

Publication sources and State-level research productivity of library and information science articles from Nigeria indexed in Pro Quest database (2010 to 2021)

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Keywords: <i>library and information, publication. Research, productivity Nigeria, proQuest.</i></p> <p><i>Received: 13, Mar. 2026</i> <i>Revised: 15, April 2026</i> <i>Accepted: 17, April 2026</i></p> <p>©2026 Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International</p> 	<p><i>The study analyzed the research publications output of library and information science articles from Nigeria indexed in the proQuest database from 2010 to 2021. two research questions guided the study, the proquest database was used as a source of data. The findings also revealed that library philosophy and practice and the Electronic library were the two leading journals that were used to publish library and information science research articles produce from Nigeria and that Ogun and Enugu State were the two highly productive states in terms of library and information science research articles from Nigeria. Based on the findings, the researcher recommended that institutions should intensify effects in funding and sponsoring research. and Shareholders in library and information science research (government, universities, the universities national commission, tertiary education trust fund, Nigeria Library Association and Librarian Registration Council of Nigeria,) should encourage the sustainable publications of quality journals in Nigeria..</i></p>

INTRODUCTION

Mathematics Library and information science (LIS) has continued to evolve as a critical discipline underpinning knowledge organization, access and dissemination in contemporary information societies in Nigeria. Growth of library and information science research has been shaped by the expansion of higher education institutions, increased adoption of digital technologies and the global demand for evidence-based information services. Since the establishment of formal library and information science education in Nigeria in 1959, the field has experienced steady development in research output and scholarly communication patterns. Consequently, the evaluation of research productivity and publication pattern has become essential for understanding trajectory and impact of library and information science scholarship in the country. Bibliometric analysis has emerged as a widely accepted method for assessing research performance, identifying publication trends and mapping scholarly communication within a discipline. Previous studies on library and information

science research in Nigeria has largely focused on publication output, authorship patterns and institutional productivity using database such as web of science and local journal repositories.

For instance, studies have identified fluctuations in library and information science publication output and highlighted leading institutions such as the university of Ibadan and the university of Nigeria as dominant contribution to the field. More recent extensions of the line of research emphasize the need to incorporate newer database and update time frame to capture emerging trends (onyancha 2021). Similarly studies on national research productivity by salisu and salami (2020) demonstrate that scholarly output on Nigeria has grown steadily over time but remains concentrated within universities and a limited number of researchers. Another studies further confirm that this concentration persists despite increased to digital publishing platform (Bulus 2024). Bibliometric studies have also been conducted at institutional and journal level for instance Udo-Anyanwu and Mbagwu (2021) examines themes and dissertation in library and information science and revealed that dominant research themes and citation patterns within academic libraries. Bulus (2024) analyzed publication trends in Nigerbiblios and found that single authorship remains prevalent, although collaborative research is gradually increasing. Earlier work by Inazu (2020) also highlighted similar patterns in authorship and subject distribution in Nigeria library and information science journals.

In addition, Okweze and Ani (2017) demonstrated the importance of bibliometric studies in identifying productive authors, institutions and research themes in Nigeria library and information science literature. Their finding shows that a balance between single and collaborative authorship and emphasized the role of leading academic institutions in driving research output. Beyond Nigeria global library and information science bibliometric research provide useful context scholars such as Bommann and Leydesdorff (2018) has examined highly cited publications and collaboration networks, emphasizing the importance of authorship and international visibility in enhancing research impact. Another studies highlight that international collaboration significantly increases citation impact and research quality (Bommann et al (2021). Despite the growing body of literature, there are gaps. First most existing states have focused on database such as web of science and scopus with limited attention given to ProQuest as a source of library and information science publication. Second while institutional productivity has been widely studied, there is insufficient research examining state-level contributions to library and information science scholarship in Nigeria.

Recent studies suggests that research productivity is geographically uneven, offer concentration in regions with well-established and better research infrastructure.(Aina 2023, Igbinovia and popoola,2022). Furthermore the importance of publication sources in determining research visibility and citation impact. The studies show that article published in internationally indexed journals attract high citations and contribute more significantly to global knowledge exchange.(Onyancha (2021, Nwachukwu 2023).however there is limited empirical evidence identifying the specific publication outlets through which Nigeria library and information science research in disseminated in database such as proQuest. Base on these gaps , this study examines library and information publication from Nigeria indexed in the proQuest database between 2010 to 2021, Special the study aim to examine the publication source of library and information science articles from Nigeria indexed in the proQuest database and identify the most highly productive states in library and information science research output within the same period.

Research productivity in library and information science is widely recognized as a key indicator of academic development, knowledge dissemination and institutional performance. In Nigeria, several studies have examined library and information science research output using bibliometric approaches, focusing mainly on authorship patterns, institutional productivity and citations analysis. One major issue is the limited attention given to publication sources on Nigeria library and information science research . while previous studies have identified prolific authors and institutions, they have not sufficiently examined the specific journals, conference proceedings and

other outlets through which library and information science research is disseminated particularly within globally recognize database such as proQuest. This lack of detailed analysis make it difficult to assess the visibility , accessibility and international reach of Nigeria library and information science publication (onyancha,2021, Nwachukwu 223). Another crucial problem is the inadequate focus on the geographical distribution of research productivity especially at the state level. Existing studies tend to concentrate on institutional output without considering how research productivity varies across different state in Nigeria. This creates a gap in understanding regional disparities in library and information science research development, including the influence of factor such as availability of academic institutions, research infra-structure and access to digital resources (Aina 2023).

Consequently, the absence of comprehensive studies that integrate publication source analysis and state level productivity within the proQuest database creates a significant knowledge gap. This gap limited a full understanding of the structure , visibility, and distribution of library and information science research in Nigeria. It is against this background that this study seeks to examines the publication source of library and information science articles from Nigeria indexed in the proQuest between 2010 to 2021 as well as identify the most highly productive states within the same period.

1.1 Research Questions

1. What are the publication sources for library and information science research in proQuest?
2. Which are the most highly productive states of library and information science publications in the proQuest database?

2. METHODOLOGY

The document analysis research design was used to carry out the study. This is a form of qualitative research design in which documents was studied and interpreted by the researcher to give voice and meaning around an assessment topic (Bowen, 2009). Analyzing documents incorporates ways in which contents, impact, number of occurrences or publications are analyzed, Document analysis can be carried out on organizational records, such as transcripts, mission statements, annual reports, policy manuals, student handbooks, strategic plans. Personal Documents: First-person accounts of an individual's actions, experiences, and beliefs. Examples include calendars, e-mails, scrapbooks, blogs, Facebooks posts, duty logs, incident reports, reflections/journals, and newspapers. The area of the study was Dame Patience Jonathan Automated Library, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt. Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (IAUE) was established in 2009 by the Rivers State Government. The Rivers State Government decided to convert Rivers State College of Education into a university in 2009 to further provide opportunities for high quality education for Nigerians especially indigenes of the State. Given that the college had for a long time been awarding degrees in affiliation with the University of Ibadan, the transition from a college of education to a university should be easy for the institution.

In addition, many graduates of the extinct Rivers State College of Education yearned to improve their academic qualifications through the acquisition of university degrees, preferably within their environment The population of the study consists of all the research output in the area of library and information science in the proQuest database (2010-2021) particularly as contained in the proQuest database of the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education library, Port Harcourt. Face and content validity of the instrument was established by the supervisor. This is to ensure the suitability of the language used, appropriateness of the content to which the items were collected the expected information based on the objectives of the study. The suggestions and corrections made was used to modify and restructure the instrument. The main instruments for data collection were a checklist questionnaire. According to (Bowen, 2009) checklists are set of printed or written questions with a choice of answers, devised for the purposes of a survey or statistical study. Checklist is a list of items required, things to be done, or points to be considered in measuring or taking decision.

The proQuest database was accessed with a view of collecting the publication in the proQuest database on library and information science. This was done through the use of a checklist which will contain questions that reflects around the research questions such as titles, year, dates and place of publication, authors and source of citations and the most cited sources and place of publication as well as other related question. The data collected for the study was organized and analyzed on a table using frequency counts, and simple percentages. The tables was used to show the publication output in library and information science research in proQuest, the publication source for library and information science research, and the most highly productive states.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Question 1: What are the sources of publication in Library and Information Science research in ProQuest?

Table 1: Publication Source

S/N	Name of Journal	No. of Articles	Percentage (%)
1.	Library Philosophy and Practice	160	57
2.	The Electronic Library	40	14
3.	Library Review	17	6
4.	DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Science	15	5
5.	International Journal of Library and Information Science	15	5
6.	African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science	10	4
7.	Library Hi-Tech News	8	3
8.	Brazilian Journal of Information Studies	7	2
9.	Journal of Balkan Libraries Union	7	2
10.	Kuwait Chapter of the Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review	5	2
	Total	283	100

The results of the study in table 1 show different journals that are indexed in the ProQuest database and used in the publication of Library and information science research in Nigeria with the corresponding distribution of published articles. Notably, Library Philosophy and Practice (160) and The Electronic Library (40) are the two leading journals that are used to publish Library and information science research produced in Nigeria, and they are followed by Library Review (17), DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Science (15), International Journal of Library and Information Science (15), and African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science (10). Among the 10 information sources (journals), Library Philosophy and Practice have the highest number of articles published. This may be a result of its high rate of acceptance, fast peer-review, and fast publication. Also, among the 10 information sources (journals), the African Journal of Library, Archives, and Information Science is the only journal that is published in Nigeria, with 10 published journal articles in Library and information science research.

Research Question 2: Which are the most highly productive states of Library and information science publications in the ProQuest database?

Table 2: Highly Productive States

S/N	States	No. of Articles	Percentage (%)
1.	Ogun	59	23
2.	Enugu	41	16
3.	Delta	32	13
4.	Oyo	31	12
5.	Anambra	30	12
6.	Bayelsa	15	6
7.	Osun	14	6
8.	Edo	13	5
9.	Ekiti	9	4
10.	Ondo	8	3
	Total	252	100

Table 2 indicates the different states with the most number of publications in terms of Library and information science research. Notably, Ogun State (59) and Enugu State (41) have the high number of articles published in journals indexed in Proquest followed by Delta (32), Oyo (31), Anambra (30), Bayelsa (15), Osun (14) and Edo (13). This implies that Ogun and Enugu States were the two highly productive states in terms of Library and information science research in Nigeria indexed in the ProQuest database.

Discussion of findings

Research question One revealed that Library Philosophy and Practice and The Electronic Library are the two leading journals that are used to publish Library and information science research produced in Nigeria. This may be because a vast number of journals being published in Nigeria are probably not well managed enough to attain international standards which will enable them to be indexed in international databases such as the Web of Science (which is used in this study), ProQuest and Scopus. This finding aligns with earlier studies which suggests that researchers in developing countries often rely on a limited number of accessible and recognized journals for publication (Onyancha 2021). It also suggests the observation by Nwachukwu (2023) that publication in internationally indexed journal enhances visibility and citation impact, thereby influencing researchers choice of outlets. Research question Two established that Ogun and Enugu States were the two highly productive states in terms of Library and information science research in Nigeria indexed in the ProQuest database from 2010 to 2021. This study line with Aina (2023) who stated that concentration of research output in regions with strong academic institutions and better access to research resources. It also supports the argument that research productivity in Nigeria is unevenly distributed with certain states contributing disproportionately to national output.

CONCLUSION

The findings demonstrate that library and information science research in Nigeria, as indexed in proQuest is characterized by selected publication sources and uneven geographical distribution. While state such as ogun and enugu lead in research productivity. There is a need to broaden participation and enhances research visibility across all regions. These insights contribute to a deeper understanding of library and information science in Nigeria and provide a basis for improve and policy formulation. Based on the finding, it is recommended that institutions should as a matter of urgency intensify efforts in funding and sponsoring research. This will help to put the individual, the institution of affiliation, and the country at large at a high pedestal in world global research

community. Stakeholders in Library and Information Science research (governments, universities, the National Universities Commission, Tertiary Education Trust Fund, Nigerian Library Association, Librarian Registration Council of Nigeria, etc.) should encourage the sustainable publication of quality journals in Nigeria

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