

# The Contribution of Librarians and Libraries to the Development of Social Sciences

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## ABSTRACT

The present research paper explores the role that librarians and libraries have played in the advancement and development of the social sciences. Information is now understood to be a fundamental necessity for human progress and the advancement of the country as a whole. Obtaining accurate information is crucial for research, study, enjoyment, and other purposes because modern civilization is experiencing rapid changes in every aspect of life. As has been noted, there is a longstanding relationship between books and libraries. In the modern era, libraries function as a platform to fulfill the needs and demands of individual readers by providing the greatest services and resources.

Libraries, especially public libraries, are vital for obtaining and preserving written and recorded materials in various formats as well as providing access to these works for the preservation of the nation's cultural history. Academic libraries have undergone significant transformation in recent years, making dynamic use of their physical space to support researchers and students seeking to traverse massive amounts of information. Libraries now function as worldwide networks of resources thanks to innovations in the provision of digital archives, e-books, and online journal collections created by academic associations and private publishers. This essay attempts to defend the vital role that libraries and librarians play in the advancement of the social sciences, which support the growth of the nation as a whole as well as the advancement of individuals and society.

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**KEYWORDS:** Contribution, Librarians, Libraries, Development, Social Sciences, Nation

## INTRODUCTION

Though its history is far older, library and information science (LIS) has only been recognized as an academic field since the 1960s. Information science and library science are the main fields with precursors. 'Bibliothekswissenschaft' was first proposed by Martin Schrettinger in an early 19th-century handbook for librarians, marking the beginning of library science. The first university-affiliated school to train librarians was the Columbia School of Library Economics, which opened its doors in the 1870s. Later, in the 1920s, the University of Chicago established the Graduate Library School, which established library science as a recognized area of study by offering a PhD program. Information science has its roots in the European documentation movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Paul Otlet was the first to outline issues pertaining to

the distribution and management of growing volumes of scientific data.

The field of information retrieval (IR), first introduced by Calvin Moers in 1951, and the growth of experimental research on the use of computerized bibliographic databases are typically recognized as the markers of the field's inception. There are numerous definitions available for the phrase "social science." A select few stand out among the rest: social science is the scientific study of society. Including history, economics, political science, psychology, anthropology, sociology, and other fields, social science is the study of society and how its members relate to one another. It also studies how people live together in families, groups, and other settings, as well as their customs and activities.

### Statement of the Problem:

Based on the importance, the most significant factors influencing the phenomena are human issues, poor time management, financial crises, lack of popularity for the research, weak research structure, lack of commitment, problem-making, duplication, and lack of strategic planning. Public libraries in Nigeria are struggling to offer its patrons efficient services, nevertheless, due to a number of issues. This study highlights several issues, such as insufficient finance, unsatisfactory working conditions and opportunities for employees, a lack of ICT infrastructure, and a shortage of personnel with ICT expertise. Social development and transformation can greatly benefit from librarians' and libraries' contributions to the social sciences.

### Review of Literature:

1. Prabhash Rath & Sarita Ranga (2016), in their paper titled *"Role of Libraries in Research Productivity of Social Science Research Institutions: A Case Study"* emphasizes The apparent total disconnection between scholars and library employees is one of the drawbacks of the digital revolution. As a result, libraries are attempting to establish new connections with them and close the gaps in their comprehension of the requirements of researchers.
2. Manasa B.R. (2022), title of the paper *"Role of Libraries and Librarians in Development of the Social Sciences"* emphasizes the long-standing relationship between the library and its patrons; today, the library acts as a platform to fulfill each reader's needs and demands by providing the greatest services and resources accessible. Public libraries in particular are crucial for obtaining, preserving, and making accessible printed and recorded materials in a variety of formats for the preservation of the nation's cultural history.
3. Dr. Manjunath G Lamani & Dr. Mariraj Vasudev Sedam (2022), in their paper titled *"Role of Libraries in National Development: An Overview"* demonstrates the important role that libraries play in the growth of the country. Thus, in order to assist in making the most of the information resources available to it, it is necessary for professionals at all levels who possess the necessary expertise to supervise the gathering, organizing, and sharing of information. Given its experience as a source of information, libraries play a significant role in the creation of information policies.
4. Rajat Ari (2017), in his paper title *"Importance and Role of Libraries in Our Society"* emphasizes

that libraries are educational institutions that have been a part of our society for a very long time. It is a location where people engage with information with the goal of meeting social and information demands. Libraries are essential to a country because they protect its cultural legacy.

### Objectives of the Study:

The main objectives of the study are-

1. The Contribution of Librarians and Libraries to the Development of Social Sciences.
2. To explore how important librarians and libraries are to social development and change.

### Research Question:

1. How Have Libraries and Librarians Helped the Development of the Social Sciences?
2. How crucial are librarians and libraries to the advancement and transformation of society?

### Research Methodology:

The research paper draws upon secondary sources, including other publications, periodicals, journals, newspapers, edited books, research papers, and research articles. In library and information science, research methods encompass several approaches such as scientific method, validity, dependability, and ethical considerations. Understanding and explanation are both part of social scientific methodology. Social research is predicated on the researcher's presumptions about people and society.

### Significance of the Study:

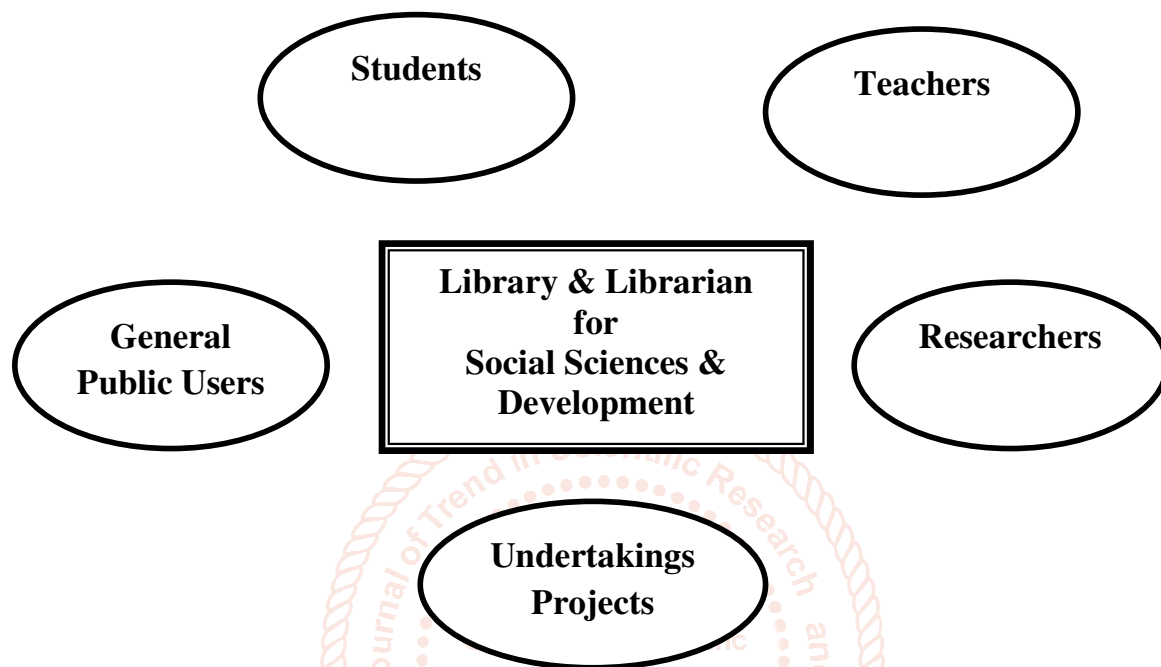
Books and other cultural resources, which are vital for social and educational advancement, are freely accessible at libraries. Services including childcare, language training, and companionship are provided by libraries. Books addressing social justice topics like poverty, hygienic conditions, and women's equity can be found at libraries. Books can contribute to fortifying democracy's underpinnings. The community they serve can benefit from libraries' contributions to its welfare and advancement. Libraries support research, ethics, education, and the development of the person.

In addition to identifying community needs and seeking out resources to meet them, librarians are frequently leaders in the community. As information and society are bridged, librarians educate individuals and contribute to the development of nations. Critical issues including health, cleanliness, poverty, and equity for women can be influenced by libraries that prioritize social change. By selecting and making material accessible, librarians support the processes of learning and research. Promoter of media literacy is the librarian.

### Discussion and Results:

A library's ability to draw in talented researchers is largely dependent on a number of elements, including the caliber, scope, and character of its collection, its personnel and the services they offer, and its physical space. Researchers typically don't check libraries to learn about contracts and funds for their work. Libraries have the ability to assist researchers in

locating research grants. Libraries use their expertise to assist researchers in improving the quality of their funding applications, which in turn improves the institution's performance in obtaining research grants, if their participation in this activity is institutionalized by universities or other research-intensive organizations.



### A schematic representation of the impact of Library and Librarian for Social Sciences and Social Development

Libraries have a significant role to play in assisting scholars in taking advantage of all the advantages and opportunities presented by the networked world, including social media, open access, research tools, etc. In order to support and take advantage of new technologies and new models of academic communication, libraries must forge closer ties with scholars and refocus their offerings.

Digitized versions of various documents, research papers, theses, and other institutional assets are stored and made accessible by institutional repositories, also referred to as digital libraries. Repositories, however, are only worth the content that resides within them. Therefore, libraries ought to work to create an institutional culture where depositing research products in institutional repositories are standard procedure for researchers.

Some libraries today, the most of which are found in western nations, have proven they can take advantage of chances to support institutions in adapting to changes in the research environment. As information resources are generated during a research project,

such as data, a librarian may work with them under the "Embedded Librarianship" model to prepare them for long-term preservation or for distribution beyond the project personnel. Another illustration would be a librarian creating procedures and frameworks to arrange, oversee, and distribute project documents or other required materials.

The revolution in natural philosophy that took place in 1650 marks the beginning of the history of social science. Its origins can be traced to moral ideologies that sprang from the age of revolutions, namely the French and Industrial Revolutions. It is derived from systematic knowledge bases, applied sciences, or viewpoint practices that pertain to the social advancement of a collection of interacting entities. Throughout the 18th century, a large number of specialized encyclopedias represented the development of social science. It was impacted by positivism, which sought to avoid negative sensory experiences and focus on positive ones. Five fields comprised the academic social science by the late 1800s: education, health, business and commerce, art, and jurisprudence and law modification. At the turn of the 20th century, a variety of fields replaced mathematical investigations and equation analysis with experimental data in order to construct a

theoretical framework. The social science discipline developed a more quantitative methodology throughout time. Numerous natural sciences demonstrated an interest in some facets of social science methods, leading to the emergence of disciplines such as sociobiology and neuropsychology in this century. Social science is no longer restricted to one branch and is instead divided into several.

As the name suggests, social science is a broad group of academic disciplines that primarily investigate aspects of the world that are related to humans. Occasionally, the phrase is used to refer explicitly to the area of-

- Its primary focus is on society and the interactions between people within it.
- It is the scientific investigation of social interactions and human civilization.

#### **It has many branches, and is not limited to:**

- Anthropology,
- Archaeology,
- History,
- Economics,
- Political Science,
- Linguistics,
- Literature,
- Art,
- Culture,
- Religion,
- Human Geography,
- Law,
- Education and so forth.

#### **Libraries play a crucial role in the advancement of the social sciences, which supports the development of individuals, society, and the country as a whole.**

- Research and libraries working together is seen as critical to the growth of social science libraries.
- Libraries possess an extensive collection of social science books, which are used for doing specialized study.
- Public libraries serve as entry points to information.
- Public libraries offer unrestricted access to written knowledge, serving as a pathway for personal growth and development.
- People can grow politically, economically, socially, and culturally thanks to public libraries.
- In order to provide free access to knowledge or information, public libraries are essential.

#### **A Vital Role for Librarians in the advancement of the Social Sciences, which support the growth of individuals, Society, and the Country as a Whole**

- Librarians should organize the available printed-based resources up-to-date to keep research work easily available that is housed inside the library.
- Librarians should partner with technologists to strengthen the discovery tools available for scholarly research.
- Librarians should help individual readers or researchers to navigate the required information from vast complex information network through providing information resources and web-based tools and technologies.
- Librarians should help student or researcher to access relevant scholarly articles through content online.
- Librarians should act as pathfinders and guides in making researchers meet their needs in accessing overwhelming scholarly literature.
- Librarians should showcase the research activity and research outputs and publications available in library for reference and reuse of the output.

#### **Major Findings of the Study:**

The major findings of the study are mainly-

1. Librarians are willing to assist others and have an average amount of social capital. Highly reputable libraries can support the growth of social capital and social integration.
2. Libraries are essential to society because they foster learning, inquiry, and personal growth. They support information dissemination and preservation as well.
3. Public libraries have a moral obligation to give everyone access to information and are interested in both local and national history. They can support national development, economic growth, and self-empowerment.
4. Libraries must provide innovative services and methods in order to meet the changing needs of society. They can also support users' access to information literacy initiatives and other resources.
5. The social sciences are vital because they teach people how to evaluate not just their own actions but also those of their peers and their motivations.
6. The social sciences also help us learn how to build more successful and inclusive institutions in society.
7. Libraries serve as important social hubs by serving as doors to knowledge and culture. Their



services and resources generate learning opportunities, encourage achievement and education, and foster the novel concepts and points of view essential to a creative and inventive society.

8. Teachers and students can access a limitless number of free study tools in libraries. It promotes reading and independent study in pupils starting at a very young age. If they are not using the library's books, students can still use their laptops and smart gadgets to enjoy a quiet study environment.
9. The library is regarded as the center of an educational institution and serves as its structural support system.
10. By providing a range of services, these libraries enhanced political, social and cultural, educational, and economic advancement.

### Conclusion:

Libraries have a big part to play in helping academics use these social media platforms as part of their research processes. The role that librarians play in encouraging artistic settings, providing motivation, and creating opportunities for positive and healthy relationships amongst different groups. It follows that the advancement of social science, which aids in the development of people, society, and the country as a whole, is greatly aided by libraries and librarians. Libraries are therefore essential to the ongoing advancement of every single science. Documents related to national heritage should be gathered, saved, and preserved with great care by libraries and librarians. To increase the collection of special books, librarians should use a rigorous selection policy. Reports on the findings of scientific research and other relevant works might enhance the collection of social science documents.

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