



**BABCOCK**  
**UNIVERSITY**

ILISHAN-REMO, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

# COLLEGE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

## 2022/2023 PhD Thesis Abstract

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**RT: Research Skills, Institutional Support, Collaboration and Research Productivity of Librarians in Public Universities in North-West Nigeria**

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**AB:** Research productivity of academic librarians is critical to their career progression and their relevance to academic community. Nevertheless, studies have reported low research productivity among academic librarians in Nigeria which could be attributed to low research skills, institutional support, and research collaboration. Researchers have linked research skills, institutional support, and research collaboration to research productivity in various parts of Nigeria with dearth of studies on the influence of these variables on research productivity in North-West, Nigeria. Therefore, the study investigated the influence of research skills, institutional support and research collaboration on research productivity of librarians in public universities in North-West, Nigeria.

The study adopted survey research design. The population of the study comprised 373 librarians in public university libraries in North-West, Nigeria. A sample size of 193 was determined using Taro Yamane's formula. Stratified sampling technique was used to select the respondents. A structured and validated questionnaire was used to collect data. Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficients for the constructs ranged from 0.63 to 0.95. A return rate of 93% was achieved. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential (simple and multiple) statistics.

Findings revealed a significant joint influence of research skills, institutional support and research collaboration on the research productivity of librarians in public universities in North-West, Nigeria ( $Adj.R^2 = 0.075$ ,  $F(3, 176) = 5.823$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Institutional support ( $\beta = 0.199$ ,

$t(178) = 2.706, p < 0.05$ ) and research collaboration ( $\beta = 0.248, t(178) = 3.415, p < 0.05$ ) independently influenced research productivity of librarians while research skills ( $\beta = -0.021, t(178) = -0.283, p > 0.05$ ) did not. Of all the indicators of research collaboration, only interdisciplinary collaboration ( $\beta = 0.187, t(173) = 2.584, p < 0.05$ ) significantly influenced research productivity while disciplinary collaboration ( $\beta = 0.254, t(173) = 1.613, p > 0.05$ ), international collaboration ( $\beta = -0.222, t(173) = -0.829, p > 0.05$ ), peer to peer collaboration ( $\beta = 0.212, t(173) = 1.294, p > 0.05$ ) and mentor-mentee collaboration ( $\beta = -0.239, t(173) = -1.274, p > 0.05$ ) did not. Similarly, the indicators of research skills namely, critical thinking skills ( $\beta = 0.054, t(174) = 0.508, p > 0.05$ ) research data skills ( $\beta = 0.173, t(174) = 1.939, p > 0.05$ ) communication skills ( $\beta = 0.021, t(174) = 0.221, p > 0.05$ ), research design skills ( $\beta = -0.154, t(174) = -1.564, p > 0.05$ ) problem solving skills ( $\beta = -0.077, t(174) = -0.798, p > 0.05$ ) and those of institutional support such as funding ( $\beta = 0.111, t(176) = 1.246, p > 0.05$ ), training ( $\beta = 0.056, t(176) = 0.543, p > 0.05$ ) and research policy ( $\beta = 0.071, t(176) = 0.694, p > 0.05$ ) did not significantly influence research productivity.

The study concluded that institutional support and research collaboration, enhanced research productivity of librarians in public universities in North-West, Nigeria. It was recommended that the management of the universities should provide institutional support and encourage interdisciplinary research collaboration among librarians to increase their research productivity.

**Keywords:** Academic librarians, Institutional support, Public universities, Research collaboration, Research productivity, Research skills

**Word Count:** 490

**Abbreviations:** *RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co-Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB: Abstract*

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