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SOCIAL IMPEDIMENTS TO PROVISION OF INFORMATION SERVICES AND RESOURCES IN SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN SIAYA AND KERICHO COUNTY ASSEMBLIES, KENYA.

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ABSTRACT

Libraries are pivotal in providing equitable access to information for all. The extent of usage of libraries is important, more so in informing policies on how to improve information services as well as ensuring that resources are allocated appropriately (Al Baghal, 2019). In this regard, special libraries, including County Assembly libraries are not unique since the population catered for and the services provided are all geared towards provision of information services. However, in the provision of information services and resources, special libraries in County Assemblies continue to be challenged by social factors. Therefore, this paper assessed the social impediments to provision of information services and resources in the special libraries in Siaya and Kericho county assemblies, Kenya. The study was conducted in the respective County Assembly Libraries located in County Assembly premises of respective towns. Exploratory research design was used and data was collected using questionnaires. Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 27 was used to summarize, code and analyze quantitative data. The findings revealed that library users were not denied access to information or other library services on the basis of their religious affiliations. Similarly, gender did not significantly influence library use, as both males and females had equal access to library facilities. In addition, income levels did not influence how assembly staff were treated in relation to access to and the provision of library services and resources. However, the findings revealed that despite librarians' efforts to accommodate all users, organisational politics, inadequate management support, and an unfavourable organisational culture characterised by negative workplace attitudes hindered their ability to perform their duties effectively.This was further compounded by the political nature of county assemblies in the sense that requests for essential library resources were often rejected despite the resources having been allocated funds in the budget, as other expenditure priorities took precedence over library needs.

Keywords: *Special Libraries, County Assembly, Information services and resources, organisational culture*

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Introduction

Libraries play a crucial role in ensuring that everyone has fair access to information (Oladokun et al., 2021). They are charged with the responsibility of educating, entertaining, empowering, and enlightening people and society for lifelong learning so that they can fulfill their social roles by understanding their rights and responsibilities in their communities (Ocholla & Ocholla 2007).Therefore, the advancement of culture, education, and information is fueled by libraries. Library professionals on the other hand, have a significant role in teaching, empowering, growing, and informing society (Fourie & Meyer 2016). They work to empower marginalized populations, democratize access to

knowledge, and enable informed action on social development concerns in light of the primary goals of libraries.

All library patrons should have equal, equitable, and easy access to library and information services, according to Mathiesen (2011). Access to information resources and services should not be restricted by libraries or librarians because of controversial content or the librarian's personal opinions (Drake & Bielefield 2017). Therefore, unless a court with the proper jurisdiction determines otherwise, library information resources and services ought to be constitutionally protected (Lucchi 2021). According to Imoro (2017), regardless of the subject matter or the user's age, libraries should improve access to information on all subjects pertinent to their needs, interests, or well-being.

The degree to which libraries are used is crucial, especially when it comes to guiding policy regarding how to enhance information services and making sure that resources are distributed properly (Al Baghal, 2019). Because the population served and the services offered are all focused on providing information services, special libraries including county assembly libraries are not distinctive in this sense. According to Al Baghal (2019), members' use of the House of Lords Library in the UK varies greatly depending on their information demands. According to Ofori-Dwumfuo and Addo (2022), Ghanaian lawmakers alleged hectic schedules are the reason why they do not use libraries and information services as much as they should. It was discovered that Zimbabwean parliamentarians who used the informatics database in libraries had increased both their level of participation in parliamentary activities and their level of knowledge (Munyoro, 2017). This is underscores the significance of special libraries in general and a parliamentary one in particular.

There are impediments to the use of such libraries for instance, in a study carried out in Nigeria, Joel-Ikokoh (2019) , points out that unqualified staff and user attitudes are some of the issues hindering Nigerian legislative library utilization. The study contends that collection development is a shared responsibility between the librarian and the users. Despite being given publisher catalogs to contribute to, users are not particularly interested in taking part in this exercise. The study points out that the government considers librarianship as a profession that is unimportant consequently, it employs individuals without the necessary qualifications to provide information services. This attitude is reflected in the limited utilization of libraries and the under recognition of their role in society.

Additionally, Ishola (2018) investigated the significance of libraries for legislators in a case study of the Nigerian Edo State House of Assembly. Data was collected using an observation checklist and a questionnaire. The study noted that politicians occasionally made use of them, a situation that was partially attributed to the fact that these libraries were inadequately stocked; they lacked contemporary resources such as non-relevant information materials.

The primary goal of the parliament library is to support lawmakers and a wide range of other users in completing their work by meeting their information and research needs (Menard 2022). According to Agbo (2015), the purpose of every special library is to offer resources and current information services for the parent organization's research and development. According to Haasio and Kannasto (2020), in certain instances, libraries were able to build new online services, and staff members were eager to learn how to create content for social media.

County assemblies in Kenya are in charge of enacting legislation, supervising the executive branch, and encouraging citizen involvement (COK, 2010). The County Governments Act (2012), which requires counties to create and maintain libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions to improve access to information, cultural heritage, and artistic expressions, served as a model for the creation of county assembly libraries in Kenya. Such libraries offer a variety of services, including user education, community outreach initiatives, reference and research services, and access to print and electronic information resources. By giving lawmakers, researchers, and the general public timely and accurate information, the libraries assist the county assemblies undertake their mandate. Additionally, the libraries support accountability, openness, and public involvement in the legislative process (County Governments Act, 2012).

In Kenya, county legislators, academics, researchers, students, civil society organizations, and the general public are among the users of county assembly libraries. Libraries are vital

venues for learning, networking, and the exchange of information and experiences. They facilitate access to current information on various fields and sectors, which promotes research and innovation. According to Lloyd et al., (2018), socio-cultural obstacles like language barriers, gender, religion, beliefs, values, norms, time constraints, organizational policies, politics, disabilities, age, family roles, and social status comprise the issues that in one way or another affect information provision, even though their function may be limited.

The intention of the county assembly libraries was to support and fulfill the information requirements of county government employees. It's unclear, however, if these libraries are carrying out their mandate. It is against this backdrop that the current study evaluated the societal barriers to the provision of information services and resources in special libraries in the Kenyan county assemblies of Siaya and Kericho.

Literature Review

Information seeking behaviors of library users are similar regardless of gender. This is according to Chai and Hong (2020) who in their study explored the effects of level of study and gender on information seeking behavior of business graduates in Tunku, Abdul Rahman in Malaysia. Even though they noted that information seeking behaviour for library users is similar regardless of gender, Hernon and Peter (2015) opine that users sometimes find visiting of libraries very discouraging. This is because they are always uncertain on how to go about getting the required information from it. Location and retrieval of information resources is such a difficult process for them and many do not want to be seen as ignorant. They therefore tend to shy away thus causing underutilization of the library resources.

In a study aimed at examining what people think about the quality of services at the African Union Court on Human and Peoples Rights (AUCHPR) library in Arusha, Tanzania, Mutisya and Onyancha (2020) opine that there is need to increase information seeking and library use. They posited that the quality of library services for users is dependent on the behavior of the library staff such as informativeness, responsiveness and effect of service. The study recommended that the library should take note of user's low perception scores as an indication of their dissatisfaction and try to address the problems as soon as possible. Satisfaction of users with the library staff depends on their satisfaction with the overall library services.

Culture of library users also plays a role as an impediment to provision of information services and resources in our libraries. Mose (2018) conducted a study to establish the culture of users against library services at the Kenya National Library Services, Kisii branch. The study found out that examination, academic projects and assignments prompted users to visit the library thus the frequency of library usage was predictable throughout the year. Frequency of library use was also investigated to gauge if users liked using the library or not. It concluded that despite the library's major role of empowering and developing population outreach, publicity and user culture has been viewed as a limiting factor to achievement of the objectives. These findings were corroborated by those of Lin and Eric (2019) who also noted that cultural background, beliefs, language and values are part of the reasons for the existing lapses in the provision of information services and resources in our libraries.

Special libraries like parliament also face socio-cultural impediments in provision of information services and resources. In Australia, senators and members of parliament are faced with challenges such as information overload and the emerging web 2.0 technologies like Facebook and Twitter from which plenty of information is generated and disseminated (Missingham, 2011). Sieving and filtering this junk of information therefore becomes a problem in judging its authenticity and reliability. Further, web 2.0 technologies have led to proliferation of information making it difficult to find appropriate and relevant information that could be used in decision making and for policy issues. The fact that the senators and members of parliament are faced with challenges of information overload as well as those associated with use of web 2.0 technologies could imply that they may not be making use of information professionals.

In Kenya, scholars have carried out studies on special libraries focusing on County assemblies' libraries like Rapando (2017)

who focused on the strategies of promoting and enhancing the usage of county assembly libraries with particular reference to Kakamega County Assembly Library in Kenya. The findings established that while the general perception of the Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) towards library services and resources at KCA was not favourable, they acknowledged the importance of the library. It was also revealed that the library was underutilized as only 12 MCAs had patronized it and this could ostensibly be attributed to the location of the library which is not within the same precincts where main activities related to functions of MCAs occur. Further, the findings revealed that the preferred sources of information for the MCAs who patronized the library were government documents, legislative documents and newspapers. In addition, the study established that promotional approaches or strategies that are in form of events are considered the most effective strategies for enhancing usage of the library. This study is similar to the current with regard to the geographical location as both were carried out in Kenya. Moreover, both of them focused on special libraries in the Kenyan County assemblies. The point of divergence however, was that while the previous examined the strategies of promoting and enhancing the usage of county assembly libraries with particular reference to Kakamega county assembly library, the current focused on the societal barriers to the provision of information services and resources in the county assembly libraries of of Siaya and Kericho counties. Musungu (2015) reveals that very few legislators in Kenya National Assembly (KNA) patronize library information materials. This is despite the fact that the library holds information materials useful in guiding the processing of private member bills, motions, statements as well as contributing to informed debates based on facts.

Information professionals have the relevant training and knowledge on evaluation of information. Therefore, library and information professionals are better positioned to guide library users in evaluating and filtering the information they obtain to ensure that it is relevant and suitable for its intended purpose. However, findings from previous studies (Missingham, 2011) suggest that lawmakers may not regard library and information professionals as their primary source of information hence the challenges of information overload, quality and reliability that they encounter. It was thus pivotal to examine the socio-cultural impediments to provision of information services and resources in special libraries in Siaya and Kericho county assemblies, Kenya.

Research Methods

Exploratory research design was used for this study because it is flexible and can adopt changes as the research progresses. It assisted in laying foundation which was beneficial to the research. The study concentrated on socio-cultural impediments which affect the provision of information services and resources. Siaya and Kericho County Assembly libraries were chosen for several reasons. Firstly, both counties have a wide diverse ethnic population, making them potential hotspots for cultural variations that may impact the provision of information services and resources. Secondly, the socio-cultural contexts of these counties differ from those of other regions. Thirdly, the two counties had a substantial number of users of their county assembly libraries, making them a significant target population for the study. This paper thus provided insights into how social cultural barriers impact information services and resources provision in the special libraries of the county assemblies.

The target population for this study was Siaya and Kericho County Assemblies staff who were 114 and 96 respectively, (County Assembly Progress Reports 2021). They comprised the, County Assembly librarians, and the users who included the Junior and Senior Staff in the County Assembly. Junior staff included cleaners, security guards, clerks, sergeant at arms, ICT assistants, Human resource assistants, assistant records managers, accounts assistants, procurement assistants, drivers, auditors and Hansard reporters, among others. Senior staff on the other hand included: Clerk of County Assembly, Human Resource Manager, Senior Accountant, Procurement Officer, ICT Director, Senior Procurement Officer, Security Officer, Senior Records Manager, Senior Administrators, and Senior Secretaries. From a target population of 50 senior staff, 44 constituted the sample while out of 150 junior staff 108 were selected as the study sample. Additionally, all the 10

librarians were sampled. The total sample size was therefore 162.

The study collected quantitative data which was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) Version 27. Descriptive statistics including mean and standard deviations, percentages and frequencies were used in analysis. Findings were presented using tables.

Results and discussion

Social Impediments to the Provision of Information Resources and Services in County Assembly Libraries

The study investigated social impediments with regard to provision of information services and resources in Kericho and Siaya county assembly libraries. The study revealed that provision of information resources and services is influenced by social characteristics of the users. Respondents were presented with constructs of social issues to the provision of information resources and services. The responses on each item was rated using Four Item Likert Scale from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (4), where 1 was translated to indicate very low level of social issue and 4 to represent very high level of social constructs.

The overall level of perception by counties staff with regard to provision of information resources and services in the county assemblies' libraries were determined and tabulated in Table 1.

Table 1 Social Impediments according to County Assembly Staff (Library users')

No	Social Indicators	SD	D	A	SA	Mean	SD
1.	The library caters for my religion in terms of resources	53 (40.1%)	18 (13.6%)	26 (19.7%)	35 (26.5%)	2.6	1.2
2.	All my information needs are met by the library regardless of my gender	16 (12.1%)	78 (59.1%)	30 (22.7%)	8 (6.1%)	2.7	0.7
3.	Disability presents challenges to provision of library services.	38 (28.8%)	82 (62.1%)	9 (6.8%)	3 (2.3%)	3.1	0.6
4.	Disability is a hindrance to utilization of information resources.	35 (26.5%)	77 (58.3%)	10 (7.6%)	10 (7.6%)	3.0	0.8
5.	My reputation does not affect the way information resources and services are provided to me.	19 (14.4%)	39 (29.5%)	55 (41.6%)	49 (37.1%)	2.1	1.0
6.	Librarians provide services promptly to the users	3 (2.3%)	11 (8.3%)	64 (48.5%)	54 (40.9%)	1.7	0.7
7.	Librarians serve their users with high level of professionalism	1 (0.8%)	10 (7.6%)	60 (45.5%)	61 (46.2%)	1.6	0.6
8.	Librarians are friendly and approachable	3 (2.3%)	8 (6.1%)	51 (38.6%)	70 (53.0%)	1.5	0.7

9.	Librarians are dedicated to their work	2 (1.5%)	13 (9.8%)	51 (38.6%)	66 (50.0%)	1.6	0.7
10.	Librarians provide guidance and advice to library users while aiding them in resolving challenges that are information related.	6 (4.5%)	16 (12.1%)	59 (44.7%)	51 (38.6%)	1.8	0.8
11.	Librarians serve all cadres of staff without bias.	7 (5.3%)	17 (12.9%)	50 (37.9%)	58 (43.9%)	1.7	0.9
12.	Librarians conduct user surveys regularly in order to get their views on the quality of services provided in the library.	23 (17.4%)	35 (26.5%)	51 (38.6%)	23 (17.4%)	2.4	0.9
13.	Librarians conduct regular orientation to users to make them familiar with library resources and services	17 (12.9%)	36 (27.3%)	55 (41.7%)	24 (18.2%)	2.3	0.9
Mean overall rating of social issues in the county assembly library						2.20	0.83

Key: SD-Strongly Disagree (1); D-Disagree (2); A-Agree (3); SA- Strongly Agree (4) (n=132)

From Table 1, it is evident that the rating of social impediments is above average (composite mean =2.8; SD=0.4) and so is influencing the provision of information resources and services. However, the results of the survey indicate that there is generally varied response by the users of the libraries of county assemblies of Kericho and Siaya on the indicators of social impediments.

For instance, the response to Item 1, which was to establish whether library caters for varied religion in terms of resources and services show that 35 (26.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed, 26 (19.7%) disagreed, while 53 (40.1%) agreed and 18 (13.6%) strongly agreed to the statement. The mean for the item is 2.6 and the standard deviation is 1.24. The implication here is that religious needs for individual library users is not catered for in the libraries. The high item standard deviation than composite standard deviations showed that there existed divergence of opinion among the respondents on this matter. Mansour (2020) asserts that opinions and knowledge on religious matters need to be shared by people of varied religious affiliations thus it is necessary to cater for all of them in terms of information provision in libraries.

Equally, consideration of gender in the provision of information resources and services in the libraries received a mean rating of 2.7 with a standard deviation of 0.7, implying that gender is only moderately considered when providing information resources and services. For instance, in Item 2, a majority of 94 respondents translating to close to seven out of every ten (71.2%) of those who took part in the survey, denied that as a male or a female user all their information needs are met by the library. Slightly more than a quarter 30 (22.7%) of the respondents agreed while 8 (6.1%) others strongly agreed that the library does not meet their information needs in a manner that is gender sensitive. This finding indicated that libraries in the two county assemblies do not always consider gender of the users as they provide library resources and

services. Bardwaj (2017) opines that it is important to come up with information systems that can accommodate gender perceptions. This is an effective and efficient remedy of providing information seamlessly to both male and female library users.

The study also sought to investigate whether disability poses a challenge to provision of library services to the users. The findings of the study indicate that this is not true, as reflected by a mean rating of 3.1 with a standard deviation of 0.6 in Item 3. In addition, while only 11 (9.1%) of the respondents held a contrary opinion, an overwhelming majority of 120 respondents translating to more than nine out of every ten (90.9%) of the survey participants denied the claim that the nature of disability of the library staff (users) interferes with their ability to use the library. This suggested that disability is not a hindrance to the use of information resources and services. Mullin (2018) reiterates that if services and technologies were equally usable by everyone, no one would have a disability. Therefore librarians have a great responsibility of ensuring that the library needs of all users are catered for.

Item number 4 sought to investigate whether disability interferes with utilization of the library. The study found out fthat this is not true, as reflected by a mean rating of 3.0 with a standard deviation of 0.8. In addition, while only 20 (15.2%) of the respondents opposed this opinion, majority of respondents (112) which is equivalent to nine out of every ten (84.8%) of the survey participants negated the claim that the nature of disability of the library users interferes with their ability to utilize the library. This suggested that disability is not a hindrance to the use of information resources and services. The finding was attributed to the fact that users with disability were absent on the days of the survey thus did not give a true picture of their experience in the library. Mullin (2018) explains that disability only becomes a problem to information provision if librarians do not avail appropriate equipment and resources for such users.

Equally, close to seven out of every ten 88 (68.1%) of the respondents agreed, as reflected in the response of Item 5, that their reputation does not affect the way information resources and services are provided to them. This was further confirmed by a high mean rating of 2.1 with a standard deviation of 1.0, with only 44 (31.9%) of respondents holding a contrary opinion, while a majority of them (56%) agree that their reputation has never affected the way information resources and services are provided to them. Bhati (2009) opines that there is need for librarians to serve as impactful instructors and develop strong interpersonal skills to build positive relationships with library users.

With regard to promptness of provision of services, the results of the survey confirm that there is satisfaction with regard to the services provided in the libraries. Responses in Item 6 further confirm this fact as interpreted by a significant majority of 114 respondents translating to nearly nine out of ten (91.7%) of the surveyed staff (users) who agreed that librarians in the county assembly provide services promptly. A mean rating of 1.7 (SD=0.7) which was outrightly higher than the composite mean, further implies that an overwhelming majority of respondents agreed that librarians in the county assembly provide services promptly to the users. Bhati (2009 explains that lack of professional training, poor collaboration and poor work relations make users dissatisfied with services. Librarians must therefore provide high quality services to attract users.

The study additionally sought to establish the views of the respondents on level of professionalism among the librarians in Item 7, the results of the survey confirmed that librarians serve their users with utmost professionalism. This was shown by 60 (45.5%) and 54 (46.2%) of the respondents who agreed and strongly agreed, respectively, that librarians serve their users with the highest level of professionalism. Furthermore, a mean rating of 1.6 (SD=0.6) which was higher than the composite mean, upholds that there is unanimous agreement among the respondents that librarians serve their users with utmost professionalism. Only 11 (8.3%) of the respondents held a contrary opinion. This suggested that many of the library users expressed satisfaction with the librarians' utmost

professionalism. This finding is in agreement with Ahmed (2012) who posits that all personnel must possess meticulous organizational knowledge and technical competence as is required by organizations that are service oriented.

In addition, there was a similar rating of librarians in terms of their friendliness and approachability with the library users. This was revealed by the response from Item 8 where only 11 (8.4%) of the respondents alluded that the librarians are never friendly or approachable, a majority 121 (91.6%) of them asserted that the librarians are friendly and approachable. On the other hand, a mean rating of 1.5 (SD=0.7) endorses that there is almost unanimous agreement among majority of the respondents that the county assembly librarians are adequately friendly and approachable, suggesting that many of the library users are largely satisfied with friendliness and approachability of the librarians. Hernon and Peter (2015) opine that users sometimes find library visits discouraging because they are always uncertain on how to go about getting the required information from it. However, he advises that exhibiting warmth towards library users not only makes them feel appreciated but also comfortable when seeking assistance.

The study sought to find out in Item 9 whether the librarians are devoted and truly committed to their work, which is an important aspect of provision of information resources and services to the users. The results show that most of the users believe that librarians are dedicated to their work. This was confirmed by a mean rating of 1.6 (SD=0.7) with nearly nine of ten (123; 88.6%) of the respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing that librarians in the county assembly libraries are dedicated to their work. Only 2 (1.5%) strongly disagreed and 13 (9.8%) disagreed that librarians are devotedly committed to their work. Hence, given the overwhelming proportion of those who support the statement, it is concluded that majority of the librarians in the two county assemblies' libraries are undisputedly dedicated to their work. This aligns with Mutisya and Onyancha's (2020) assertion that the quality of library to users is dependent on its human resources such as the assurance, responsiveness and effectiveness of service.

With regard to the librarians ability to advice and solve problems of the library users, responses in Item 10 show that whereas many respondents believe that they are, a few thought they are not. This was supported by the fact that while 51 (38.6%) and 59 (44.7%) of the surveyed users agreed and strongly agreed, respectively that the librarians are good advisors and problem solvers to them, some 22 (16.6%) of them held a contrary opinion. However, with mean rating of 1.8 (SD=0.8) which was higher than the composite mean, it was concluded that librarians are generally good advisors and mostly solve information related problems of the library users. This suggested that most library users are contented with the librarians' ability to advice and solve their problems related to information resources and services. Librarians have to consistently struggle to scale new heights in providing solutions to user problems as Kim-Soon, et al., (2013) observe. Satisfaction with the overall library services by patrons is determined by their satisfaction with the staff.

Item number 11 sought to find out if librarians are not biased to users with respect to their status in the organization. The study found out that they practiced equality in services and resources provision regardless of the status of the users. This was evidenced by a mean rating of 2.3 and a standard deviation of 0.9. An overwhelming majority of respondents 74(56.1) agreed with the statement while a minority of 58(43.9) disagreed. Besides, the results of the study found out that library orientations are not regularly carried out across both counties. Moreover, the use of survey to gauge opinion on quality of services is also not performed frequently in the two counties. The views of the respondents on Item 12 shows varied results; although 56% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that librarians seek user's opinions on quality of library resources and services regularly by conducting user surveys, 44% of the respondents denied that librarians use surveys to frequently seek user's opinions on quality of library services.

Similarly, when the respondents' opinions were sought on whether the librarians regularly conduct user orientations as expected on Item 13, the survey results show that they were divided in opinion with majority of them holding affirmative and a minority a contrary opinion. This was shown by the fact that 17 (12.9%) strongly disagreed, 36 (27.3%) disagreed, 24 (18.1%) agreed and 55 (41.7%) strongly agreed that librarians

conduct user orientations regularly to make them familiar with library resources and services. The findings suggested that library orientations were inconsistently provided and use of survey to gauge opinion on quality was also irregularly done across the two county assembly libraries, yet they form basis of quality provision of information services and resources to the library users. This finding is corroborated by Ameen (2015) who noted that user orientations were hardly conducted by libraries in Lahore, Pakistan. However, he strongly recommended the performance of this practice noting that it is the best way users get to know what is available in the library then develop interest in using them. Without user orientation, library resources are likely to be underused because users are oblivious of their existence.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

Based on the findings, the paper concludes that religious beliefs, disability and organizational politics proved to be challenges in provision of information resources and services. Social impediments to information provision exist in the library. However, some of the social issues were not explicitly evident because librarians are doing their best to accommodate all types of users. It is not possible to adequately address user needs where organizational politics exist. Some religions such as Islam advocate for the segregation of women, a practice that may be difficult to implement in public spaces such as libraries specifically in county assembly libraries that are established within in a singe room. Senior level institutional users ideally need isolated rooms for instance, reading carrels which are not provided for in the mentioned libraries. Social impediments are therefore likely to persist until the major causes are adequately addressed. The study noted that inadequate leadership support is a significant obstacle. It does not recognize the key role of the libraries leading to such actions as virement of budget allocations of the library to other activities.

Recommendations

Librarians could mobilize financial resources by preparing and presenting grant proposals potential funding agencies. Additionally, librarians should encourage county assembly leadership to adopt a more positive attitude towards the library services and provide adequate institutional support necessary for their optimal functioning. Moreover, the legislative arm of the county assembly should establish a legislative framework geared towards the protection of the county assembly libraries in this way, their strong institutional foundation will enable them effectively achieve their objectives. t

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