



## CORRELATIONAL STUDY OF PROFESSIONAL VISIBILITY, PEER INFLUENCE AND CHOICE OF LIBRARIANSHIP AS A CAREER AMONG SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN AKURE, ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

**Feyikemi Adeola**

University Library

Achievers University Owo, Ondo State, Nigeria

Email: [adeolafeyikemib@gmail.com](mailto:adeolafeyikemib@gmail.com)

Phone number: +2348164222869

&

**Adebayo Muritala Adegboire**

Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies,

University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Email: [am.adegboire@ui.edu.ng](mailto:am.adegboire@ui.edu.ng)

Phone number: +2348032154904

### Abstract

Anecdotal evidence and existing literature revealed that the choice of librarianship as a career among students falls short of expectations when compared to other professions, such as medicine, law, nursing, architecture, and so on. Descriptive survey research design of the correlational type was adopted for the study. The population consisted of 1,258 senior secondary school students from six (6) selected secondary schools in Akure, Ondo State. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to determine the sample size of 251. The data collection instrument used was a questionnaire. Pearson's product-moment correlation coefficient and multiple regression analysis were conducted to test the null hypotheses at a 0.05 significance level. A significant relationship between professional visibility and peer influence ( $r = 0.301; p = 0.00; p < 0.05$ ) was found, while a significant relationship between professional visibility and choice of librarianship ( $r = 0.631; p = 0.00; p < 0.05$ ) was equally established. There was a significant relationship between peer influence and the choice of librarianship ( $r = 0.455; p = 0.00$ ). Furthermore, a joint contribution of professional visibility and peer influence on choice of librarianship of senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State ( $R = .792; \text{Adj } R^2 = .624$ ) was established. Therefore, professional associations within librarianship, such as NLA, LRCN, and NLAISE, are expected to effectively project the image of librarianship to gain more popularity and a positive perception among individuals in the nation. Advocacy and orientation should be constantly carried out on librarianship as a viable career choice.

**Keywords:** Professional visibility, peer influence, choice of librarianship, secondary school students.

### Introduction

Career decisions within a wide range of professional options are critical to widening knowledge and positively affecting society growth and development. Therefore, when it is time to make a career decision at some point in our lives, a decision that demands critical consideration and should not be taken for granted must be reached because it influences a lot of intertwined issues related to long time level of career ascensions, relevance, and satisfaction. In addition, choosing the right

career contributes to the well-being and improved standard of living (Chen, Wang, & Ding, 2021).

Hence, sufficient consideration should be given to senior secondary school students whose choice of career may be hanging in the balance due to a lack of information. Senior secondary school education is a comprehensive education that prepares students for careers in various fields, particularly university-based careers. In Nigeria, senior secondary school education lasts three years. During this time, students take



examinations ranging from class assessments to advancement exams that advance them to the next class. Then, in the final year, they take a final examination such as the Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSCE) and Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) which decide their admission to university as well as their choice of career path.

According to Lehal (2024), a career is described as a wide variety of professions, vocations, and work roles that a person may pursue through one's entire lifetime. A person's career choice is a lifelong process that affects not just their lifestyle, education, wealth, protection, and job satisfaction, but also their future lifestyle, status, income, security, and job satisfaction. Individuals have been found to pursue occupations from professions that are more often recognized by society as high profile and with a decent source of income, such as medicine, law, engineering etc. rather than from professions whose roles are less visible to a large number of people in the society, one of such profession is the librarianship profession.

Librarianship, according to Aboderin, Ayoola, and Ogunjobi (2021), is a profession dedicated to providing authentic information and uniquely satisfying the general and specific information needs of people in a timely manner. Librarianship aims to bridge the knowledge gap between people and provide the necessary information to the right person at the right time. Despite the professional roles librarians play at every level of formal education in industries, institutions, and businesses, the harsh reality is that librarianship does not enjoy the same level of prestige and admiration as other occupations. As a result, students are less likely to see librarianship as a career option due to its low level of professional visibility.

Professional visibility describes the condition in which a particular profession is recognized and has gained widespread awareness. According to Onoyeyan & Unegbu (2019), lucrative careers have arisen as offshoots of conventional professions such as medicine, law, nursing, architecture, and so on as a result of globalization in the world today. However, the majority of students continue to favour conventional occupations as their preferred

career path. He went on to state that this choice may be due to students' lack of knowledge of other careers that present similar job possibilities and resources. Individuals who are aware are more privileged to make educated job decisions. Several indicators, such as career advice, advocacy, and professionalism, contribute to the popularity of librarianship as a viable career choice among students. Another factor to choice of librarianship is peer influence.

Peer influence is also perceived as a predictor that influences students' decision in the choice of librarianship as a career. Peer groups have an important role in students' social, emotional, and academic development. Peer influence is the direct influence of peers on individuals, or the influence of a person who is encouraged to follow their peers by modifying their attitudes, beliefs, values, or behaviors to conform to the influencing group or person's. According to Oduh, Agboola, & Eibhalemen (2020), many young people have resorted to their peers for support in seeking to break through what appears to be an impasse as a result of the complications surrounding career choices. As a result, people select subject combinations that will lead to specific professions simply because a peer is a member of that group. Students' profession choices might be influenced by their peers as they have a way of making one field look more appealing and a stepping stone to the top while dismissing other careers as undesirable. Peer influence can be positive or negative.

According to Adna, Rasyidah & Lau (2023), peer influence can either be positive or negative. Positive peer influence can lead to positive life choices since one's peers can influence positive life outcomes and inspire one to follow them. Embracing good peer behavior can result in positive changes not only in one's life but also in one's reasoning style. Some influences can be beneficial, just as others can be harmful. Negative peer influence occurs when a person's peers influence them to do something negative and self-destructive. When making a decision, peer pressure might have a greater impact than personal motivations. This is why a student needs to be provided with appropriate job knowledge in a comprehensive manner, so that he or she can make an informed career



decision. It is on this premise that this study will investigate the correlational relationship of professional visibility and peer influence on senior secondary school students' decision to choose librarianship as a career.

### Statement of the problem

In today's society, librarianship is a distinct and distinguished discipline that is involved in public service and plays a critical role in national advancement through the provision of relevant and adequate information needed to solve problems, make informed decisions, enhance knowledge, and contribute to overall national development. Ensuring that library users are satisfied with the information resources available in both print and electronic formats is at the core of librarianship. However, based on existing literature and anecdotal evidence, the choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students falls short of expectations compared to other professions, such as medicine, law, nursing, and architecture, which are regarded as more prestigious.

The lack of interest in librarianship as a profession among senior secondary school students may be linked to factors such as the low professional visibility of librarianship and peer influence. It is, therefore, imperative to examine the contributory relationship of these factors on the choice of librarianship as a career. Therefore, this research will investigate a correlational study of professional visibility, peer influence and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo state, Nigeria

### Hypothesis of the study

The following null hypotheses were tested in the study at 0.05 level of significance

1. There is no significant relationship between professional visibility and peer influence on the choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria
2. There is no significant relationship between professional visibility and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria.

3. There is no significant relationship between peer influence and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria.
4. There is no joint relationship among professional visibility, peer influence and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria.

### Related work

Onoyeyan and Unegbu (2019) conducted a study which examined the influence of awareness on the career choice of law librarianship among law students in South-West, Nigeria. The study employed the survey research design. The population for the study was 2,945 undergraduate law students in the in the 12 purposively selected universities that run the approved undergraduate law program up to 500 level in South-West, Nigeria. Krejcie and Morgan's formula was used to select the sample size of 597. The instrument for data collection was a validated questionnaire. Cronbach's alpha coefficients for the constructs ranged from .80 to .89. The return rate was 94%. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The result showed that awareness of law librarianship significantly influenced law students' choice of law librarianship as a career. The study also revealed that law students were slightly aware of law librarianship as a choice of career. Results indicated that the inclination to pursue a career in law librarianship was based on altruistic considerations.

Lascano (2021) investigated the level of awareness of senior high school students regarding LIS as a career in similar research. The study included 97 Grade 12 students from a state-run institution in Benguet, Philippines. According to the findings, they have a fair comprehension of the LIS course. The STEM track has a higher degree of knowledge than the TVL track, although both sexes demonstrate an equal grasp of the curriculum. Unfortunately, because the LIS program is not well-known, all of the respondents indicated they will not enroll because they have already decided what they will study in college. The biggest promotional strategy for incoming college students to advocate for the LIS degree, according to the respondents, is career orientation.



In the South Senatorial District of Edo State, Oduh, Agboola & Eibhalemen (2020) assessed the influence of peer groups on secondary school students' career choices. In public secondary schools in Edo State's South Senatorial District, the study looked into the extent of peer influence on career choice and the influence of peer group on career choice by gender. The population of the study included 140 public secondary schools with 13, 265 SSII students in Edo State's South Senatorial District, and it was a correlational survey using the Ex-Post-Facto research method. The study sample consisted of 306 public secondary school students recruited from public senior secondary schools in Edo State's South Senatorial District. A simple random sampling technique was used to choose this. A questionnaire was employed as the research tool in this study. The mean, standard deviation, and Pearson Product Moment Correlation statistics were used to analyse the data collected. Students were not influenced to pursue a particular career because their friends were doing so; there was a significant influence of peer group on students' career choices; and there was no significant difference in the influence of peer group on male and female students in their career choices in public secondary schools in Edo State's South Senatorial District. Based on the findings, it was suggested that schools work with the Ministry of Education to develop at least one mandatory career program that includes professionals and experts from various spheres of life. The guidance counselor should be in charge of coordinating such a program.

Peer influence may have an impact on librarianship's professional visibility among senior secondary school students. Students that

### Results and Analysis

#### **H1: There is no significant relationship between professional visibility and peer influence among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria**

Table 1 shows the relationship between professional visibility and peer influence among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria. The table 1 showed that professional visibility ( $r = .301$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ) has significant positive relationship with peer influence among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria. This implies that there is positive linear association

between professional visibility and peer influence among senior secondary school students such that the more a profession is visible, the higher the likelihood of peer influence themselves in making such choice. Thus, the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant relationship between professional visibility and peer influence among senior

belong to friendship groups spend the majority of their time together, engaging in various interactions and sharing a variety of information, which builds trust. Some students mindlessly follow their friends' decisions, and for fear of not being loved, they will do whatever their friends demand, even if there is clear evidence that the decision is incorrect. This means that even if there is sufficient information about many potential careers, such as librarianship, students may choose to follow their friends' decisions or opinions.

### Research Method

The research design adopted for this study was a descriptive survey design of the correlational type. The study population was all 1,258 senior secondary school students from six (6) selected secondary schools in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria. The selected schools were: Estate Grammar School, Adegbola Grammar school, Pacific Group of Schools, Emplace college, Igoba high school and Wexford college. The selected schools are drawn from the urban areas of the two local government areas that constitute Akure, the capital city of Ondo State, Nigeria. The sample size for this study is 251 senior secondary school students were drawn using a multi-stage sampling technique. The instrument used for the data collection was a structured questionnaire with three sections. The questionnaire's face and content were validated by two experts in the field of information studies, all from the University of Ibadan. Out of the 251 copies of the questionnaire administered by the researchers, 249 copies, which represents 99.2% of the sample were retrieved which was considered adequate for the study. Hypotheses were tested at a 0.05 level of significance with Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC).



secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria is hereby rejected.

Table 1 showing the relationship between professional visibility, peer influence and choice of librarianship among senior secondary school students.

Variables	N	Mean	Std.Dev	Df	R	P	Sig
<b>H1</b>	249	60.15	11.943				
professional visibility				248	.301	.000	Sig
peer influence	249	28.97	8.517				
<b>H2</b>	249	60.15	11.943				
professional visibility				248	.631	.000	Sig
Choice of Librarianship	249	55.85	12.020				
<b>H3</b>	249	28.97	8.517				
Peer Influence				248	.455	.000	Sig
Choice of Librarianship	249	55.85	12.020				

Note: hypothesis is tested at 0.05 significant level

**H2: There is no significant relationship between professional visibility and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria.**

Furthermore, Table 1 shows the relationship between professional visibility and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria. Table 1 showed that professional visibility (r =.631; p < 0.05) has a significant positive relationship with choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria. This implies that there is a positive linear association between professional visibility and choice of librarianship

as a career among senior secondary school students, such that the more the professional visibility of librarianship, the higher the likelihood of students making the choice of librarianship as a future career. Thus, the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant relationship between professional visibility and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria, is hereby rejected.

**H3: There is no significant relationship between peer influence and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria.**

Additionally, Table 1 shows the relationship between peer influence and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria. Table 1 shows that professional visibility (r =.455; p < 0.05) has a significant positive relationship with choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria. This implies that there is a positive linear association between peer influence and choice of librarianship as a

career among senior secondary school students, such that the more the influence peers have over each other on librarianship as a career, the higher the likelihood of students making the choice of librarianship as a future career. Thus, the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant relationship between peer influence and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria, is hereby rejected.

**H4: There is no joint relationship among professional visibility, peer influence and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria.**

Table 2 showed that there was a significant joint influence of the independent variables

comprising professional visibility and peer influence on the dependent variable (choice of



librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students). Table 2 also showed a coefficient of multiple correlations (R) of 0.792 and a multiple adjusted R square of .624. This implies that the 62.4% variance in the choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria, is accounted for by the independent variables (professional visibility and peer influence) when taken together. The significance of the composite contribution was

tested at  $p < 0.05$  using the F-ratio at the degree of freedom (df- 2/248). Table 4.13 also showed that the analysis of variance for the regression yielded a F-ratio of 297.003. This implies that the above ANOVA result is significant at 0.05 level. Thus, the null hypothesis stating that no significant joint influence of professional visibility and peer influence on choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria is hereby rejected.

**Table 2: Summary of regression analysis of the joint influence of professional visibility, peer influence and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students**

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate			
.792 <sup>a</sup>	.627	.624	12.50012			
SUMMARY REGRESSION ANOVA						
	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Ps	Remark
<b>Regression</b>	64689.712	2	32344.856	207.003	.000 <sup>b</sup>	Sign
<b>Residual</b>	38438.248	246	156.253			
<b>Total</b>	103127.960	248				

*Note: hypothesis is tested at 0.05 significant level*

**Discussion of Findings**

**Relationship between professional visibility and peer influence among senior secondary school students**

Findings from this study showed that there is a significant positive relationship between professional visibility and peer influence. This implies that the more a profession is visible, the higher the likelihood of peers influencing themselves in making such a choice. This finding is corroborated by Hassan, A. A., Esere, M. & Abdulkareem, H. B. (2024), who examined the impact of peer pressure on career aspirations among in-school adolescents in Kwara State, Nigeria. In his first objective, he sought to ascertain how peer groups affected students' career goals. A survey research design and a quantitative research approach were used for the study. A self-designed questionnaire was used, and the instrument had an internal consistency score of 0.87. The data collected was analysed with Pearson's product-moment correlation and a t-test to assess the hypotheses. Two research hypotheses were raised and assessed at a 0.05 level of significance. The first

hypothesis ( $r\text{-cal} = .204$ ,  $P\text{-value} < 0.05$ ) and the second hypothesis ( $t\text{-value} = 3.159$ ,  $P\text{-value} < 0.05$ ) were both rejected.

The findings pointed out a substantial link between peer pressure and professional objectives among in-school adolescents in Kwara State. It also indicated that gender influences career goals among in-school adolescents. This implies that, even with accurate information about various fields of study, such as librarianship, without competent direction, students will be influenced by the opinions of their peers when selecting whether or not to follow a particular career. It was recommended that educational institutions should consider implementing peer support programs aimed at fostering positive peer influence because these programs can provide platforms for students to discuss their career goals, share experiences, and seek advice from their peers.

**Relationship between professional visibility and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students**



Findings from this study showed that there is a significant positive relationship between professional visibility and choice of librarianship as a career. This implies that the more the professional visibility of librarianship, the higher the likelihood of student making the choice of librarianship as a future career. The finding is supported by what was reported by Lascano (2021), he investigated the level of awareness of senior high school students regarding LIS as a career. Significant differences in knowledge were observed once the individuals were separated into groups depending on their sex and track. This study looked at the potential of senior high school students enrolling in a library and information science program, as well as analysed their competence and identified why they are interested in pursuing LIS as a career. Unfortunately, because the LIS program is not well-known, all of the respondents indicated they will not enroll because they have already decided what they will study in college. The biggest promotional strategy for incoming college students to advocate for the LIS degree, according to the respondents, is career orientation.

#### **Relationship between peer influence and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students**

Findings from this study showed that there is a significant positive relationship between peer influence and the choice of librarianship as a career. This implies that the more the influence peers have over each other on librarianship as a career, the higher the likelihood of student making the choice of librarianship as a future career. This is consistent with findings from Obot et al. (2020) who conducted a study on the influence of peer group on secondary school students' career aspirations. The study hypothesis was assessed using a contingency Chi-Square test with a significance level of 0.05. The results revealed an estimated  $X^2$ -Value of 88.55, which was significantly higher than the critical  $X^2$ -value of 31.41, indicating that peer group influence on learners' career goals is strong. With conclusions and recommendations, philosophical ideas were defined as intervention options. From the foregoing, it can be argued that some schoolchildren aspire to certain

careers based on peer influences rather than their personal abilities.

Additionally, the findings of this study align with those of a study conducted by Rivera and Santos (2021), which reported that peer influence is one of the important factors influencing students' career choices. Therefore, peer influence should not be disregarded, since it has been shown to have an impact on job choices.

#### **Joint relationship among professional visibility, peer influence and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students**

The study's findings also revealed a significant joint relationship between the independent variables (professional visibility and peer influence) and the dependent variable (choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students). On the contrary, the findings of this study contradict those of Lehal (2024), who investigated the factors influencing career choices among high school students in the National Capital Region, including Delhi, Gurgaon, and Noida, using a survey conducted among 51 students. The study revealed that factors such as media, parental pressure, peer pressure, and personality. Majorly, 45.1% of students responded that the media influenced their choice of career goals, 43.1% of students responded that their parents influenced their career goals, while friends and counsellors influenced 6%. It is generally anticipated that friends would have a significant impact on career decisions; however, in today's world, the media has a greater influence than friends and counsellors. However, it can be deduced from the study that creating awareness of librarianship as a profession through media can significantly influence its choice among secondary school students.

#### **Conclusion**

The study findings revealed a positive correlation between professional visibility and peer influence among senior secondary school students. Also, professional visibility and choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students are strongly associated. Likewise, among senior secondary school students, a significant positive



relationship was found between peer influence and the choice of librarianship as a career. Professional visibility and peer influence had a significant joint relationship on the choice of librarianship as a career among senior secondary school students. These results should stimulate further interest among researchers in how the level of professional visibility and peer influence associated with the choice of librarianship as a career can be promoted. Thus, students will be enthusiastic about building a profession in librarianship, leading to more of the profession's contribution towards societal development.

### Recommendation

The following recommendations are imperative.

1. Professional associations within librarianship, such as the NLA, LRCN, and NLAISE, are expected to effectively project the image and visibility of librarianship to increase its popularity among individuals nationwide.
2. Students should be encouraged by their parents and guidance to follow their passions, abilities, and life goals rather than following their peers, thereby avoiding a career path that may lead to failure or a lack of sense of achievement.
3. School counsellors are to actively step in and help students in the choice of career such that students can effectively make career choices according to their passion rather than bowing to peer influence
4. The joint contributory factors of professional visibility and peer influence were crucial in the decision to pursue a career in librarianship. Furthermore, the importance of awareness of the profession through media can greatly influence the choice of librarianship.

### References

- Aboderin, A. K., Ayoola, J. T., & Ogunjobi, T. E. (2021). Library and information science as a profession. *Trends in modern librarianship (chapter in book)*. Pgs.440-443
- Adna, Rasyidah, N. & Lau, J. L. (2023). The Effect of Self-Image, Peer Influence and Man- Nature Orientation Toward Sustainable Shopping Behavior Among Undergraduate Students in Klang Valley. *International Journal of academic Research in Business & Social Sciences*. 13(18). DOI: 10.6007/IJARBS/v13-i18/19963
- Chen, H., Wang, Y., & Ding, Y. (2021). Do career demands and career choices always coincide? A matching perspective based on career anchors and job characteristics. *Sustainability*, 13(20), 11273
- Hassan, A. A., Esere, M. O. & Abdulkareem, H. B. (2024). The Influence of Peer Pressure on Career Aspirations Among In-School Adolescent in Kwara State. *Indonesian Journal of Educational Research and Review*. 7(2). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.23887/ijerr.v7i2.76087>
- Lascano, E. A.(2021). Students' Knowledge on Library and Information Science (LIS): An Option for Choosing a Career. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 5875. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5875>
- Lehal, A. (2024). An Exploratory Study of the Factors that Influence the Career Choice among High School Students. *International Journal of Science and Research*, 1. <https://doi.org/10.21275/SR24208121719>
- Obot, I. M., Amalu, M. N., Apebende, J. B. &Ogodo, F. A. (2020). Peer Group and Career Aspiration of Secondary School Students in Northern Education Zone of CrossRiver State, Nigeria: Philosophical Contributions. *European Journal of Social Sciences*,59(3), 309-318. <http://www.europeanjournalofsocialsciences.com/>



- Oduh, W. A., Agboola, J. O. & Eibhalemen, F. A. (2020). Influence of peer group on the career choice of secondary school students in south senatorial district of Edo State, Nigeria. *International journal of humanities social sciences and education (IJHSSE)*. Vol. 7(6), 214-221
- Onoyeyan, G. O., & Unegbu, V. (2019). Awareness as determinant of choice of law librarianship as a career among law students in South-West Nigeria. *SAGE Open*, 9(3)
- Rivera, J. P. & Santos, M. E. (2021). Factors influencing career decision-making among Filipino senior high school students. *Philippine Journal of Educational Research*, 40(1), 12-2