A Proposed Framework for Digital Librarianship in Academic Libraries

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Abstract : The service delivery in academic libraries has been regressing due to the failure of Digital Librarians (DLns) to perform optimally. This study aimed at developing a proposed framework for digital librarianship in academic libraries with special emphasis to three selected public academic institutional libraries. The study's specific objectives were to determine the roles played by the current DLns' in academic libraries, establish job description of DLns' in various academic libraries, ascertain DLns best practices, and to implement a viable digital librarianship conceptual framework. The study used a survey research with open-ended questionnaire designed as per the objectives of the study. A purposively selected sample of 30 Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals from the three selected academic libraries in charge of Digital Information Services (DIS) and managing electronic resources were selected and interviewed. A piloted self-administered questionnaire was used to gather information from these respondents. A total of thirty (30) questionnaires to the LIS professionals-ten from each of the three selected academic libraries were administered. The study developed a proposed conceptual framework for DLns' that details the pertinent issues currently facing academic libraries when hiring DLns. The study recommended that the provided framework be adopted to guide library managers in identifying the needs of staff training and selecting the most adequate training method as well as settling on the best practices to be sent to staff for training and development.