

## **Significance of intellectual freedom in libraries: Perspectives of librarians in Kwara State, Nigeria**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study investigates the perspectives of librarians in Kwara State on the significance of intellectual freedom. Four (4) objectives and questions were raised to achieve its purposes. A descriptive survey design was employed involving 183 members of the Nigerian Library Association (NLA), Kwara State chapter. A sample size calculator was used to select 53 respondents who were randomly sampled across librarians in Kwara State. Questionnaire were administered, and 39 questionnaires were returned, representing 71.73% response rate. Findings indicate that librarians in Kwara State understand intellectual freedom primarily as the right to access information and ideas without regard to the originator's perspective or the contents nature. The processes librarians in Kwara State used to promote intellectual freedom include developing library collections that reflect equity and inclusion, provision of equal access to the library's information resources and teaching information skills. However, librarians in Kwara State perceived that the significance of intellectual freedom is difficult to achieve because of lack of demand for the information materials available in libraries, poor reviews about the information materials housed in libraries and low library budget to acquire all types of information materials. This study concluded that intellectual freedom is an important component of every society that is built on the tenets of justice, equity, equality and inclusion and because libraries are information provision institutions, librarians have crucial roles to play in making society members acknowledge and appreciate it.

**Keywords:** Intellectual freedom, Freedom of access to information, Freedom to access ideas, Library collections, Librarians

## **Introduction**

Intellectual freedom means similar things in its coinage. However, it has been interpreted in different ways by different people. According to Usman and Fakandu, (2018), intellectual freedom encompasses “the liberty to think or believe whatever one wants,” along with unrestricted freedom to express these beliefs and access ideas regardless of their content or viewpoint. Every person has the fundamental right to access all forms of knowledge, creativity, and intellectual activity, as well as the freedom to publicly express their ideas.

According to Nye, (2017), numerous cultures and nations recognize that the freedom of information and the protection of individual privacy are fundamental to personal development, intercultural comprehension, and global harmony. Individuals who engage extensively with diverse environments and critically examine established norms possess the capacity to challenge prevailing assumptions, uncover novel solutions to complex problems, and innovate approaches that enhance life on a global scale. Mann (2017) posited “that access to information, as well as to spaces and privacy, are significantly part of intellectual freedom. At the same time, intellectual freedom also supports the right to creative expression. Although discussions in librarianship about intellectual freedom tend to emphasize access to information more than freedom of expression, they do not entirely overlook the importance of creative expression. Tella, Adeboye, Abdulkareem, Olaniyi & Odeh (2021) pointed out that librarians serve as information guardians. Hence, it is their responsibility to guarantee the advantages of intellectual freedom.

Since librarians have a significant influence on how intellectual freedom is understood and applied, they must be impartial and aware of any laws or other practices that can undermine its principles. Every librarian must support of the principles of intellectual freedom to safeguard it. The inherent purpose of intellectual freedom is to entrench the policy that people may receive, disseminate, and hold ideas without restriction or interference. Since librarianship is one of the modern-day information professions, intellectual freedom is one of its core values; it is also a basic right in any democratic society.

Tella et al. (2021) argued that the guardians of intellectual freedom have been chosen to be librarians and other information specialists. They're equipped with the necessary resources and firmly believe that patrons deserve protection from censorship, privacy breaches, and similar threats. The way librarians view intellectual freedom has evolved continuously since the late 1800s, when the American Library Association (ALA) first started addressing these issues with a somewhat unified voice. Yet, the ALA has never settled on a single, fixed definition of "intellectual freedom." Instead, through its governing Council, the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC), and the Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF), the ALA champions a range of principles designed to create a supportive environment for intellectual freedom. Indeed, librarians do value intellectual freedoms, and not just as broad human rights or even as professional rights of academics. Intellectual freedom is also a professional value of librarianship, enshrined in ALA statements and actions and integral to professional education (Mann, 2017). This, thus be the reason for this study to be looking into the perspectives of librarians in Kwara State on the significance of intellectual freedom.

### **Statement of Problem**

Intellectual freedom is one of the most important principles guiding the ethics of librarianship, it forms the bedrock of the profession and truly central to it. This makes it important that librarians must be prioritising intellectual freedom and exemplifying it in the actual library practices. Libraries have been considered as bastions of intellectual freedom by providing access to information, ideas, and knowledge to all individuals without any bias or censorship. For instance, the American Library Association's Bill of Rights declares that "libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues," and asserts that "libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibilities to provide information and enlightenment" (American Library Association, 2017).

From the perspective of librarians, the problem revolves around the need to balance their professional responsibilities with the legal and ethical obligations of providing intellectual freedom. Librarians argued that the significance of intellectual freedom in libraries is twofold. First, it is essential to their mission of providing access to information and promoting lifelong learning; and second, it is crucial to the preservation of democracy and the protection of individual rights.

Despite the principles enshrined in intellectual freedom and its obligations on librarianship, it has been observed that many libraries are facing challenges in upholding the principles of intellectual freedom. In recent times, there have been growing concerns regarding the curtailment of intellectual freedom in libraries. This has resulted in debates and discussions about the role of librarians in safeguarding the fundamental right to free speech and access to information. Investigating the peculiarities of this notion to librarians in Kwara State makes this study to find out the perspectives of librarians of the significance of intellectual freedom.

### **Objectives of the Study**

This study will be guided by both main and specific objectives. The main objectives is to investigate the perspectives of librarians in Kwara State on the significance of intellectual freedom.

The specific objectives are to:

1. Identify how intellectual freedom is perceived by librarians in Kwara State.
2. Find out the strategies used by to protect intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State;
3. Examine the processes used to promote intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State;  
and,
4. Examine the challenges affecting the promotion of intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State.

### **Research Questions**

This study aims to answer the following questions:

1. How is intellectual freedom perceived by librarians in Kwara State?
2. What are the strategies used to protect intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State?
3. What are the processes used to promote intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State?
4. What are the challenges affecting the promotion of intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State?

## Literature Review

Libraries play a vital role in safeguarding intellectual freedom within communities by serving as hubs for education and open access to information. "Intellectual freedom is a fundamental human right that encompasses the freedom to seek, receive, and disseminate ideas without restriction. Libraries serve as essential institutions that uphold and protect this right by providing free, equitable, and confidential access to diverse ideas and information, thereby enabling informed participation in democratic society." (American Library Association, 2025; International Federation of Library Associations and Institution, IFLA, 2024). They are also natural centers for learning and talking about information issues, including privacy (Tella et al., 2021). The American Library Association (ALA) states that "intellectual freedom embodies the right to seek and receive information from all perspectives without restriction, which is essential to the development of library collections and services that meet the needs of their communities". Consequently, libraries have a professional obligation to uphold intellectual freedom by providing access to diverse ideas and protecting users from censorship and discrimination (American Library Association, 2025).

Taiwo and Sulyman (2022) noted that the significance of intellectual freedom has been recognized by multi-lateral institutions and has resulted in establishing various Articles and Declarations such as the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (Article 9), United Nations International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (Article 19), the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Article 10), and other similar conventions.

Intellectual Freedom provides a principled basis for professional practices of librarians as their jobs revolve around developing collections (physical or digital), provide access and delivery services, and offer support and information. Intellectual Freedom is also no less important in guiding the administration of our libraries, in the policies and procedures librarians invoke, and in their interaction with staff and clients. Libraries of all types nurture education by promoting the freedom expression and exchange of thoughts which are prominent to empowering lifelong learners.

Libraries provide resources, designed programmes and services to brace intellectual and physical access to information and thus construct a base of intellectual freedom: Increasing collections (both real and virtual) with multiple perceptions and individual needs of users in mind; providing programming and instructional services enclosed around equitable access to information and thoughts; and teaching information skills and intellectual freedom rights incorporated properly throughout the continuum of library programming (American Library Association, 2009).

Chukwueke and Nnadozie (2019) posited that libraries are keys to the promotion and protection of intellectual freedom. This is evident when their nature, procedures and mandate are carefully considered. The ethics of librarianship entails that practitioners adhere to the principles of intellectual freedom uninhibited access to information, freedom of expression and privacy of library users. Besides the accumulation and warehousing of documents and allied information carriers, libraries promote equal access to the contents of information resources.

Librarianship has demonstrated a firm commitment to the ideal of intellectual freedom by directly generating different information materials. A ready example of this can be found in ALA's mission, where five out of six articles of the "Library Bill of Rights" make specific reference to intellectual freedom. ALA's cornerstone document for protecting intellectual freedom is the Library Bill of Rights. Three of the seven articles in the Library Bill of Rights deal with intellectual freedom and censorship, with Article II explaining the need to present all points of view in a collection. In addition, the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee adopted a statement that use of the word "origin" in Article V, which refers to a person's right to use a library, includes the idea of "age." This statement emphasizes that even minors should have access to information.

Garrido & Wyber, (2024) "emphasizes that libraries curate, organize, and provide essential information resources, positioning themselves as trusted hubs for knowledge dissemination, bridging both the digital divide and social inequalities, and championing inclusivity worldwide". Libraries supply highly specialized information resources necessary for educating and entertaining children globally. They offer access not only to the ideas and aspirations of renowned authors but also to the routine records of everyday government activities. Furthermore, library staff play a role by not only making information resources physically accessible but also assisting users in locating the materials they need and developing their skills in finding and

critically evaluating information. Through the efforts of such staff, libraries enable access for everyone from young children to experienced scholars.

Recent studies emphasize that libraries are fundamental to ensuring timely, equitable access to information across different locations and times, and without their presence and support, access to needed information becomes severely restricted (Edet & Horsfall, 2025). The librarian's concern with intellectual freedom is a natural one. For the library, whatever it may be or however specialized its function, is a link in the vast modern network of communication channels through which ideas are collected and passed on again from one individual to his contemporaries or posterity. It should be noted, of course, that the concept of intellectual freedom is a professional responsibility of librarians, and libraries at all levels are instruments to assure and promote equal access to information and to disseminate knowledge.

Librarians ought to be keepers of the intellectual, cultural, and historical memory of their community. The state of intellectual freedom in libraries is an indication of the progress of democracy within a nation. The freedom of access to information through public institutions such as libraries intends to guarantee the individual full opportunities to encounter free expression. Good quality library services form an essential component of universal access. A commitment to intellectual freedom is a core responsibility of the library and information profession.

The American Library Association (ALA) has identified two primary threats to intellectual freedom, both in the United States and globally: censorship and anti-intellectual freedom. The ALA consistently characterizes these factors as adversaries that must be overcome in all its policies and initiatives (Aghoghovwia, 2019). According to Famous (2011), censorship is broadly defined as the suppression or prohibition of any part of books, films, news, music, or other materials deemed obscene, politically unacceptable, or a threat to security. In contrast, anti-intellectual freedom encompasses all actions and attitudes that oppose or undermine the principles of intellectual freedom.

Yaya, Achonna, and Osisanwo (2013) pointed out that librarians sometimes face the temptation to censor materials through their selection process. Books might be turned down for various reasons like tight budgets, low demand, concerns about literary quality, limited shelf space, the content itself, how relevant it is to the community, fear of potential challenges, or negative

reviews. Censorship doesn't just mean cutting out parts of published works—it also includes attempts to ban, prohibit, suppress, legally challenge, remove, label, or place restrictions on materials.

Whether justified or not, resistance to these actions often comes from the belief that individual intellectual freedom is fundamental to the functioning and preservation of democracy (Inyang & Agwunobi, 2021). Libraries today encounter these challenges across a broad spectrum of areas—not only with physical books and other collection items, which have traditionally been the main focus of such issues—but also with programs, digital content, internet access, room reservations, and exhibits (Toronto Public Library Board, 2020).

### Methodology

The quantitative nature of this study makes it adopt a descriptive-survey design. The population for this study consists of 183 members of the Nigerian Library Association (NLA), Kwara State branch. The sample size was calculated using the Sample Size Calculator available at [www.calculator.net](http://www.calculator.net), with parameters set at a 95% confidence level, a 5% margin of error, and a 95% population proportion. Based on these criteria, the researchers determined a sample size of 53 participants. These individuals were randomly selected to ensure that all qualified librarians in Kwara State had an equal chance to be included in the study. Questionnaire titled *“Perspectives of librarians in Kwara State on the significance of intellectual freedom”* was used to obtain data from respondents. The questionnaire was distributed to librarians in libraries in Kwara State. Data collected was analyzed with simple percentages, frequency table, mean, and standard deviation.

### Data Presentation, Analysis, Discussion, and Interpretations

**Table 1: Demographic characteristics of respondents**

Items	F	%	
Gender	Male	18	46.2
	Female	21	53.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100</b>	

<b>Age range</b>	21 - 30 years	4	10.3
	31 - 40 years	11	28.2
	41 - 50 years	16	41.0
	51 - 60 years	5	12.8
	61 and above	3	7.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Marital status</b>	Single	7	17.9
	Married	32	82.1
	Divorced	0	0.0
	Widow	0	0.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Academic qualification</b>	BLIS	10	25.6
	MLIS	20	51.3
	Ph.D	9	23.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Work experience</b>	1 – 5 years	3	7.7
	6 – 10 year	7	17.9
	11 – 15 years	15	38.5
	16 – 20 years	7	17.9
	21 and above years	7	17.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Professional cadre</b>	Assistant librarian	6	15.4
	Librarian II	10	25.6

Librarian I	14	35.9
Principal librarian	9	23.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1 indicates that majority of the respondents are female with 53.8%, with their male counterparts having 46.2%. Also, 41.0% of the respondents who are between the age ranges of 41 – 50 years, have the highest frequency; followed by 28.2% for 31 - 40 years, while 12.8% for 51 – 60 years. 82.1% of the respondents are married, while 17.9% are single. Respondents with MLIS are more than others (51.3%), followed by 25.6% for BLIS and 23.1% have Ph.Ds. Furthermore, 38.5% of the respondents have 11 – 15 years followed by 17.9% for 6 – 10 years, 16 – 20 years and 21 and above years respectively. Finally, 35.9% of the respondents are Librarian I, followed by 25.6% for Librarian II, Principal Librarian (23.1%), while 6 (15.4%) are Assistant Librarian.

### **RQ1: How is intellectual freedom perceived by librarians in Kwara State?**

**Table 2: Identify how intellectual freedom is perceived by librarians in Kwara State**

Items	Yes		No		M	Std. D.
	F	%	F	%		
Liberty to think or believe whatever you wants	27	69.2	12	30.8	1.31	0.47
Freedom to express your thoughts and beliefs in unrestricted ways	25	64.1	14	35.9	1.36	0.49
Freedom to access information	32	82.1	7	17.9	1.18	0.39
Freedom to access ideas regardless of the content or viewpoints of the author(s)	30	76.9	9	23.1	1.23	0.43
Fundamental right to access all forms of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity	30	76.9	9	23.1	1.23	0.43

Freedom to access ideas regardless of the recipient's age	27	69.2	12	30.8	1.31	0.47
Freedom to access ideas regardless of the recipient's background	27	69.2	12	30.8	1.31	0.47
Freedom to access ideas regardless of the recipient's beliefs	24	61.5	15	38.5	1.38	0.49

Table 2 reveals that majority of the respondents (82.1%) perceived freedom of access to information as intellectual freedom; followed by 76.9% for freedom to access ideas regardless of the content or viewpoint of the author(s) and fundamental right to access all forms of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity. However, freedom to access ideas regardless of the recipient's beliefs has the lowest percentage with 61.5%.

Findings of this Table show that librarians perceived freedom of access to information, freedom to access ideas regardless of the content or viewpoint of the author(s) and fundamental right to access all forms of knowledge as intellectual freedom. This is consistent with ALA (2009), Usman and Fakandu (2018) and Tella et al. (2021) where they posited that the principles of intellectual freedom encompass freedom of access to information, freedom of access to ideas, intellectual works, creativity, beliefs or opinions, regardless of age, gender or social status.

Finding out that librarians don't perceive freedom to access ideas regardless of the recipient's beliefs as intellectual freedom means the librarians understudied may one way or another be supporting some discriminations instigated to frustrate people's beliefs, be it political, religious, cultural, social or whatever. This may also results to librarians' involvement in censorship and other activities that may hamper the promotion of intellectual freedom in the society.

**RQ2: What are the strategies used to protect intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State?**

**Table 3: Strategies used by to protect intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State**

Items	Yes		No		M	Std. D.
	F	%	F	%		
Supporting users' liberty to think or believe whatever they want	26	66.7	13	33.3	1.33	0.48
Supporting users' expressions of their thoughts and beliefs in unrestricted ways	26	66.7	13	33.3	1.33	0.48
Supporting users' freedom to access information	31	79.5	8	20.5	1.21	0.41
Supporting users' freedom to access ideas regardless of the content or viewpoints of the author(s)	29	74.4	10	25.6	1.26	0.44
Supporting users' to access all forms of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity	28	71.8	11	28.2	1.28	0.46
Supporting users' access to ideas regardless of their age	26	66.7	13	33.3	1.33	0.48
Supporting users' access to ideas regardless of their background	27	69.2	12	30.8	1.31	0.47
Supporting users' access to ideas regardless of their beliefs	27	69.2	12	30.8	1.31	0.47
Supporting the protection of users' privacy	30	76.9	9	23.1	1.23	0.43

Table 3 reveals that majority of the respondents (79.5%) perceived supporting users' freedom to access information as a strategy to protect intellectual freedom; followed by 76.9% for supporting the protection of users' privacy, while 74.4% supporting users' freedom to access ideas regardless of the content or viewpoints of the author(s). However, supporting users' liberty

to think or believe whatever they want, supporting users’ expressions of their thoughts and beliefs in unrestricted ways and supporting users’ access to ideas regardless of their age respectively have the lowest percentage with 66.7%.

The implications of findings of this Table is that librarians understudied promote intellectual freedom by supporting users’ freedom to access information, supporting the protection of users’ privacy and supporting users’ freedom to access ideas regardless of the content or viewpoints of the author(s). These strategies validated the strategies used in contemporary societies to protect intellectual freedom as explained by various studies. Specifically, discovering that supporting the protection of users’ privacy is consistent with Inyang and Agwunobi, (2021) where they asserted that users tend to be patronizing libraries and use their information materials when they know that their privacy is safe and cannot be abused.

Knowing that supporting users’ liberty to think or believe whatever they want, supporting users’ expressions of their thoughts and beliefs in unrestricted ways and supporting users’ access to ideas regardless of their age have the lowest percentage means that librarians have reservations for some aspects of intellectual freedom. This means that librarians are not living up to the task of being guardians of intellectual freedom as noted by (Tella et al., 2021).

**RQ3: What are the processes used to promote intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State?**

**Table 4: Examine the processes used to promote intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State**

Items	SA		A		U		D		SD		M	Std. D.
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Developing library collections that reflect equity and inclusion	11	28.2	20	51.3	3	7.7	3	7.7	2	5.1	3.90	1.07
Provision of equal access to the library’s information resources	19	48.7	9	23.1	3	7.7	3	7.7	5	12.8	3.87	1.47

Delivery of quality services to all library users	3	7.7	15	38.5	8	20.5	9	23.1	4	10.3	3.10	1.17
Encouraging freedom of expression among library users	8	20.5	13	33.3	7	17.9	5	12.8	6	15.4	3.31	1.36
Encouraging the exchange of thoughts among library users	7	17.9	17	43.6	5	12.8	4	10.3	6	15.4	3.38	1.33
Teaching information skills	11	28.2	17	43.6	4	10.3	4	10.3	3	7.7	3.74	1.21
Encouraging users to use the information resources housed in the library	9	23.1	9	23.1	9	23.1	5	12.8	7	17.9	3.21	1.42
Protection of privacy of library users	14	35.9	14	35.9	5	12.8	3	7.7	3	7.7	3.85	1.23

Table 4 shows that developing library collections that reflect equity and inclusion is ranked highest out of the processes used to promote intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State with  $(3.90 \pm 1.07)$ , followed by provision of equal access to the library's information resources with  $(3.87 \pm 1.47)$ , protection of privacy of library users  $(3.85 \pm 1.23)$  and teaching information skills which has  $(3.74 \pm 1.21)$ . Delivery of quality services to all library users is ranked lowest with  $(3.35 \pm 0.76)$ .

This Table shows that the most processes used to promote intellectual freedom are developing library collections that reflect equity and inclusion, provision of equal access to the library's information resources, and teaching information skills. It is important to know that librarians perceived that developing library collections that reflect equity and inclusion is one of the processes used to promote intellectual freedom. Since a library's collection is the sum total of its holdings (Aliyu, 2014), it is imperative to build it by considering the diverse beliefs, interests and aspirations of the users.

It is also worth stressing that teaching information skills is used to promote intellectual freedom by the respondents. By teaching information skills, librarians will be training users how to know when information is needed, how to find, locate, retrieve and ultimately use information ethically

and legally. These skills will enhance users' competencies on handling information without violating the limitations – libel, slander and character defamations – of intellectual freedom.

**RQ4: What are the challenges affecting the promotion of intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State?**

**Table 5: Examine the challenges affecting the promotion of intellectual freedom by librarians in Kwara State**

Items	SA		A		U		D		SD		M	Std. D.
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Censorship	8	20.5	9	23.1	11	28.2	5	12.8	6	15.4	3.21	1.34
Low library budget to acquire all types of information materials	9	23.1	17	43.6	4	10.3	5	12.8	4	10.3	3.56	1.27
Lack of demand for the information materials available in libraries	13	33.3	18	46.2	2	5.1	2	5.1	4	10.3	3.87	1.24

Restriction of access to information materials because of their low quality	7	17.9	11	28.2	7	17.9	7	17.9	7	17.9	3.10	1.39
Limited space to shelf and display information materials	5	12.8	11	28.2	13	33.3	6	15.4	4	10.3	3.18	1.17
Irrelevance of information materials to the community of users	3	7.7	8	20.5	9	23.1	12	30.8	7	17.9	2.69	1.22
Poor reviews about the information materials housed in libraries	9	23.7	18	47.4	5	13.2	4	10.5	2	5.3	3.74	1.11

Table 5 indicates that lack of demand for the information materials available in libraries is ranked highest out of the challenges affecting the promotion of intellectual freedom with ( $3.87 \pm 1.24$ ), followed by poor reviews about the information materials housed in libraries ( $3.74 \pm 1.11$ ) and low library budget to acquire all types of information materials which has ( $3.56 \pm 1.27$ ). Irrelevance of information materials to the community of users is ranked lowest with ( $2.69 \pm 1.22$ ).

This shows that librarians perceived that the most challenging factors affecting the promotion of intellectual freedom are lack of demand for the information materials available in libraries, poor reviews about the information materials housed in libraries, and low library budget to acquire all types of information materials. This is consistent with some of the points of (Yaya, Achonna & Osisanwo, 2013). One of the implications of these findings is that users don't demand for information materials housed in libraries, and with this, users tend to deprive themselves of access to information materials that can help them broaden the horizon of their intellects.

More so, this study reveals that libraries are failing to promote intellectual freedom because of a low budget to acquire all types of information materials. This means that libraries find it difficult to build collections that represent the diverse interests, ages, genders, colours, races, castes, beliefs, and aspirations of their different categories of users because of poor availability of funds.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Intellectual freedom is an important component of every society that is built on the tenets of justice, equity, equality and inclusion, and because libraries are information provision institutions, it is important to investigate librarians' perceptions of intellectual freedom. This study has established that librarians in Kwara State perceived intellectual freedom to be freedom of access to information, freedom to access ideas regardless of the content or viewpoint of the author(s) and fundamental right to access all forms of knowledge.

Librarians in Kwara State perceived that intellectual freedom. Some strategies suitable to the promotion of intellectual freedom are supporting users' freedom to access information, supporting the protection of users' privacy, and supporting users' freedom to access ideas regardless of the content or viewpoints of the author(s). These strategies can be achieved by developing library collections that reflect equity and inclusion, providing equal access to the library's information resources, protecting the privacy of library users, and teaching information skills.

However, librarians in Kwara State perceived that both the strategies and processes of promoting intellectual freedom are difficult to achieve because of a lack of demand for the information

materials available in libraries, poor reviews about the information materials housed in libraries and a low library budget to acquire all types of information materials.

The following recommendations were made:

1. Residents of Kwara State should cultivate the habit of patronizing the libraries in their environment. This will challenge librarians to prepare themselves adequately for the tasks of ensuring users' access to information, regardless of their age, gender, beliefs, etc.
2. Librarians in Kwara State should endeavour to collaborate with intellectual bodies to review information materials housed in their libraries. The reviews can be used to augment to the bibliographic descriptions of information materials housed in libraries and will provide brief, concise and objective information about information materials to users.
3. Management of libraries in Kwara State should make provision for adequate budget for information materials. This will enable libraries to acquire adequate information materials that will represent the diverse beliefs and interests of users.

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