

**ACCESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEN ACCESS
POLICIES IN INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES IN ACADEMIC
LIBRARIES IN EDO STATE, NIGERIA**

BY

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APRIL, 2025

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT, FACULTY OF
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AWARD OF BACHELOR OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION
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CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned hereby certify that this Research work was carried out by **Adejuwon Taiwo** with Matriculation Number: **EDU2005680** and that the research work is adequate in scope and quality in the Department Educational Management, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin city, in partial fulfilment of the award of Bachelors Degree in Library and Information Sciences (BLIS).

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my parents Mr. Micheal and Mrs. Comfort Adejuwon for their unwavering support, guidance and upkeep and also to my siblings, Busayo Adejuwon, Emmanuel Adejuwon, Kehinde Adejuwon and Ololade Adejuwon for their support and encouragement throughout my course of study. God bless you all.

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ABSTRACT

This study accessed the implementation of Open Access policies in Institutional Repositories in academic libraries in Edo State, Nigeria. A descriptive survey was employed to carry out this study. The population of this study comprised of all the professional and non professional staff at the John Harris Library, University of Benin. Eighty three (83) respondents were sampled for this study, due to this small number total enumeration was used. The research instrument used for this study was a self-structured questionnaire to elicit information from the respondents. Data was collected from respondents and analyzed using descriptive statistics like simple percentages and mean and grand mean. Findings revealed that that academic institutions have made significant progress in incorporating Open Access policies into their institutional repositories. clear and user-friendly submission guidelines, training for repository staff, monitoring and evaluating the impact of open access policies and collaborating with faculty members and researchers are some of the best practices for implementing open access. enhancing the dissemination of research outputs, increased collaboration among stakeholders, enhancing feedback mechanisms and investing in technological advancements and infrastructure are some areas of improvement that can be made for improvement of Open Access policies in Institutional Repositories (IRs). With all three having a grand mean above 2.5 which made them significant. Based on the findings above the following recommendations were made: Secure Funding and Institutional Support, promoting awareness and advocacy, engagement with stakeholders for inclusive accessment, Assess Awareness and Adoption of Institutional Repositories, Assess the Adoption of Best Practices for Open Access Implementation, Evaluate the Effectiveness of Open Access Policy Implementation, Identify and Prioritize Areas for Improvement.

ACCESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEN ACCESS POLICIES IN INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN EDO STATE, NIGERIA

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background To The Study

Assessment is a crucial component of education, businesses, healthcare, engineering and many other walks of life, as it encompasses the evaluation of people and outcomes to make better decisions, check progress and push for enhancement. Researchers have long carried out investigations and made findings on different aspects of assessment, pin pointing the best practices, problems and innovations in assessment methodologies.

In organizational settings , researchers like Rogala and Shanteau (2017) have analyzed the job of assessment in enrolling and selection process. Their research on “ Assessment centers in human resource management” navigates how assessment centers can create a well built and reliable mode for the evaluation of employment candidates’ competencies, skills and potential fit within an organization.

In general assessment plays a vital role in infusing decision making, propelling enhancement and encouraging growth and development across different realms. Recent research has spotted out the importance of using innovative assessment tools, embodying feedback mechanisms, and aiming on holistic and outcome based evaluation approaches to increase the effect of assessment. By staying up to date on

the latest research studies and the most effective practices in assessment, consultants can improve the impact and importance of their assessment processes and even add on to positive outcomes for people, communities and establishments. Results generated from assessment are used to inform implementation of new strategies.

The process of implementing a strategy, choice, or policy is referred to as implementation. This phrase is widely used in a variety of situations, each with its own interpretation dependent on the framework it operates within, including business, education, information technology, and public policy. It encompasses taking into action the delicate processes that turns a theoretical idea into a practical reality. According to O'Toole (2020), implementation can be understood as the "process of translating the intentions of policy into practice, thereby fostering their real-world application". Policymakers, implementers, and the target public are only a few of the many stakeholders involved in the dynamic process that is implementation rather than a deterministic event. Another researcher who also supports this perspective discusses implementation as a "social action rooted in a context influenced by interactions among actors" (Rogers, 2021).

According to Goggoi and Reddy (2017), "implementation involves the systematic and organized execution of a plan or strategy to ensure that it is successfully carried out". They state the necessity of concise communication, accountability and co-ordination in the process of implementation to make necessary for stakeholders to be on the same path and striving towards achieving a similar objective.

In general the cycle of implementation is vital for interpreting ideas and plans into benefiting results, it requires cautious brainstorming, follow up and organization to ensure that objectives are met and expected outcomes are gotten. By incorporating the knowledge and insights of different professionals and experts on implementation, organizations can therefore understand the difficulties in implementing initiatives and plans effectively. Successful implementations therefore needs open access for visibility to upcoming researchers who are investigating and carrying out studies on implementation so that their findings can meet a wider audience.

Open access policies have been vital in fostering the dispersion of knowledge and research to a wider audience without legal restrictions. They improve the visibility and effectiveness of the research made by scholars, promote working together as a group and hasten the movement of discovery. In recent times there has been a growing notice of the essence of open access policies in promoting innovation, assisting transparency, and sorting out global problems.

Coalition of open access funders commonly known as “cOAlition S” (2018) defines open access as “ immediate, permanent, unrestricted and free online access to the published results of research funded, fully or partially by public or private research funding bodies. Open access should ensure that research outputs are find-able, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR Principles) without delay, and affordable to both readers and authors and without any financial or legal barriers other than those arising from the Creative Commons Attribution. Creative Commons Attribution is a license that allows users to use and adapt creative work as long as it is attributed to the author.

Open access requires institutions to give free and unhindered access to researchers which can be brought about through the utilization of Institutional Repositories (IR). Institutional Repositories (IRs), are digital databases which gives open access to scholarly findings of an institution, such as thesis, datasets, articles and many other different types of academic content. These repositories function as store houses for safeguarding and dispersing the intellectual findings generated by faculty members, staffs and researchers connected to the institution. Institutional repositories contribute to the development of insights and the dispersion of research findings to a wider audience.

Every institutional repository (IR) is guided by a policy in nigeria. In recent times there has been a great worry on open access policies in academic institutions, many organizations, establishments and colleges have incorporated institutional repositories to make research findings freely available for public use. But even so there is still an insufficient amount of inclusive research on the impact of these policies in

institutional repositories which begs the question: how fortunate are academic institutions in incorporating open access policies in their repositories and what problems arise in the process of doing so?.

Another issue that arises is the long-term sustainability of the content in institutional repositories, without adequate materials put in place institutional repositories will struggle to sustain and update their collections, which in turn leads to expired and unavailable or inaccessible content, this puts a blemish on the credibility and usability of repositories as a platform for dispersing research findings.

Another key issue at play usually found in the implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories is shortage of understanding and recognition among researchers. Many scholars and researchers have poor ICT skills and are afraid of copyright infringements and plagiarism, this limits the profits gotten off of open access, which leads to low engagement with the repositories hereby obstructing the dispersion of research findings to a wider audience.

Overall the implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories can enhance access to information resources in Nigerian academic institutions.

Statement of the problem

There are many institutional repositories (IR), in Nigeria some of which are located in Edo state. Access to information resources in institutional repositories is still low and difficult due to so many reasons like implementation of open access policy, inadequate funding, unreliable electricity supply and unstable internet connectivity. This lack of assessment obstructs the capability of academic libraries to effectively aid and encourage open access initiatives, leading to potential restrictions in access to scholarly findings and knowledge distribution within the academic community.

By analyzing the present state of open access repositories we can understand better how to make the necessary improvements in the accessibility and effectiveness of research findings in the academic community.

Objective of the study

The major objective of this study is to assess the implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories. Specifically this study intends to find out:

1. Institutions with IR
2. The success of academic institutions in incorporating open access policies in their repositories.
3. The best practices for the implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories.
4. The areas for improvement in the sustainability of open access policies in institutional repositories.

Research questions

1. Do your institution have IR
2. How successful are academic institutions in incorporating open access policies in their institutional repositories.
3. What practices are best for implementing open access policies in institutional repositories.

4. What areas for improvement can be made for the improvement of open access policies in institutional repositories.

Significance of the study

This study will be beneficial to librarians, stakeholders, researchers and institutions and this is because the findings from this study will give new insights on how to properly implement open access policies in institutional repositories and it will contribute to the ongoing conversation surrounding open access and its impact on scholarly communication.

Scope of the study

The scope of this study is to carry out investigation on the implementation of open access policies in Institutional Repositories (IRs), this study is centered on the professional and non professional staff in the John Harris Library University of Benin.

Definition of terms

Open access policies: open access policies are rules laid by government bodies, institutions or agencies which solicits that work should be done in an open access format to a certified point.

Implementation: implementation is the process of putting a plan to action or enforcing a decision.

Institutional repositories: institutional repositories are like store houses for collecting, sustaining and dispersion of digital copies of intellectual findings of an institution.

Assessment: assessment is the process of making informed judgments about something.

CHAPTER TWO

This chapter presents a comprehensive review of related literature on the implementation of open access in institutional repositories. It is reviewed under the following sub-headings.

- Concept of Implementation.
- Concept of Open Access.
- Concept of Institutional Repositories.
- Factors Affecting the Implementation of Open Access in Institutional Repositories.
- Importance of Open Access Policies in Institutional Repositories.
- Utilization of Open Access In Institutional Repositories

Summary of Literature Review

Concept of implementation

Implementation is simply the process of putting a plan to action. It entails taking the mandatory steps to assure that a thing or an idea becomes a reality.

Implementation is a critical part of any project because it is the stage where majority of the work is going to happen. There are various types of implementation, the direct and indirect implementations being the most popular among many we'll have a brief look at what each implementation encompasses.

Direct implementation This type of implementation involves undergoing a plan or an idea the way it was originally intended without any important changes. It is a straight forward type of implementation that follows a set of guidelines

Indirect implementation is a type of implementation is the exact opposite of direct implementation. It involves making changes to the initial plan to get the needed results. This type of implementation comes in handy in certain situations where there are unforeseen circumstances mandating an adaptation to the original plan.

One time implementation as the name implies is the type of implementation where the plan is only carried out one time, without any further repetition. This type of implementation is mostly suited for projects.

Continuous implementation is basically the opposite of one time implementation, it entails carrying out a decision on a regular basis to make sustainable results. It usually requires checkups and adjustments to ensure that the required outcomes are gotten.

Full scale implementation is a type of implementation which is ran through all the important areas within an organization. It requires working together with different stake holders to put the decisions in place.

Concept of open access

Open access is a publishing prototype that gives accessibility to research findings to almost any and everyone without being restricted in any form. The major goal of open access is to make research findings more visible, and encourage innovation, by removing those barriers open access can promote a more conducive research environment among researchers. We have two types of open access, gold open access and green open access.

Green open access is where the authors place a copy of their records in a public accessible repository like an institutional repository it can also be called repository based open access. Here authors can share their unfinished work for an early review or share the final copy after a review, this type of open access gives authors the chance of making their work public without having to pay article processing charges (APC). One definition comes from Swan (2010), who states that "Green open access is the self-archiving of the author's final peer-reviewed manuscript in an institutional or subject repository, which is then made freely available to the public"

Gold open access is a type of open access involves putting out research findings in articles and journals that are openly accessible to users. After publication authors mostly pay for article processing charges in this type of open access model to evade cost of publishing by journals. Piwowar, H. A., Priem, J., Larivière, V., Alperin, J. P., & Groth, P. (2018), who state that "Gold open access is a publishing model in which articles are made freely available to all readers immediately upon publication, usually through the payment of an article processing charge"

Concept of institutional repositories

Digital systems intended to gather, preserve, and distribute the intellectual output of an academic institution or company are known as institutional repositories (IRs). IR's which stand for institutional repositories, might differ from one another in terms of their functions, content categories, and areas of interest. There are many types of institutional repositories each serving their own function, we have data repositories, multimedia repositories, research repositories, teaching and learning repositories, thesis and dissertation repositories, open educational resource repositories, institutional archives, pre-print repositories, special collections and compliance and report repositories.

According to authors Barbosa, Anjos, and Trancoso, (2021). Data repositories are defined as "a human constellated system that efficiently stores and retrieves immutable data, catering for data discoverability, archival, maintenance and integrity.

Multimedia Repositories are specialized digital storage systems designed to manage, preserve, and provide access to various forms of multimedia content, including images, audio, video, and interactive content. They serve as a platform for the organization, retrieval, and sharing of multimedia resources, supporting both educational and research objectives. Kauffman, L., & Dorr, A. (2021).

Research repositories are digital platforms designed to collect, preserve, and provide access to research data, publications, and other scholarly outputs, facilitating the visibility and usability of research for the academic community and the public. Van Dijk, D., & de Klerk, M. (2023).

Teaching and learning repositories are digital collections that house educational resources, including course materials, instructional videos, learning objects, and assessments, to support educators in delivering effective instruction and enhancing student learning outcomes. McGreal, R., & Elliott, M. (2022).

Thesis and dissertation repositories are digital platforms that collect, preserve, and disseminate graduate-level theses and dissertations, enabling students and researchers to access and share scholarly works that contribute to the body of academic knowledge across disciplines. Crow, R. (2021).

Open Educational Resources (OER) Repositories, These repositories specifically focus on Open Educational Resources, providing access to freely accessible and openly licensed educational materials that can be used, modified, and shared by educators and learners, promoting collaborative teaching and learning practices. Wiley, D., & Gurrell, S. (2023).

Institutional archives are organized collections of records and documents created and accumulated by an institution in the course of its operations, which are maintained for their enduring value and serve as a resource for understanding the history, activities, and functions of the institution. Cook, T. (2020).

Preprint repositories are online platforms that allow researchers to share their manuscripts before formal peer review and publication, enabling rapid dissemination of research findings and fostering collaboration within the scholarly community. Boulos, M. N. K., & Wheeler, S. (2022).

Special collections are curated groups of materials that possess significant historical, cultural, or scholarly value, often encompassing rare books, manuscripts, archival materials, photographs, and other primary sources that support research and

scholarship. Saffady, W. (2023).

Compliance repositories are specialized systems designed to collect, store, and manage data related to regulatory compliance and reporting requirements, ensuring that organizations can meet legal obligations and maintain transparency in their operations. Green, D., & Smith, J. (2022).

The more general objectives of information preservation, sharing, and improved access within academic and research communities are furthered by the various types of institutional repositories, each of which caters to distinct uses and audiences.

Factors affecting the implementation of open access in institutional repositories.

The success and efficacy of open access (OA) implementation in institutional repositories (IRs) can be influenced by a number of factors. Here are some important things to think about:

Institutional policies, it is essential that there be open access policies that are supportive at the institutional level. This includes policies that require or promote researchers and faculty members to submit their work to the IR.

Funding and resources is very vital for establishing and sustaining an institutional repository requires sufficient resources. Technical infrastructure, employee training, and continuing administration all require resources.

Faculty and researcher awareness also very important as it's imperative to educate academics and researchers about the advantages of open access and the repository itself. Participation may be hampered by misconceptions on copyright and the importance of sharing research.

Legal and copyright concerns can be difficult to navigate publication agreements and copyright rules. Scholars could be worried about keeping the rights to their work or that publishers won't let them distribute specific editions of their publications.

Technical infrastructure, the repository's technology needs to be secure, stable, easy to use, and able to integrate with other systems, such as library systems and discovery tools. This includes the requirement for interoperability and standards for metadata.

Institutional culture matters a lot as Open Access implementation is influenced by the institution's general research sharing and collaboration culture. An environment that prioritizes openness and participation from the public is probably going to be more Open Access friendly.

Training and support is crucial in ensuring that repository managers and prospective contributors receive sufficient training guarantees that users comprehend how to correctly deposit and navigate copyrights

Incentives and benefits may encourage researchers to participate in the IR by offering them incentives to deposit their work, such as funding opportunities, acknowledgment in performance reviews, or other benefits.

Partnerships and cooperation, cooperation with research offices, libraries, and other internal and external organizations can improve the repository's use and visibility. Open Access projects may also be supported by collaborations with funding organizations.

Monitoring and evaluating impact metrics that measure the repository's impact and usage can be established to show the institution how valuable it is and to promote greater participation.

Sustainability and repository management, an open access initiative's long-term viability depends on its sustainability. This entails budgeting for continuous support, keeping up with technological advancements, and preserving user involvement.

Global and local trends, local initiatives might be influenced by knowledge of worldwide trends in open science, data sharing, and open access. Support for institutional initiatives can also be increased by participating in regional and global open access activities.

Institutions can maximize the distribution of knowledge and research outputs by addressing these factors and improving the implementation and efficacy of open access in their repositories.

Importance of open access in institutional repositories

In institutional repositories (IRs), open access (OA) is essential to the academic and research environment. The following main ideas emphasize how crucial open access is in institutional repositories:

Enhanced Visibility and Accessibility, academic work is more widely available to researchers, students, and the general public without the use of paywalls thanks to open access. This encourages a larger audience and greater level of participation while raising the visibility of research outputs.

Encouragement of Knowledge Sharing, the concepts of collaborative learning and information sharing are compatible with open access. It speeds up the rate of discovery and fosters an environment of open science by enabling researchers to quickly communicate their results.

Compliance with Funding and Publication Requirements, public availability of research outputs is mandated by a number of funding sources. Institutional repositories assist institutions in meeting these obligations and guarantee public access to research that is supported by public funds.

Increased Research influence, research has indicated that the use of open access materials can result in increased academic influence and citation rates. Authors can reach a wider audience and increase the likelihood that their work will be cited and recognized by making research publicly available.

Diversity and Inclusivity in Research, Open Access enables researchers from developing nations and individuals without institutional affiliations to access high-quality research, helping to level the playing field. This makes the global research environment more equitable.

Preservation of Intellectual Output, research outputs can be safely and sustainably preserved on institutional repositories. They guarantee the longevity of works, protecting them from being lost as a result of commercial publisher activities or technology obsolescence.

Improved Standing of the Institution, institutions can show their dedication to broadly distributing knowledge and improve their reputation by presenting their research findings in an open access way. Funding, faculty, and students may be drawn in by this.

Encouragement of Innovative Research Practices, preprints and open data are two examples of innovative academic communication formats that are facilitated by open access. This invention motivates researchers to investigate other approaches for involvement and dissemination

Public Engagement, Open access gives academic institutions a chance to interact with general public and non-academic audiences. This may result in a deeper appreciation for the value of research in society and a heightened interest in research subjects.

Support for Academic Freedom, by enabling academics to share their discoveries without being constrained by conventional publication models, open access can help to promote academic freedom and the right to distribute knowledge according to their own guidelines.

Encouraging Interdisciplinary Research, Open access repositories facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration and the integration of knowledge across sectors by giving users easy access to a wide range of research results.

To sum up, open access in institutional repositories is crucial to improving the distribution of information, encouraging teamwork, and advancing the integrity and visibility of research. It is consistent with the overarching objectives of democratizing information access and fostering international intellectual communication.

Utilization of Open Access In Institutional Repositories

This section presents a review of related empirical studies encapsulated within the research objectives of this study. This review presents the findings of previous studies on the usage of open access in institutional repositories. Kwame, K, N, (2021) conducted a research on the usage of open access in institutional repositories in Ghana. The quantitative research approach and survey design were adopted and simple random sampling and stratified sampling techniques were employed. A questionnaire was used as a research instrument to gather appropriate data for the study; descriptive and inferential statistics were used as tools to analyze data. The study looked at the level of usage for open access institutional repositories, reasons for open access institutional repositories usage, and ways of enhancing usage of open access institutional repositories in universities. Although the level of open access institutional repositories usage was low, all the were willing to use it (deposit in and download from open access institutional repositories). The article recommends strategies for the usage of open access institutional repositories in universities. This strategy consists of improvements in the user experience and user interfaces, archiving services, advocacy and marketing, open access institutional repositories policy, and automatic harvesting, universities will be able to determine which factors affect the usage of such repositories in libraries and will be able to design strategies on how to sustain and manage them.

Okafor, C. U. (2022). Conducted a study on the implementation of open access policies in selected academic libraries in Nigeria. It investigates the challenges faced by libraries in adopting open access initiatives and evaluates the extent to which these policies have been integrated into institutional repositories. Data was collected through surveys and interviews with librarians and library users. The findings reveal

significant barriers to implementation, including lack of awareness, infrastructure, and training, while also highlighting the potential benefits of successful open access integration.

Ahmed, I. A (2021).conducted a study on Open Access and Institutional Repositories: Opportunities and Challenges for Nigerian Universities, this research focuses on the opportunities and challenges associated with the implementation of open access and institutional repositories in Nigerian universities. Through mixed methods, the study explores the perspectives of librarians, faculty members, and administrators on open access policies. The results indicate a growing interest in open access but highlight infrastructural and policy challenges that hinder full implementation. Recommendations include strategic advocacy and enhanced funding for digital infrastructure.

Yusuff, D. O. (2023). conducted a study on Implementation of Open Access Policies in Institutional Repositories of Federal Universities in Nigeria. This thesis investigates the practices surrounding the implementation of open access policies in federal universities in Nigeria. Using a qualitative approach, the research analyzes librarians' understanding of open access policies and their impact on the visibility of university research outputs. Findings suggest that while institutional repositories are being developed, effective policy implementation remains inconsistent across institutions, with significant implications for academic dissemination and accessibility.

Summary of literature Review

The aim of this literature review was to highlight previous works by scholars in areas related to this research. This literature review presented the conceptual framework of this study which encapsulated key concepts relating to this study and empirical review.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter examines the procedure and method that would be employed in the collection of data for the study. This will be done under the following sub-headings.

- Research Design
- Population Of The Study
- Sample and Sampling Procedures
- Research Instruments
- Validity of The Instrument
- Method of Data Collection
- Method of Data Analysis

Research Design

The research design adopted for this study was the survey design. In this type of design a questionnaire is employed to elicit information from different individuals on a particular relating to the population. The survey design was employed because the data collected from a portion of the population is used to represent and make reference to the population in view of the relationship between the dependent variables and the independent variables.

Population of The Study

The targeted population of this study comprised of the professional (8) and non professional staff (75) of the John Harris Library University of Benin, Edo State. The profesional staff are the librarians and the non professional staff are the library officers.

Sample and Sampling Procedures

Total enumeration will be used in this study since the population is small. The population is 83 and there is no need for sampling.

Research Instrument

The instrument for data collection for this study was the questionnaire titled ‘‘ Accessing the implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories’’

The questionnaire contains two sections namely

A and B.

Section A contained 3 items which was used to elicit bio-data of the respondents.

Section B consists of questionnaire items and the instrument has a 4 point likert scaling system of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Strongly Disagree (SD) and Disagree (D) to provide answers to the research questions raised for the study

Validity of The Instruments

The instrument was validated by the project supervisor to confirm it’s validity. The corrections provided by the supervisor were used to make the final version of the instrument before it was administered to the respondents.

Method of Data Collection

The questionnaire was personally administered and collected by the researcher. The staffs after a good explanation of the purpose of the study by the researcher and were also given time to provide suitable responses to the items on the questionnaire.

Method of Data Analysis

The data of this study will be analyzed using a regression analytic approach and simple percentages.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

This chapter presents the results and discussion of findings in line with the research questions asked. This chapter is discussed under the following subheadings:

- Analysis of the respondents Bio-Data
- Answering of the research questions
- Discussion of findings

Analysis of the Respondents Bio-Data

Table 4.1: Gender Distribution of the respondents

GENDER	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE(%)
MALE	52	62.65
FEMALE	31	37.3
TOTAL	83	100%

Table 4.1 shows that there are more males (62.5%) than females (37.3%) respondents, which means that there are more males than females who are library staff in the University of Benin

Table 4.2 Category of Staff

CATEGORY OF STAFF	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE(%)
PROFESSIONAL	8	9.63
NON PROFESSIONAL	75	90.36
TOTAL	83	100%

Table 4.2 shows that there more non professional staff (90.36%) than professional staff (9.63%) working at the University of Benin

Research question 1

Do your Instution have IR?.

Table 4.3

DO YOUR INSTITUTION HAVE IR	YES	PERCENTAGE(%)
PROFESSIONAL STAFF	8	9.63
NON PROFESSIONAL STAFF	75	90.36
TOTAL	83	100%

Table 4.3 shows that all the professional staff (9.63%) and all the non professional staff (90.36%) answered yes to the question which means that the University of Benin has an IR

SECTION B: Answering of the research questions

Research question 2

How successful are academic institutions in incorporating open access policies in their institutional repositories?.

Table 4.4

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
1	Academic institutions have made significant progress in incorporating open access policies in institutional repositories	30.12% 1.2048	25.3% 0.759	19.27% 0.1927	25.3% 0.506
2	Academic institutions are actively working to implement and strengthen open access policies in their repositories	42.16% 1.68	24.1% 0.72	21.7% 0.21	12.04% 0.24
3	Academic institutions are successfully embracing open access principles and striving to make research more accessible to a wider audience	45.78% 1.83	30.12% 0.9	6.02% 0.06	18.07% 0.36
4	Academic institutions have successfully integrated open access policies into their repository systems and promoting sharing of knowledge	30.12% 1.20	22.89% 0.68	24.09% 0.24	22.89% 0.45
Grand Mean		2.819			

In an attempt to answer the above research question, items 1-4 on the questionnaire were used for table 4.4. All the responses put together shows that 30.12% and 25.3% strongly agreed, agreed that academic institutions have made significant progress in incorporating open access policies in institutional repositories, while 19.27% and 25.% strongly disagreed, disagreed.

42.16% and 24.1% strongly agreed, agreed that academic institutions are actively working to implement and strengthen open access policies in their repositories, while 21.7% and 12.04% strongly disagreed, disagreed.

45.78% and 30.12% strongly agreed, agreed that academic institutions are successfully embracing open access principles and striving to make research more accessible to a wider audience, while 6.02% and 18.07% strongly disagreed, disagreed

30.12% and 22.9% strongly agreed, agreed that academic institutions have successfully integrated open access policies into their repository systems and promoting sharing of knowledge, while 24.09% and 22.89% strongly disagreed, disagreed.

Judging by the responses we can say that academic institutions have made significant progress in incorporating Open Access policies into their institutional repositories.

To calculate the Grand Mean we need to assign numerical values to the response categories (strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree and disagree)

We will assume a 4 point like-rt scale

Strongly Agree (SA) = 4

Agree (A) =3

Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1

Disagree (D) =2

The mean for each item is calculated by multiplying the percentages of responses in each category by it's corresponding numerical value.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean}_1 &= (0.3012 \times 4) + (0.253 \times 3) + (0.1927 \times 1) + (0.253 \times 2) \\ &= 1.2048 + 0.759 + 0.1927 + 0.506 \\ &= 2.6625\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean}_2 &= (0.4216 \times 4) + (0.241 \times 3) + (0.217 \times 1) + (0.1204 \times 2) \\ &= 1.6864 + 0.723 + 0.217 + 0.2408 \\ &= 2.8672\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean}_3 &= (0.4578 \times 4) + (0.3012 \times 3) + (0.0602 \times 1) + (0.1807 \times 2) \\ &= 1.8312 + 0.9036 + 0.0602 + 0.3614 \\ &= 3.1564\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean}_4 &= (0.3012 \times 4) + (0.2289 \times 3) + (0.2409 \times 1) + (0.2289 \times 2) \\ &= 1.2048 + 0.6867 + 0.2409 + 0.4578 \\ &= 2.5902\end{aligned}$$

Grand Mean (X_{GM}) is the average of the item

$$\begin{aligned}X_{GM} &= \frac{\text{Mean}_1 + \text{Mean}_2 + \text{Mean}_3 + \text{Mean}_4}{4} \\ &= \frac{2.6625 + 2.8672 + 3.1564 + 2.5902}{4}\end{aligned}$$

Grand Mean (X_{GM}) = 2.81, it is above 2.5 which makes the result significant and it indicates that academic institutions that incorporated the open access policy in their IRs are successful

Research question 3

What practices are best for implementing open access policies in institutional repositories?

Table 4.5

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
1	Clear and user-friendly submission guidelines are crucial for implementing open access policies in institutional repositories.	44.5% 1.78	34.9% 1.047	7.2% 0.072	13.25% 0.265
2	Training for repository staff is essential for successful implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories.	54.2% 2.168	36.1% 1.083	3.61% 0.0361	6.02% 0.1204
3	Monitoring and evaluating the impact of open access policies is necessary for continuous improvement in institutional repositories.	42.1% 1.684	36.1% 1.083	9.63% 0.0963	12.04% 0.2408
4	Collaborating with faculty members and researchers is key to promoting awareness with open access policies in institutional repositories	50.6% 2.024	34.9% 1.047	4.81% 0.0481	9.63% 0.1926
Grand Mean		3.24			

In an attempt to answer the above research question, items 1-4 on the questionnaire were used for table 4.5 above. All the responses put together shows that 44.5% and 34.9% strongly agreed, agreed that Clear and user-friendly submission guidelines are crucial for implementing open access policies in institutional repositories. While 7.2% and 13.25% strongly disagreed, disagreed.

54.2% and 36.1% strongly agreed, agreed that Training for repository staff is essential for successful implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories. While 3.61% and 6.02% strongly disagreed, disagreed.

42.1% and 36.1% strongly agreed, agreed that Monitoring and evaluating the impact of open access policies is necessary for continuous improvement in institutional repositories. While 9.63% and 12.04% strongly disagreed, disagreed.

50.6% and 34.9% strongly agreed, agreed that Collaborating with faculty members and researchers is key to promoting awareness with open access policies in institutional repositories, while 4.81% and 9.63% strongly disagreed, disagreed.

From the responses we can agree that clear and user-friendly submission guidelines, training for repository staff, monitoring and evaluating the impact of open access policies and collaborating with faculty members and researchers are some of the best practices for implementing open access.

To calculate the Grand Mean we need to assign numerical values to the response categories (strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree and disagree)

We will assume a 4 point like-rt scale

Strongly Agree (SA) = 4

Agree (A) = 3

Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1

Disagree (D) = 2

The mean for each item is calculated by multiplying the percentages of responses in each category by its corresponding numerical value.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean}_1 &= (0.445 \times 4) + (0.349 \times 3) + (0.072 \times 1) + (0.1325 \times 2) \\ &= 1.78 + 1.047 + 0.072 + 0.265 \\ &= 3.164\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean}_2 &= (0.542 \times 4) + (0.361 \times 3) + (0.0361 \times 1) + (0.0602 \times 2) \\ &= 2.168 + 1.083 + 0.0361 + 0.1204 \\ &= 3.4075\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean}_3 &= (0.421 \times 4) + (0.361 \times 3) + (0.0963 \times 1) + (0.1204 \times 2) \\ &= 1.684 + 1.083 + 0.0963 + 0.2408 \\ &= 3.1041\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean}_4 &= (0.506 \times 4) + (0.349 \times 3) + (0.0481 \times 1) + (0.0963 \times 2) \\ &= 2.024 + 1.047 + 0.0481 + 0.1926 \\ &= 3.3117\end{aligned}$$

Grand Mean (X_{GM}) is the average of the item

$$\begin{aligned}X_{GM} &= \frac{\text{Mean}_1 + \text{Mean}_2 + \text{Mean}_3 + \text{Mean}_4}{4} \\ &= \frac{3.164 + 3.4075 + 3.1041 + 3.3117}{4}\end{aligned}$$

Grand Mean (X_{GM}) = 3.24, it is above 2.5 which makes the result significant and it indicates that clear and user-friendly submission guidelines, training for repository staff, monitoring and evaluating the impact of open access and collaborating with faculty members are best practices for implementing open access policies in institutional repositories.

Research question 4

What areas for improvement can be made for the improvement of open access policies in institutional repositories?.

Table 4.6

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
1	Enhancing the dissemination of research outputs is critical for the improvement of open access policies in institutional repositories.	54.2% 2.168	36.1% 1.083	3.61% 0.0361	6.02% 0.1204
2	Increased collaboration among stakeholders can lead to more effective open access policies in institutional repositories.	42.16% 1.686	24.1% 0.723	21.7% 0.217	12.04% 0.2408
3	Enhancing feedback mechanisms can help ensure that open access policies in institutional repositories meets the needs of the institution.	51.8% 2.072	39.75% 1.1925	4.81% 0.0481	3.61% 0.0722
4	Investing in technological advancements and infrastructure can further support the implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories.	46.9% 1.876	42.1% 1.263	6.02% 0.0602	4.81% 0.0962
Grand Mean		3.23			

In an attempt to answer the above research question, items 1-4 on the questionnaire were used for table 4.6 above. All the responses put together shows that 54.2% and 36.1% strongly agreed, agreed, that Enhancing the dissemination of research outputs is critical for the improvement of open access policies in institutional repositories. While 3.61% and 6.02% strongly disagreed, disagreed.

42.16% and 24.1% strongly agreed, agreed that Increased collaboration among stakeholders can lead to more effective open access policies in institutional repositories. While 21.7 and 12.04 strongly disagreed, disagreed.

51.8% and 39.75% strongly agreed, agreed that Enhancing feedback mechanisms can help ensure that open access policies in institutional repositories meets the needs of the institution. While 4.81% and 3.61% strongly disagreed, disagreed.

46.9% and 42.1% strongly agreed, agreed that Investing in technological advancements and infrastructure can further support the implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories. While 6.02% and 4.81% strongly disagreed, disagreed.

We can say that enhancing the dissemination of research outputs, increased collaboration among stakeholders, enhancing feedback mechanisms and investing in technological advancements and infrastructure are some areas of improvement that can be made for improvement of Open Access policies in Institutional Repositories (IRs).

To calculate the Grand Mean we need to assign numerical values to the response categories (strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree and disagree)

We will assume a 4 point like-rt scale

Strongly Agree (SA) = 4

Agree (A) = 3

Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1

Disagree (D) =2

The mean for each item is calculated by multiplying the percentages of responses in each category by its corresponding numerical value.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean}_1 &= (0.542 \times 4) + (0.361 \times 3) + (0.0361 \times 1) + (0.0602 \times 2) \\ &= 2.168 + 1.083 + 0.0361 + 0.1204 \\ &= 3.4075\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean}_2 &= (0.4216 \times 4) + (0.241 \times 3) + (0.217 \times 1) + (0.1204 \times 2) \\ &= 1.6864 + 0.723 + 0.217 + 0.2408 \\ &= 2.8672\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean}_3 &= (0.518 \times 4) + (0.3975 \times 3) + (0.0481 \times 1) + (0.0361 \times 2) \\ &= 2.072 + 1.1925 + 0.0481 + 0.0722 \\ &= 3.3848\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean}_4 &= (0.469 \times 4) + (0.421 \times 3) + (0.0602 \times 1) + (0.0481 \times 2) \\ &= 1.876 + 1.263 + 0.0602 + 0.0962 \\ &= 3.2954\end{aligned}$$

Grand Mean (X_{GM}) is the average of the item

$$\begin{aligned}X_{GM} &= \frac{\text{Mean}_1 + \text{Mean}_2 + \text{Mean}_3 + \text{Mean}_4}{4} \\ &= \frac{3.4075 + 2.8672 + 3.3848 + 3.2954}{4}\end{aligned}$$

Grand Mean (X_{GM}) = 3.23, it is above 2.5 which makes the result significant and it indicates that enhancing and dissemination of research outputs, increased collaboration among stakeholders, feedback mechanisms and investing in technological advancements are areas for improvement of open access policies in Institutional Repositories

Discussion of findings

This study investigated the state of open access policies in institutional repositories at the University of Benin, focusing on their implementation, effectiveness, best practices, and areas for improvement. The findings revealed several key insights based on the responses from library staff, comprising both professional and non-professional categories, with a higher representation of males (62.65%) and non-professional staff (90.36%).

Firstly, for research question 1, it was established that the University of Benin has an institutional repository (IR), as confirmed by all respondents, indicating universal awareness of its existence among the library staff. This foundational finding underscores the institution's commitment to providing a platform for research dissemination. A study from Okoye, M., and Ejikeme (2019) found out that librarians and some faculties in Nigerian Universities are aware of Open Access and Institutional Repositories benefits, yet the actual policy and content deposition remains low. In Edo State a study in Uniben found lecturers were aware of Open Access scholarly publishing, primarily through colleagues, but faced barriers like unstable power and poor internet access.

Looking at research question 2, regarding the success of academic institutions in incorporating Open Access policies into their IRs, the majority of respondents agreed that significant progress has been made. A notable proportion strongly agreed or agreed that academic institutions are actively working to implement and strengthen Open Access policies (66.26% combined), successfully embracing open access principles to enhance research accessibility (75.9% combined), and integrating these policies into their repository systems to promote knowledge sharing (53.01% combined). These findings suggest a positive trajectory in the adoption of open access frameworks, though some disagreement indicates room for further improvement. To find the Grand Mean of table 4.4 we assigned numerical values to the response categories (strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree and disagree) with a 4 point

like-rt scale where Strongly Agree (SA) = 4, Agree (A) =3, Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1, Disagree (D) =2 and we calculated the Grand Mean to be 2.81. Ezema and okafor (2023) documented that Nigeria, including institutions in Edo State, had 20 Open Access repositories across 14 of 153 universities by 2023. They highlighted specific institutions like Uniben and Ambrose Ali University (AAU) in Ekpoma have repositories their success was modest, according to the findings of this project we can indeed say that the university of benin truly has been successful in incorporating Open Access policies in their repositories.

For research question 3, in terms of best practices for implementing Open Access policies, the study identified several critical strategies. Clear and user-friendly submission guidelines were deemed essential by 79.4% of respondents, while 90.3% emphasized the importance of training for repository staff. Additionally, 78.2% supported the need for monitoring and evaluating the impact of open access policies for continuous improvement, and 85.5% highlighted the value of collaborating with faculty members and researchers to promote awareness. These practices collectively form a robust framework for effective open access implementation. To find the Grand Mean of table 4.5 we assigned numerical values to the response categories (strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree and disagree) with a 4 point like-rt scale where Strongly Agree (SA) = 4, Agree (A) =3, Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1, Disagree (D) =2 and we calculated the Grand Mean to be 3.24. A study by Akpokodje, V.N., and Akpokodje, T.E (2020) highlights that inadequate training among librarians in Nigerian Universities limits IR effectiveness. Only 30% of surveyed Librarians had formal Open Access training, a gap that capacity-building programs could address. This research is in line with this discovery with one of the best practices mentioned to be training for repository staff.

Finally, for research question 4, areas for improvement were identified to strengthen Open Access policies in IRs. Enhancing the dissemination of research outputs was considered critical by 90.3% of respondents, while 66.26% supported increased collaboration among stakeholders. Enhancing feedback mechanisms to align policies with institutional needs was endorsed by 91.55% of respondents, and 89% agreed on the importance of investing in technological advancements and infrastructure. These areas represent key opportunities for enhancing the effectiveness and impact of open

access policies. To find the Grand Mean of table 4.6 we assigned numerical values to the response categories (strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree and disagree) with a 4 point like-rt scale where Strongly Agree (SA) = 4, Agree (A) =3, Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1, Disagree (D) =2 and we calculated the Grand Mean to be 3.23. Ezema, L.J. (2013). suggests that collaboration with journal publishers and NUC to deposit content into IRs, enhancing visibility. This is critical for resource strapped institutions. According to this research we highlighted that increasing collaboration among stakeholders is one of the areas for improvement to strengthen Open Access policies in IRs which is similar to what Ezema, L.J suggested.

CHAPTER FIVE

Summary of findings, conclusion, recommendation, limitation of the study and suggestions for further studies.

This chapter presents summary of findings, it also contains the conclusion that was drawn and recommendations that were made on accessing the implementation of Open Access policies in Institutional Repositories (IRs) in academic libraries in Edo state, Nigeria and also limitations of the study and suggestions for further studies.

Summary of findings

Overall these findings suggest that academic institutions have indeed made significant progress in incorporating open access policies into their repositories. The data indicates that these practices—user-friendly guidelines, training, monitoring, and collaboration are considered best for effectively implementing Open Access policies in institutional repositories. These findings also suggest that improving dissemination, fostering collaboration, enhancing feedback systems, and investing in technology are critical for advancing Open Access policies in institutional repositories.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while the University of Benin has made commendable progress in incorporating open access policies into its institutional repository, sustained efforts are required to address identified gaps. By adopting best practices such as clear submission guidelines, staff training, impact monitoring, and faculty collaboration, and by focusing on areas for improvement like research dissemination, stakeholder collaboration, feedback mechanisms, and technological investment, the institution can further strengthen its open access framework. These findings contribute to the broader discourse on open access in academic institutions and provide actionable recommendations for enhancing the accessibility and impact of research outputs.

Recommendations

Based on the discussion of findings the following recommendations were made.

Secure Funding and Institutional Support: Advocate for increased funding from university management, government agencies, and international donors to support OA initiatives in Edo State academic libraries.

Promote Awareness and Advocacy: Launch awareness campaigns across Edo State academic libraries to educate faculty, researchers, and students about the benefits of OA and IR usage.

Engage Stakeholders for Inclusive Assessment: Involve diverse stakeholder groups in the assessment process across Edo State, including library staff, faculty, researchers, IT personnel, and institutional leadership.

Identify and Prioritize Areas for Improvement: Assess the level of collaboration among stakeholders (e.g., library staff, faculty, IT departments) and identify barriers, such as communication gaps or lack of incentives.

Assess the Adoption of Best Practices for Open Access Implementation: Review submission guidelines in IRs for clarity and user-friendliness, benchmarking against the University of Benin's approach.

Evaluate the Effectiveness of Open Access Policy Implementation: Conduct comparative analyses between institutions to identify leaders (e.g., University of Benin) and areas where others need support.

Assess Awareness and Adoption of Institutional Repositories: Conduct a survey across academic libraries in Edo State to determine the presence of IRs and the level of awareness among library staff, faculty, and researchers.

Limitations of the study

Time constraint: Another limitation faced was time constraint. Most academic research is time bound and every researcher must work with time in order to meet the deadlines, in my case the major limitation I had was limited time to properly carry out my research coupled with the fact that I had to engage in other curricular and extracurricular activities in the University of Benin.

Researcher inexperience: This is a problem many researchers encounter including myself, this is due to the fact that you don't know what you don't know and as a first-time project writer I made a lot of mistakes which were due to multiple corrections from my project supervisor.

Suggestions for further research

Mixed method approach: Consider combining qualitative and quantitative methods for a more holistic understanding.

Addressing your limitations: Always acknowledge the limitations in your study or methodology.

Expanding the sample size or replicate the studies: Try using a larger audience or replicating the studies with a different sample to confirm the results.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

Questionnaire

**Accessing the implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories
in academic libraries in Edo state, Nigeria**

Dear respondent, for the purpose of accessing the implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories. This research is purely an academic exercise and also a final year project which is required for B.LIS degree in Library and Information Science in the University of Benin

Your responses will be treated with utmost confidentiality and your co-operation is highly appreciated. Thank you

The Researcher.

ADEJUWON TAIWO

SECTION A

Instruction: Please tick () the option that suits your response

BIO-DATA

Gender

Male (), Female ()

Category of staff

Professional (), Non Professional ()

Do your institution have IR

Yes (), No ()

SECTION B

Please tick () the option that suits your response

(SA) - Strongly Agree (A) - Agree (SD) - Strongly Disagree (D) - Disagree

How successful are academic institutions in incorporating open access policies in their institutional repositories?.	SA	A	SD	D
1. Academic institutions have made significant progress in incorporating open access policies in institutional repositories				
2. Academic institutions are actively working to implement and strengthen open access policies in their repositories				
3. Academic institutions are successfully embracing open access principles and striving to make research more accessible to a wider audience				
4. Academic institutions have successfully integrated open access policies into their repository systems and promoting sharing of knowledge				

(SA) - Strongly Agree (A) - Agree (SD) - Strongly Disagree (D) - Disagree

What practices are best for implementing open access policies in institutional repositories?.	SA	A	SD	D
1. Clear and user-friendly submission guidelines are crucial for implementing open access policies in institutional repositories.				
2. Training for repository staff is essential for successful implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories.				
3. Monitoring and evaluating the impact of open access policies is necessary for continuous improvement in institutional repositories.				
4. Collaborating with faculty members and researchers is key to promoting awareness with open access policies in institutional repositories				

(SA) - Strongly Agree (A) - Agree (SD) - Strongly Disagree (D) - Disagree

What areas for improvement can be made for the improvement of open access policies in institutional repositories.	SA	A	SD	D
1. Enhancing the dissemination of research outputs is critical for the improvement of open access policies in institutional repositories.				
2. Increased collaboration among stakeholders can lead to more effective open access policies in institutional repositories.				
3. Enhancing feedback mechanisms can help ensure that open access policies in institutional repositories meets the needs of the institution.				
4. Investing in technological advancements and infrastructure can further support the implementation of open access policies in institutional repositories.				

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