Oluwole Olumide Durodolu

University of South Africa, Republic of South Africa
e-mail: woledurodolu@gmail.com
ORCID ID: 0000-0003-2734-8165

Bolaji David Oladokun

Federal University of Technology, Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom, Nigeria
e-mail: bolaji.oladokun@yahoo.com
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-7826-9187

Bridging the Gap: Exploring the Relationship between Information Access and Environmental Justice in Library Practices

Oluwole Olumide Durodolu is a Research Fellow in the Department of Information Science at the University of South Africa. He earned his PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of Zululand, South Africa, in 2016. He is a Certified Librarian of Nigeria and a member of the Association for Southern African Indexers and Bibliographers. He also serves on the editorial boards of *Maadili: Journal of African School of Governance and Policy Studies* in South Africa, *Covenant Journal of Library and Information Science*, and *Lagos Journal of Library and Information Science*. Dr. Durodolu has published extensively in both local and international journals on topics including information literacy, ICT4D, informetrics, information communication technology, and more.

Bolaji David Oladokun is a developing researcher and lecturer at the Department of Library and Information Technology, Federal University of Technology, Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. He holds a First-Class degree in Library and Information Science and a Diploma in Mass Communication with distinction. He also has a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Ignatius Ajuru University of Education in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, where he finished with distinction. He is also a Certified Librarian in Nigeria (CLN) and a Nigerian Library Association (NLA) member. He is also a member of

the Nigerian Association of Library and Information Science Educators (NALISE) and the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T). He has authored over 100 articles published in accredited journals, conference proceedings, and book chapters. He also has three (3) books to his credit in the library and information science field.

Keywords: Information Access, Environmental Justice, Library Practices, Niger Delta, Environmental Pollution, Community Service.

Abstract

Aims: The intersection of information access and environmental justice has become increasingly vital as communities worldwide grapple with environmental challenges. This study explores the relationship between information access and environmental justice in library practices, focusing on academic librarians at the Federal University of Technology Ikot Abasi in Nigeria's Niger Delta region.

Methods: This study utilized a descriptive design. The study involved six academic librarians from the Federal University of Technology, Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria, selected for their expertise in facilitating information access and availability especially as it relates to the roles of libraries in environmental justice initiatives within academia. Data were gathered through focus group discussions (FGDs) with the participating librarians, conducted in a conducive and private setting to encourage open dialogue and diverse perspectives. Thematic analysis was employed to analyze the FGD transcripts.

Results: The findings emphasize the importance of multilingual resources, targeted outreach, translation services, collaboration with community leaders, consideration of literacy levels, and cultural relevance in ensuring information accessibility. Challenges such as limited internet access, language barriers, disparities in digital literacy, lack of awareness, and resistance from certain community members hinder equitable information access.

Conclusion: The study concludes that librarians contribute to environmental justice advocacy through participation in local initiatives, policy engagement, awareness raising, and collaboration with stakeholders. This study sheds light on the crucial role of libraries in advancing environmental justice and suggests strategies for enhancing information access and advocacy efforts in the pursuit of sustainable development agendas.

Introduction

The role of information access in fostering environmental justice has gained significant attention given the indices of environmental crises and inequalities. Environmental crises, such as climate change, pollution, and natural resource depletion,

disproportionately affect marginalized communities, exacerbating existing social and economic inequalities. These communities often lack the necessary information to advocate for their rights, protect their environment, and access resources that could help mitigate the impacts of these crises (Durodolu et al., 2022). In so doing, libraries stand at the intersection of these issues. Over time, environmental justice has become increasingly pertinent as communities worldwide grapple with the adverse effects of pollution, climate change, and resource exploitation. It is observed that marginalized populations often bear the brunt of environmental degradation, facing disproportionate exposure to hazards and limited access to information resources that could mitigate those risks (Knoble & Yu, 2023). Going forward, information access serves as a gateway to empowerment, enabling individuals to make informed decisions, advocate for their rights, and participate meaningfully in decision-making processes. Therefore, libraries are pivotal in providing equitable access to information for all (Oladokun et al., 2021). Given the main objectives of libraries, information providers and library professionals strive to democratize access to knowledge, empower underserved communities, and facilitate informed action on environmental issues.

In contemporary society, the issues of environmental justice and equitable information access have garnered increasing attention. This is why Malin et al. (2019) underscore that the role of libraries as facilitators of knowledge dissemination and community engagement becomes ever more crucial as communities grapple with environmental challenges and differences. Dominelli (2012) notes that environmental justice is paramount in addressing the unequal distribution of environmental benefits and burdens. The author further states that marginalized societies are being faced with disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards and limited access to vital information could be a threat. Contributing to the indices of environmental justice, Omekwu et al. (2023) opine that information access serves as a catalyst for empowerment which enables community members to make informed decisions, advocate for their rights, and participate actively in environmental governance processes.

Given the foregoing, it is important to note that the place of libraries in bridging the divide of information access propels a significant effect to advocating for environmental justice movement. Supporting this, Jennings et al. (2012) observe that libraries occupy a unique position in bridging the gap between information access and environmental justice. The authors further reveal that libraries perform immense roles in supporting research and education on environmental issues. They provide access to scholarly literature, data repositories, and research tools that facilitate the exploration and understanding of environmental challenges and solutions. Omona (2020) adds that knowledge managers and information professionals, through their expertise in information retrieval and literacy, guide users including lecturers, students, and community members, to access, evaluate, and synthesize environmental information, and in so doing, empower these users to contribute to informed decision-making and innovative solutions to matters as it concerns their health, finance, education, and other human endeavours.

While there are several kinds of libraries with peculiar services and users, academic libraries serve as the hub of tertiary institutions that offer indiscriminate services and providea wide range of materials and programs that raise awareness of environmental issues and promote sustainable practices (Durodolu&Adekanye, 2017). Goodsett (2018) notes that libraries provide resources and platforms for learning, dialogue, and action on environmental issues. These resources ranged from curated collections of books, films, and documentaries to workshops, lectures, and exhibits.

Focusing on the distinct roles of libraries as allies and collaborators in their efforts to address environmental injustices, Gregory and Higgins (2017) observe that libraries provide meeting spaces, informational resources, and technical support to categories of users on environmental advocacy, and policy reform. In so doing, librarians who are attuned to the needs and priorities of their user members are critical in building partnerships, amplifying voices, and mobilizing support for environmental justice initiatives through the provision of timely and adequate information (Lloyd-Smith, 2009). However, several challenges are potential gaps in the rendition of accessible information on environmental justice to academic community members. Literature has shown that challenges continue to persist in realizing the full potential of libraries as agents of environmental justice. This aligns with the agitations of Olowoporoku et al. (2023), Sotolongo (2023), and Aidonojie (2023) who indicate that digital divides, language barriers, and socio-economic disparities hinder equitable access to information, particularly for marginalized populations. In rural areas and underserved communities, Bangani and Dube (2023) reveal that limited internet connectivity, outdated infrastructure, and insufficient funding pose barriers to accessing online resources and digital literacy training. Given these numerous indices, the study sought to explore the relationship between information access and environmental justice in library practices while focusing on the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria.

Problem statement

Despite the persistent environmental challenges facing the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, marginalized communities often lack adequate access to information and resources to fully understand and address these issues. Libraries, as vital information hubs, are often recognized to support these communities by offering relevant information, educational materials, and access to the latest technology. However, lack of initiatives and strategies within libraries to commendably extend their services to accommodate the marginalized communities in the Niger Delta concerning environmental issues. This lack of initiative and strategies aggravates the level of vulnerability and thwarts the ability to engage efficiently in advocacy and decision-making processes. Allied to the above, Oghenekevwe and Osinulu (2020) identified limited access to information or lack of reliable information resources concerning environmental problems in most Niger Delta communities, the authors stress that these challenges can hamper the capacity to make informed decisions and take critical action to alleviate environmental risks. In the opinion of Onyekw-

ere and Agu (2019), educational opportunities remain a veritable avenue for the marginalized community to familiarize themselves with issues relating to environment-sustainable practices, and advocacy strategies. The authors emphasize the need for libraries to use the platform of educational setting to organize seminars and enhance the ability of the community to access educational materials.

In the observation of Ezeala and Ezeribe (2021), several marginalized communities in the Niger Delta are deficient in access to digital and electronic resources and as a result of this, they may struggle with digital literacy that can provide them with up-to-date information. Based on this, libraries can offer computer access, internet connectivity, and training programs to increase digital literacy skills, empowering community members to access online and offline environmental information and resources. It is against this backdrop that the study sought to investigate the relationship between information access and environmental justice in library practices with specific consideration to the Federal University of Technology, Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom, Nigeria.

Aim of the study

This study aims to explore the relationship between information access and environmental justice in library practices.

Research Questions

1. How can librarians ensure that information related to environmental justice is accessible to diverse groups within the community?
2. In what ways can librarians contribute to advocacy efforts for environmental justice at the local or national level?
3. How can libraries influence policies that impact environmental justice and information access?
4. How can we measure the impact of library initiatives in promoting information access and environmental justice?
5. Are there specific metrics or indicators that would demonstrate success in this area?
6. Are there any specific challenges or barriers to information access that need to be addressed?

Methodology

This study utilized a descriptive design. A qualitative method waschosen to deeply explore participants' perspectives, experiences, and attitudes toward information access and environmental justice. The study involved six academic librarians from the Federal University of Technology, Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria, selected for their expertise in facilitating information access and availability

especially as it relates to the roles of libraries in environmental justice initiatives within academia. Data were gathered through focus group discussions (FGDs) with the participating librarians, conducted in a conducive and private setting to encourage open dialogue and diverse perspectives. FGDs were chosen for their ability to facilitate interactive discussions and generate rich qualitative data. Thematic analysis was employed to analyze the FGD transcripts. This approach allowed for a systematic yet flexible analysis process, aligning with the research objectives. Before commencing the study, all participants provided informed consent, ensuring their voluntary participation and the confidentiality of their responses. Participants were guaranteed anonymity and the freedom to withdraw from the study at any point.

Presentation of Result

In this study, data analysis was conducted using Focus Group Discussions (FGD) to gather in-depth insights from participants. The responses obtained were then thematically analyzed to identify key themes and patterns related to the role of information access in fostering environmental justice within library practices. The analysis of the responses from the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) is below:

1. **How can librarians ensure that information related to environmental justice is accessible to diverse groups within the community?**

Based on the analysis of the FGD, it is evident that there are several key strategies librarians can employ to ensure that information related to environmental justice is accessible to diverse groups within the community:

Targeted Outreach Programs: Creating outreach initiatives specifically tailored to different demographic groups within the community can help ensure that information reaches everyone.

Translation Services: Actively translating materials into different languages can significantly improve accessibility for non-native speakers.

Collaboration with Community Leaders: Working with local community leaders can help tailor information to specific groups and ensure its relevance and effectiveness.

Consideration of Literacy Levels: Recognizing that not everyone may be proficient in reading and writing, librarians should provide information in various formats and offer assistive technologies to accommodate diverse literacy levels.

Cultural Relevance: Promoting resources in culturally relevant ways can enhance engagement and understanding among different cultural groups within the community.

Seeking Feedback and Collaboration: Librarians should actively seek feedback from diverse community members to continuously improve accessibility and relevance of information resources.

2. **In what ways can librarians contribute to advocacy efforts for environmental justice at the local or national level?**

Based on the responses provided in the focus group discussion interviews, itis evident that librarians can have a significant role in advocacy efforts for environmental justice at both local and national levels. Here is an analysis of the ways in which librarians can contribute:

Participation in Local Initiatives: Librarians can actively engage with local environmental initiatives, committees, and councils. By joining these groups, they can contribute their expertise and resources to furthering environmental justice goals within their communities.

Policy Engagement: Librarians have the opportunity to engage with policymakers on environmental justice issues. They can advocate for policies that promote sustainability, equity, and environmental protection by providing valuable research, information, and expertise.

Awareness Raising: Librarians can organize campaigns, events, and forums to raise awareness about environmental justice issues. By utilizing library spaces as platforms for education and discussion, they can help disseminate information and inspire action within their communities.

Information Access: Librarians recognize the importance of information access in addressing environmental justice. They can organize events and initiatives that highlight the role of libraries in providing access to resources and information related to environmental issues, empowering individuals to make informed decisions and take meaningful action.

Collaboration and Networking: Librarians can collaborate with local activists, environmental organizations, and coalitions to amplify advocacy efforts. By building partnerships and networks, they can leverage collective expertise and resources to advocate for positive change.

Overall, the responses suggest that librarians have a multifaceted role to performin environmental justice advocacy, extending beyond traditional library functions to actively engage with communities, policymakers, and stakeholders in advancing environmental sustainability and equity.

3. **How can libraries influence policies that impact environmental justice and information access?**

Based on the analysis of the FGD, the following themes emerge regarding how libraries can influence policies impacting environmental justice and information access:

Active Participation in Community Forums and Discussions: Several participants highlighted the importance of libraries engaging in community forums and discussions. This involvement allows libraries to stay informed about local concerns and priorities related to environmental justice and information access.

Collaboration with Local Government Agencies and Policymakers: Collaboration with local government agencies and policymakers emerged as a key strategy mentioned by multiple participants. By working closely with these stakeholders, libraries can provide valuable input into policy development processes and advocate for the integration of environmental justice considerations.

Advocacy and Public Engagement: Participants emphasized the role of libraries in advocacy efforts and public engagement. This includes advocating for the integration of environmental justice education into school curricula, submitting evidence-based recommendations, and participating in public consultations.

Policy Recommendations and Evidence-Based Approaches: Libraries can influence policies by submitting evidence-based recommendations supported by research and data. Engaging with local government officials and attending public hearings were identified as ways to make a significant impact in policy decision-making processes.

Information Hub for Policy Decisions: Overall, participants recognized libraries as hubs for information that informs and shapes policy decisions. Libraries are vital in providing access to relevant resources and facilitating discussions on environmental justice and information access issues.

In summary, libraries can influence policies impacting environmental justice and information access through active participation in community forums, collaboration with stakeholders, advocacy efforts, evidence-based approaches, and serving as information hubs for policy decisions. These findings suggest that libraries have the potential to be powerful agents of change in promoting environmental justice and equitable access to information within their communities.

4. **How can we measure the impact of library initiatives in promoting information access and environmental justice?**

Based on the responses from the focus group discussion interviews, a comprehensive approach to measuring the impact of library initiatives in promoting information access and environmental justice can be formulated. Here's a breakdown:

Community Engagement and Attendance: Both P1 and P2 highlight the importance of increased community engagement and attendance at events related to environmental justice. Tracking the number of attendees at these events can serve as a quantitative measure of impact.

Feedback from Patrons: P1, P2, and P4 emphasize the significance of feedback from patrons who have accessed and utilized the library's resources on environmental justice. Gathering feedback through surveys and direct interactions can provide qualitative insights into the effectiveness of library initiatives.

Usage of Environmental Justice Resources: P2 and P3 suggest tracking the usage of environmental justice resources in the library. Monitoring the frequency and duration of resource utilization can indicate the level of interest and engagement among library users.

Number of New Library Users Engaging with Resources: P3 mentions the importance of measuring the number of new library users engaging with environmental justice materials. This metric can demonstrate the effectiveness of library initiatives in attracting and serving a broader audience.

Awareness Levels and Implementation of Community Initiatives: P5 emphasizes surveying library users on their awareness levels regarding environ-

mental justice issues and monitoring the implementation of community initiatives. This approach can provide insights into the extent to which library initiatives contribute to raising awareness and driving tangible action within the community.

Community Engagement Metrics and Surveys: P6 underscores the importance of tracking community engagement metrics, conducting surveys, and monitoring the implementation of community-driven projects. This integrated approach combines quantitative data with qualitative feedback to comprehensively assess the impact of library initiatives.

In conclusion, a multi-faceted approach combining quantitative metrics such as attendance and resource usage with qualitative feedback from patrons and community members can effectively measure the impact of library initiatives in promoting information access and environmental justice.

5. **Are there specific metrics or indicators that would demonstrate success in this area?**

Based on the responses from the focus group discussion interviews, it's evident that there are several specific metrics or indicators that could demonstrate success in the area of promoting environmental justice through library initiatives. Here's a summary:

Number of Workshops Conducted: This metric reflects the proactive effort of the library in organizing educational events focused on environmental issues.

Diversity of Resources Acquired: A wide range of resources obtained by the library indicates its commitment to providing comprehensive information on environmental topics.

Level of Community Involvement: Measuring the extent of community participation in environmental initiatives organized by the library helps gauge its impact and relevance.

Increased Community Engagement: This metric highlights the effectiveness of library initiatives in mobilizing community members to actively participate in environmental activities.

Positive Media Coverage: Favourable media attention indicates the library's success in raising awareness and generating interest in environmental justice issues.

Partnerships with Local Organizations: Collaborations with other institutions demonstrate the library's ability to leverage resources and expertise to address environmental challenges collectively.

Quantitative Data on Resource Usage and Community Participation: Analyzing usage statistics and participation rates provides concrete evidence of the library's impact on information access and community involvement.

Influence on New Policies: Tracking the adoption of policies influenced by the library's advocacy efforts shows its contribution to shaping environmental governance.

Increased Funding for Community Projects: Securing additional funding for local environmental initiatives indicates the effectiveness of the library in mobilizing resources to support grassroots efforts.

Positive Shifts in Public Perception: Monitoring changes in public attitudes toward environmental issues helps assess the library's role in shaping community perspectives.

Regular Assessments and Feedback Mechanisms: Continuous evaluation and feedback collection allow the library to adapt its strategies and improve the effectiveness of its environmental justice initiatives.

Surveys: Conducting surveys provides valuable insights into the overall success and impact of the library's programs and activities related to environmental justice.

These metrics collectively offer a comprehensive framework for evaluating the success of library initiatives in promoting environmental justice and can inform future planning and decision-making processes.

6. **Are there any specific challenges or barriers to information access that need to be addressed?**

Analysis of Focus Group Discussion Interview Responses:

Participant 1 highlights limited internet access, language barriers, and lack of awareness as key challenges needing attention for equitable information access.

Participant 2 mentions challenges such as limited funding for acquiring diverse resources, disparities in digital literacy, and insufficient community engagement.

Participant 3 echoes concerns about language barriers, limited digital literacy, and lack of community awareness, emphasizing the importance of targeted programs and resources to address these issues.

Participant 4 emphasizes the poor state of information literacy, noting that many individuals do not realize that libraries can provide information on environmental issues, leading to inadequate seeking behaviour among patrons.

Participant 5 reiterates previously mentioned challenges but underscores the significance of resistance from certain community members, limited financial resources, and potential conflicts of interest.

Participant 6 identifies challenges such as resistance from specific community members, financial constraints, and limited technological infrastructure as barriers to information access.

Overall, these responses highlight a range of challenges including limited access to technology and resources, language barriers, disparities in digital literacy, lack of awareness, and resistance from certain community members. Addressing these challenges through targeted programs, increased funding, and community engagement efforts is crucial for improving information access and promoting equity.

Implications of the Findings

This study explored the relationship between information access and environmental justice in library practices. First, the findings of this study can inform library practices and policies aimed at promoting environmental justice. In so doing, libraries can develop strategies to better serve their communities and contribute to positive environmental outcomes. Also, libraries are often overlooked as stakeholders in environmental justice efforts, hence this study highlights the important role that libraries can have in advancing environmental justice initiatives at the local, national, and global levels. While recognizing libraries as key actors in the pursuit of environmental justice, policymakers, activists, and community organizers can leverage libraries' resources and expertise to amplify their impact.

Furthermore, this study contributes to a broader understanding of how information institutions can contribute to sustainable development agendas such as poverty reduction, education, health promotion, and ecosystem protection. Finally, the study addresses a gap in existing literature by focusing on the relationship between information access, environmental justice, and library practices. While there is considerable research on each of these topics individually, there is a lack of comprehensive exploration of how libraries, as information institutions, contribute to environmental justice efforts through information access.

Conclusion

This study focused on bridging the gap between information access and environmental justice in library practices. The study further revealed that there are several strategies librarians employ to ensure that information related to environmental justice is accessible to diverse groups within the community. As noted by the study, some of those strategies include organizing targeted outreach programs, translation services, collaboration with community leaders, consideration of literacy levels, and promoting cultural relevance which can help overcome barriers to access and enhance inclusivity. The findings indicate that librarians have the potential to contribute significantly to advocacy efforts for environmental justice at both local and national levels. By participating in local initiatives, engaging with policymakers, raising awareness, providing access to information, and collaborating with stakeholders, librarians can amplify advocacy efforts and drive positive change.

Furthermore, the study reported that libraries may influence policies impacting environmental justice and information access by actively participating in community forums and discussions, collaborating with local government agencies and policymakers, advocating for evidence-based approaches, and serving as information hubs for policy decisions. Given this, it was affirmed that measuring the impact of library initiatives in promoting information access and environmental justice requires a comprehensive approach that combines quantitative metrics such as

attendance and resource usage with qualitative feedback from patrons and community members. Specific metrics or indicators that demonstrate success in this area include the number of workshops conducted, diversity of resources acquired, level of community involvement, increased community engagement, positive media coverage, partnerships with local organizations, influence on new policies, increased funding for community projects, positive shifts in public perception, and regular assessments and feedback mechanisms.

However, the study identified specific challenges and barriers to information access that need to be addressed, including limited internet access, language barriers, disparities in digital literacy, lack of awareness, and resistance from certain community members. Addressing these challenges through targeted programs, increased funding, and community engagement efforts is essential for promoting equity in information access.

Recommendations

Based on the findings from the study, the following recommendations were made:
1. Libraries should develop and implement targeted digital literacy programs to address disparities in digital skills within the community. This includes offering workshops and training sessions tailored to different age groups, languages, and technological proficiencies to ensure that all community members can access and utilize digital resources effectively.
2. Libraries should increase the diversity of resources available in multiple languages to overcome language barriers. This involves curating a collection of multilingual materials on environmental justice and related topics, as well as providing translation services and multilingual programming to cater to non-English speaking populations.
3. Libraries should foster collaborations with local organizations, government agencies, and advocacy groups to amplify the library's role in environmental justice initiatives. By partnering with these stakeholders, libraries can participate in community forums, contribute to policy discussions, and support local advocacy efforts, thus broadening their impact and reach.
4. Libraries should establish a robust framework for measuring the impact of library initiatives on information access and environmental justice. This should combine quantitative metrics (such as attendance at events and usage of resources) with qualitative feedback from patrons and community members.
5. Libraries should advocate for increased funding and resources to improve internet access and technological infrastructure within libraries. This includes securing grants and partnerships to provide free or low-cost internet access, investing in updated technology, and creating dedicated spaces for accessing environmental information. Additionally, libraries should seek funding for outreach programs aimed at raising awareness and engaging resistant community members in environmental justice initiatives.

Limitation of the Study

This study seeks to explore the contributions of libraries in advancing environmental justice and enhancing strategies for information access, particularly from the perspectives of academic librarians at the Federal University of Technology Ikot Abasi, located in Akwa Ibom State. Six academic librarians from the Federal University of Technology Ikot Abasi were selected based on their expertise in information access and their potential impact on environmental justice initiatives within the academic community. However, it is important to acknowledge several limitations that may affect the applicability of the findings. Firstly, the study's sample size is small, comprising only six academic librarians from a single institution. While their insights offer valuable perspectives, they may not fully represent the experiences of academic librarians across Nigeria or in different contexts.

Moreover, focusing solely on academic librarians at one university limits the generalizability of the findings to other institutions or settings within Nigeria. Variations in institutional environments, geographic locations, and socio-economic factors could influence the roles and experiences of librarians in enhancing strategies for information access. Despite these constraints, this study provides significant insights into the contributions of academic librarians to environmental justice through strategic information access within the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

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Oluwole Olumide Durodolu

University of South Africa, Republic of South Africa
e-mail: woledurodolu@gmail.com
ORCID ID: 0000-0003-2734-8165

Bolaji David Oladokun

Federal University of Technology, Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom, Nigeria
e-mail: bolaji.oladokun@yahoo.com
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-7826-9187

Wypełnianie luki: badanie związku między dostępem do informacji a sprawiedliwością ekologiczną w praktykach bibliotecznych

Oluwole Olumide Durodolu jest pracownikiem naukowym na Wydziale Nauk Informacyjnych Uniwersytetu Południowej Afryki. W 2016 roku uzyskał tytuł doktora bibliotekoznawstwa i informacji naukowej na Uniwersytecie Zululand w Republice Południowej Afryki. Jest Certyfikowanym Bibliotekarzem Nigerii i członkiem Stowarzyszenia Indeksatorów i Bibliografów Afryki Południowej. Zasiada również w radach redakcyjnych czasopism *Maadili: Journal of African School of Governance and Policy Studies* w Południowej Afryce, *Covenant Journal of Library and Information Science* oraz *Lagos Journal of Library and Information Science*. Dr Durodolu opublikował wiele publikacji zarówno w lokalnych, jak i międzynarodowych czasopismach na takie tematy, jak umiejętność korzystania z informacji, ICT4D, informetria, technologie informacyjno-komunikacyjne, i nie tylko.

Bolaji David Oladokun jest rozwijającym się badaczem i wykładowcą na Wydziale Bibliotekoznawstwa i Technologii Informacyjnych Politechniki Federalnej w Ikot Abasi w stanie Akwa Ibom w Nigerii. Posiada dyplom magistra bibliotekoznawstwa i informacji naukowej oraz dyplom z wyróżnieniem w zakresie komunikacji masowej. Uzyskał rów-

nież tytuł magistra bibliotekoznawstwa i informacji naukowej na Uniwersytecie Edukacyj-
nym Ignatius Ajuru w Port Harcourt w Nigerii, który ukończył z wyróżnieniem. Jest również
Certyfikowanym Bibliotekarzem w Nigerii (CLN) i członkiem Nigeryjskiego Stowarzyszenia
Bibliotek (NLA). Jest również członkiem Nigeryjskiego Stowarzyszenia Edukatorów Biblio-
tekoznawstwa i Informacji Naukowej (NALISE) oraz Stowarzyszenia Nauk Informacyjnych
i Technologii (ASIS&T). Jest autorem ponad 100 artykułów opublikowanych w akredytowa-
nych czasopismach, materiałów konferencyjnych i rozdziałów w książkach. Ma również na
swoim koncie trzy (3) książki z zakresu bibliotekoznawstwa i informacji naukowej.

Słowa kluczowe: dostęp do informacji, sprawiedliwość ekologiczna, praktyki biblioteczne,
Delta Nigru, zanieczyszczenie środowiska, praca społeczna.

Abstrakt

Cele: Skrzyżowanie dostępu do informacji i sprawiedliwości ekologicznej staje się coraz
bardziej istotne, ponieważ społeczności na całym świecie zmagają się z wyzwaniami eko-
logicznymi. Niniejsze badanie bada związek między dostępem do informacji a sprawied-
liwością środowiskową w praktykach bibliotecznych, koncentrując się na bibliotekarzach
akademickich z Politechniki Federalnej Ikot Abasi w regionie Delty Nigru w Nigerii.

Metody: W badaniu wykorzystano projekt opisowy. W badaniu wzięło udział sześciu biblio-
tekarzy akademickich z Politechniki Federalnej w Ikot Abasi w stanie Akwa Ibom w Nigerii,
wybranych ze względu na ich doświadczenie w ułatwianiu dostępu do informacji i jej do-
stępności, zwłaszcza w odniesieniu do roli bibliotek w inicjatywach na rzecz sprawiedliwoś-
ci ekologicznej w środowisku akademickim. Dane zebrano w ramach dyskusji w grupach
fokusowych (FGD) z uczestniczącymi bibliotekarzami, przeprowadzonych w sprzyjającym
i prywatnym otoczeniu, aby zachęcić do otwartego dialogu i różnorodności perspektyw. Do
analizy transkryptów FGD wykorzystano analizę tematyczną.

Wyniki: Wyniki podkreślają znaczenie wielojęzycznych zasobów, ukierunkowanych działań
informacyjnych, usług tłumaczeniowych, współpracy z liderami społeczności, uwzględnia-
nia poziomów umiejętności czytania i pisania oraz znaczenia kulturowego w zapewnianiu
dostępności informacji. Wyzwania, takie jak ograniczony dostęp do internetu, bariery ję-
zykowe, dysproporcje w umiejętnościach cyfrowych, brak świadomości i opór ze strony
niektórych członków społeczności, utrudniają sprawiedliwy dostęp do informacji.

Wniosek: Z badania wynika, że bibliotekarze przyczyniają się do propagowania sprawiedli-
wości ekologicznej poprzez udział w lokalnych inicjatywach, zaangażowanie polityczne,
podnoszenie świadomości i współpracę z interesariuszami. Badanie to rzuca światło na
kluczową rolę bibliotek w promowaniu sprawiedliwości ekologicznej i sugeruje strategie
poprawy dostępu do informacji i działań wspierających w dążeniu do realizacji programów
zrównoważonego rozwoju.

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Oluwole Olumide Durodolu

Universität von Südafrika, Republik Südafrika
E-Mail: woledurodolu@gmail.com
ORCID ID: 0000-0003-2734-8165

Bolaji David Oladokun

Bundesuniversität für Technologie, Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom, Nigeria
E-Mail: bolaji.oladokun@yahoo.com
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-7826-9187

Überbrücken der Lücke: Untersuchung der Beziehung zwischen Informationszugang und Umweltgerechtigkeit in der Bibliothekspraxis

Oluwole Olumide Durodolu ist Dozent am Lehrstuhl für Informationswissenschaft an der Universität von Südafrika. 2016 erwarb er den Doktortitel im Fach Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft an der Zululand Universität in Südafrika. Er ist zertifizierter Bibliothekar in Nigeria (CLN) und Mitglied der Association for Southern African Indexers and Bibliographers. Er ist außerdem Mitglied der Redaktion von Maadili: Journal of African School of Governance and Policy Studies in South Africa, Covenant Journal of Library and Information Science und Lagos Journal of Library and Information Science. Dr. Durodolu veröffentlichte zahlreiche Arbeiten in lokalen und internationalen Fachzeitschriften zu den folgenden Fragen: Informationsbildung, Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien für die Entwicklung (IKT4D), Informetrie, Technologie für Informationskommunikation und sonstige.

Bolaji David Oladokun ist anstrebender Forscher und Dozent an der Fakultät für Bibliothekswissenschaft und Informationstechnologie der Bundesuniversität für Technologie in Ikot Abasi im Bundesstaat Akwa Ibom, Nigeria. Er hat einen Bachelorabschluss mit Auszeichnung im Fachbereich Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft sowie einDiplom in Massenkommunikation mit Auszeichnung, aber auch einen Masterabschluss im Fach Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft der Ignatius Ajuru Bildungsuniversität in Port

Harcourt, Nigeria, wo er sein Studium mit Auszeichnung abschloss. Er ist auch zertifizierter Bibliothekar in Nigeria (CLN) und Mitglied des Verbands der Nigerianischen Bibliotheken (Nigerian Library Association, NLA) wie auch des Verbands und des Nationalverbands der Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaftlichen Ausbilder (National Association of Library and Information Science Educators, NALISE) und der Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T). Bolaji David Oladokun ist Autor von über 100 Artikeln, die in akkreditierten Fachzeitschriften, Tagungsbänden und als Buchkapitel veröffentlicht wurden. Er hat auch drei Bücher im Bereich Bibliotheks- und Informationswissenschaft veröffentlicht.

Schlüsselworte: Informationszugang, Umweltgerechtigkeit, Bibliothekspraxis, Nigerdelta, Umweltverschmutzung, Sozialdienste

Zusammenfassung

Ziel: Die Verbindung von Informationszugang und Umweltgerechtigkeit nimmt an Bedeutung zu, immer wenn sich die Gemeinschaften in der Welt mit den Umweltherausforderungen abmühen. Diese Studie erforscht den Zusammenhang zwischen dem Informationszugang und der Umweltgerechtigkeit in der Bibliothekspraxis, indem sie sich auf die akademischen Bibliothekare der Bundesuniversität für Technologie Ikot Abasi im Nigerdelta in Nigeria konzentriert.

Forschungsmethode: In der Studie wurde ein beschreibendes Modell verwendet. An der Studie nahmen sechs akademische Bibliothekare der Bundesuniversität für Technologie in Ikot Abasi im Bundesstaat Akwa Ibom in Nigeria teil, die aufgrund ihres Fachwissens im Bereich der Erleichterung des Zugangs zu Informationen und der Verfügbarkeit, insbesondere im Hinblick auf die Rolle der Bibliotheken in Initiativen für Umweltgerechtigkeit im akademischen Umfeld, ausgewählt wurden. Die Daten wurden durch Diskussionen in Fokusgruppen (FGD) mit den teilnehmenden Bibliothekaren gesammelt, die in einer freundlichen und privaten Atmosphäre durchgeführt wurden, um offenen Dialog und vielfältige Perspektiven zu fördern. Für die Analyse der FGD-Transkripte wurde die thematische Analyse verwendet.

Forschungsergebnisse: Die Feststellungen unterstreichen die Bedeutung mehrsprachiger Ressourcen, zielgerichteter Reichweite, Übersetzungsdienste, Zusammenarbeit mit Gemeinschaftsführern, Berücksichtigung des Lese- und Schreibniveaus sowie der kulturellen Bedeutung bei der Sicherstellung der Informationszugänglichkeit. Herausforderungen wie eingeschränkter Internetzugang, Sprachbarrieren, Unterschiede in den digitalen Fähigkeiten, mangelndes Bewusstsein und Widerstand seitens einiger Gemeinschaftsmitglieder erschweren den fairen Zugang zu Informationen.

Schlussfolgerungen: Die Studie zeigt, dass Bibliothekare zur Förderung der Umweltgerechtigkeit beitragen, indem sie sich an lokalen Initiativen beteiligen, sich politisch engagieren, das Bewusstsein schärfen und mit Interessengruppen zusammenarbeiten. Diese Studie beleuchtet die zentrale Rolle von Bibliotheken bei der Verwirklichung von Umweltgerechtigkeit und schlägt Strategien vor, den Zugang zu Informationen zu erweitern und die Bemühungen zur Unterstützung der Umsetzung von Nachhaltigkeitsprogrammen zu verstärken.