

Review of the State Of Research Methodology in African Librarianship

By

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Abstract

The paper reviews of the state of research methodology in African Librarianship. The data for the paper is based on the content analysis of journal articles published in the African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science between 1991 and 1999. The study has revealed major weaknesses in research methodologies in African Librarianship.

Among the major shortcomings are researches not being grounded on theory and the findings having no bearing on theory construction. Additionally, operational definitions of underlying concepts or variables are not provided. The study did not reveal a clear pattern of development towards either qualitative or quantitative methodology although there is a total dependence on the questionnaire for data collection. Research in African Librarianship is at its weakest in sampling and data analysis phases. Studies employ crude descriptions and sampling strategies. The individual is the major unit of analysis. Overall, the study concludes that quality of research methodology and consequently the entire research process in African Librarianship requires major improvements.

Keywords:

Research Methodology; Librarianship