

The Role of Lead City University Press in Scholarly Communication

Ayodeji Kayode AYODELE

Department of Mass Communication and Media Technology,

Lead City University, Ibadan

ayodejiayodele51@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examined the role of Lead City University Press in scholarly communication. Specifically, it investigated the roles performed by the Press in scholarly communication, its contributions to the dissemination of scholarly knowledge, the challenges confronting its operations, and measures for enhancing its effectiveness. The study adopted a mixed-methods approach, employing a descriptive survey design and in-depth interviews. The population comprised 46 staff members of Lead City University Press, and a total enumeration technique was adopted because of the manageable population size. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire and interviews with five key informants. Quantitative data were analysed using frequencies, percentages, and mean scores, while qualitative data were analysed thematically. The findings revealed that the Press plays significant roles in scholarly communication through the publication of academic journals, books, conference proceedings, editorial services, graphic design, typesetting, printing, and production services. The study further established that the Press contributes substantially to the dissemination of scholarly knowledge through the publication of peer-reviewed journals and other scholarly materials. However, inadequate funding, shortage of skilled personnel, inadequate publishing facilities, and limited visibility of publications were identified as the major challenges confronting the Press. The study concluded that university presses remain indispensable to scholarly communication by supporting the production, dissemination, and preservation of academic knowledge. It recommended increased institutional funding, continuous staff training, improved publishing facilities, stronger marketing and distribution strategies, and enhanced collaboration with academic institutions to improve the effectiveness of university press operations.

Keywords: Scholarly Communication, University Press, Academic Publishing, Scholarly Publishing, Knowledge Dissemination

Introduction

Scholarly communication is a fundamental component of higher education and research because it facilitates the creation, evaluation, dissemination, and preservation of knowledge within the academic community. Traditionally, scholarly communication has been expressed through the publication of books, journals, conference proceedings, monographs, and other academic materials produced through formal publishing structures. University presses have historically served as key institutional mechanisms for the

production and dissemination of such scholarly outputs, thereby supporting teaching, research, and knowledge preservation within universities.

Within this context, university presses occupy a strategic position as specialized academic publishing units established to advance the intellectual mission of higher education institutions. Unlike commercial publishers, which are primarily driven by market demand and profitability, university presses prioritize scholarly quality, peer review, and intellectual contribution. As Zhang and Eschenfelder (2024) observe, university presses remain central to the production and dissemination of scholarly knowledge, particularly in disciplines where commercial publishing interest is limited. Similarly, Ford and Alemneh (2024) emphasize that institutional publishing systems contribute to a more inclusive and equitable scholarly communication ecosystem by enabling wider participation in knowledge production and dissemination.

Despite their importance, university presses face persistent operational challenges that affect their efficiency and sustainability. These challenges include inadequate funding, rising production costs, shortage of skilled publishing personnel, and limited access to modern printing and production infrastructure. According to Zell (2022), many university presses in developing contexts, including Nigeria, struggle with weak institutional support and insufficient financial resources, which hinder their ability to sustain consistent scholarly publishing activities. These constraints often limit their capacity to meet increasing academic publishing demands within universities.

Furthermore, scholarly communication in contemporary higher education increasingly emphasizes the need for strong institutional publishing systems capable of supporting research dissemination and academic visibility. Weng'ua et al. (2024) note that university presses play a critical role in strengthening academic publishing ecosystems by ensuring that scholarly works are properly edited, produced, and distributed. Similarly, Tachie-Donkor et al. (2025) argue that institutional publishing structures remain essential for improving research visibility, strengthening academic output, and supporting knowledge dissemination in African higher education institutions.

In addition, recent literature highlights the continued relevance of university presses in sustaining academic scholarship through rigorous editorial processes and quality production standards. Nazarovets (2025) observes that university presses and university journals remain important channels for scholarly communication, particularly in ensuring the credibility, accessibility, and long-term preservation of academic works. This reinforces the view that university presses are not merely publishing units but vital academic infrastructure within universities.

Given the increasing importance of scholarly publishing in higher education and the challenges confronting institutional presses, it is necessary to empirically examine their roles, contributions, and constraints. Understanding how university presses operate within their institutional environments provides insight into their effectiveness in promoting scholarly communication. Therefore, this study investigates the role of university presses in scholarly communication, focusing specifically on Lead City University Press.

Statement of the Problem

University presses have long served as vital agents of scholarly communication through the publication, dissemination, and preservation of academic knowledge. By publishing books, journals, monographs, and other scholarly works, they contribute significantly to research advancement and the visibility of institutional scholarship. However, the scholarly communication landscape has changed considerably, placing increasing pressure on university presses to remain relevant and effective.

Recent studies show that institutional, technological, and policy developments are reshaping scholarly publishing. Ndegwa and Kuchma (2024) observe that evolving scholarly communication infrastructures have altered the roles of traditional publishing institutions, while Ford and Alemneh (2024) emphasize the need for more inclusive and sustainable systems that promote equitable knowledge dissemination.

Despite these developments, university presses continue to face significant challenges. Nazarovets (2025) notes that university-based scholarly publishing is increasingly affected by issues of financial sustainability, quality assurance, and institutional support. Similarly, Tachie-Donkor et al. (2025) identify inadequate institutional investment, limited technical capacity, and infrastructural constraints as major barriers to effective scholarly publishing, particularly in African universities.

In Nigeria, university presses are expected to enhance the visibility, accessibility, and credibility of scholarly outputs, yet many continue to operate under conditions of limited funding, inadequate production facilities, and weak institutional support. These challenges affect the quality, volume, and dissemination of scholarly publications. Zell (2022) further observes that many Nigerian university presses face structural and resource-related limitations that hinder their effectiveness.

Although these challenges have been widely discussed, there is a paucity of empirical studies examining the contributions and operational challenges of individual university presses in Nigeria. In particular, limited research has focused on Lead City University Press, especially regarding its role in scholarly communication, the challenges it faces, and

strategies for improving its effectiveness. It is against this backdrop that this study examines the role of Lead City University Press in scholarly communication.

Research Questions

- 1) What roles does Lead City University Press play in scholarly communication?
- 2) How does Lead City University Press contribute to the dissemination of scholarly knowledge?
- 3) What challenges confront Lead City University Press in promoting scholarly communication?
- 4) What measures can be adopted to improve the effectiveness of Lead City University Press in scholarly communication?

General Objective

The general objective of this study is to examine the role of Lead City University Press in scholarly communication.

Specific Objectives

The study seeks to:

- 1) Examine the roles played by Lead City University Press in scholarly communication.
- 2) Assess the contributions of Lead City University Press to the dissemination of scholarly knowledge.
- 3) Identify the challenges confronting Lead City University Press in promoting scholarly communication.
- 4) Determine measures that can improve the effectiveness of Lead City University Press in scholarly communication.

Concept of Scholarly Communication

Scholarly communication refers to the processes through which academic knowledge is created, evaluated, disseminated, and preserved within the scholarly community. It encompasses a wide range of activities, including the production, publication, dissemination, and long-term preservation of scholarly works such as books, journal articles, conference proceedings, monographs, and research reports. It is a core function of the academic system, as it ensures that knowledge generated through research is validated and made available for use by other scholars, institutions, and the wider society.

According to Nicholas et al. (2026), scholarly communication has evolved considerably in recent years due to changes in scholarly practices and the growing influence of new knowledge dissemination structures, which have reshaped how research outputs are

produced and shared within the academic community. Similarly, Köchling (2025) emphasizes that contemporary scholarly communication is increasingly characterized by interconnected academic environments that facilitate broader scholarly interaction and knowledge exchange across institutions.

Traditionally, scholarly communication was largely dependent on print-based publishing systems, where books, journals, and monographs served as the primary channels for disseminating research outputs. Within this traditional framework, university presses and academic publishers played a central role in ensuring quality control through editorial review, peer evaluation, and professional production standards. Ndegwa and Kuchma (2024) note that institutional publishing structures continue to be essential in ensuring the accessibility, preservation, and long-term availability of scholarly outputs.

In contemporary academic settings, scholarly communication is increasingly supported by institutional publishing systems and knowledge dissemination infrastructures that enhance the visibility and reach of research outputs. These developments have strengthened the role of academic publishing institutions in ensuring that scholarly works remain accessible, credible, and useful for teaching, research, and policy development. As a result, scholarly communication continues to serve as a critical mechanism for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge within higher education systems.

University Presses and Scholarly Communication

University presses are specialized publishing institutions established within universities to support the core mandates of teaching, research, and community service. They are primarily responsible for the production and dissemination of scholarly outputs such as books, journals, textbooks, monographs, conference proceedings, and other academic materials. Unlike commercial publishers, university presses are mission-driven and prioritize scholarly quality, intellectual contribution, and academic integrity over financial profit.

Recent studies have reaffirmed the continued relevance of university presses within the evolving scholarly communication ecosystem. Zhang and Eschenfelder (2024) argue that university presses remain essential intermediaries in scholarly communication because they ensure quality control through rigorous peer review processes, editorial oversight, and adherence to established academic publishing standards. In a similar view, Ford and Alemneh (2024) contend that university presses contribute to a more inclusive and equitable knowledge system by supporting the dissemination of scholarly work and amplifying diverse academic voices across different regions and disciplines.

Beyond their publishing function, university presses play a vital role in preserving institutional intellectual outputs and enhancing the visibility of universities' research activities. Through the publication and dissemination of scholarly works, they facilitate knowledge exchange among academics, students, policymakers, and the wider society. This function is particularly significant in developing countries, where limited access to international publishing platforms makes institutional presses crucial for promoting local scholarship and ensuring that indigenous research outputs gain recognition and academic value.

Overall, university presses remain indispensable actors in scholarly communication, serving as custodians of academic quality, facilitators of knowledge dissemination, and promoters of institutional visibility within the global knowledge system.

Contributions of University Presses to the Dissemination of Scholarly Knowledge

The primary contribution of university presses to scholarly communication lies in their role in the dissemination of scholarly knowledge to diverse academic and non-academic audiences. University presses publish and distribute scholarly materials such as books, journals, monographs, and conference proceedings that support teaching, learning, and research activities within and beyond their host institutions. Through established editorial processes, peer review mechanisms, and professional production standards, university presses ensure that scholarly outputs meet acceptable academic quality and are effectively communicated to their intended audiences.

The contribution of university presses has been further strengthened by broader developments in scholarly publishing that enhance the circulation of academic knowledge. Van Bellen and Céspedes (2024) note that publishing infrastructures and related dissemination frameworks have expanded access to scholarly outputs and improved the visibility of research across institutional and geographical boundaries. Similarly, Sugita (2025) observes that evolving publishing approaches have contributed to reducing traditional barriers to access, thereby increasing the reach and academic impact of scholarly works.

In addition, university presses play an important role in preserving academic heritage through the archiving and long-term conservation of scholarly publications. This preservation function ensures that intellectual outputs remain accessible for future academic inquiry, thereby contributing to the continuity of scholarly knowledge across generations.

Challenges Confronting University Presses in Scholarly Communication

Despite their contributions, university presses face several challenges that may limit their effectiveness in scholarly communication. A major challenge is financial sustainability, as many university presses operate under constrained budgets due to limited institutional funding, rising production costs, and restricted revenue generation capacity. These financial limitations often affect their ability to expand publishing activities and maintain production standards.

Another significant challenge is technological and infrastructural capacity. Nicholas et al. (2026) note that rapid advancements in publishing technologies require substantial investment in infrastructure and staff competencies, which many university presses struggle to sustain. This gap in capacity affects their ability to fully respond to contemporary demands in scholarly publishing.

Other challenges include inadequate production infrastructure, weak distribution networks, limited readership reach, piracy, and competition from commercial publishing platforms. Furthermore, Tachie-Donkor et al. (2025) emphasize that insufficient institutional support and limited technical competencies continue to constrain the effectiveness of scholarly publishing systems in many African academic environments.

Overall, these challenges highlight the need for sustained institutional support, capacity development, and structural strengthening of university presses to enhance their contribution to scholarly communication.

Measures for Enhancing the Effectiveness of University Presses in Scholarly Communication

To remain relevant and effective in contemporary scholarly communication, university presses require sustained institutional support and strategic reform. One of the most critical measures is increased institutional funding. Adequate funding enables presses to maintain production quality, acquire modern publishing equipment, support editorial processes, and sustain publication output. Studies have shown that insufficient funding remains a major constraint to institutional publishing systems, particularly in developing contexts (Zell, 2022; Tachie-Donkor et al., 2025).

In addition, strengthening publishing infrastructure and institutional support systems is essential for improving efficiency and output quality. Recent evidence suggests that well-supported scholarly publishing ecosystems significantly enhance research dissemination and academic visibility (Weng'ua et al., 2024). At the institutional level, targeted

investments in publishing facilities, human capacity, and production systems are necessary to sustain high-quality scholarly output.

Capacity building through continuous staff training and professional development is also a key strategy for enhancing the effectiveness of university presses. Skilled editorial, production, and design personnel are essential for maintaining publication standards and ensuring efficient workflow. Tachie-Donkor et al. (2025) emphasize that limited technical competencies remain a major barrier to effective scholarly publishing in many academic institutions, making staff training a critical intervention for improvement.

Furthermore, strengthening institutional publishing systems and improving collaboration among stakeholders such as university presses, academic libraries, and research offices can significantly enhance scholarly communication. Such collaborations support resource sharing, improve workflow efficiency, and strengthen the sustainability of publishing operations. This aligns with broader recommendations for institutional strengthening of scholarly communication infrastructures to ensure long-term sustainability (Ford & Alemneh, 2024).

Finally, improved production systems and enhanced operational capacity are essential for ensuring the quality and visibility of scholarly outputs. According to Nicholas et al. (2026), scholarly publishing systems require continuous adaptation and institutional investment to remain effective amid evolving academic demands. Strengthening these systems within university presses ensures improved dissemination of research outputs and reinforces their role in advancing scholarly communication.

Overall, the effectiveness of university presses in scholarly communication depends on sustained funding, institutional support, capacity development, and strengthened publishing infrastructure. Addressing these areas will significantly enhance their contribution to teaching, research, and knowledge dissemination within higher education institutions.

Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

This study is guided by Lasswell's Communication Model, proposed by Harold D. Lasswell in 1948. The model is one of the foundational frameworks in communication studies and conceptualizes communication as a process that answers five fundamental questions: Who says What, in Which Channel, to Whom, and with What Effect? According to Lasswell (1948), these elements provide a systematic basis for analysing communication processes, the actors involved, the media or channels used, the target audience, and the outcomes of communication. Despite being developed several decades ago, the model remains relevant

and has continued to be applied in contemporary communication research because of its simplicity and analytical value (Baran & Davis, 2021; Littlejohn et al., 2022).

Within the context of this study, Lead City University Press represents the communicator (Who) responsible for producing and disseminating scholarly publications. The message (Says What) consists of scholarly books, academic journals, conference proceedings, monographs, textbooks, and other research publications produced by the Press. The channel (In Which Channel) refers to the editorial, production, printing, and distribution processes through which these scholarly materials reach their intended users. The audience (To Whom) includes lecturers, researchers, students, policymakers, professionals, and the wider academic community who rely on these publications for teaching, learning, research, and policy development. The effect (With What Effect) is reflected in the dissemination of scholarly knowledge, increased research visibility, preservation of academic outputs, and the advancement of scholarship.

The model is appropriate for this study because it explains how communication occurs from the source to the receiver through identifiable channels and with measurable outcomes. Since university presses serve as institutional channels for communicating scholarly knowledge, Lasswell's Communication Model provides a useful framework for examining the role of Lead City University Press in publishing, disseminating, and preserving academic works. It also provides a basis for understanding how challenges confronting the Press may affect the effectiveness of scholarly communication and how appropriate institutional measures can strengthen its contribution to knowledge dissemination.

Empirical Review

Several empirical studies have examined university presses, scholarly communication, and scholarly publishing in higher education institutions.

Zhang and Eschenfelder (2024) examined the relationship between university presses, academic libraries, and e-book vendors in the United States using a qualitative research design informed by platform theory. The study was based on interviews with 19 participants from 18 university presses conducted between 2020 and 2021. The findings revealed that university presses continue to play a central role in scholarly communication through editorial quality assurance, peer review, and the dissemination of scholarly publications. The study also found that university presses rely heavily on major e-book vendors for distribution and that collaboration between presses and academic libraries remains limited. The authors recommended stronger partnerships among stakeholders to improve scholarly communication and the dissemination of academic publications.

However, the study was conducted in the United States and focused primarily on relationships within the digital publishing ecosystem, thereby limiting its applicability to Nigerian university presses.

Weng'ua, Kwanya, and Owano (2024) investigated the revitalisation of university presses in Kenya through publishing technologies using a convergent mixed-methods approach. The study involved a census of 43 staff members drawn from seven university presses, while data were collected through questionnaires and interview schedules. The findings revealed that most university presses still relied predominantly on print publishing despite the adoption of some emerging publishing technologies. The study further identified inadequate funding, shortage of skilled personnel, high operational costs, piracy, and inadequate institutional support as major challenges confronting university presses. The authors recommended increased funding, staff development, and improved publishing facilities to strengthen the contribution of university presses to scholarly communication. Since the study was conducted in Kenya, there remains a geographical gap for similar studies within Nigerian universities.

Henry M. Zell (2022) examined the condition of university press publishing in Nigeria through documentary analysis and field observations. The study found that many Nigerian university presses had shifted from their traditional scholarly publishing mandate towards commercial printing activities because of inadequate funding, obsolete equipment, weak institutional support, and declining investment in scholarly publishing. The study concluded that revitalising university presses is essential if they are to effectively support teaching, research, and knowledge dissemination. However, the study was descriptive and did not provide empirical evidence from any individual university press.

Maksym Nazarovets (2025) conducted a semi-systematic literature review on university journals and scholarly publishing. The review identified current trends, challenges, and future directions in university publishing. The study found that university journals and university presses continue to play an important role in disseminating scholarly knowledge, promoting research visibility, and supporting institutional reputation. Nevertheless, persistent challenges such as funding constraints, quality assurance, and sustainability continue to affect university publishing globally. Although comprehensive, the review did not focus specifically on the operations of university presses in Nigerian universities.

From the foregoing empirical review, it is evident that existing studies have examined university publishing, scholarly communication, and the challenges confronting university presses in different contexts. However, there remains a paucity of empirical studies that specifically investigate the role of individual university presses in promoting scholarly

communication within Nigerian universities. More importantly, no known empirical study has examined the contributions, challenges, and strategies for enhancing the effectiveness of Lead City University Press in scholarly communication. This identified gap provides the justification for the present study.

Methodology

This study adopted a mixed-methods approach comprising a descriptive survey design and in-depth interviews. The descriptive survey generated quantitative data on staff perceptions of the role of Lead City University Press in scholarly communication, while the interviews provided qualitative insights into the Press's operations, contributions, and challenges.

The study was conducted at Lead City University Press, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. The population comprised 46 staff members drawn from the editorial, production, marketing, administrative, and technical units. Owing to the manageable population size, a total enumeration technique was adopted, while purposive sampling was used to select senior officers for the in-depth interviews based on their roles in scholarly publishing.

Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and an in-depth interview guide. The questionnaire comprised demographic items and statements on the roles, contributions, challenges, and improvement strategies of the Press, measured on a five-point Likert scale. The instruments were validated by experts in Printing and Publishing Studies, Mass Communication, and Research Methods. The questionnaire's reliability was established through a pilot study, yielding a Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.70.

The researcher personally administered the questionnaire and conducted the interviews. Quantitative data were analyzed using frequencies, percentages, mean scores, and standard deviations with SPSS version 27, while qualitative data were analyzed thematically and presented narratively.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study, derived from both the questionnaire survey and the in-depth interviews, revealed that Lead City University Press plays a significant role in promoting scholarly communication. The quantitative findings showed that respondents agreed that the Press contributes through the publication of academic journals, scholarly books, and dissemination of research outputs, editorial support, graphic design, typesetting, and other publication-related services. These findings were reinforced by the interview participants, who described the Press as a bridge between researchers and the academic community by ensuring that scholarly works are professionally edited, produced, and disseminated. The participants further emphasized that the Press supports teaching, learning, and research by

producing credible academic publications that meet acceptable scholarly standards. These findings corroborate Ford and Alemneh (2024), who argued that scholarly publishing institutions are indispensable to the development of inclusive and effective scholarly communication systems. Likewise, Zhang and Eschenfelder (2024) maintained that university presses continue to occupy strategic positions in the production, preservation, and dissemination of scholarly knowledge within higher education institutions.

The study further revealed that Lead City University Press makes substantial contributions to the dissemination of scholarly knowledge through the publication of peer-reviewed journals, textbooks, scholarly books, monographs, and the provision of editorial and proofreading services. The questionnaire findings indicated that respondents agreed that these activities enhance the visibility and accessibility of research outputs, while the interview participants explained that rigorous manuscript assessment, copyediting, proofreading, typesetting, page layout, and production management ensure that publications meet acceptable academic and professional standards before dissemination. The participants also noted that collaboration among editors, proofreaders, graphic designers, and production personnel contributes significantly to the quality and credibility of the Press's publications. These findings are consistent with Kuchma and Ndegwa (2024), who emphasized that institutional publishing platforms strengthen scholarly communication by improving the dissemination and accessibility of research outputs. Similarly, Nazarovets (2025) observed that university presses and institutional journals remain essential channels for disseminating scholarly research and advancing academic excellence.

Another notable finding of the study is the importance of graphic design, typesetting, and production quality in scholarly communication. The questionnaire findings showed that respondents agreed that graphic design and typesetting are among the important roles performed by the Press. This was further supported by the interview findings, where participants emphasized that effective graphic design, page layout, cover design, printing, binding, and finishing enhance the readability, visual appeal, durability, and professional presentation of scholarly publications. According to the participants, these production processes improve the acceptability and credibility of academic publications among authors, researchers, students, and the wider academic community. This finding supports the position of Zhang and Eschenfelder (2024), who noted that maintaining high production standards and effective publishing processes is fundamental to the quality and reputation of university presses.

The findings also identified a number of areas that respondents perceived as requiring further attention to enhance the role of Lead City University Press in promoting scholarly

communication. The questionnaire results indicated that respondents identified funding constraints, ICT infrastructure, modern graphic design facilities, the availability of skilled personnel, the global visibility of the Press's publications, among other factors, as areas requiring further attention. These perceptions were supported by the interview participants, who observed that continued investment in these areas could further strengthen the Press's operational efficiency and broaden the dissemination and impact of its scholarly publications. These findings agree with Zell (2022), who reported that many Nigerian university presses continue to experience financial, technological, and operational challenges that hinder effective scholarly publishing. Similarly, Tachie-Donkor et al. (2025) argued that inadequate institutional investment, limited technological resources, and insufficient human capacity remain major constraints to sustainable scholarly publishing in many African higher education institutions.

Finally, the study revealed several measures that could improve the effectiveness of Lead City University Press in promoting scholarly communication. The questionnaire findings showed that respondents agreed that increased funding, continuous staff training, provision of modern graphic design facilities, adoption of modern publishing technologies, and improvement of printing and production facilities are essential for strengthening the operations of the Press. These findings were supported by the interview participants, who stressed the need for regular staff development, improved publishing equipment, stronger ICT infrastructure, and greater institutional support to enhance the quality and efficiency of publishing operations. The participants also emphasized the importance of improving the visibility of the Press's publications to increase their reach and impact. These findings are consistent with Weng'ua et al. (2024), who recommended sustained investment in publishing infrastructure, technological resources, and staff capacity development as essential strategies for strengthening university presses. The findings also support Bamgbose et al. (2024), who argued that organisational support, technological resources, and skilled personnel are fundamental to improving the effectiveness and sustainability of institutional publishing operations.

Overall, the quantitative and qualitative findings complement one another and demonstrate that Lead City University Press occupies a strategic position in advancing scholarly communication through academic publishing, editorial support, graphic design, typesetting, printing, and production services. However, the study also shows that the continued effectiveness of the Press depends on sustained institutional support, adequate funding, continuous professional development of staff, investment in modern publishing facilities, and deliberate efforts to improve the quality, visibility, and impact of its scholarly publications. Addressing these issues will strengthen the capacity of the Press to support

research, teaching, learning, and knowledge dissemination within Lead City University and the broader academic community.

Conclusion

This study examined the role of Lead City University Press in scholarly communication, focusing on its roles, contributions to knowledge dissemination, challenges, and strategies for improving effectiveness. Based on the findings from both the questionnaire and in-depth interviews, the study concludes that Lead City University Press plays a significant role in advancing scholarly communication within the university environment through the publication of academic journals, scholarly books, conference proceedings, editorial services, graphic design, typesetting, and printing/production activities.

The study further concludes that the Press contributes meaningfully to the dissemination of scholarly knowledge by ensuring that research outputs are professionally edited, produced, and published in formats that enhance accessibility and academic value. However, its effectiveness is constrained by challenges such as inadequate funding, insufficient ICT infrastructure, shortage of skilled personnel, limited modern publishing equipment, and low global visibility of its publications.

Despite these challenges, the Press remains a critical institutional platform for knowledge production and dissemination. The study therefore concludes that with improved funding, continuous staff training, upgraded production facilities, and strengthened institutional support, Lead City University Press can significantly enhance its contribution to scholarly communication and expand its impact within and beyond the academic community.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- 1) Lead City University management should provide adequate funding to the Press to facilitate the acquisition of modern publishing equipment and technologies.
- 2) Regular training and retraining programmes should be organized for staff to enhance their competencies in contemporary publishing practices, graphic design, and editorial management.
- 3) The Press should adopt modern publishing technologies and software applications to improve operational efficiency and publication quality.
- 4) Efforts should be made to improve the visibility and international recognition of publications produced by the Press through strategic partnerships, effective marketing, wider distribution, participation in academic book fairs and conferences, and collaboration with reputable indexing and abstracting agencies.

- 5) The Press should intensify marketing and promotional activities in order to expand the reach and impact of its scholarly publications.

References

- Bamgbose, A. A., Mohd, M., Wook, T. S. M. T., & Mohamed, H. (2024). Organisational and technological factors affecting efficient service delivery in trustworthy digital repositories: A qualitative approach. *Education for Information*, 40(3), 287–305.
- Baran, S. J., & Davis, D. K. (2021). Mass communication theory: Foundations, ferment, and future (8th ed.). Cengage Learning.
- Ford, A. Y., & Alemneh, D. G. (2024). Inclusive global scholarly communication: Toward a just and healthier information ecosystem. *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 75(10), 1058–1069. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.24899>
- Köchling, S. (2025). Platformization of scholarly communication: Academic social networking sites as new infrastructures and organizations. *Social Media + Society*, 11(2). <https://doi.org/10.1177/27523543251346565>
- Kuchma, I., & Ndegwa, H. (2024). Repositories transforming scholarly communication: An Insights special collection. *Insights*, 37, Article 9. <https://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.665>
- Lasswell, H. D. (1948). The structure and function of communication in society. In L. Bryson (Ed.), *The communication of ideas* (pp. 37–51). Harper & Brothers.
- Littlejohn, S. W., Foss, K. A., & Oetzel, J. G. (2022). *Theories of human communication* (12th ed.). Waveland Press.
- Nazarovets, M. (2025). University journals: A semi-systematic literature review of trends, challenges and future research directions. *Insights*, 38, Article 13. <https://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.705>
- Ndegwa, H., & Kuchma, I. (2024). Repositories transforming scholarly communication: An Insights special collection. *Insights*, 37, Article 9. <https://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.665>
- Nicholas, D., Abri zah, A., Herman, E., Revez, J., Akeroyd, J., Rodríguez-Bravo, B., Swigon, M., Clark, D., & Polezhaeva, T. (2026). Scholarly communications in 2025: An aerial evaluation of a system challenged by AI and much more. *Learned Publishing*, 39(2), e2056. <https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.2056>
- Rogers, E. M. (2003). *Diffusion of innovations* (5th ed.). Free Press.
- Sugita, S. (2025). *The current state of open access*. arXiv. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2511.13754>
- Syaki, A. N., & Kesuma, S. A. (2025). A systematic literature review on diffusion of innovation theory (2020–2024). *International Journal of Social Science*,

- Educational, Economics, Agriculture Research and Technology*, 4(12), 4284–4289. <https://doi.org/10.54443/ijset.v4i12.1306>
- Tachie-Donkor, G., Cobblah, M., & Ezema, I. J. (2025). Strategic approaches for enhanced digital scholarly publishing and digital literacy in African academic and research institutions: A systematic review (2000–2024). *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09610006251340769>
- Van Bellen, S., & Céspedes, L. (2024). Diamond open access and open infrastructures have shaped the Canadian scholarly journal landscape since the start of the digital era. arXiv. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2411.05942>
- Weng'ua, F. N., Kwanya, T., & Owano, A. (2024). Revitalising university presses in Kenya through digital technologies. *African Journal of Information and Knowledge Management*, 3(2), 56–71. <https://doi.org/10.47604/ajikm.3011>
- Wurster, F., Di Gion, P., Goldberg, N., Hautsch, V., Hefter, K., & Herrmann, C. (2024). Rogers' diffusion of innovations theory and the adoption of a patient portal's digital anamnesis collection tool: Study protocol for the MAiBest project. *Implementation Science Communications*, 5, Article 74. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s43058-024-00614-8>
- Zell, H. M. (2022). Nigerian university presses: A bleak picture. *Africa Bibliography, Research and Documentation*, 95, 57–79.
- Zhang, M., & Eschenfelder, K. (2024). The relationship between university presses, e-book vendors, and academic libraries: A platform theory analysis. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, 56(4), 699–712. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09610006231185883>