

Evaluation of Awareness and Preparedness of Librarians towards the Adoption of Fourth Industrial Evolution Technologies for Library Services in Tertiary Institutions in Cross River State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study was carried out to evaluate the level of awareness and preparedness of librarians towards the adoption of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies for library services in the three tertiary institutions libraries in Calabar, the capital city of Cross River State, Nigeria. The fourth Industrial revolution described the developments when an organization moved between a digital domain and offline reality with the use of connected technology. The study examined how proficient the librarians are in the various types of skills that are required to function effectively in the new era. The study equally examined some of the challenges that may militate against the realization of these lofty objectives. A survey research design was used for the study. Three research questions were formulated to guide the study. A total of 140 copies of well-structured and validated questionnaires were distributed to librarians (professional and Para-professionals) from the University of Calabar, Cross River State University of Technology, and College of Health Technology Calabar libraries. One hundred and twenty (85.7%) of these copies of the questionnaire were retrieved and found treatable. The data were descriptively analyzed using tables and percentages. The findings of the study indicated that a vast majority (78.3%) of the librarians were not aware of the existence of fourth industrial revolution technologies that are relevant in library services. Only a few 21.7% of the respondents indicated their awareness of the fourth industrial revolution itself. The study revealed that most of the librarians (90.8%) do not have proficiency or a clear understanding of the skills needed to function effectively in this 4IR era. Some of the challenges, such as lack of skilled manpower, poor infrastructure, poor funding, and unreliable power (electricity) supply, among others, were identified as those that may militate against the adoption of 4IR technology for library services in the area of the study. In conclusion, the study evaluated the true position of librarians in relation to their awareness and preparedness towards the adoption of fourth industrial technologies for library services.

Keywords: *Awareness, Adoption, Preparedness, Fourth industrial revolution technologies, Library services.*