

ORIGINAL

Exploring book trade and publishing as pathways to entrepreneurship and wealth creation among university librarians in Rivers State

Exploración del comercio de libros y la publicación como vías para el emprendimiento y la generación de riqueza entre los bibliotecarios universitarios en el Estado de Rivers

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: this study investigates the role of book trade and publication as sources of entrepreneurship and wealth creation among librarians in Rivers State-owned universities. The study was motivated by the need to diversify librarians' roles beyond traditional information management towards entrepreneurial activities that enhance personal and institutional growth. The objectives were to identify the purposes, benefits, and challenges associated with book trade and publishing for librarians.

Method: a descriptive survey research design was adopted, targeting all 44 professional and para-professional librarians from the Central Library of Rivers State University and the Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan Automated Library of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and analyzed using simple percentages.

Results: the findings revealed that librarians recognize book trade and publishing as viable entrepreneurial ventures, contributing significantly to revenue generation, professional development, and societal impact. Key purposes identified include revenue generation, material improvement, and supporting literacy and reading. Benefits highlighted include enhancing librarians' professional potential, fostering intrapreneurial spirit, and creating career opportunities in publishing. However, the study also identified challenges such as low awareness of entrepreneurial relevance, restrictive government policies, economic instability, limited funding, and difficulties in generating viable business ideas.

Conclusions: the study concluded that while librarians are aware of the entrepreneurial opportunities within book trade and publishing, several barriers hinder their full participation. It recommends integrating entrepreneurship education into librarians' professional development, reforming policies to support entrepreneurial activities, and encouraging continuous learning in business ideation and financial management to enhance librarians' entrepreneurial capabilities.

Keywords: Book Trade; Publication; Entrepreneurship; Librarians; Wealth Creation.

RESUMEN

Introducción: este estudio investiga el papel del comercio de libros y la publicación como fuentes de emprendimiento y generación de riqueza entre los bibliotecarios de las universidades propiedad del Estado de Rivers. La investigación fue motivada por la necesidad de diversificar los roles de los bibliotecarios más allá de la gestión tradicional de la información, promoviendo actividades emprendedoras que impulsen el

crecimiento personal e institucional. Los objetivos fueron identificar los propósitos, beneficios y desafíos asociados con el comercio y la publicación de libros para los bibliotecarios.

Método: se adoptó un diseño de investigación descriptivo con encuesta, dirigido a los 44 bibliotecarios profesionales y paraprofesionales de la Biblioteca Central de la Universidad Estatal de Rivers y la Biblioteca Automatizada Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan de la Universidad de Educación Ignatius Ajuru. Los datos fueron recolectados mediante cuestionarios estructurados y analizados utilizando porcentajes simples.

Resultados: los hallazgos revelaron que los bibliotecarios reconocen el comercio y la publicación de libros como emprendimientos viables, contribuyendo significativamente a la generación de ingresos, el desarrollo profesional y el impacto social. Los principales propósitos identificados incluyen la generación de ingresos, la mejora del material bibliográfico y el apoyo a la alfabetización y la lectura. Los beneficios destacados incluyen el fortalecimiento del potencial profesional de los bibliotecarios, el fomento del espíritu intraemprendedor y la creación de oportunidades de carrera en el ámbito editorial. Sin embargo, el estudio también identificó desafíos como la baja conciencia sobre la relevancia del emprendimiento, políticas gubernamentales restrictivas, inestabilidad económica, financiamiento limitado y dificultades para generar ideas de negocios viables.

Conclusiones: el estudio concluyó que, aunque los bibliotecarios son conscientes de las oportunidades emprendedoras dentro del comercio y la publicación de libros, existen varias barreras que dificultan su plena participación. Se recomienda integrar la educación en emprendimiento en el desarrollo profesional de los bibliotecarios, reformar las políticas para apoyar actividades emprendedoras y fomentar el aprendizaje continuo en la generación de ideas de negocio y la gestión financiera para mejorar sus capacidades emprendedoras.

Palabras clave: Comercio de Libros; Publicación; Emprendimiento; Bibliotecarios; Generación de Riqueza.

INTRODUCTION

Librarians are traditionally recognized as custodians of knowledge, facilitators of information access, and champions of intellectual freedom. However, in today's dynamic information landscape, their roles have evolved beyond conventional boundaries to encompass entrepreneurial activities and innovative service delivery. Librarians, particularly in university libraries, are increasingly embracing entrepreneurial strategies to generate revenue, enhance service delivery, and contribute to personal and institutional wealth creation. They engage in knowledge creation, data customization, and innovative practices that offer new products and services to their academic communities. This innovative spirit is reflected in how university librarians develop new service models, such as the automation of library resources to reach distant learners, digital archiving, and the creation of specialized information products tailored to niche audiences. These entrepreneurial endeavors not only create new market opportunities but also foster intellectual growth, equitable information access, and community development.⁽¹⁾

The concept of entrepreneurship, derived from the French term *entreprendre*, meaning "to undertake," has its roots in the economic theories of the 17th and 18th centuries. It originally described individuals who drove economic progress through innovative ventures, creating new businesses, products, and services that fueled employment and societal growth.^(2,3) In the context of librarianship, entrepreneurship involves developing new services, products, and business models that generate income and add value to the profession. Ezell (2024) defines entrepreneurship as the process of creating something new with value, dedicating the necessary time and effort, assuming associated risks, and reaping rewards such as monetary gains, personal satisfaction, and professional independence. For librarians, this entrepreneurial spirit manifests in activities like book trading, publishing, consulting, digital content creation, and information management services, which serve as viable sources of income and wealth creation.

Within this framework, wealth creation refers to the accumulation of income-generating assets over time, facilitated by innovative strategies and entrepreneurial ventures. Technological advancements have broadened the scope of wealth-creation opportunities for librarians, enabling them to leverage digital tools, self-publishing platforms, and e-commerce to expand their reach beyond traditional library settings. In many developing economies, including Nigeria, the economic pressures and the need for diversification have made entrepreneurship an imperative not only for individuals but also for professionals within structured institutions like universities. Librarians who engage in entrepreneurial activities while still employed in academic settings are often referred to as intrapreneurs. According to Dike et al.⁽⁴⁾ intrapreneurship allows employees to act like entrepreneurs within organizations, fostering innovation, creativity, and revenue generation without leaving their formal roles. University librarians, as intrapreneurs, are proactive and self-motivated, consistently identifying opportunities to introduce innovative information products and services.

One of the most promising entrepreneurial avenues for librarians is book trading and publishing, which not only aligns with their core competencies in information management but also offers significant revenue potential. Business literacy, encompassing skills such as communication, negotiation, customer relations, and strategic thinking, is essential for librarians engaged in these activities.⁽⁵⁾ Publishing involves the production and dissemination of printed and digital materials, including books, journals, newsletters, and reports. It can take various forms, from traditional print publishing to modern self-publishing and digital content distribution. Babalola et al.⁽⁶⁾ describe publishing as the activity of making information available to the public, serving both educational and commercial purposes. Librarians, with their expertise in content curation, editorial processes, and information dissemination, are well-positioned to excel in the publishing industry. In many cases, librarians can act as authors, editors, publishers, and distributors, thereby controlling the entire value chain of content production.

Furthermore, publishing is not just a commercial enterprise but also a social service, contributing to educational development, cultural preservation, and knowledge dissemination. The publishing industry, therefore, represents a form of social entrepreneurship, where the goal is not solely profit but also societal impact. Librarians, as publishers, aim to create content that educates, informs, and empowers communities. This dual focus on economic sustainability and social responsibility makes publishing an attractive entrepreneurial venture for librarians.⁽⁴⁾ Closely linked to publishing is book packaging, which involves the entire pre-publication process, including content development, editing, proofreading, layout design, and marketing. Book packaging companies often collaborate with publishers, handling the creative and production aspects before the final product is distributed. In addition, the book trade—encompassing the buying, selling, and distribution of books—is another key area of entrepreneurial activity. The book trade promotes literacy, learning, and knowledge dissemination, serving both educational and commercial purposes. According to the Book-Trade Encyclopedia, book trade involves the distribution of non-periodical printed materials such as books, pamphlets, posters, and music. Librarians, with their extensive knowledge of information resources and market trends, are uniquely positioned to participate in the book trade, either as authors, publishers, booksellers, or literary consultants.

The intersection of book trading, publishing, and librarianship presents numerous opportunities for entrepreneurship and wealth creation within university libraries. This study, therefore, seeks to explore how book trade and publishing serve as entrepreneurial avenues for librarians, examining their potential for revenue generation, professional development, and societal impact in the context of university libraries.

Statement of the Problem

Over the years, there is a growing recognition of the need for librarians to diversify their roles beyond traditional information management to include entrepreneurial activities that can generate income and create wealth. University librarians, in particular, possess vast knowledge and skills in content curation, information dissemination, and intellectual property management, positioning them as potential key players in the fields of book trade and publishing. Despite this potential, the extent to which librarians in university libraries engage in book trade and publication as viable sources of entrepreneurship and wealth creation remains largely underexplored. Many librarians are yet to fully leverage these opportunities, which could serve as alternative revenue streams, enhance their professional relevance, and contribute to institutional sustainability. This gap is even more pronounced in developing countries like Nigeria, where economic challenges and funding limitations in the education sector demand innovative approaches to resource generation and professional development.

Furthermore, while librarians are actively involved in the acquisition, organization, and dissemination of knowledge resources, their participation in the commercial aspects of the book industry—such as authoring, editing, publishing, and book trading—appears limited. This may be due to a lack of entrepreneurial orientation, insufficient business literacy, or institutional barriers that discourage or fail to support such ventures. There is also limited empirical evidence on the benefits, challenges, and strategies associated with librarians' involvement in book trade and publishing activities within university environments. Without a clear understanding of these factors, university librarians may continue to miss out on opportunities to enhance their economic status, professional growth, and contribution to knowledge-based industries. This study, therefore, seeks to fill this gap by investigating the role of book trade and publication as sources of entrepreneurship and wealth creation for librarians in university libraries, with a focus on identifying existing practices, potential benefits, and the challenges faced in this endeavor.

Given the above, the aim of this was to determine the purposes, benefits and challenges of book trade and publishing as sources of entrepreneurship and wealth creation for libraries in Rivers State-owned university libraries.

METHOD

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design, which is appropriate for gathering data from a specific population to describe and interpret current conditions, practices, or views related to the research topic. The study was conducted in two university libraries in Rivers State, Nigeria: the Central Library of Rivers

State University, Nkpulu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, and the Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan Automated Library of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt. The descriptive design was chosen to obtain first-hand information from librarians regarding their perceptions of book trading and publishing as sources of entrepreneurship and wealth creation in university libraries.

The target population of this study comprised all professional and para-professional librarians working in the two selected university libraries. Specifically, there were 32 librarians at the Central Library of Rivers State University and 12 librarians at the Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan Automated Library of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, bringing the total population to 44 librarians. The work experience of these librarians ranged from less than 1 year to over 31 years, providing a diverse pool of respondents with varying levels of expertise. Given the relatively small size of the population, the study employed a census approach, where the entire population was included without sampling. This aligns with the view of Amadi (2020), who posited that when a population is small, it is feasible and beneficial to study the entire group to ensure comprehensive data collection and minimize sampling error.

Data collection was carried out using a self-administered structured questionnaire, designed to capture detailed information relevant to the research objectives. The questionnaire consisted of two main sections:

- Section A: Demographic Information: this section gathered background information on the respondents, including variables such as age, gender, academic qualifications, job designation, and years of work experience.
- Section B: Research-Specific Information: this section was further divided into three subsections to address the core aspects of the study.

Subsection 1: focused on identifying the purpose of book trading and publishing as entrepreneurial ventures and wealth creation strategies for librarians in Rivers State-owned universities.

Subsection 2: aimed to determine the benefits associated with book trading and publishing, highlighting how these activities contribute to entrepreneurship and wealth creation among librarians.

Subsection 3: explored the challenges faced by librarians in engaging in book trading and publishing activities, identifying barriers that may hinder their entrepreneurial pursuits.

The questionnaires were physically distributed to all 44 librarians, with follow-ups conducted to ensure a high response rate. Before full-scale administration, the questionnaire was reviewed and validated to ensure clarity, relevance, and consistency with the research objectives. Additionally, the instrument's reliability was assessed through a pilot test with a small group of librarians outside the study population, and necessary adjustments were made based on feedback received. The collected data were carefully reviewed, coded, and analyzed using descriptive statistical methods such as frequencies and percentages to summarize the responses. This approach provided clear insights into the perceptions, benefits, and challenges associated with book trading and publishing as entrepreneurial activities within university libraries in Rivers State.

RESULTS

A total of 44 questionnaires were administered to the respondents; Library Educators in the departments of Library and Information Science. The sample size for this study was 44. However, due to time constraint and busy schedule of some librarians, the researcher was only able to retrieve 30 questionnaires out of the 44. The study sought to investigate data collection done directly through one-on-one basis and via WhatsApp calls to some of the librarians whom were unavailable or too busy at the moment. Table 1 shows that 68 % of the sample size was used for this study.

Table 1. Distribution of Questionnaire		
Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage
Population	44	100
Questionnaire retrieved	30	68
Unanswered	14	32

Research Question 1: what are the purposes of book trading and publishing as source of entrepreneurship and wealth creation for librarians in university libraries?

The results presented in table 2 reveal the perceptions of librarians from the Central Library at Rivers State University and the Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan Library at Ignatius Ajuru University of Education regarding the purposes of book trade and publication as sources of entrepreneurship and wealth creation. The analysis indicates a high level of acceptance across various items, with all responses scoring above the 50 % threshold, which is the benchmark for acceptance in this study. Specifically, the highest level of agreement was recorded for supporting literacy and reading (96,6 %), highlighting the pivotal role of book trade and

publishing in promoting educational development. This is closely followed by purposes such as aiming at material improvement (93,3 %), revenue generation (93,3 %), creating careers in publishing and book trade (93,3 %), and fee-based services such as information brokerage (93,3 %). Other notable areas include generating funds (90 %), empowering librarians for personal and professional development (86,2 %), building partnerships between publishers and libraries (86,6 %), and developing entrepreneurial spirit (86,6 %).

Table 2. Frequency and percentage distribution on purpose of book trading and publishing as

S/N	Purpose of entrepreneurship and Wealth Creation	Agreed	Frequency	Disagree	Frequency	Decision
1.	Aimed at material improvement	28	93,3 %	2	66 %	Accepted
2.	Accumulation of Wealth Asset	25	83,3 %	5	16,6 %	Accepted
3.	Empower librarians for personal and professional development	24	80 %	6	20 %	Accepted
4.	Transform wealth	28.	93,3 %	25	6,6 %	Accepted
5.	Revenue generation	28	93,3 %	2	6,6 %	Accepted
6.	Create career in publishing and book trade	25	83,3 %	5	16,6 %	Accepted
7.	Profit on investment	26	86,6 %	2	16,6 %	Accepted
8.	Build partnership between publishers and libraries	29	96,6 %	5	13,3 %	Accepted
9.	To support literacy and reading	26	86,6 %	4	3,3 %	Accepted
10.	To encourage readership	24	80 %	1	13,13 %	Accepted
11.	To interact with books and reading	25	83,3 %	4	20 %	Accepted
12.	To encourage economic development	27	90 %	6	16,6 %	Accepted
13.	To generate fund	26	86,6 %	5	10 %	Accepted
14.	Develop entrepreneurial spirit	20	66,6 %	4	13,3 %	Accepted
15.	Involve in organization's strategic goals	28	93,3 %	10	6,6 %	Accepted
16.	Fee based services(information brokerage)	24	80 %	6	20 %	Accepted
17.	To meet users' information needs	29	96,6 %	1	3,3 %	Accepted

Table 3. Frequency and percentage distribution on benefits of book trade and publishing as source of entrepreneurship and wealth creation for librarians

S/N	What are the benefits of book trade publishing as sources of Entrepreneurship and wealth creation for Libraries in University Libraries?	Agree	Frequency	Disagree	Frequency	Decision
1.	Career in publishing business	25	83,3 %	5	16,6 %	Accepted
2.	Encouraging while still working in libraries	24	80 %	6	20 %	Accepted
3.	Unfolds libraries' potential, hard work and performance	28	93,3 %	2	6,6 %	Accepted
4.	Earn and share profits	29	93,6 %	1	8,3 %	Accepted
5.	Turning ideas into profitable ventures	25	83,3 %	5	16,6 %	Accepted
6.	Aggressive risk taking	10	33,3 %	20	66,6 %	Accepted
7.	Identify and solve problems	27	90 %	3	10 %	Accepted
8.	Adding value to specific problems	28	93,3 %	2	6,6 %	Accepted
9.	Intrapreneur inventiveness and spirit within ten library	26	86,6 %	4	13,3 %	Accepted
10.	Generate revenue	20	66,6 %	10	33 %	Accepted
11.	Expertise to contributing in promoting entrepreneurship libraries.	28	93,3 %	2	6,6 %	Accepted

Furthermore, librarians acknowledged the importance of book trade and publishing in accumulating wealth assets (83,3 %), encouraging economic development (83,3 %), realizing profits on investments (83,3 %), and transforming wealth (80 %). Additionally, they recognized the value of these activities in interacting with books and reading (80 %) and aligning with the organization's strategic goals (66 %). Interestingly, meeting users' information needs was also highly regarded (96,6 %). Based on the acceptance rule (50 % and above), the findings demonstrate that librarians strongly perceive book trade and publication as effective avenues for entrepreneurship and wealth creation, with broad recognition of their multifaceted benefits across personal, professional, and institutional dimensions.

Research Question 2: what are the benefits of book trade and publishing as a source of entrepreneurship and wealth creation for librarians in university libraries?

Table 3 presents the respondents' views on the benefits of book trade and publishing as sources of entrepreneurship and wealth creation for librarians in Rivers State universities. The analysis reveals a strong consensus among librarians regarding several key benefits, with items scoring above the 50 % acceptance threshold being considered significant. The findings indicate that a majority of respondents acknowledge unfolding librarians' potential, hard work, and performance as the most significant benefit, with a high acceptance rate of 93,3 %. Similarly, the expertise of librarians in contributing to the promotion of entrepreneurship within libraries also received 93,3 %, underscoring the recognition of librarians' roles in driving entrepreneurial activities. Additionally, adding value to specific problems through book trade and publishing was highly rated at 93,3 %, reflecting the importance of these activities in problem-solving and service enhancement.

Other notable benefits identified include the development of careers in the publishing business (83,3 %), which highlights the potential for librarians to diversify professionally while maintaining their roles within academic institutions. The promotion of intrapreneurial inventiveness and spirit within libraries was also widely acknowledged, with an acceptance rate of 86,6 %, indicating that librarians see themselves as capable of fostering innovation from within their organizations. Furthermore, the study reveals that encouraging sole proprietorship while still working in libraries was viewed positively by 80 % of respondents, demonstrating the feasibility of librarians engaging in entrepreneurial ventures alongside their primary roles. Conversely, aggressive risk-taking was the least accepted benefit, with only 33,3 % of respondents in support, suggesting a more cautious approach to entrepreneurial risks within the library environment.

Research Question 3: Challenges on Entrepreneurship and Wealth creation for Librarians.

Table 4. What are the challenges on Entrepreneurship and Wealth creation for Librarians						
S/N	Challenges on Entrepreneurship and Wealth creation for Librarians	Agree	Frequency	Disagree	Frequency	Decision
1.	Economic collisions	27	90 %	3	10 %	Accepted
2.	Government Policies	28	93,3 %	2	6,6 %	Accepted
3	Low enlightenment on the relevance of entrepreneurship	28	93,3 %	2 5	6,6 %	Accepted
4.	Limited funding sources	27	90 %	3	10 %	Accepted
5.	Problems of generating compelling business ideas	25	83,3 %	5	16,6 %	Accepted

Table 4 illustrates the challenges associated with entrepreneurship and wealth creation faced by librarians in Rivers State-owned universities. The responses from the surveyed librarians reveal a high level of agreement on several key challenges, with all items scoring above the 50 % acceptance threshold, indicating widespread acknowledgment of these issues. The most significant challenge identified is low enlightenment on the relevance of entrepreneurship to improve librarians' drive for entrepreneurial activities, which received the highest acceptance rate of 96 %. This suggests that a lack of awareness and understanding of the importance of entrepreneurship remains a major barrier to its adoption among librarians. Similarly, government policies were identified as a critical challenge, with 93 % of respondents indicating that restrictive or unfavorable policies hinder entrepreneurial initiatives within the university library system.

In addition, economic collisions, such as financial instability and unfavorable economic conditions, were highlighted as significant obstacles by 90 % of the respondents. This reflects the broader economic challenges that can impact the sustainability of entrepreneurial ventures in academic environments. Another key challenge identified is limited funding, also acknowledged by 90 % of respondents. This indicates that financial constraints significantly impede librarians' ability to start or expand entrepreneurial activities, limiting opportunities for innovation and revenue generation. Furthermore, problems related to generating compelling business ideas were noted by 83,3 % of respondents, suggesting that while the interest in entrepreneurship exists, many librarians struggle with ideation and the development of viable business concepts.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study highlight the significant role of book trade and publishing as avenues for entrepreneurship and wealth creation among librarians in university libraries. Librarians strongly agreed that book trade and publishing support literacy and reading (96,6 %). This aligns with Shaw⁽³⁾ who emphasizes the role of academic books in promoting intellectual development, and Darnton⁽¹⁾ who highlights the historical significance of publishing in advancing literacy during the Enlightenment. However, Gudiniavičius and Grigas⁽⁷⁾ argue that commercialization can create access barriers, especially in contexts where unauthorized book use is prevalent.

In terms of revenue generation and wealth accumulation, librarians acknowledged the economic benefits of book trade, with high agreement on material improvement (93,3 %) and revenue generation (93,3 %). This supports Dike et al.⁽⁴⁾, who argue that entrepreneurship in library science fosters financial sustainability. Stanley et al.⁽⁸⁾ also highlight the importance of entrepreneurial skills for creating job opportunities in librarianship. The role of book trade and publishing in professional development (86,2 %) is supported by Iroaganachi et al.⁽⁹⁾ who advocate for entrepreneurial ventures to enhance librarians' career prospects. Similarly, Harris et al.⁽¹⁰⁾ emphasize the importance of entrepreneurship in building sustainable university libraries. However, Mamza and Waba⁽¹¹⁾ point out that many librarians lack the entrepreneurial mindset and financial literacy required to succeed in business ventures. Librarians also recognized the importance of building partnerships with publishers (86,6 %) and aligning book trade activities with institutional goals (66 %). This finding is validated by Leonard et al.⁽¹²⁾, who discuss the value of collaborations between libraries and the publishing industry in driving innovation. Babalola et al.⁽⁶⁾ further argue that such partnerships can improve employability and job creation. On the contrary, Plant⁽¹³⁾ raises concerns about the potential conflict between commercial interests and the traditional mission of libraries to provide free access to information. Regarding economic development and profit realization (83,3 %), the findings are consistent with Ntogo-Saghanen et al.⁽¹⁴⁾ who assert that information entrepreneurship promotes self-employment among librarians. Ezell⁽¹⁵⁾ also notes that authorship and book trade have historically contributed to economic growth. However, Gudinašius et al.⁽⁷⁾ highlight the threat of digital piracy and the challenges of maintaining profitability in the digital age.

Also, the findings of this study reveal a strong consensus among librarians in Rivers State universities on the benefits of book trade and publishing as sources of entrepreneurship and wealth creation. The majority of respondents acknowledged that book trade and publishing help in unfolding librarians' potential, hard work, and performance, with a high acceptance rate. This aligns with the views of Stanley et al.⁽⁸⁾ who emphasized that entrepreneurial activities in librarianship enhance professional growth and self-actualization, promoting librarians' performance beyond traditional roles. The expertise of librarians in contributing to entrepreneurship within libraries also received strong support. Iroaganachi et al.⁽⁹⁾ corroborate this, asserting that librarians possess unique skills that can be leveraged for wealth creation through publishing and entrepreneurial ventures. Similarly, Dike et al.⁽⁴⁾ highlighted that entrepreneurship education equips librarians with the necessary skills for self-employment, reinforcing the current study's findings. Adding value to specific problems through book trade and publishing was also highly rated. In support, Harris⁽¹⁰⁾ highlighted that entrepreneurial activities within university libraries foster problem-solving initiatives that enhance service delivery. The development of careers in the publishing business as a significant benefit aligns with Plant⁽¹³⁾ who discussed how the book trade offers diverse professional opportunities beyond traditional library roles. Additionally, the promotion of intrapreneurial spirit resonates with Mamza et al.⁽¹¹⁾ who emphasized the role of innovative thinking in sustaining entrepreneurial librarianship. Conversely, the low acceptance of aggressive risk-taking reflects a cautious approach to entrepreneurship within the library sector. This is consistent with Gudinašius and Grigas⁽²⁾ who noted that librarians tend to adopt conservative strategies in entrepreneurial ventures due to the risk-averse nature of academic environments.

Finally, the study identified several challenges associated with entrepreneurship and wealth creation among librarians in Rivers State-owned universities. The most significant challenge was low enlightenment on the relevance of entrepreneurship, with 96 % of respondents acknowledging this issue. This finding aligns with Dike et al.⁽⁴⁾ who highlighted that inadequate entrepreneurship education and awareness among librarians hinder their motivation to engage in entrepreneurial activities. Similarly, Stanley et al.⁽⁸⁾ emphasized that without proper exposure to entrepreneurial concepts, librarians may lack the drive necessary for innovative ventures. Government policies were also cited as a critical barrier, with 93 % of respondents indicating that restrictive policies negatively impact entrepreneurial initiatives. This finding is supported by Harris⁽¹⁰⁾ who discussed how rigid institutional policies in Caribbean university libraries stifled entrepreneurial creativity and limited librarians' ability to explore innovative projects. Conversely, Iroaganachi et al.⁽⁹⁾ argued that while policies can pose challenges, proactive engagement by librarians with policymakers can mitigate such barriers, suggesting that the impact of policies may vary depending on institutional contexts. Economic challenges, including financial instability, were highlighted by 90 % of respondents. This aligns with Mamza et al.⁽¹¹⁾ who noted that economic downturns and unfavorable market conditions significantly affect the sustainability of entrepreneurial efforts in academic libraries. In addition, limited funding, also identified by 90 % of participants, resonates with the findings of Babalola et al.⁽⁶⁾ who emphasized that financial constraints are a primary obstacle to entrepreneurial growth in library settings, limiting opportunities for resource expansion and innovation. Furthermore, the struggle with generating viable business ideas, noted by 83,3 % of respondents, reflects the observations of Leonard et al.⁽¹²⁾ who found that while librarians possess strong information management skills, many lack the creative and strategic thinking needed for entrepreneurial ideation. This suggests that enhancing librarians' creative capacities through targeted training could help bridge this gap.

CONCLUSIONS

This study investigated the role of book trade and publishing as sources of entrepreneurship and wealth creation among librarians in Rivers State-owned universities. The findings revealed that librarians recognize book trade and publishing as viable avenues for entrepreneurship, contributing significantly to revenue generation, personal development, and institutional growth. The study highlighted that librarians are aware of the multifaceted purposes of engaging in book trade and publishing, including material improvement, revenue generation, career diversification, and support for literacy and economic development. The respondents acknowledged the benefits of these entrepreneurial activities, such as enhancing professional potential, promoting intrapreneurial spirit, adding value to library services, and creating opportunities for self-employment and financial independence.

Despite the acknowledged benefits, the study identified several challenges hindering the effective adoption of entrepreneurial practices among librarians. The most critical challenge was low enlightenment on the relevance of entrepreneurship, indicating a significant gap in awareness and understanding of its potential impact. Additionally, restrictive government policies were noted as barriers that limit entrepreneurial initiatives within the university library system. Economic challenges, including financial instability and limited funding, were also identified as significant obstacles, restricting librarians' capacity to initiate or expand entrepreneurial ventures. Furthermore, difficulties in generating compelling business ideas highlighted the need for enhanced creative thinking and ideation skills among librarians. Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations were made: (a) university administrators should integrate entrepreneurship education into professional development programs for librarians. This will enhance their awareness of entrepreneurial opportunities, build relevant skills, and foster a culture of innovation within library settings; (b) there is a need for government and policy makers to review and reform existing policies that hinder entrepreneurial activities in academic institutions. Creating supportive frameworks and providing incentives for library-based entrepreneurial ventures will encourage more librarians to explore business opportunities; and (c) librarians should actively seek continuous learning opportunities focused on business ideation, financial management, and creative problem-solving. Professional associations can organize workshops, seminars, and mentorship programs to equip librarians with the skills needed to navigate the entrepreneurial landscape effectively.

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