

Enhancing Library Services Through Digital Transformation: Strategies for Sustainable Governance and Inclusive Information Access in a Dynamic Global Economy

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Abstract

Digital transformation has become a critical driver of inclusive growth and sustainable governance, particularly within the rapidly evolving global knowledge economy. As libraries reposition themselves as strategic stakeholders in national development, there is a growing need to adopt innovative digital practices that enhance service delivery, strengthen governance structures, and promote equitable information access. This paper explores practical strategies through which libraries and information centres can leverage digital technologies to support inclusive growth while aligning with principles of sustainability and accountability. Drawing on recent empirical studies and global policy frameworks, the paper examines key dimensions of digital transformation in the library sector, including the integration of smart technologies, development of digital literacy programmes, deployment of data-driven decision systems, and adoption of resilient governance models. It also highlights barriers faced by libraries such as funding constraints, infrastructure gaps, and skill shortages and proposes scalable strategies for addressing these challenges in developing and emerging economies. The paper argues that libraries, when empowered through sustainable digital governance, can significantly contribute to social inclusion, economic participation, and knowledge democratisation. By presenting a roadmap for implementing inclusive and sustainable digital initiatives, this study positions libraries as catalysts for national and global development within an increasingly digital and interconnected world.

Keywords: Digital Transformation, Sustainable Governance, Information Access, Knowledge Management, Digital Literacy

1. Introduction

The rapid advancement of digital technologies has transformed the way information is created, accessed, and disseminated globally. Libraries, traditionally regarded as custodians of knowledge, are now evolving into dynamic information hubs that support learning, innovation, and socio-economic development. In Nigeria and other developing countries, this transformation is particularly crucial due to the increasing demand for equitable access to information and digital resources. Digital transformation in libraries involves the integration of emerging technologies such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and digital repositories into library operations (Aina, 2020). These technologies enable libraries to enhance service delivery, improve operational efficiency, and extend their reach beyond physical boundaries. The 21st century has witnessed an unprecedented surge in digital technologies, fundamentally reshaping the landscape of information creation, organization, dissemination, and utilization. This transformation has had far-reaching implications for virtually all sectors, including education, governance, healthcare, and commerce. Within this evolving ecosystem, libraries are no longer confined to their traditional roles as passive repositories of printed materials; rather, they are increasingly becoming dynamic, technology-driven knowledge hubs that facilitate access to information in diverse formats. This paradigm shift, often described as digital transformation, is redefining the mission, structure, and service delivery models of libraries worldwide (Aina, 2020; Oyelude, 2021). Digital transformation in the library context encompasses more than the mere digitization of collections. It involves a comprehensive reconfiguration of library processes, services, and user engagement strategies through the integration of advanced technologies such as cloud

computing, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data analytics. These technologies enable libraries to deliver personalized services, improve operational efficiency, and extend their reach to remote and underserved populations. As noted by Ezeani and Igwesi (2021), the adoption of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has significantly enhanced the capacity of libraries to meet the evolving needs of users in a digital age. Furthermore, the global shift towards a knowledge-based economy has intensified the demand for timely, accurate, and accessible information. In this context, libraries are expected to support research, innovation, and lifelong learning by providing access to digital resources and services. The integration of digital technologies into library operations not only enhances service delivery but also contributes to national development by fostering human capital development and economic growth. According to Issa, Amusan, and Daura (2022), libraries that embrace digital transformation are better positioned to support knowledge creation and dissemination, thereby contributing to sustainable development. Another critical dimension of digital transformation in libraries is its relationship with governance and sustainability. Sustainable governance refers to the adoption of policies, practices, and frameworks that ensure the long-term viability, accountability, and transparency of library operations. In the digital era, governance structures must be adaptable to rapidly changing technological environments while ensuring that digital initiatives are aligned with broader institutional and national development goals. The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA, 2022) emphasizes the importance of integrating digital strategies into library governance frameworks to enhance efficiency, inclusiveness, and sustainability. Equally important is the concept of inclusive information access, which lies at the heart of modern librarianship. Inclusive access entails ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their socio-economic status, gender, geographic location, or physical ability, have equal opportunities to access and utilize information resources. Digital technologies have the potential to bridge existing gaps in information access by enabling remote access to resources and services. However, the benefits of

digital transformation can only be fully realized if deliberate efforts are made to address issues such as digital literacy, affordability, and infrastructure deficits. Okiki (2020) highlights that digital literacy skills are essential for enabling users to effectively navigate and utilize digital information resources. Despite the numerous benefits associated with digital transformation, libraries in Nigeria and other developing countries continue to face significant challenges. These include inadequate funding, poor ICT infrastructure, limited technical expertise, and the absence of comprehensive digital policies. These challenges not only hinder the adoption of digital technologies but also limit the ability of libraries to provide high-quality services to their users. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach that involves increased investment, capacity building, policy development, and strategic partnerships (Oyelude, 2021). Given this background, it is evident that digital transformation is not merely an option but a necessity for libraries seeking to remain relevant in a rapidly changing global environment. However, achieving effective digital transformation requires a clear understanding of the strategies, challenges, and opportunities associated with the process. It also requires a commitment to sustainable governance and inclusive practices that ensure that the benefits of digital transformation are accessible to all segments of society.

Digital Transformation in Libraries

The concept of digital transformation was heralded by the proliferation of technologies. All over the world, there has been growing demand for use of technologies in carrying out activities that were hitherto performed manually especially in the area of business information even before the outbreak of the global pandemic. Organisations public, private and not for profit as well as individuals were beginning to leverage on digital competencies to manage their businesses in order to remain relevant and competitive (Harlem Campus, 2023). The upsurge of the pandemic Covid-19 further lend credence to the use of digital technologies in almost all spheres of human endeavour. For libraries where service delivery is the bane of their existence, digital

technologies were already embraced in pockets to perform some of its operations. Activities like digital archiving of print resources; library automation; online public access catalogue (OPAC), and so on already witnessed transformation from analogue to digital mode. However, the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic played a major role in the rapid transformation of other traditional mode of library operations to the digital mode where various technological tools are being deployed to deliver library services in terms of provision, access and use of information resources. This transformation otherwise referred to as the 'new normal' is making waves and turning the tides of the status quo ante that libraries were used to. In the words of Mergel et al (2019); Makori and Bitso (2021); Ikenwe and Udem (2022), digital transformation is associated with the need to use new technologies to stay competitive in the internet age where services and products are delivered both online and offline. In the context of this study, digital transformation simply means using technology to transform library services delivery. Digital transformation refers to the integration of digital technologies into all aspects of library services, fundamentally changing how libraries operate and deliver value to users (Ezeani & Igwesi, 2021). It goes beyond digitization to include innovation in service models and user engagement.

Sustainable Governance

Sustainable governance in libraries involves the implementation of policies and management practices that ensure accountability, transparency, and long-term viability of library services (IFLA, 2022). Sustainable governance has emerged as a critical framework for ensuring the long-term effectiveness, accountability, and resilience of library systems in the digital age. It refers to the structures, policies, and management practices that guide decision-making processes in a way that promotes transparency, inclusiveness, efficiency, and sustainability over time. In the context of libraries, sustainable governance ensures that resources both physical and digital are managed responsibly while aligning institutional objectives with societal needs and global development goals. Effective governance provides libraries with a clear

strategic direction and enables them to remain relevant in rapidly changing technological environments. It involves the establishment of policies, standards, and leadership mechanisms that guide operations, resource allocation, and service delivery. According to recent studies, well-structured governance frameworks help libraries articulate their mission and vision, thereby ensuring sustainability and adaptability in the face of digital transformation. In Nigeria and other developing countries, sustainable governance is particularly important due to persistent challenges such as inadequate funding, weak institutional frameworks, and limited technological infrastructure. Libraries must adopt governance models that are flexible and responsive to these challenges while ensuring accountability in the use of scarce resources. Research has shown that libraries contribute significantly to national development when supported by effective governance structures that promote access to information and knowledge dissemination (Idogbe & Philip, 2020). A key component of sustainable governance in libraries is policy development and implementation. Policies provide a framework for managing digital resources, protecting user data, and ensuring equitable access to information. In the digital era, governance must also address issues such as intellectual property rights, data privacy, and cybersecurity. Without clear policies, libraries risk inefficiency, resource mismanagement, and reduced user trust. Another important dimension is financial sustainability. Sustainable governance requires libraries to develop diversified funding models, including government support, grants, partnerships, and internally generated revenue. Studies indicate that inadequate funding remains a major barrier to library development in Nigeria, making it imperative for governance structures to prioritize strategic financial planning and resource mobilization. Human resource management and capacity building also play a vital role in sustainable governance. Librarians and information professionals must possess the skills required to manage digital technologies and deliver innovative services. Continuous training and professional development are essential for maintaining a competent workforce capable of adapting to emerging trends in

information management. Furthermore, sustainable governance emphasizes inclusiveness and stakeholder engagement. Libraries serve diverse user populations, and governance structures must ensure that the needs of all stakeholders including students, researchers, policymakers, and marginalized communities are considered in decision-making processes. This aligns with the broader goal of digital inclusion, which seeks to bridge the information gap and promote equitable access to knowledge. Libraries have been identified as key facilitators of digital inclusion and sustainable development in Nigeria, particularly through their role in providing access to ICT resources and information services. Another critical aspect is the integration of sustainability principles into library operations. This includes environmental sustainability (e.g., green library practices), economic sustainability (efficient resource utilization), and social sustainability (equitable access and community engagement). Green libraries, for instance, incorporate eco-friendly practices and contribute to global sustainability efforts by reducing environmental impact while enhancing service delivery. In addition, the adoption of digital governance frameworks is essential for managing digital transformation in libraries. Digital governance involves the use of technology to improve decision-making, enhance service delivery, and ensure transparency. It enables libraries to leverage data analytics, automate processes, and provide user-centered services. However, effective digital governance requires strong institutional frameworks, technical expertise, and continuous evaluation to ensure that digital initiatives are aligned with organizational goals. Despite its importance, the implementation of sustainable governance in libraries faces several challenges. These include bureaucratic inefficiencies, lack of political will, resistance to change, and inadequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated effort among government agencies, library management, and other stakeholders. To achieve sustainable governance, libraries must adopt a holistic approach that integrates strategic planning, policy development, financial management, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement. By doing so,

they can enhance their ability to deliver high-quality services, promote inclusive information access, and contribute to national and global development.

In conclusion, sustainable governance is a cornerstone of effective library management in the digital age. It ensures that libraries are not only able to adapt to technological changes but also remain accountable, inclusive, and resilient. As libraries continue to evolve, the adoption of sustainable governance frameworks will be essential for maximizing their impact as drivers of knowledge, innovation, and social development.

Inclusive Information Access

Inclusive access ensures that all individuals, regardless of socio-economic status, gender, or location, can access information resources. This aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 16 (Access to Information). One of the key drivers of inclusive information access is the adoption of digital technologies. Digital libraries, online databases, and mobile information services have expanded the reach of libraries beyond physical spaces, enabling users to access information remotely. Oyelude (2021) notes that digital libraries have significantly improved access to scholarly resources in Africa by removing geographical and physical barriers. However, the benefits of digital technologies can only be fully realized when issues such as affordability, connectivity, and user competence are adequately addressed. Digital literacy is another critical component of inclusive information access. The ability to effectively search, evaluate, and use information in digital formats is essential for meaningful participation in the digital economy. Okiki (2020) emphasizes that digital literacy skills are crucial for enabling users, particularly students, to utilize electronic information resources effectively. Libraries have a responsibility to provide training programs and support services that enhance users' digital competencies and reduce the digital divide. In addition to digital inclusion, libraries must also ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities. Inclusive information access requires the provision

of assistive technologies, such as screen readers, Braille materials, and audio resources, to accommodate users with visual, hearing, or physical impairments. According to Igbinovia and Aiyebelehin (2023), libraries in Nigeria are increasingly recognizing the need to implement inclusive practices that cater to diverse user needs, although significant gaps still exist in terms of resources and infrastructure. Furthermore, language and cultural inclusivity are important aspects of information access. Libraries should provide resources in multiple languages and formats that reflect the cultural diversity of their communities. This is particularly relevant in multilingual countries like Nigeria, where access to information in indigenous languages can enhance understanding and promote cultural preservation. Another important dimension is open access and knowledge sharing. Open access initiatives enable users to freely access scholarly publications and research outputs without financial barriers. This is especially beneficial for researchers, students, and institutions in developing countries that may lack the resources to subscribe to expensive databases. Issa, Amusan, and Daura (2022) highlight that open access platforms have significantly improved the visibility and accessibility of research in developing economies. Despite these advancements, several challenges continue to hinder inclusive information access in libraries. These include inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, limited digital skills, and weak policy frameworks. Additionally, issues such as high cost of internet services and unreliable power supply further exacerbate the digital divide. Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated effort involving government agencies, library institutions, and private sector stakeholders. To enhance inclusive information access, libraries must adopt a multifaceted approach. This includes investing in digital infrastructure, expanding outreach programs to underserved communities, implementing digital literacy initiatives, and developing inclusive policies that prioritize equity and accessibility. Partnerships with government and non-governmental organizations can also play a crucial role in providing resources and support for inclusive library services. In conclusion, inclusive

information access is essential for promoting social equity, educational development, and economic empowerment. Libraries, as gateways to knowledge, have a critical role to play in ensuring that information resources are accessible to all individuals, regardless of their circumstances. By leveraging digital technologies and adopting inclusive practices, libraries can bridge the information gap and contribute to a more equitable and knowledge-driven society.

Dimensions of Digital Transformation in Libraries

Integration of Smart Technologies

The integration of smart technologies has become a defining feature of digital transformation in modern libraries. Smart technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, radio frequency identification (RFID), cloud computing, and chatbots are increasingly being adopted to enhance efficiency, automate routine tasks, and improve user experience. These technologies enable libraries to move from traditional service models to more dynamic, user-centered systems.

Artificial intelligence, for instance, is being used for automated cataloguing, metadata generation, and personalized recommendation systems, thereby improving information retrieval processes. Similarly, chatbots provide real-time virtual reference services, allowing users to access information and support services beyond physical library hours. RFID technology enhances inventory management, circulation control, and security of library resources (Ezeani & Igwesi, 2021). In the Nigerian context, the adoption of smart technologies is gradually gaining traction, although it is still limited by infrastructural and financial constraints. Ojobor, Okafor, and Ugwuanyi (2024) note that the integration of innovative technologies in Nigerian libraries has significantly improved operational efficiency and service delivery where implemented. However, the successful deployment of these technologies requires adequate funding, technical expertise, and supportive institutional policies.

Development of Digital Literacy Programs

Digital literacy is a critical enabler of effective information access and utilization in the digital age. It refers to the ability to locate, evaluate, create, and communicate information using digital technologies. As libraries increasingly provide access to electronic resources, users must possess the necessary skills to navigate and utilize these resources effectively. Libraries play a central role in promoting digital literacy by organizing training programs, workshops, and user education initiatives. These programs help users develop competencies in information searching, critical evaluation of sources, and ethical use of information. Okiki (2020) emphasizes that digital literacy skills significantly influence the extent to which users can effectively utilize electronic information resources in academic environments. In developing countries like Nigeria, digital literacy programs are particularly important in bridging the digital divide. Many users, especially in rural areas, lack basic digital skills, which limits their ability to benefit from digital library services. According to Igbinoia and Aiyebelehin (2023), libraries that actively promote digital literacy contribute to social inclusion and empower individuals to participate in the knowledge economy. Furthermore, digital literacy initiatives support lifelong learning and enhance employability by equipping individuals with essential skills required in modern workplaces. Therefore, the development of comprehensive digital literacy programs should be a priority for libraries seeking to enhance inclusive information access.

Data-Driven Decision Making

Data-driven decision making is an emerging trend in library management that involves the use of data analytics to inform strategic planning, service delivery, and resource allocation. By collecting and analyzing data on user behavior, resource usage, and service performance, libraries can make informed decisions that improve efficiency and user satisfaction. In addition, data-driven decision making supports accountability and transparency, which are key components of sustainable governance. Libraries can use data to demonstrate their impact and justify funding requests to stakeholders. However, the effective use of data requires appropriate tools,

technical expertise, and adherence to data privacy and ethical standards. Despite its benefits, the implementation of data-driven strategies in Nigerian libraries is still at an early stage due to limited infrastructure and skills. Olatokun and Tiamiyu (2019) highlight that inadequate ICT infrastructure and lack of trained personnel hinder the adoption of advanced data analytics in libraries. Addressing these challenges is essential for maximizing the potential of data-driven decision making.

Digital Repositories and Open Access

Digital repositories and open access initiatives are central to the democratization of knowledge in the digital era. Institutional repositories are digital platforms that collect, preserve, and disseminate the intellectual output of institutions, including research articles, theses, dissertations, and conference papers. These repositories enhance the visibility and accessibility of scholarly work.

Open access, on the other hand, refers to the free availability of scholarly information without financial, legal, or technical barriers. It allows researchers, students, and the general public to access and use information freely, thereby promoting knowledge sharing and innovation. Oyelude (2021) notes that open access initiatives have significantly improved access to scholarly information in Africa, particularly in resource-constrained environments. In Nigeria, the adoption of digital repositories is increasing, with many universities establishing institutional repositories to showcase their research outputs. Issa et al. (2022) observe that these repositories play a vital role in enhancing the global visibility of African research and supporting academic collaboration.

Challenges to Digital Transformation in Libraries

Digital transformation offers immense opportunities for improving library services; however, its implementation in developing countries, particularly Nigeria, is confronted with several challenges. These challenges hinder the effective adoption, integration, and sustainability of digital initiatives in libraries. Key among these challenges are inadequate funding, poor ICT infrastructure, skill gaps, and policy and governance issues.

Inadequate Funding

Inadequate funding remains one of the most significant barriers to digital transformation in libraries. The implementation of digital technologies requires substantial financial investment in infrastructure, software, hardware, and human resource development. However, many libraries in Nigeria operate under limited budgets, which restrict their ability to adopt and sustain digital innovations. According to Olatokun and Tiamiyu (2019), insufficient financial support has consistently limited the acquisition of modern technologies and electronic resources in Nigerian libraries. Similarly, Issa, Amusan, and Daura (2022) note that funding constraints affect not only technological adoption but also staff training and maintenance of existing systems. Without adequate funding, libraries struggle to upgrade outdated systems, subscribe to digital databases, or implement innovative services. Furthermore, dependence on government funding, which is often inconsistent, exacerbates the problem. Aina (2020) argues that sustainable funding models, including partnerships and alternative revenue sources, are essential for supporting digital transformation initiatives in libraries. Therefore, addressing funding challenges is critical for ensuring the successful implementation of digital strategies.

Poor ICT Infrastructure

The lack of robust ICT infrastructure is another major challenge facing digital transformation in libraries. Effective digital library services depend on reliable internet connectivity, stable power supply, and access to modern technological equipment. In many parts of Nigeria, these basic requirements are either inadequate or entirely absent. Olatokun and Tiamiyu (2019) highlight that poor internet connectivity and frequent power outages significantly hinder the use of digital resources in Nigerian libraries. In addition, limited access to computers and other digital devices restricts users' ability to benefit from electronic information services. Oyelude (2021) also notes that infrastructural deficiencies in many African countries continue to impede the development of digital libraries. The high cost of ICT infrastructure

further compounds the problem, making it difficult for libraries to invest in necessary technologies. Without reliable infrastructure, digital initiatives cannot function effectively, leading to underutilization of available resources and reduced user satisfaction.

Skill Gaps

Skill gaps among library staff and users represent another critical barrier to digital transformation. The effective implementation and management of digital technologies require specialized knowledge and technical competencies. However, many librarians in developing countries lack the necessary skills to operate advanced digital systems. Ezeani and Igwesi (2021) observe that inadequate ICT skills among library professionals limit their ability to effectively manage digital resources and services. Similarly, Okiki (2020) emphasizes that users' lack of digital literacy skills affects their ability to access and utilize electronic information resources. The rapid pace of technological change further exacerbates this challenge, as continuous learning and professional development are required to keep up with emerging trends. Igbinovia and Aiyebelehin (2023) argue that capacity building and training programs are essential for bridging skill gaps and enhancing the effectiveness of digital library services.

Without adequate skills, both librarians and users are unable to fully benefit from digital transformation initiatives, thereby limiting their impact on information access and service delivery.

Policy and Governance Issues

Policy and governance challenges also play a significant role in hindering digital transformation in libraries. Effective digital transformation requires clear policies, strategic planning, and strong governance frameworks to guide implementation and ensure sustainability. However, many libraries lack comprehensive policies that address digital resource management, data privacy, intellectual property, and technological innovation. According to IFLA (2022), the absence of well-defined governance frameworks can lead to inefficiencies, poor coordination, and lack of accountability in library operations. In Nigeria, weak institutional

policies and limited government support have been identified as major constraints to the adoption of digital technologies in libraries (Issa et al., 2022). Additionally, bureaucratic processes and resistance to change often slow down the implementation of digital initiatives. Aina (2020) notes that organizational culture and leadership play a crucial role in determining the success of digital transformation efforts. Without strong leadership and supportive policies, libraries may struggle to adapt to technological changes.

Moreover, the lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms makes it difficult to assess the effectiveness of digital initiatives and ensure continuous improvement. Therefore, strengthening policy frameworks and governance structures is essential for overcoming these challenges.

Strategies for Enhancing Digital Transformation

Enhancing digital transformation in libraries requires a deliberate and strategic approach that integrates technological innovation with institutional capacity and user needs. One of the most critical strategies is increased and sustainable funding. Digital transformation involves significant investment in infrastructure, software, and human capital. In many developing countries, including Nigeria, libraries rely heavily on government funding, which is often inadequate and inconsistent. Therefore, libraries must explore diversified funding sources such as grants, donor agencies, and public-private partnerships. According to Aina (2020), sustainable financing models are essential for maintaining digital library systems and ensuring long-term service delivery. Similarly, Issa, Amusan, and Daura (2022) emphasize that strategic investment in digital infrastructure is fundamental to achieving meaningful transformation. Another key strategy is capacity building and continuous professional development for library staff. The effectiveness of digital transformation depends largely on the competencies of librarians in managing and utilizing digital tools. Training programs, workshops, and certification courses in areas such as data management, digital curation, and information technology are necessary to bridge existing skill gaps. Ezeani and Igwesi (2021) note that librarians

with strong ICT competencies are better equipped to deliver innovative services and manage digital resources effectively. In addition, user education programs should be implemented to enhance digital literacy among library users, thereby ensuring that digital resources are fully utilized (Okiki, 2020). The development and improvement of ICT infrastructure is also central to successful digital transformation. Reliable internet connectivity, stable electricity supply, and access to modern hardware and software are basic requirements for digital library services. Without these, even the most well-designed digital initiatives will fail. Olatokun and Tiamiyu (2019) highlight that infrastructural deficiencies remain a major barrier to ICT adoption in Nigerian libraries. Therefore, governments and institutional stakeholders must prioritize investments in ICT infrastructure, particularly in underserved and rural areas, to ensure equitable access to digital services. Furthermore, strategic partnerships and collaborations play a vital role in enhancing digital transformation. Libraries can collaborate with technology companies, academic institutions, and international organizations to access technical expertise, funding, and digital resources. Such partnerships can facilitate the implementation of innovative solutions and provide opportunities for knowledge sharing. Oyelude (2021) observes that collaborative initiatives have significantly contributed to the growth of digital libraries in Africa by enabling resource sharing and capacity development. The adoption of robust policy frameworks and governance structures is equally important. Effective policies provide guidelines for digital resource management, data security, intellectual property rights, and service delivery standards. According to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA, 2022), strong governance frameworks enhance accountability, transparency, and sustainability in library operations. Libraries must also develop strategic plans that align digital transformation initiatives with institutional goals and national development priorities. Finally, the adoption of user-centered and inclusive approaches is crucial for maximizing the impact of digital transformation. Libraries must design services that meet the diverse

needs of their users, including marginalized and underserved populations. This involves expanding digital literacy programs, providing remote access to resources, and ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities. Igbinovia and Aiyebelehin (2023) note that inclusive library services contribute significantly to social equity and national development. By focusing on user needs and promoting inclusivity, libraries can enhance engagement and ensure that the benefits of digital transformation are widely distributed.

Conclusion

Digital transformation is essential for enhancing library services and ensuring inclusive information access in a rapidly changing global economy. Despite challenges such as funding constraints and infrastructure deficits, libraries can leverage digital technologies to improve service delivery and promote sustainable governance. By adopting innovative strategies and strengthening institutional frameworks, libraries can play a significant role in national development and knowledge democratization. Furthermore, the importance of inclusive information access cannot be overstated. Digital transformation must be implemented in a manner that ensures equitable access to information resources for all users, including marginalized and underserved populations. Libraries play a vital role in bridging the digital divide by providing access to digital tools, training users in digital competencies, and supporting lifelong learning initiatives. According to Igbinovia and Aiyebelehin (2023), inclusive library services are fundamental to achieving social equity and national development goals. Therefore, efforts to digitize library services must be aligned with broader objectives of inclusivity and accessibility.

Recommendations

1. Governments should prioritize funding for digital library initiatives.
2. Libraries should invest in staff training and development.
3. Policies supporting digital transformation should be implemented.
4. Partnerships with technology providers should be encouraged.

5. Digital literacy programs should be expanded to reach underserved communities.

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