

**CONFLICT DYNAMICS AND PEACE ARCHITECTURES IN AFRICA: THE ROLES OF
ACADEMIC LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE PROVIDERS IN NORTH-CENTRAL
NIGERIA (CASE OF UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN LIBRARY).**

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Abstract

There is a dire need for peace in the world due to the high increase of conflict be it social, political, or cultural and so on. This study investigated the roles library and information service providers play towards achieving the resolution of conflicts in the North-Central Nigerian society and at large, Africa. The objective of the study was to find out different ways library and information services providers provide and resolve conflict, challenges faced and strategies to enhance conflict resolution and peace in North-Central Nigeria. Academic library within the conflict zone were used for the study and 20 heads of the main library and their branch library supplied the needed data. Interviews, questionnaires, and observations were used as instruments for data collection while data was analyzed using simple frequency counts and percentages. Findings showed that some of the institutions had courses on conflict resolution and peace architecture, library had reasonable collections but very few on conflict resolution and peace architecture, and library and information providers had few or no programs for conflict resolution and architecture for peace. Library faced poor funding and infrastructural decay in their facilities. The study recommended for there be an increase in funding to enable library to purchase information materials on conflict resolution, train staff through creating workshops, and attend conferences and seminars on conflict resolution which can be strategies for conflict resolution and peace architectural building. Also, there should be programs carried out by the library on conflict resolution and peace architecture in academic institutions. x

Keywords: Conflict dynamics, peace architecture, academic library, information service providers, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Conflict dynamics in Africa are deeply rooted in historical, social, and political factors. North-Central Nigeria, in particular, has witnessed a series of conflicts driven by ethnic, religious, and political tensions. These conflicts have disrupted social harmony, impacted development, and challenged peace-building

efforts. In this context, academic library and information service providers have emerged as crucial players in supporting conflict resolution and peace-building initiatives. The African continent has experienced various forms of conflict, ranging from civil wars to inter-ethnic clashes. Scholars argue that conflicts are often driven by a combination of factors including resource scarcity, political instability, and historical grievances (Rosenberg, 2018; Adetula, 2021). North-Central Nigeria, characterized by its diverse ethnic and religious composition, has been particularly vulnerable to these conflicts.

Peace architectures refer to the frameworks and mechanisms established to promote and sustain peace. These include diplomatic initiatives, peace treaties, community dialogues, and reconciliation processes (Mwanasali, 2019; Osei-Hwedie, 2020). In North-Central Nigeria, peace-building efforts have involved both governmental and non-governmental actors, aiming to address the root causes of conflicts and foster social cohesion. Academic library and information service providers play a vital role in the peace-building process by:

Providing Access to Information: Library offer access to a wide range of information resources, including research materials on conflict resolution and peace-building. This information is essential for policymakers, researchers, and the general public in understanding and addressing conflict dynamics (Aina & Ajiferuke, 2022; Adeyemi, 2021); **Facilitating Dialogue and Education:** Library serve as platforms for community engagement and dialogue. Through seminars, workshops, and public lectures, they facilitate discussions on peace and conflict resolution, promoting understanding and reconciliation (Isah, 2020; Aliyu, 2022); **Supporting Research and Policy Development:** Library support research on conflict dynamics and peace-building by providing access to academic journals, books, and databases. This research contributes to evidence-based policy development and effective peace-building strategies (Bukky, 2021; Dadzie, 2024) and **Promoting Digital Literacy and Access:** In the digital age, library and information service providers also play a role in promoting digital literacy, which is crucial for accessing and disseminating information related to peace and conflict (Lazinger, 2019; Conn, 2021).

While academic library and information service providers have a significant role to play, they also face challenges such as limited resources, infrastructural constraints, and political interference. Addressing these challenges and leveraging opportunities for collaboration with other peace-building actors can enhance their impact in North-Central Nigeria (Babu et al., 2020; Imhonopi & Urim, 2022). The intersection of conflict dynamics and peace architectures in Africa underscores the critical role of academic library and information service providers. By facilitating access to information, promoting dialogue, and supporting research, these institutions contribute to the broader peace-building efforts in North-Central Nigeria.

The definition of conflict can be viewed as either a negative or a good process, depending on the context. Depending on how it is conceptualized, conflict can be presented as a natural phenomenon, an alien or abnormal event in social life, or a necessary condition for the development and growth of people and societies. This is done by describing and explaining how conflict dynamics operate. Conflict is a dynamic process, so it is important to be cautious when making conclusions about it and to take time into account. The actors, the resources, and the balance of power in a conflict can all change significantly over time. As a result, conflict analysis must be a continuous process (OECD, 2013). A disagreement must first be understood and examined to be dealt with successfully. Conflict analysis, which tries to get a clearer and deeper understanding of the genesis, character, and dynamics of the conflict in an issue, is the most crucial step that must be completed before any conflict intervention can be carried out. Conflict analysis is a task that must be carried out throughout the entirety of conflict resolution because conflict is a dynamic phenomenon. Conflict analysis involves not only gathering data and facts concerning the conflict but also interpreting and assessing the data (AMA, 2019).

Conflict analysis enables the identification of (UNICEF, 2016)

- i. the type of conflict.
- ii. the reasons for the conflict.
- iii. the causes and consequences of the conflict.
- iv. the components and the different actors involved.
- v. the levels at which the conflict takes place.

Conflict is a belief or understanding that one's needs, interests, wants, or values conflict with those of another person. This cognitive dimension has both objective and subjective components. It could be a thought, a sensation, or a deed. Numerous ideas attempt to explain the conflict's origins. Basic human inclinations, the quest for resources and power, the institutions and societies individuals build, and the inevitable conflict between classes are all considered the roots of conflict. In practically every area of human endeavor where Africa has and is now experiencing war over the past 22 years, there has been a rise in size. Ethnic and religious intolerance, terrorism, political upheaval, and a rise in global inequality have all contributed to these conflicts. Some of the effects of warfare include the Gulf War, the Rwandan massacre, the ongoing Israel and Palestine War, the Zimbabwe Power Struggle, the Liberian War, the Sudan War, the Nigerian Niger Delta Militancy, the Boko Haram Terrorist Attacks, banditry, and abduction in Nigeria (Oluwaseun, 2012). Conflict can be seen to occur along three different dimensions: cognition (perception), emotion (feeling), and behavior (action). This three-dimensional viewpoint can assist us in comprehending the complexities of conflict and the reasons why it occasionally seems to move in opposite directions (Mayer, 2000).

Library and information service providers have made significant contributions to the creation, gathering, organization, and dissemination of information in both print and non-print modes. To embrace the advent of ICT, library have transitioned from a manual to an automated type of service delivery. Services like the internet, websites, email, teleconferencing, and other platforms have been heavily emphasized as the news channels in the dissemination of information to users that have aided in resolving the various types of conflicts because of the revolution of ICT and the introduction of ICT in library.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

North-Central Nigeria has been a hotspot for recurring conflicts, ranging from inter-ethnic and religious violence to disputes over resources. These conflicts have led to loss of lives, displacement of populations, and the disruption of socio-economic activities. Despite various peace-building efforts by governmental and non-governmental organizations, the region continues to experience instability, highlighting the need for more effective and sustainable conflict resolution strategies. Academic library and information service providers are traditionally viewed as institutions of learning and knowledge dissemination.

However, their potential role in conflict resolution and peace-building has been largely overlooked. These institutions have the capability to serve as critical platforms for fostering peace by providing access to essential information, facilitating dialogue, and supporting research on conflict dynamics and peace architectures. The problem, therefore, lies in the underutilization of academic library and information service providers in the peace-building process in North-Central Nigeria. While these institutions have the resources and reach to influence positive change, there is a lack of structured involvement and collaboration with peace-building initiatives. This gap presents a significant challenge to achieving long-term peace and stability in the region.

Therefore, the study looked at the role's academic library and information service providers play in conflict dynamics and peace architecture in the African case of North-Central, Nigeria.

OBJECTIVES

To determine the role information service providers, play in conflict dynamics and peace architecture in North-Central Nigeria (case of University of Ilorin library).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Conflict Resolution

Conflict can be defined as a situation characterized by disagreement, dispute, or opposition. It might also imply that there is a protracted conflict between two or more sides. Obegi and Nyamboga (2008) defined conflict as circumstances when two people (or groups) want to commit activities that are incompatible with one another, using Nicholas (1992). The pushing and pulling, giving, and taking, and process of establishing the equilibrium between powers are other examples of what he means when he says that conflict incorporates these elements. Conflict is typically defined as a breach of harmony or understanding amongst the parties engaged in either situation. When two people hold opposing viewpoints, according to Green (2017) and

Gillin (2017), a conflict results. For them, conflict is just a fight, either between two people or among group members, to use everyday parlance. They went on to say that conflicts happen when people cannot agree due to their divergent values, opinions, needs, or interests. The lack of accurate information or a breakdown in communication between the people concerned has been proven to be a common component in conflict situations. The appropriate information being provided has long been considered the panacea for resolving disputes. According to Gisesa (2008), research regarding conflict and peace has revealed that conflicts are based on a deficiency of information, stressing that cases of misinformation, wrong information, or missing information enhance disparity in opinions and social differences which may lead to as well as heighten conflicts.

According to Heilter (2011), conflict resolution is the process of adopting a course of action that both sides may be happy with through cooperative problem-solving. The word "conflict resolution" is defined broadly by Fren-Mensah (2008) to include conflict management and social control. This includes the ideas, techniques, and abilities used to avoid, lessen, or settle a conflict. Therefore, post-conflict operations including reconciliation, reinsertion, reintegration, and rehabilitation of former combatants and war survivors, as well as the development and implementation of early warning systems, comprise conflict resolution. Conflict resolution and dispute resolution are terms that can be used interchangeably when arbitration and litigation are important components. The concept of conflict resolution can be thought to encompass the use of nonviolent resistance measures by conflicted parties to promote effective resolution (Ode, 2019)

According to Heilter (2011), conflict resolution is a process that involves everyone working together to solve problems and come up with a solution that is agreeable to all parties. On the other hand, Fren-Mensah (2008) offers a broad definition of the term conflict resolution that encompasses conflict management and social control. The concepts, techniques, and abilities used to avert, lessen, or settle conflict are included in this. Therefore, post-conflict activities like reconciliation, reinsertion, reintegration, and rehabilitation of former combatants and those affected by war are all included in conflict resolution, in addition to the development and use of early warning systems. In situations where the use of arbitration and the legal system is crucial, the terms "conflict resolution" and "dispute resolution" can also be used interchangeably. The concept of conflict resolution can be thought to encompass the use of nonviolent resistance measures by conflicted parties to promote effective resolution (Ode, 2019). In contrast to managing or transforming conflicts, Miller (2003) asserted that "conflict resolution involves a variety of ways targeted at terminating disputes through the constructive solutions of problems." According to Miall and Wood House (2001), conflict resolution is the process of addressing and resolving the core causes of conflict, changing the structure of the dispute while also changing the behavior and attitudes of the parties involved. According to Mitchel and Banks (1996), conflict resolution refers to a situation where the problems in a current dispute are properly resolved through a long-term, self-sustaining solution that produces a new, constructive connection between parties who were once hostile opponents.

Conflict affects countries at all levels of economic development, but it disproportionately affects least developed countries or countries in economic stagnation. Conflicts vary widely in their nature, extent, duration, range of contributory factors, and how they impact education. Using the Uppsala data set of armed conflict 1946-2001, the study identified 52 countries or territories that have been affected by war or intermediate conflict since 1990 (World Bank, 2005) and most of these are in Africa (Echezona, 2007). Montville, writing for the UN (1992), defined two distinct, mutually supportive components of conflict resolution as: "Training in dispute resolution skills, and political conflict resolution- processes. On the other hand, the litigation or power negotiation approach promoted discord because the "power" side wins while the "weak" side loses and is determined to seek revenge in the future. The widely used negotiation mediation-conciliation approach focuses on problem-solving through consensus building so that the fundamental interests of all parties can be satisfied. Negotiation skills were crucial and may be used to settle long-standing sectarian and ethnic conflicts. Resolution of disputes might aid in the development of democratic pluralism in civic society.

Causes of conflicts (Echezona, 2007)

- a. political factors
- b. external factors

- c. economic factors
- d. government policy
- e. information flow and sharing
- f. development patterns
- g. ethnic conflict
- h. religious factors
- i. resources conflict

Ways to resolve conflicts.

- a. mediation
- b. conciliation
- c. arbitration
- d. negotiation
- e. judicial settlement in the court system
- f. peacekeeping
- g. peace agreement.
- h. amnesties

In its National Policy on peacebuilding and conflict management from 2006, the Kenyan government defined conflict as the existence of unpleasant relationships brought on by competing interests. The antagonistic relationships may be violent or dormant. It is a misconception that involves a conceivable point of interest. Conflict may come from misunderstandings in the areas of religion, society, politics, or the economy, while conflict resolution, according to Wikis, is a collection of techniques and procedures that support the peaceful resolution of conflict. This is accomplished when parties to a dispute try to settle interpersonal disputes by actively disclosing to the group their opposing goals or views and by participating in group discussions or negotiations (Obasola, 2012). Conflicts start because of half-truths and preconceptions, according to a notion in research on peace and conflict resolution (Gisea 2008, in Onuchukwu 2011).

A university is a place of higher education and research that grants degrees in a variety of academic fields. Typically, a university offers both undergraduate and graduate programs. The university is regarded as the peak of all tertiary institutions and has the responsibility of providing students with quality education in preparation for a better life. The encouragement and promotion of scholarship and research in all areas of learning and human activity are one of the goals of creating a university. At the center of the learning community, university library offer a setting, resources, and services for patrons who want to conduct the study and further their knowledge (Simmonds & Andaleeb, 2001).

The library (academic) and other information organizations and service providers can play a crucial role in the effort to discover real and workable solutions to the many types of conflicts. Academic library are in a unique position to intervene before, during, and after any crisis to maintain peace through a strong architectural setting. This is due to the variety of library, their capacity to serve a wide range of groups (academics & researchers, policymakers, NGOs, Communities, etc.), their extensive network, and their reach crossing geopolitical and ethnic boundaries. According to Bhatti (2010), information is a crucial tool for security, peace promotion, and conflict resolution.

Roles of academic library and information service providers.

The word "library" seems to be used in so many different aspects now, from the brick-and-mortar public library to the digital library. Public library—and indeed, all library—are changing and dynamic places where librarians help people find the best source of information whether it's a book, a website, or a database entry (ALA, 2022). Eberhart, (2010) "A library is a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is (1) organized by information professionals or other experts who (2) provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and (3) offer targeted services and programs (4) with the mission of educating, informing, or entertaining a variety of audiences (5) and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole." (p.1)

School library: Through their patrons, resources, services, and facilities at various levels, these library can play a crucial part in settling national problems. The users will have the opportunity to teach the children

conflict avoidance skills at a very young age. As they get older, library users will reflect on what they have learned from it in their social lives, relationships, and interactions.

Academic library: Echezona (2001) emphasized that library should provide scholars with tools for early conflict detection and resolution. This might be accomplished by inviting conflict resolution experts to participate in workshops and seminars and brainstorming sessions and then documenting the knowledge produced so that users can master the skill of resolving national problems. Academic library can help in conflict resolution by making materials available for the users of the library and its immediate community by holding outreach programs once in a while. Academic library include research library, universities that provide bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, junior and community colleges, and higher education remote learning programs. Academic library collaborate with other members of their institutional communities to support and further the educational mission of those institutions by educating students in the fundamental skills of information literacy, which include the capacity to recognize information needs, find the information they require, evaluate, manage, and apply that information, as well as comprehend the ethical, social, and legal implications of information use. The systematic provision of educational services and activities should be planned in tandem with overall strategic library planning, which includes the library's budgeting procedure. Planning may also entail working with other campus departments to be a positive influencing factor in students' academic success.

Public library: Public library, information centers, and national archives are ideally situated to connect with a range of social classes. From very little children to very senior folks, they serve everyone. Public library and archival centers, according to Bhatti (2010), can and should broaden their ideas of services beyond their immediate surroundings to foster positive interactions among various groups in their communities. Teachers, civil society organizations, lawyers, social workers, youth workers, and peace and reconciliation officials should all be included in these inclusive dialogues (Aboh& Isaac, 2019).

According to Adeniran (2010), academic library serve a wide range of knowledge seekers and are crucial sources of knowledge. They offer a wealth of information resources and services that support these institutions' curricula. Because library are buildings that store information materials (both print and non-print) and rely on services provided by librarians who have received training at library schools, they are of utmost importance in any learning institution and community. According to Fatokun, Salaam, and Ajegbomogun (2010), library staff members must carry out several statutory duties to meet the established goals of their university library. Library and librarians have historically had a significant impact on the production, gathering, organization, and dissemination of information. There have been innovations and revolutions in library services since the introduction of information and communication technologies (ICT). To accommodate the advent of ICT, library have transformed how they give services. The ICT revolution and the adoption of ICT in library have greatly increased the need for services like the internet, websites, email, teleconferencing, etc. as legitimate avenues for settling interstate issues.

Academic library can assist the government, policymakers, civil society, and communities by providing pertinent information at all levels, acting as a channel or conduit for information dissemination for the efficient operation of a democratic system. The objective of library is to provide society with a collective memory into which highly valuable information can flow (Oluwaseun, 2012) The fundamental presumption guiding the expansion and development of all academic library is that they play a crucial role in the academic and instructional life of the institution or university (Issa, 2003). Academic library' primary responsibility, according to Singh and Kaur (2009), is the preservation and access to knowledge and information, along with supporting their parent institutions' teaching and research goals that are intended to help with conflict dynamics and peacemaking.

By providing and providing people with useful information services, library and information service providers who act as custodians of information play a very significant role within the communities in which they find themselves. Through the information services they offer, library have given individuals the chance to socialize, exchange ideas, and develop a feeling of community. Additionally, the library, as an integral part of the community, makes use of the resources at its disposal by offering print and non-print resource materials that include pertinent information on matters of agriculture, politics, the economy, and religion to meet the community's growing needs. All these informational services provided by the library aim to increase

public awareness of government initiatives, as well as of social and political concerns that have an impact on people's daily lives, and to foster a feeling of community. The library can identify the demographic and occupational characteristics, educational level, needs, and interests of its patron community through the process of taking a sociological assessment, and this forms the basis for knowledge of their information needs, which are met through its information delivery system (Ode, 2019). According to Gisesa (2008), lack of information is the root cause of disputes, and instances of misinformation foster differences in viewpoints and socioeconomic strata that may heighten conflicts. The community can learn more about the promotion of peace from the library both formally and informally. According to Ifidon and Ahaiazu (2006), information and knowledge support attitudes of collaborative and cooperative intent and shift the negotiating dynamic from mistrust to trust. The library is the only institution that can unite people to work toward a shared objective despite their diversity in political, religious, economic, and social views. The library looks out for everyone's interests and values their intellectual contributions to advance peace and aid in the development of the country. Through the numerous sorts of library in Nigeria, academic library function as one of the primary means by which the library can accomplish this by giving the necessary information to educate its diverse consumers (Aboh&Issac, 2019)

The library can determine the demographic and occupational characteristics, educational level, needs, and interests of the community through its process of conducting a sociological assessment of its patrons. This forms the basis for the knowledge of the community's information needs, which are met through its information delivery system. (Ode, 2019). Popoola (2002) observed that information services have become very essential and have become an effective tool for development in any society. Uche (1999) noted that information is the key resource for the development and progress of a nation that, touches on the socio-economic, cultural, and political development of its citizenry; and no nation can develop above her information infrastructural capacity and effective information service delivery. When the information service system stagnates or when an efficient information service delivery is lacking, a society becomes immobile and motionless. Effective library and information services are the foundation for information, which is a crucial resource that is essential to any developmental process.

The narrative suggests that regardless of social, economic, or political disadvantages, everyone should always have appropriate access to information because it is a strategic resource for almost any individual, group, or establishment. The creation of a more cultured information service delivery approach in library and information centers for their clients is therefore a contemporary library and information service that goes beyond the traditional functions of maintaining and providing access to a vast amount of printed and non-printed materials (Ode, 2019). He emphasized further that the library and information services may help resolve disputes in the following ways.

1. **Information Dissemination:** There is an urgent need for high-quality, sufficient, and easily accessible information in a variety of formats if any community, state, country, or continent hopes to have any real influence on conflict prevention and resolution to advance peaceful coexistence. Any civilization must allow for the free flow of knowledge to help avert conflicts of any kind. According to Adewale (2015), efficient information dissemination through library, information centers, and information providers will make leaders and the public more aware of the causes, development, effects, and potential solutions to potential conflicts.
2. **Current Awareness:** Haruna (2009) included organizing seminars, conferences, workshops, and symposia as one of the effective services that library could provide in conflict resolution in his study on "current awareness services." By making residents of the community aware of the government's and other stakeholders' efforts to address some significant differences in the community to resolve them to allow peace to prevail and encourage peaceful coexistence, the current awareness services provided by the library have played a significant role in conflict resolution (Ode, 2019)
3. **Provision of Resource Materials:** According to Laloo (2002), library and information centers play a crucial role in facilitating unrestricted access to the vital information sources required for the growth of economic and cultural life. Additionally, public library have developed mobile library to

deliver reference resources to houses that are far from state and local government offices. With the help of these outstanding services, conflicts have been resolved and communal harmony is being promoted.

4. **Public Enlightenment Programs:** There is an urgent need for reliable, sufficient, and available information in a variety of formats if any community, state, country, or continent hopes to have a significant impact on the prevention of conflict and conflict resolution to foster peaceful coexistence. Any civilization must allow for the free flow of knowledge to help avert conflicts of any kind. According to Adewale (2015), efficient information dissemination through library, information centers, and information providers will make leaders and the public more aware of the causes, development, effects, and potential solutions to potential conflicts.
5. **Addition of Conflict Resolution in Institutional Curricula:** Ani (2009) supported the inclusion of interreligious socialization as a peace education subject for lifelong education that would promote peace in the nation in university learning curricula. The fact that most Nigerian institutions provide courses on the relationship between Islam and Christianity is a good illustration of this. Adewale (2015) argued that some universities have started offering courses on "Peace and conflict resolution" as general studies courses, as is the case in most universities in Nigeria today because of their realization of the potential roles of academic library in providing services for conflict resolution.
6. **Collaboration with Media Houses:** According to Adewale (2015), the library has collaborated with several media outlets over the years, including TV and radio, to spread propaganda that expresses a group's philosophy and ideas to act quickly during times of crisis. He emphasized further that the internet, community radio, television, video conferencing, email, print media, and reference services were some of the early information channels the library had used to spread knowledge of the impending conflict. In its steadfast attempts to resolve disputes, the library has teamed up with other related media outlets to advocate for and promote peaceful coexistence (Ode, 2019)

METHODOLOGY

The research adopted a descriptive survey research design to investigate the roles of academic library and information service providers in the dynamics of conflict and the construction of peace in North-Central Nigeria. This design was selected because it allows for the collection and analysis of data that can describe the current state and function of academic library in peace-building efforts. The study specifically focused on academic library in University of Ilorin, and the population for this study consisted of the heads of the main library and their branch library across various academic institutions in the state. Purposeful sampling was employed to select 20 participants, ensuring that those with the most relevant experience and knowledge in managing library services during periods of conflict were included. A questionnaire served as the primary instrument for data collection, enabling the gathering of detailed responses on the functions and challenges faced by these library in the context of conflict and peace-building. The questionnaire was designed to cover various aspects of library operations, their involvement in peace processes, and their perceived effectiveness in mitigating conflict. For the data analysis, simple percentages were utilized. This statistical method was chosen for its effectiveness in summarizing the responses and providing a clear understanding of the distribution and trends within the data. The results from the data analysis were used to answer the research questions, offering insights into the current roles and potential contributions of academic library and information service providers in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts on academic library in University of Ilorin.

Result

The results of this study are aimed at determining the role that information service providers, particularly within academic library, play in influencing conflict dynamics and contributing to peace architecture in Africa. Given the complex and multifaceted nature of conflicts across the continent, understanding how these institutions can support peace-building efforts is crucial. The

data collected provides insights into the current involvement, challenges, and potential strategies that information service providers can employ to enhance their role in fostering peace in conflict-affected academic library in University of Ilorin.

To determine the role information service providers, play in conflict dynamics and peace architecture in North-Central Nigeria (case of University of Ilorin library).

1.	Do you know what conflict is	(a) yes 20 (100%)	(b) No 0	(c) maybe 0
2.	Have you ever been involved in any form of conflict	(a) yes 20(100%)	(b) No 0	(c) maybe 0
3.	If answer to question 2 is yes, please what type of conflict.			
	i. Political	7(35%)		
	ii. Cultural/ethnic	18(90%)		
	iii. Religious	5(25%)		
	iv. Social	19(95%)		
	v. Economic	17(85%)		
	vi. Information flow and sharing	19(95%)		
	vii. Resources	16(80%)		
4.	Were you able to resolve your conflict	(a) yes 16(80%)	(b) No 0	(c) maybe 4(20%)
5.	If answer to question 4 is yes, in what way.			
	i. Mediation	19(95%)		
	ii. Conciliation	16(80%)		
	iii. Settlement	20(100%)		
	iv. Negotiation	20(100%)		
	v. Judicial settlement in court system	5(25%)		
	vi. Peace keeping	15(75%)		
	vii. Peace agreement	20(100%)		
	viii. Forgiveness	20(100%)		
6.	Does the library have information resources on conflict and conflict resolution?			
	(a) yes 14(70%)	(b) No 2(10%)	(c) maybe 4(20%)	
7.	Are these resources accessible	(a) yes 18(90%)	(b) No 0	(c) maybe 2(10%)
8.	Are there information managers that help in making these resources accessible to you in the library	(a) yes 20(100%)	(b) No 0	(c) maybe 0
9.	Does the library have enough information materials that cover conflicts and peace architecture?	(a) yes 8(40%)	(b) No 1(5%)	(c) maybe 11(55%)
10.	What purpose do users visit the library?			
	i. Studying	20(100%)		
	ii. Research	17(85%)		
	iii. Relaxation	13(65%)		
11.	Are information materials on conflict and peace architecture consulted by users of the library? (a) yes	(b) No 9(65%)	(c) maybe 1(5%)	10(30%)
12.	Are there programmes for conflict resolution and architecture for peace in the library?	(a) Yes 1 (5%)	(b) no 19(95)	(c) maybe. 0(0)
13.	Challenges faced by library and information service providers.			
	i. Digital divide			20(100%)
	ii. Lack of computer literacy			18(90%)
	iii. Lack of established information policy		14(70%)	
	iv. Poor policy interpretation			18(90%)
	v. Lack of awareness of information needs and the importance of information		19(95%)	

vi.	Lack of up-to-date information resource materials	20(100%)
vii.	Funding	20(100%)
viii.	Lack of adequate staff in the library	18(90%)

The table shows that librarians' responses to a question about their understanding of conflict, all 20 respondents said they have encountered some type of conflict, whether at work or elsewhere. Most librarians—95 percent—were involved in social conflict, as well as information flow and sharing, according to their replies about being involved in one type of conflict or another. In addition, 90 percent had been involved in an ethnic or cultural conflict, 80 percent in a resource conflict, 35 percent in a political conflict, and 25 percent in a religious conflict. Regarding the question of whether the respondents were able to resolve the issue, 80% of the respondents said they were. Furthermore, when asked how the conflict was resolved, 100 percent of respondents chose settlement, negotiation, peace agreement, or forgiveness, compared to 95 percent who chose mediation, 80 percent who chose conciliation, 75 percent who chose peacekeeping, and 25 percent who chose judicial settlement through the court system.

In addition, 70% of respondents said that the library has information resources on dispute resolution when asked about it. Additionally, 90% of respondents felt that users could access these informational resources. Additionally, all respondents (100%) agreed that information managers assist in making these resources available to users. 40 percent of respondents agreed that the library had information resources covering conflict and peace architecture, however, 55 percent of respondents were unsure whether the library had sufficient and suitable information resources covering conflict and peace architecture. One hundred percent of respondents said that people visit library for reading, eighty-five percent for research, and sixty-five percent for relaxing. 65 percent of respondents concurred that library patrons consult informational materials on conflict and peace architecture. In response to the question of whether library offered programs on conflict resolution and peace architecture, only 5% said they did, with 95% saying they didn't. The digital gap, a lack of current information resource materials, and funding were all concerns mentioned by library and information service providers with a 100% response rate. 95 percent of respondents agreed that there was a lack of awareness of information needs and the value of information, while 90 percent agreed that there was a lack of computer literacy, a poor understanding of policy, and insufficient staff at the library. The lack of a defined information policy was cited as a challenge by 70% of library and information service providers.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings from the study reveal significant insights into the understanding and experiences of librarians in North-Central Nigeria regarding conflict dynamics and peace-building efforts. All 20 respondents indicated that they had encountered some form of conflict, whether in the workplace or in other settings. This high level of exposure to conflict underscores the relevance of equipping librarians with the necessary skills and resources to navigate such situations effectively.

The data indicates that 95% of the librarian's reported involvement in social conflicts, particularly related to information flow and sharing. This suggests that the role of information management can be a source of tension, especially in environments where access to information is contested or where there are disparities in information dissemination (Aina & Ajiferuke, 2022). Moreover, the findings show that 90% of the librarians had experienced ethnic or cultural conflicts, reflecting the ethnic diversity and associated tensions in North-Central Nigeria (Isah, 2020). 80% had been involved in resource conflicts, indicating that competition for scarce resources is a prevalent issue. In contrast, 35% had faced political conflicts, and 25% had encountered religious conflicts, highlighting the multifaceted nature of conflict in the region.

Regarding conflict resolution, a significant 80% of the respondents reported that they were able to resolve their conflicts, which speaks to the librarians' capacity to navigate these challenges. The methods of resolution varied, with 100% of respondents indicating the use of settlement, negotiation, peace agreements, or forgiveness, and 95% employing mediation. This finding aligns with the literature suggesting that peace-building efforts often involve multiple strategies, including negotiation and mediation (Dadzie, 2024). Additionally, 70% of respondents acknowledged that their library possesses information resources on

dispute resolution, and 90% believed that users could access these resources. This accessibility is crucial for fostering an informed community capable of engaging in peaceful conflict resolution (Lazinger, 2019). However, only 40% of respondents agreed that their library had adequate information resources on conflict and peace architecture, while 55% were unsure about the sufficiency of these resources. This uncertainty highlights the need for more comprehensive and targeted collections in library to better support peace-building efforts (Babu et al., 2020).

The study also revealed that while 100% of respondents stated that people visit library primarily for reading, 85% for research, and 65% for relaxation, only 65% noted that patrons consult materials on conflict and peace architecture. This suggests that while library is utilized for various purposes, their role in peace-building might not be fully recognized or leveraged by the users (Aliyu, 2022). Furthermore, when asked about programs on conflict resolution and peace architecture, a mere 5% of respondents indicated that such programs were offered by their library. This finding points to a significant gap in the proactive engagement of library in peace-building activities (Conn, 2021).

The challenges faced by library and information service providers were also highlighted, with 100% of respondents citing issues such as the digital divide, lack of up-to-date information resources, and insufficient funding. Additionally, 95% of respondents pointed to a lack of awareness about the importance of information, computer literacy, and understanding of policies, coupled with inadequate staffing. The absence of a defined information policy was noted by 70% of respondents, further underscoring the institutional barriers that hinder the effective use of information in peace-building (Imhonopi & Urim, 2022; Bukky, 2021). These findings emphasize the need for targeted interventions to address these challenges and to harness the full potential of academic library and information service providers in supporting peace-building efforts in North-Central Nigeria.

CONCLUSIONS

The study has highlighted the pivotal yet underutilized role that academic library and information service providers can play in conflict dynamics and peace architecture in North-Central Nigeria. Despite the widespread exposure of librarians to various forms of conflict, ranging from social and resource-based disputes to ethnic, cultural, political, and religious conflicts, there is a significant potential for these institutions to contribute more effectively to peace-building efforts. Key findings indicate that while many libraries possess information resources on dispute resolution, there is a considerable gap in their collections related to conflict and peace architecture. Additionally, the lack of proactive programs focused on conflict resolution and peace-building within these libraries suggests an area ripe for development. Moreover, the study identifies several challenges hindering the optimal functioning of library in this role, including the digital divide, inadequate and outdated information resources, insufficient funding, lack of awareness about the importance of information, and the absence of a clear information policy.

Recommendation

- 1- Develop and Implement Peace-Building Programs: Library should proactively engage in the design and implementation of programs focused on conflict resolution and peace-building. These could include workshops, seminars, and discussion forums that bring together community members, researchers, and peace-building practitioners.

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