Correlation between lack of information documentation and underdevelopment in Nigeria: Empirical evidence from experts

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Abstract

Background: Nigeria is facing a severe problem of development. This is evidenced in the poor ranking on the human development index, poor infrastructure and weak institutions. Information is essential in promoting development initiatives, yet limited studies have examined the link between poor information documentation and Nigeria's under-development.

Objective: This study aimed to determine the link between lack of information documentation and under-development in Nigeria.

Methodology: The researcher utilized a descriptive survey research design involving a sample of 262 library experts in Nigeria. The questionnaire served as the instrument for data collection. Data for the study were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Results were presented in tables and charts as were appropriate.

Results: Lack of information documentation contributes 36.1% to explain the problem of under-development in Nigeria. The challenges to information documentation in Nigeria include lack of political will, poor knowledge of the importance of information documentation on development, poor budgetary allocation, lack of human resources and poor public awareness of the centrality of information documentation.

Conclusion: Information documentation plays a vital role in promoting development initiatives of a country.

Unique contribution: The study has provided empirical evidence that explains the contributing role of the lack of information documentation on the under-development of Nigeria.

Key Recommendation: Information centres should be established in all the local government areas in Nigeria to serve as catalysts for development in Nigeria.

Keywords: development; information documentation; library; Nigeria; underdevelopment

Introduction

Nigeria is currently facing severe development challenges that negatively impact the Nigerian state and its people. Nigeria ranks low in the human development index, which measures the mean performance in a country in three fundamental human development areas: a healthy and long life, decent living, and access to education. Nigeria is ranked 161 out of 189 countries in its human development index. The country is rated as low regarding human development (United Nations Development programme, 2022). Nigeria is also facing other challenges related to development, such as growing unemployment, and growing security threats, among others. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2021), unemployment in Nigeria has increased. For example, unemployment increased from 27.1% in the 2nd quarter to 33.3 % in the 4th quarter of 2020.

Regarding security, Nigeria faces different security challenges that range from terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, and armed robbery. All these have a link with development. Under-development can be defined as minimal progress in development as measured in the area of infrastructure, economy and human resources. Researchers (Agbiboa, 2010; Raimi *et al*., 2015) agree that Nigeria is facing serious development challenges that require urgent intervention.

Information is essential in addressing development-related challenges. Information is the life wire that educates, directs, informs and galvanises people to take actions that will improve overall development. Through information, policymakers will be mobilised to plan and initiate policies and programmes to propel growth. Information also can serve as a hook for mobilising the populace to engage in activities that will result in development. For example, Rasmussen (2001) notes that information plays an essential role in engineering development. According to Rasmussen, information highlights the areas of development needs and draws the attention of the relevant authorities on how best to propel growth. One of the ways through which information can sufficiently address development is through information documentation.

A document can be defined as a piece of written or printed matterial that contains information on a particular subject. A document is evidence of an idea in words, images or sounds. Kumar and Pandey (2018) aver that documents contain helpful information that could inform and educate. On the other hand, documentation describes identifying, recording, organising, storing, and disseminating intellectual content recorded in a print or non-print medium document. Researchers (Basu & Das, 2012; Kim & Sin, 2007; Collins & Stone, 2014; Thanuskodi, 2011; Pareek & Rana, 2013) agree that information documentation plays a crucial role in the consumption of library products because without documentation, there will be nothing to consume. Suffice it to say that documentation is essential in disseminating library information; it follows that the documented contends need to be helpful. This calls for the need to correctly identify, screen and organise content to ensure that such contents are beneficial. Kim and Sin (2007) opine that one of the efficient ways to promote the documentation of contents is to create documentation centres that should collect and index relevant materials. Such centres can be established at the international, national, regional or even local levels.

It is essential to clarify that a documentation centre is different from a library in many ways. Libraries offer more comprehensive services to their users, unlike documentation centres that offer narrow services. The types of documents available in libraries and documentation centres also differ significantly. For example, besides collecting and disseminating information, documentation centres equally conduct analysis and presentation of information. Therefore, while libraries offer only the address of documents, documentation centres provide details of the contents of the document and the address of the document. For example, Odunlade (2012) says that both libraries and information centres are helpful for the dissemination of knowledge. This means that both libraries and information centres can document relevant information related to the development of a country. For example, skot-Hansen *et al*. (2012) say that libraries have essential roles in the development of societies. Khan and Bhatti (2016) aver that libraries are beneficial in promoting development issues. Despite this, limited evidence exists regarding the contributing role of the lack of information documentation on the underdevelopment of Nigeria. Therefore, the objective of this study was to ascertain the association between the lack of information documentation and the underdevelopment of Nigeria. The specific goals were to: determine the current level of information documentation in Nigeria, determine the challenges to information

documentation in Nigeria; ascertain how to promote information documentation in Nigeria and ascertain the relationship between information documentation and underdevelopment in Nigeria.

Method

The researcher utilised a descriptive survey research design to examine the association between lack of information documentation and underdevelopment in Nigeria. Descriptive survey is an appropriate design for studies that seek to explore, explain or describe issues. In this instance, a descriptive survey was used to describe and explain the association between lack of information documentation and underdevelopment in Nigeria. This study had a sample size of 262 library professionals. Library professionals were regarded as appropriate for the study because they have the intellectual ability to understand the impact of the lack of information documentation on the underdevelopment of Nigeria. To arrive at the sample size, the researcher conducted an a priori power analysis to determine the adequacy of the sample size. The G*power programme version 3.1 was used in this study. The researcher set the Test Family as a t-test, Correlation (Bivariate normal model, the correlation Ph1) was designated as the Statistical Family while the probability level was set as 0.15, power with $(1 - \beta)$ at 0.95 respectively. Priori power analysis is helpful because it assists researchers in determining the desired sample size based on predetermined statistical tools. The out of the analysis is shown in Figure 1.
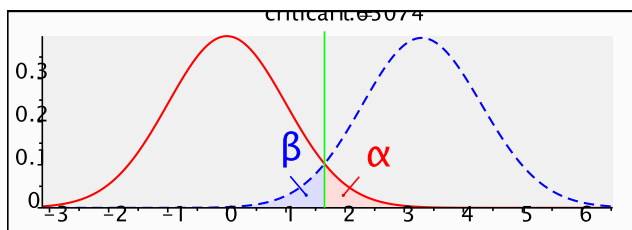

 Figure 1: Sample size determination.

The researcher utilised the purposive sampling technique to sample the participants for the study. The choice of the sampling technique was to ensure that only library professionals were included in the sample. The researcher carried out the survey in South-South Nigeria. The area comprises size states, namely Rivers, Bayelsa, Edo, Akwa-Ibom, Delta and Cross-River.   The researchers utilised the questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. The researcher decided that a questionnaire was helpful as an instrument for data collection because it can generate data in large quantities. The response format for the questionnaire was a five-point Likert scale that ranged from strongly agree to disagree strongly. The researcher designed the questionnaire after a review of relevant literature. Three experts validated the questionnaire, one each in measurement and evaluation, library and information science and economics. The experts looked at the usefulness of the items, their clarity of presentation, and appropriateness. Finally, regarding the reliability of the instrument, the researcher conducted a pilot study, and the result of the study is presented in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Convergent validity

Constructs	Code	Items	Outer loading	Chronbach alpha	CR	AVE	M	SD
The current level of information documentation	CL1	There is high information documentation in Nigeria	.71	.72	.76	.70	3.4	.76
	CL2	Institutions in Nigeria make efforts to document information in Nigeria.	.72				3.2	.45
	CL3	The Nigerian government promotes information documentation.	.74				3.1	.43
	CL4	Information centres exist in almost all parts of Nigeria.	.72				3.3	.33
	CL	On a scale of 1, 2,3,4, 5, 6, 7, 8,9, and 10, rate the current level of information documentation in Nigeria.	.77				3.0	.76
Challenges to information documentation	CD1	Lack of political will.	.72	.76	.79	.73	3.0	.67
	CD2	Poor knowledge of the importance of information documentation on development.	.74				3.2	.67
	CD3	Poor budgetary allocation.	.76				3.2	.77
	CD4	Lack of manpower	.73				3.3	.54
	CD5	Poor public awareness of the centrality of information documentation	.72				3.1	.54
How to promote information documentation	HC1	Increased budgetary allocation.	.77	.73	.74	.79	3.3	.56
	HC2	Awareness creation on the usefulness of information documentation.	.78				3.4	.45
	HC3	Formulating and implementing relevant policies.	.76				3.0	.56
	HC4	Creation of information centres in all the local government areas of Nigeria.	.74				3.2	.77
	HC5	Building capacity in existing libraries in Nigeria.	.73		.74	.71	3.2	.89
Association between lack of information documentation and underdevelopment	IU1	Poor information documentation negatively impacts on development.	.72	.70	.72	.78	3.6	.71
	IU2	The lack of information documentation contributes to Nigeria's underdevelopment.	.71				3.0	.45
	IU3	Efficient information documentation will positively contribute to Nigeria's development aspiration.	.74				3.2	.72

Table 1 examined the model measurement in this study. In doing so, attention was paid to convergent validity and discriminant validity. Accordingly, the indicator loadings were 0.7, which is within the acceptable threshold.   Also, the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) met 0.5, which is within the acceptable benchmark. Also, the Composite Reliability (C.R.) figures were all above 0.7. The outcome of the Cronbach alpha scores was also above the bar of 0.7.   This means that the convergent validity of the study had no issues. Also, the discriminant validity outcome showed that AVE's square roots were more correlated with other constructs (Fornell & Larcker, 1981). This also signifies that the discriminant validity was okay. Finally, the researcher used simple percentages, mean, and standard deviation to describe and explain some aspects of the study.

Correlational analysis was used to show the link between lack of information documentation and underdevelopment in Nigeria. It is essential to clarify that the benchmark for accepting rejecting an item was 3.0. This is because it was a five-point Likert scale. The results were presented in tables and charts.

Results

The sample for this study was 67% male and 33% female. The apparent dominance of males in the sample was not deliberate but a mere coincidence. However, the result of this study is not dependent on the gender of the respondents. The mean age of the respondents was 33 years, while the mean number of years that participants have practised as library professionals was six years. The return rate for the study was 92%, an indication that the researcher was able to secure sufficient responses from the participants. The result of the study is presented below:

Table 2: The current level of information documentation in Nigeria

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Decision
1	There is high information documentation in Nigeria.	1.0	.73	Rejected
2	Institutions in Nigeria make efforts to document information in Nigeria.	1.2	.43	Rejected
3	The Nigerian government promotes information documentation.	1.4	.45	Rejected
4.	Information centres exist in almost all parts of Nigeria	2.0	.33	Rejected

The researcher computed Table 2 to determine the current level of information documentation in Nigeria. The result of the study showed that the participants were of the view that the current status of information documentation in Nigeria is low. This is because all the positively worded items regarding the current level of information documentation in Nigeria were rejected. The researcher further asked the respondents to rate the current level of information documentation in Nigeria on a scale of 1-10. The result is presented in Figure 2 below:
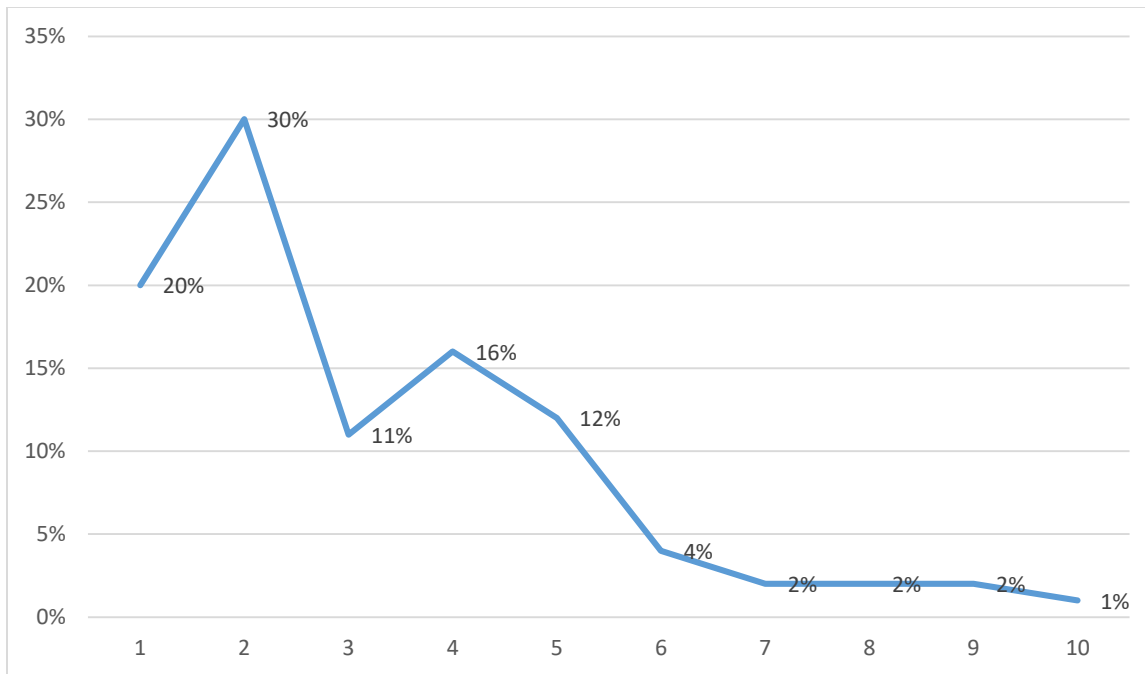
Figure 2 The current level of information documentation on a scale of 1-10

Figure 2 sought to ascertain the current level of information documentation in Nigeria. The result of the study showed that 61% indicated 1-3, 77% indicated 1-4, while 89% indicated 1-5. On the other hand, 11% indicated 6-10. The implication is that the participants generally indicated a low level of information documentation in Nigeria.

Table 3: Challenges to information documentation in Nigeria

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Lack of political will.	3.0	.34	Accepted
2	Poor knowledge of the importance of information documentation on development.	3.2	.43	Accepted
3	Poor budgetary allocation.	3.3	.56	Accepted
4	Lack of manpower	3.1	.87	Accepted
5	Poor public awareness of the centrality of information documentation	3.2	.56	Accepted

Table 3 presents information on the challenges to information documentation in Nigeria. The study showed that all the items had mean scores above 3.0, which was the benchmark for accepting or rejecting items. The implication is that the result showed that the challenges to information documentation in Nigeria range from lack of funds to poor awareness to lack of manpower.

Table 4: How to promote information documentation in Nigeria

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Increased budgetary allocation.	3.5	.55	Accepted
2	Awareness creation on the usefulness of information documentation.	3.2	.43	Accepted
3	Formulating and implementing relevant policies.	3.2	.56	Accepted
4	Creation of information centres in all the local government areas of Nigeria.	3.2	.32	Accepted

In Table 4, the researcher examined how to promote information documentation in Nigeria. The result of the study showed that all the four items presented were accepted as ways of promoting information documentation in Nigeria. All the items had mean scores of 3.0 and above which was the threshold for determining the acceptance or rejection of items. To ascertain the association between lack of information documentation and underdevelopment in Nigeria, the researcher conducted a correlation analysis, and the result is presented in Table 5.

Table 6 Correlation between information documentation and underdevelopment

S/N		1	2
1	Information documentation		
2	Underdevelopment	**.361**	

Table 6 determined the correlation between information documentation and lack of underdevelopment in Nigeria.   The researcher found a positive correlation between lack of information documentation and underdevelopment in Nigeria, r=.361; p< 0.005. The researcher assessed the strength of the relationship, which was medium, based on Cohen's (1988) guideline: Small-r=.10-.29; Medium, r=.30-.49; Large, r=.50-1.0. The implication is that lack of information documentation explains 36.1% of Nigeria's under-development.

Discussion of Findings
The objective of this study was to determine the correlation between lack of information documentation and underdevelopment in Nigeria. The researcher conducted the study involving a sample of 262 library professionals. The descriptive survey research design was used for the analysis, with a questionnaire serving as the instrument for data collection. The researcher found that there is currently insufficient information documentation in Nigeria, with 61% of the respondents rating it 1 to 3 on a scale of 1-10. The implication is that there is a lack of information in Nigeria.

The study further showed that the challenges to information documentation in Nigeria include lack of political will, poor knowledge of the importance of information documentation on development, poor budgetary allocation, lack of manpower and poor public awareness of the centrality of information documentation. The study further showed that ways of improving information documentation include awareness creation on the usefulness of information documentation, increased budgetary allocation, creation of information centres in all the local government areas in Nigeria and formulating and implementing relevant policies. Finally, the

result of this study has shown that a lack of information documentation contributes to 36.1% of the underdevelopment challenge in Nigeria.

The result of this study has extended argument (Agbiboa, 2010; Raimi et al., 2015)on the under-development debate in Nigeria. While it is good to look at the indices of under-development in Nigeria, it is equally appropriate to examine predictors of under-development and come up with ways of addressing it. Therefore, in the current study, the researcher did not just look at under-development but explained the contributing role of the culture of poor information documentation. This addition has provided helpful empirical evidence on how to address the problem of under-development. Also, this study has extended previous arguments (Basu & Das, 2012; Collins & Stone, 2014) related to information documentation by looking at how it contributes to the problem of under-development. This information has added to other debates associated with the usefulness of information science to the advancement of 21st-century society. Therefore, the current study has extended arguments in the literature (Khan & Bhatti, 2016; Kim & Sin, 2007) regarding the importance of information in developing any society. Finally, the present study has shown the link between information documentation and development.

Conclusion/Recommendations

 This study concludes a significant positive correlation between lack of information documentation and under-development in Nigeria. As lack of documentation persists, under-development also persists, but as information documentation improves, development also enhances. The result of this study highlighted the need to invest in information development to address the development challenges of Nigeria. The primary contribution of this study is that it has provided empirical evidence that explains the association between lack of information documentation and under-development in Nigeria. This information could be helpful in formulating policies and programmes to address the problem of under-development in Nigeria. Based on the result of this study, it is suggested that non-governmental organisations should promote policies and programmes to encourage the culture of information documentation in Nigeria. Also, further studies should be conducted to examine in other developing counties to aloe for comparison.

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