



**Nigerian Library
Association**

Information Management for
Enlightenment & Development

NLA COMMUNIQUÉ

Wednesday 30th July, 2025

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 63RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NIGERIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (NLA) HELD IN BENIN CITY, EDO STATE FROM JULY 7 TO 11, 2025

The 63rd Annual National Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Nigerian Library Association (NLA) was held at the Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub, Benin City, Edo State, from July 7 to 11, 2025. The theme of the conference was: "The Fifth Industrial Revolution and the Future of Library and Information Service Delivery in a Changing World."

The conference brought together Librarians, Information Professionals, Researchers, Scholars, Policymakers, and Stakeholders from across the country and beyond. A total of one hundred and sixty-three (163) scholarly papers were presented physically and virtually, offering deep insights into the evolving roles of Libraries and Librarians in the 5th Industrial Revolution (5IR).

OBSERVATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. The 5th Industrial Revolution (5IR) is characterized by the synergy of advanced technologies and human-centered values. Libraries must therefore adopt a human-technology balance by promoting empathy, ethics, and personalized services to ensure inclusive access and relevance in service delivery.
2. Libraries must evolve from being static repositories of information into hybrid platforms that support both physical and virtual services tailored to the dynamic learning needs, lifestyles, and expectations of users in the digital age.
3. There is an urgent need to re-skill and up-skill librarians and information professionals in areas such as digital literacy, data science, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, blockchain, and human-machine collaboration in order to remain competitive and impactful.

4. Library and Information Science (LIS) educators are encouraged to fully leverage the 30% curriculum flexibility provided in the Core Curriculum Minimum Academic Standards (CCMAS) to integrate 5IR-responsive courses that align with global LIS trends and emerging competencies.
5. Libraries must promote inclusive and equitable access by adopting emerging technologies such as Virtual Reality (VR), Machine Learning, Internet of Things (IoT), and assistive technologies to bridge the digital divide and serve marginalized communities effectively.
6. The conference emphasized the growing importance of data ethics, intellectual freedom, and privacy. Libraries must take the lead in ethical data governance, ensuring that information access respects privacy rights and upholds professional integrity.
7. The conference strongly advocates for the review and development of a new National Library Policy to reflect the realities and demands of the 5th Industrial Revolution and reposition libraries as key drivers of national development, innovation, and digital transformation.
8. Heads of tertiary institutions and library administrators are urged to ensure that TETFund allocations are strategically utilized to procure and integrate 5IR tools and technologies. It is recommended that at least 50% of library TETFund allocations be directed towards 5IR implementation to modernize infrastructure and services.
9. In response to the increasing threats to digital information resources, libraries should embrace Blockchain technology and other advanced security systems to enhance the integrity, traceability, and protection of information assets.

CONCERN FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

The conference noted with concern the deteriorating state of national infrastructure, insecurity, economic hardship, rising unemployment, and declining investments in education and information services in Nigeria. These challenges have adverse effects on Libraries, Education, Innovation, and Youth Development.

The NLA therefore calls on the Federal Government, State Governments, and all stakeholders to:

- Prioritize education, research, and information access as key tools for sustainable development.
- Recognize the strategic role of libraries in national transformation by improving funding, infrastructure, and enabling policies.
- Engage libraries and librarians as partners in national reorientation, digital inclusion, peacebuilding, and socioeconomic recovery.

CALL TO ACTION:

The NLA hereby urges the:

- Federal Ministry of Education
- National Universities Commission (NUC)
- National Board for Technical Education (NBTE)
- National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund)
- State and Local Government Authorities
- Management of Tertiary Institutions
- Private Sector and Development Partners... to consider the recommendations of this communiqué and support their implementation to reposition Nigeria's libraries as critical assets in the 5IR and national development agenda.

Signed:

Lbrn (Dr) Dominic A. Omokaro, FNLA, F.CloD, DFAI, FCAI, CLN, CPA,
President and Chairman of Council,
Nigerian Library Association 2022-2025

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- Dominic Omokaro