public relations, and community engagement. Library education programs also cover policy development and analysis, enabling librarians to contribute to the formulation of policies that support information access and library development. By advocating for the library profession and influencing policy, librarians ensure that libraries remain a priority in the national agenda. It encourages librarians to engage in international collaboration and knowledge sharing. Librarians are trained to participate in professional networks, attend international conferences, and collaborate with colleagues from around the world (Haqani & Ahlan, 2015). They learn about global information trends, best practices, and innovative approaches to library services (Obionwu et al., 2022). Library education programs also promote cross-cultural understanding and the exchange of ideas and experiences. By fostering international collaboration, librarians bring global perspectives to their work, enhance their professional growth, and contribute to the development of the library profession in Nigeria. Library education recognizes the importance of preserving and promoting indigenous knowledge (Hirsh et al., 2015). Library education acknowledges the role of libraries in addressing social issues and promoting social justice (Belrhiti et al., 2018). Librarians are trained to use libraries as platforms for raising awareness and advocating for social causes. They learn about information resources related to social issues, community engagement strategies, and partnerships with social organizations (Luciano, 2020). Library education programs also emphasize the importance of inclusivity, diversity, and equitable access to information. By advocating for social issues, librarians contribute to positive social change, empower marginalized communities, and promote a more inclusive and equitable society.

Librarians are trained to collect, organize, and disseminate indigenous knowledge resources. They learn about culturally sensitive approaches to knowledge management, community engagement, and the ethical considerations of working with indigenous knowledge (Akintayo & Onajite, 2015). Library education programs also emphasize the role of libraries in supporting local communities in preserving and revitalizing their traditional knowledge (Awogbami et al., 2020). By valuing and preserving indigenous knowledge, librarians contribute to cultural diversity, intergenerational knowledge transfer, and the empowerment of indigenous communities.

## Conclusion

This paper concludes that library education encompasses a wide range of knowledge and skills that empower librarians to serve as information professionals, advocates, and agents of change. By addressing areas such as specialized library services, advocacy, international collaboration, indigenous knowledge, and social issues, library education equips librarians with the tools to meet the diverse information needs of society and contribute to national development.

The paper therefore recommends that investing in library education is crucial for building a strong and dynamic library workforce that can adapt to emerging trends, advocate for the library profession, and make a positive impact on individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole.

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