

# Application of Social Media Devices: Effective Instruments for Library Services Provision to Physically Challenged Academic Library Users in Nigeria

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## Abstract

Provision of library services is very important to all and sundry particularly physically challenged library users, the study therefore based on the application of social media devices as an effective instrument for library services provision to physically challenged library users in Nigeria, the study examines the concept of physically challenged person to be someone who cannot carry out normal day-to-day activities, or as a result of their appearances which labeled them physically challenged, the study further preempts on social media concept, common types of social media devices used for library services such as YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook, Flickr among others, that they are good instruments to publicized library services to physically challenged library users, highlighted some of the library services to the physically challenged library users to be reading, references, reprographics, online, transcription marketing, SDI, CAS, and many more services.

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*Index terms*— social media, library services, physically challenged, library users, nigeria

## 1 Introduction

he core function or value of a library is the provision of library services and resources to its users in the right format, regardless of abilities or disabilities, or physical form of users. To successfully do that there is a need for the application of social media to the provision of library service for physically challenged library users. Anjiode (2010) noted that there is a person with physically challenged disabilities all over the part of the world and at all levels in every society. The physically challenged library has a substantial long-term adverse effect on one's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Iroeze, Umunnakwe and Eze (2017). There are more than 19million physically challenged persons in Nigeria Society Adamu (2009).

According to World Health Organization (WHO) (2001) relates physically challenged or disabilities as "any restriction or lack (Which resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. Remesh and Singh (2001) emphasize on physically challenged or disabilities may be cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional, and developmental or sometimes a combination of these. In clear terms, people or library users are label as disabled, handicapped, and physically challenged because they look different from the rest of the persons in society on account of their appearance or behavior or capacity to learn, develop or do certain things themselves. Rehabilitation council of India (1992) examined disabled person as one whom in his/her society is regarded as disabled, because of a difference in appearance and or behavior, in combination with a functional limitation or an activity restriction. Lawal -Solarin (2012) defines physically challenged as an inability to perform some or all the tasks in daily life or a medically diagnosed condition that makes it difficult to engage in the activities of daily life.

World Book Encyclopedia (2004) noted that some people are born physically challenged, while others develop them later in life. There are however many types of challenged or disabilities: both physically and mentally, and they vary greatly in the cause of degrees and treatment. Common disabilities include blindness, deafness, and deformity loss of limbs, mental illness, and mental retardation, muscular, nervous, and sensory disorder,

44 Saliu, Rabi, and Alabi (2016). Most challenged persons suffer rejection, isolation, discrimination, humiliation,  
45 segregation, and maltreatment from other members of the society Adesokan (2003). The physically challenged  
46 library users/students encountered barriers in their quest for access to library services. Viney (2006) noted that  
47 they encounter physical access limitations such as retrieving books from library shelves. Okoli (2010) emphasized  
48 the poorly built architectural buildings which have discouraged many physically challenged library users from  
49 having the right to provision of information services. However, if this is what physically challenged library users  
50 encountered or faced, then there is a need for the provision of library service to these target groups of library  
51 users by applying social media devices for providing library services to physically challenged users in Nigeria. The  
52 application of social media in libraries is extensive through providing information services to the users to ease their  
53 worry, creating awareness about library event news, new arrivals of books, users orientation programs, library tour  
54 connecting with other libraries, and librarians feedback. About the library services Hadagali, Kenchakkanavar,  
55 and Tadasad (2019) services include Circulation services, Reference services, information services, Bibliographic  
56 service, Abstracting service, indexing services, current awareness services (CAS) selective Dissemination of  
57 information (SDI) Reprographic Services, Translation Services, CD-Rom (Compact-Disk Read why memory),  
58 Services and Online Services.

59 Hence, in this information communication technology advances driven society, the library must employ these  
60 social media devices to offer better library services to physically challenged library users. Such social media  
61 device includes Facebook, WhatsApp, Myspace, Ning, Blogs, LinkedIn, Twitter, Youtube, Flickr and Library  
62 things, etc.

63 Consequently, for physically challenged library users to be relevant and belong to the common society and  
64 do what a normal physical formed human being does, there are urgent needs for libraries in Nigeria to apply  
65 social media device for their library services delivery which this study tends to explore for better and future  
66 sustainability.

## 67 2 II.

### 68 3 Review of Related Literature a) Concept of social media

69 Social media have been defined in a variety of ways. Social media is the general name given to every form of  
70 social interactions while social network is a subset of it. Burke (2013) specified that social media is the media  
71 (content) that one uploads whether a blog, video, slideshow, podcast, newsletter, or eBook. Consider social  
72 media as a one-to-many communication method. Though people can respond and comment, the owner owns  
73 the content and has to produce (write/record/create) the media yourself. Dewing (2012) further indicated that  
74 social media refers to the wide range of internet-based and mobile services that allow users to participate in  
75 online exchanges, contribute user-created content, or join online communities. Cohn (2011) indicated that social  
76 media and social networking have been instrumental in many major events around the world. It is fair to say that  
77 social networking is a subcategory of social media. Social media is the use of web-based and mobile technologies  
78 to turn communication into an interactive dialogue, on the other hand, is a social structure with people who  
79 are joined by a common interest. This is further stated by Dodson (2012) that social networking involves direct  
80 communication and requires a conversation between two or more parties. Social media offers channels by which  
81 the content can be acted upon. The idea behind the act of social networking seems to be the idea of building  
82 networks of like-minded and influential individuals in a related field or area of interest to, in fact, gain something  
83 out of it all. Social media, on the other hand, is the actual vessel in which all this "networking" takes place.

84 Social media has been defined as website which allow profile creation and visibility of the relationship between  
85 users, and which are also referred to as social media sites Diga and Kelleher (2009). Evans (2011) further  
86 emphasized on social media sites allow users to generate their content, commonly referred to as users-generated  
87 content to share their experience in many different ways. Begum and Parvin (2019) considered social media  
88 as social networking sites that are virtual communities where users can create individuals to communicate.  
89 Hadagali, Kenchakkanavar, and Tadasad (2019) observed that some authors fail to distinguish between social  
90 media and that of social networking and use these terms synonymously in a different context. However, Dina  
91 (2011) differentiates between social media and social networking via LinkedIn Group (Freelance Editing Network).  
92 Social media (noun) is the 'tool' and social networking (verb) is what you do with that tool and how you use it.

### 93 4 b) Common Types of Social Media Devices Used For

94 Library Services Common types of social media devices were considered based on their popularity and widely used  
95 among libraries to provide accessibility and successful delivery to library users, such as; YouTube, Whatsapp,  
96 Flickr, Facebook, Weblog, Twitter, MySpace, LinkedIn, and Library Thing among others. Few among social  
97 media devices selected as instruments for Library services provision are discussed below:

98 Garoufallou and Charitopoulou (2011) observed that YouTube is a widely used social media devices by the  
99 students to do the following: ? To help the librarians to post videos on conferences, workshops, library events,  
100 library tours, or bibliographic instruction for the benefit of users. ? It helps in users' education/bibliographic  
101 instruction videos can be shown during the class hours on how to use a test, tool, database, search engine,  
102 formula, etc. ? YouTube allows the librarians to save favorite subject-related videos and also enables them to  
103 create a playlist and share them among the users.

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104 YouTube however according to Ezeani and Igwesi (2012) helps institutions in Nigeria, to communicate  
105 important highlights of inaugural lectures, conferences, and workshops to library users physically challenged  
106 inclusive.

## 107 **5 ii. WhatsApp**

108 Whatsapp is one of the popular and commonly used social media devices, this is a device where Instant messages  
109 can be gotten and it allows users to send text messages, images, videos, etc. to each other for free. WhatsApp  
110 allows and gives rooms for a lot of thing such as: ? To attach files through. Word document, PDF, PPT, etc.  
111 ? WhatsApp allows the users to stay updated on library events. ? WhatsApp enables the librarians to post  
112 news about the library, images, and videos of the library orientation program and library events. ? It also allows  
113 librarians to interact with the users through discussion groups, image tagging, and receive comments, feedback,  
114 and suggestions to improve the Library services. ? It allows the librarians to provide the most important services  
115 i.e. 'Ask a Librarian' without being physically present in the library. Hadagali, Kenchakkanavar and Tadasad  
116 (2019).

117 iii. Flickr Flickr is another common and popular social media device known for image sharing application which  
118 is being widely used to share images within groups or communities. Flickr is popularly known as a photosharing  
119 application that also enables users to post videos (Dickson and Holley, 2010). Garoufallou and Charitopoulou  
120 (2011) submitted that Flickr was the second most preferred Web 2.0 instrument used by students Flickr also do  
121 the following things to disseminate library services to patrons in the library: ? Flickr allows the librarians to  
122 upload and share images of the library events/programs / and activities to the users ? It enables to tag images  
123 with keywords. These tags will further be useful for locating the relevant images. ? It helps Librarians to create  
124 discussion groups and post-academic / subject-related photographs. ? It enables the librarians to post videos on  
125 the virtual tour of the library.

126 According to Ezeani and Igwesi (2012), Flickr can be used as an instrument to share and distribute new  
127 images of library collections. Cover pages of new arrivals of both books and journals can be disseminated to users  
128 through Flickr. It can also be used to enlighten users on topical issues such as the different pictures of emblems  
129 of the political parties in Nigeria.

## 130 **6 iv. Facebook**

131 Facebook is a for-profit corporation and online social media service founded by Mark Zuckerberg sometime in  
132 February 2004. Facebook allows its users to create an online profile, add friends and enable them to post and  
133 view each other's profiles (Ellison et al., 2007). Facebook is one of the widely used social media devices used  
134 mainly for interaction and sharing. Using Facebook applications following library services may be provided to  
135 the end-users: ? Facebook applications enable the librarians to access the contents of the library catalog without  
136 actually going to the library and visiting the library's website. ? Facebook can be used to share academic  
137 activities, essentially for providing information literacy programs/orientation to users-new intake students ?  
138 Facebook enables the librarians to provide information to the users on the events, activities and programs, new  
139 arrivals of books (through posting videos and providing links) ? Facebook links the users to online tutorials on  
140 how to use a device, education programs, etc. ? It helps to advertise library events and create online library  
141 study groups for the users. ? Facebook facilitates access to question paper banks, wherein the user can make use  
142 of the question papers without geographical limitations.

143 Facebook is librarian-friendly with many applications like JSTOR search, World Cat, and many more.  
144 Librarians can interact with users to know their information need. Libraries try to link some of these specialized  
145 library applications to Facebook Ezeani and Igwesi (2012).

## 146 **7 v. Weblog**

147 A weblog is a website that is common, popular, and usually maintained by an individual, with regular entries  
148 of commentary, descriptions of events, or other materials such as graphics, or videos. Entries are commonly  
149 displayed in reverse chronological order (Wikipedia.org) Boxen (2008) defines a Blog as a webpage consisting of  
150 user-supplied content in reverse chronological order. Web publishing has become easy because of its simplicity  
151 in publishing the contents and records the comments by the other persons.

152 Hadagali, Kenchakkanavar, and Tadasad (2019) identified the following library services that may be rendered  
153 through the library to the users using Weblog: ? Weblogs enable user interaction which further allows students  
154 to provide feedback on the services provided by the Librarians. ? Librarians can flash the news about the library  
155 events/programs/activities which take place at the library to users. ? Weblogs allow Librarians to create different  
156 subject guides to fulfill the demands of the students. ? Librarians can create blogs detailing the programs of the  
157 projects undertaken on the renovations occurring at the library. ? A weblog can be used to interact with users  
158 offering their own choice of contributions like debate and interaction. ? Librarians and users can get current  
159 information about various subjects (through alerting services) in general to specific through weblogs. it could  
160 also be used to market library services.

## 161 8 c) Library services provision to physically challenged library 162 users

163 Provisions of library services to students or to users that are physically challenged are very important. A library  
164 is a service provider institution and the university library is not exempted. University libraries in the spring  
165 of knowledge and information provided will always be valued at a premium. In the modern significantly and  
166 socially vigilant society, especially when the grains of right to information are gaining much currency. The library  
167 service which brings the staff in contact with users to provide the right information to the right user at the right  
168 time and to help in finding out resources and providing required library services should be emphasized. Some  
169 important kinds of library services offered by libraries to physically challenged library users are: i. Reading  
170 services Ayiah (2007) observed that the provision of reading services is highly essential entirely dependent on  
171 resource persons and volunteer students. There are no readers employed to serve visually challenged Students but  
172 as part of the resource person's work schedule, they are expected to provide that service whenever the student  
173 needed it. As Craddock (2001) noted that accessing information is of utmost importance for anyone pursuing an  
174 academic program. If a physically challenged student is delayed access to information simply because a reader  
175 was not available or a resource person would not complete the task, then the ability of the physically challenged  
176 student to complete an assignment in time interferes with added consequences. Rayini (2017) emphasized the  
177 need for libraries to develop a strategy for engaging readers and providing them with training. Training users in  
178 the use of new services and in new technologies that support these services is essential. Libraries should make  
179 users aware of new services or changes to existing services. Many libraries for the blind accomplish this through  
180 alternative-format newsletters or special training sessions. The Internet can also be an effective mechanism for  
181 introducing users to a new service and guiding them through it.

## 182 9 ii. References services

183 This service is highly interactive and brings the visually challenged students closer to the resource persons and  
184 this brings a lot of problems since these resource persons are not professional librarians. Ayiah (2007)academic  
185 Library is supposed to perform the following functions: teaching, research, publication, conservation of knowledge  
186 and ideas, extension and service, and interpretation, the services to be provided are listed below by (Kumar 1996).

187 ? Providing instruction in the use of library, general and specific information, ? Assistance in the location (or  
188 searching) of documents or use of library catalog understanding of reference books ? Reader's advisory service, ?  
189 Compilation of bibliographies, preparation of indexing and abstracting services, ? Reservation of documents-In  
190 case a document has not been loaned, then a user who needs it can get it reserved so that when the document is  
191 returned then the user can be informed and he can get it issued, ? Interlibrary loan -ILL refers to a request for a  
192 document not available in the library. Whatever might be the nature of the library, but it should take advantage  
193 of borrowing books from other libraries, etc.

194 iii. Transcription services Transcription work is done at the Braille Library situated in Balme Library which  
195 doubles as a resource center for students with Disabilities. This may seem to be against the established practice.  
196 Craddock (2001) believes that a library serving physically challenged library users or visually challenged students  
197 must provide such readers with the information they require in the appropriate formats and insufficient time for  
198 it to be useful.

## 199 10 iv. Marketing and Advocacy

200 Rayini (2017) observed print-disabled users are very often among the poorest of the poor in many countries,  
201 usually isolated from others with similar disabilities. Because the majority of people who are( ) G Year 2021

202 Application of Social Media Devices: Effective Instruments for Library Services Provision to Physically  
203 Challenged Academic Library Users in Nigeria blind tend to be elderly, they are reliant on libraries for the blind  
204 to aggressively advocate on their behalf. In addition, special techniques are required to market to this group and  
205 to make them aware of library service opportunities. All staff should recognize their role and responsibility in  
206 promoting and advocating for the needs of these users. Marketing and advocacy initiatives must also engage a  
207 wide group of stakeholders, including other agencies and the general public who could support the work of the  
208 library. Irvall and Nielsen (2005) considered a person in a wheelchair or using crutches or a walker should be able  
209 to enter through the door and pass through security checkpoints. A blind person with awalking guide dog should  
210 also be able to enter without encountering obstacles. They emphasized that: Sufficient space in front of the door  
211 to allow a wheelchair to turn around, entrance door wide enough to allow a wheelchair to enter, Automatic door  
212 opener reachable by a person in a wheelchair, No doorsteps -for easy wheelchair access, Glass doors marked to  
213 warn visually impaired persons, Security checkpoints possible to pass through with a wheelchair/walker or other  
214 mobility aids, Stairs and steps marked with a contrasting color, Pictogram signs leading to elevators, Well lighted  
215 elevators with buttons and signs in Braille and synthetic speech, Elevator buttons reachable from a wheelchair.

## 216 11 v. Indexing services

217 Indexing services is one of the paramount services provided to different kinds of library users regardless of the  
218 ability or disability of the users. An index is an organized tool to the text of any reading subject matter or the

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219 contents of other collected document materials, covering a series of entries, with headings shaped in alphabetical  
220 or other chosen order, and with references to reveal where each item indexed are located. Thus, it is cogently  
221 perceived that an index is a list systematically arranged providing enough details about each item so that it  
222 can be figured and brought out (British Standards Institutes, 1964). There are various types of indexes: Book  
223 indexes, Index of collections, Periodical indexes, Newspaper indexes, Citation indexes.

## 224 **12 vi. Abstracting services**

225 The modern era is christened as an era of the information age. There is no branch of knowledge where a  
226 large quantum of information has not been generated. Therefore, huge sources are documented but it creates the  
227 problem of not only organizing knowledge but also in the selection of quality and important information products.  
228 An abstracting service intends to facilitate the summarization of new documents and inform the users about the  
229 topical areas of interest to them, (Ashworth 1979), the various kinds of abstract are reorganized by their scope  
230 on coverage. The commonly known abstracts are indicative and informative. Other kinds of abstracts are author  
231 abstract, locative abstract, telegraphic abstract, auto abstract, etc vii. Selective dissemination of information  
232 services (SDIs) This is a service provided where tools and resources are used to keep clientele informed of new  
233 resources on specified topics Ambali, Usman, and Adesina (2018).A service that is personal rather than common;  
234 it has evolved out of the development of key term indexes, viewed as personalized CAS/SDI services high-interest  
235 areas. It is the service concerned with the "channeling of new ideas of information for whatever source to those  
236 points within the organization where the probability of usefulness, in connection with current work of interest.  
237 The SDI encapsulates a strategy to prepare users' services manual and computerized methods are in operation  
238 mainly depending upon the level of automation of library services.

## 239 **13 viii. Current awareness services (CAS)**

240 CAS is a service to make the users aware of the availability of recent publications. CAS can be a list of journal  
241 titles or contents of periodicals or a list of newly arrived documents. The libraries announce regularly the list of  
242 new additions of books, list of periodicals, and current contents of periodicals to provide this service. Pertinently  
243 current information is available in newsletters, newspapers, journals, and other micro documents (Pal, 2004).  
244 Vickery defines CAS as "more frequently and more adequately met by circulation than by retrieving current  
245 journals, newly received books and reports, abstract bulletin and the like being fed and scanned by users.

## 246 **14 ix. Reprographic services**

247 The term reprography was used for the first time in 1954 as a generic term for all kinds of facsimile reproduction of  
248 documents, covering in its scope, processes, and techniques related to photocopying, microcopying, blueprinting,  
249 electronic copying, thermo copying, dyeline reproduction, etc. In earlier times all these processes and techniques  
250 were called copying which without a doubt was wider in its ambit and did encompass copy typing and duplicating  
251 in the offices, photocopying in the libraries, and blueprinting in drawing office. ??rashar (2003). According to  
252 Bose, (1972), a reprographics service is a group of mechanical devices whereby one or multiple copies of a document  
253 can be made through the copying and duplicating process. Reprography covers not only devices but processes and  
254 techniques and includes mechanical along with photographic, thermal, and electronic processes too. According to  
255 Hawken, (1966), reprography is a term applied to draw attention to the copying processes and methods applied  
256 for both copying and duplicating documents. The role of reprography is instrumental in communication. In the  
257 modern era, there is the aggrandizement of information, reprography facilities, and information scientists who  
258 bring home a researcher, right at his desk, the literature pertinent to his area of subject for numerous sources.

## 259 **15 x. CD-ROM (Compact-Disc Read Only Memory)**

260 Services CD-ROM (Compact-Disc Read Only Memory) Services CD-ROM is one of the storage media developed  
261 due to information explosion as well as the urgency for quicker processing and accessing of information. CD-  
262 ROM is known for the revolution in information media. CD-ROM technology has proven itself as a blessing for  
263 libraries in facilitating library service to the users. CD-ROM is more accessible for searching the information and  
264 as it occupies less space and has a large storing capacity, it is more suited for university libraries. (Khan, 1997)  
265 xi. Online services Online Services Online system is also a revolution, in which the user is provided a seat at a  
266 terminal connected to a database and can interact with the computer. Shaping search strategies based on the  
267 response, the searcher has quick access to the database. The user can interrogate the computer directly. The  
268 output can be printed out or displayed on the screen. The computer acts as a storage place for the accumulation  
269 of information. Online services indicate that users have access to information through the usage of video displayed  
270 keyboards. The user can operate the keyboard, give the command and the outcome can be revealed on a video  
271 display or cathode ray tube. If the users want a printed record then he has to push a button and the record will be  
272 printed out. ??harma and Grover, (2004) observed that, If the user has numerous indexes and abstracts available  
273 to search at a computer terminal, Libraries must not discriminate against individuals with disabilities and shall  
274 ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to library resources. To ensure such access libraries may  
275 provide individual with disabilities with services such as extended loan periods waived late fines extended reserves  
276 periods, library card for proxies, books by mail, reference services by fax or e-mail, home delivery services remote

## 16 E) BENEFITS OF SOCIAL MEDIA DEVICES TO PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED LIBRARY USERS

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277 access to the OPAC, remote electronic access to library resources, volunteers readers in the library, volunteers  
278 technology assistants in the library, American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter or captioning at library programs  
279 and radio reading services. Sources: <http://www.ala.org/asgcla/resources/libraryservices> d) Uses of social media  
280 devices for library services delivery to physically challenged students Social media devices have the potential  
281 to facilitates a much closer relationship between libraries and other patrons, particularly physically challenged  
282 library users; Semode, Ejitagha, and Baro (2017) conducted a study on social networking sites: changing roles  
283 skill and use by the library in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The findings of the study revealed that the librarian  
284 should use social media devices for notifying news, share information about library resources and library events  
285 to users, they should also write good posts on the library Facebook page, this will attract user to like the library  
286 Facebook page, and this can also be extended to physically challenged students.

287 Bhatt and Kumar (2014) researched opinion the use of social networking tools by librarians; it was revealed  
288 from the study that the use of social media devices is important to capture the attention of online users and help  
289 in distance learning and knowledge sharing.

290 ALA (2001) emphasizes on Libraries marking good use of social media and web 2.0 application the study  
291 revealed that libraries of all types are increasingly using social media tools to connect with library users and to  
292 make library program and service accessible.

293 Dickson and Holly (2018) noted that social networking can see an effective method of student outreach in  
294 academic libraries if libraries take care to respect student's privacy and to provide equal coverage for all subject  
295 areas.

296 Begum and Parvin (2019) conducted a study on incorporating social media into library service: present scenario  
297 at East-West University library, the findings of study revealed that libraries can be the best promoters of their  
298 materials by proactively sharing their resources and services through social media.

299 Ayiah (2007) conducted a study on the provision of library and information services to visually challenged  
300 students in University of Ghana the findings of the study revealed that there is the need for specialized training  
301 on how to serve in general cuts across all aspects of the person whose duties necessitate dealing with special need  
302 people particularly physically challenged library users.

303 Ezeani and Igwesi (2012) conducted a study on using social media for dynamic library service delivery, the  
304 findings of the study revealed that librarians should educate patrons on the use of these social media device to  
305 adapt to new ways of accessing, communicating, and sharing knowledge and that the brilliant use of the social  
306 cyberspace promotes opens access to knowledge.

307 Burclaff and Johnson (2016) did an overview on teaching Information literacy through social media: An  
308 exploration of connectivism, the finding of the study revealed that students frequently connect to other people's  
309 resources and information using social media devices such as Facebook, Twitter LinkedIn, etc.

310 Lederer and Feldman (2012) said studies have shown that the students prefer contacting a librarian virtually  
311 particularly physically challenges library users as long as the platform is efficient. Zaid and Zaid (2017)  
312 Emphasized in the study, the exclusion of persons with visual impairment in Nigerian Academic librarians'  
313 "website" the outcomes of the study revealed that creating a webpage for disability services and incorporate  
314 accessibility statement on the library homepage and in all library publications and campus materials to allow  
315 disability library users have accessibility.

316 Hadagali, Kenchakkanavar, and Tadasad (2019) Social medial platforms effective tools to provide innovative  
317 library service in a university environment. The outcomes of the study revealed that the usage of social media in  
318 university libraries in India is still in the formative stage and needs to gear up to meet the growing expectations  
319 of the users.

### 320 16 e) Benefits of social media devices to physically challenged 321 library users

322 The benefits of social media devices to any group of people cannot be overemphasized, regardless of age, sex,  
323 religion, tribes, education, and so on, therefore, physically challenged library user should be able to use and  
324 enjoyed social media devices to maximal level, Thus, this study agreed with Vasquez and Nevada (2013) who  
325 identified some benefits of social media assistive technology as follows:

326 1. Social media devices help physically challenged library users to connect socially with others when they  
327 are not able to leave home because of their conditions. 2. Social media devices also help physically challenged  
328 library users to connect with e.g visually impaired people using Twitter to communicate with friends instead  
329 of crowded social situations where eye contact is difficult. 3. Social media devices connect with others who  
330 share health medical conditions and similar life experiences. 4. Social media devices provide a platform to  
331 educate disable library users without leaving home. 5. Social media allows the opportunity for messages  
332 to go viral and increased social skills networks 6. Social media provides independence and selfexpression  
333 opportunities for physically challenged library users 7. Individual physically challenged library users to research  
334 and educate themselves 8. Social media devices platform like LinkedIn improve employability options for  
335 physically challenged library users 9. Social media devices highly motivating way to improve technology  
336 skills and implement assistive technology: increase digital competence of physically challenged library users.  
337 Sources:<http://nevadadddouncil.org/wpcontent/uploads/2c13/10/social-media-disabilityconference.pdf>.

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338 In a similar vein, Semode, Ejitagha, and Baro (2012) highlighted some benefits of social media devices as  
339 follows:

340 1. Twitter as social media devices distribute library news and provide customer information and services also  
341 build connections with other libraries, librarians, and institutions. 2. Facebook as social media devices benefits  
342 physically library users as to distribute library news and information more social and less formal than Twitter  
343 -share photographs and run competitions, engagement with students promote general library collection, digital  
344 and archive special collections and information literacy to physically challenged library users. 3. More also, social  
345 media devices provide an arena for students and course facilitators to pin reviewed and recommended reading  
346 for a particular topic and develop communities with other online libraries to physically library users.

347 f) Special training for library staff to help physically challenged library users Ayiah (2007) affirms that dealing  
348 with individuals with visual requires that the individual understands, read and write in their preferred mode of  
349 communication which is Braille. The person must be someone who can read and use Braille in communicating with  
350 these students. Braille varies from a simple alphabetical notation to specialized notations for computers, foreign  
351 languages, music, mathematics, and other disciplines. Training in reading and writing Braille, the individual  
352 will be in a better position to use assistive technology, including screen review software such as JAWS; scan and  
353 read systems such as OpenBook and Kurzweil 1000 and possibly portable notetakers such as Braille Lite series,  
354 Braille 'n speak, Type 'n speak, etc. to effective and efficient communication with them and also using that to  
355 provide them with the requisite information timely.

356 Rayini (2017) emphasized that; libraries need to develop a strategy for engaging physically challenged readers  
357 and providing them with training. Training users in the use of new services and in new technologies that support  
358 these services is essential. Libraries should make physically challenged users aware of new services or changes to  
359 existing services. Many libraries for the blind accomplish this through alternative-format newsletters or special  
360 training sessions. The Internet can also be an effective mechanism for introducing users to a new service and  
361 guiding them through it.

362 Irvall and Nielsen (2005) pointed out that accessibility to the library should be a clearly defined management  
363 responsibility. A designated employee should act as a liaison person with disability groups and support  
364 organizations. It is, however, important that all staff be knowledgeable about various types of physically  
365 challenged or disabilities and how to best assist the users. Staff should also communicate directly with the patron  
366 and not through a caregiver. Examples of appropriate staff training include: ? Invite persons with disabilities to  
367 staff meetings to talk about their needs as library users ? Distribute e-mails and/or other information to staff  
368 regularly about library services to specific physically challenged or disability groups. ? Include information about  
369 services to special user groups in the orientation/orientation package for new staff.

## 370 **17 g) Challenges of using social media devices by physically** 371 **challenged library users**

372 Getting social media devices used by physically challenged library users can be a challenge at times, can be  
373 difficult and tasking, some of the challenges faced by physically challenged library users as highlighted by Ezeani  
374 and Igwesi (2012) as follows:

375 Lack of awareness: users of academic library especially physically challenged users are not aware of the protocols  
376 involved in social communication, these categories of users are possibly not or may be unaware that there is a  
377 subject specialist in their discipline that can help them used these social media devices, therefore here comes the  
378 works of librarians to initiate contact with these group of users.

379 Bandwidth problem: Still on these challenges, most institutions have limited bandwidth to support this  
380 practice; poor connectivity can frustrate effective online participation of physically challenged library users, on  
381 the part of institutions and the users.

382 Technophobia: Oftentimes, many users particularly physically challenged library users are afraid of handling  
383 computers or social media devices for harness library service, having no option they make use of traditional  
384 library services in their comfort zone, thereby they are not eager to embrace change perhaps it may be because  
385 of their health conditions.

386 Lack of maintenance culture: The most serious thigh to do is the issue of constant maintenance in all aspects in  
387 Nigeria, maintenance culture is seriously lacking in most institutions in developing countries. The few available  
388 technologies are in moribund conditions that may not support remote access to library service/information  
389 services.

## 390 **18 Sporadic power supply:**

391 The low or irregular power supply in Nigeria constantly discourage physically library users from accessing library  
392 services.

## 393 **19 Lack of training:**

394 Lack of staff training to handle the physically challenged user is another concern, it to be attended to However,  
395 Semode, Ejitagha, and Baro (2017) highlighted challenged associated with using social media device as follow:

396 Bad network, lack of time, power failure, inadequate competent of staff to handle the social media devices, some  
397 library users are not on any of social network, among others, these are evidence that using social media devices  
398 may be difficult.

### 399 20 III. Recommendation and Conclusions

400 This was conducted to cross-examine the application of social media devices as effective instruments for providing  
401 library services to physically challenged library users in Nigeria. It was observed on assumption that the physically  
402 challenged library users have more social media devices to connect with library services can offer them via the  
403 social media devices, it was clearly emphasized that these categories of users oftentimes faced a lot of humiliation  
404 discrimination, segregation, and rejection as a result of these the provision of library services becomes difficult  
405 for them to accessed and if going through these barriers in their quest for access to library services, then libraries  
406 should devise a means of communicate to them through the social media instruments by libraries/librarians  
407 connecting to other libraries to help their physically challenged library users. However, it was noted that various  
408 library services physically challenged library users to have access to such as reference, referral, indexing and  
409 abstracting, selective dissemination of information (SDI), current awareness services (CAS) online etc. which  
410 can be delivered to the physically challenged users at their convenience through the use of social media devices  
411 application such as Facebook YouTube, Whatsapp, Flickr among others by attaching files, through the document,  
412 PDF, PPT, HTM, etc interaction also take place through discussion groups image tagging. Since there are  
413 numerous of social media devices which can help libraries/librarians to reach out to their users, particularly  
414 physically challenged library users, the library should therefore employ the opportunities to get these target  
415 group of users feels important by mailing library services to them. Hence, the study clearly defined management  
416 responsibility that a designated employee should act as a liaison person with disability groups and support  
417 organization, it is, however, necessary that all staff be knowledgeable about various types of physically challenged  
418 or disabilities and how to best assist them, the study earmarked the following should be appropriate staff training  
419 include to: ? Invite a person with physically challenged to a staff meeting to talk about their needs as library  
420 users ? Communicate directly to them not third party or care-givers ? Distribute e-mail and other information  
421 to staff regularly about library services ? Give information about services to special user groups in orientations.

422 Finally, libraries and librarians should give physically challenged library users priority and preferential  
423 treatment as it is been given to other normal library users and to be sure they have right and privilege to  
424 library services.



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