# The Role of Libraries in the Campaign against Examination Malpractice in Nigeria Universities

**by**

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**Abstract**:

Examination malpractice is a pervasive issue in tertiary institutions, undermining the credibility of educational systems and compromising the integrity of academic qualifications. This paper explores the role of libraries in combating examination malpractice. Libraries serve as crucial resources for students, providing access to quality materials and promoting academic integrity through information literacy programs. By offering support services and creating a conducive study environment, libraries help alleviate the pressures that lead to malpractice. Additionally, libraries play a pivotal role in promoting academic integrity through the development and dissemination of policies and guidelines. Collaborative efforts with faculty and administrative departments further strengthen the campaign against examination malpractice. Ultimately, libraries are instrumental in fostering a culture of honesty and integrity in tertiary institutions, ensuring that academic achievements are valued and respected.

**Keyword**

Examination Malpractice, Tertiary Institutions, Libraries, Academic Integrity, Information Literacy, Resources, Support Services.

**Introduction**

Examination malpractice is a pervasive issue in tertiary institutions worldwide, undermining the credibility of educational systems and compromising the integrity of academic qualifications. The consequences of this malpractice are far-reaching, affecting not only the students who engage in it but also the institutions, employers, and society at large. Libraries, as integral components of academic institutions, play a crucial role in combating examination malpractice. By providing access to resources, fostering academic integrity, and offering educational programs, libraries can significantly contribute to the campaign against this unethical practice.

Examination malpractice encompasses a wide range of unethical behaviors, including cheating, plagiarism, impersonation, and the use of unauthorized materials during exams. It poses significant challenges to the educational sector by devaluing academic achievements, eroding trust in educational institutions, and ultimately compromising the quality of graduates entering the workforce (Akaranga & Ongong, 2013). The motivations behind examination malpractice are varied. Students may resort to cheating due to inadequate preparation, pressure to succeed, fear of failure, or a perception that others are cheating and getting away with it (Amigud & Lancaster, 2019). Moreover, systemic issues such as overcrowded classrooms, insufficient resources, and poor teaching methods can exacerbate the problem, creating an environment where students feel compelled to engage in dishonest practices to succeed (Banerjee, 2016).

The implications of examination malpractice extend beyond individual students. For educational institutions, it undermines the credibility of their assessment processes and can lead to a loss of reputation. Employers, on the other hand, may find themselves hiring graduates who lack the necessary knowledge and skills, ultimately affecting workplace productivity and efficiency. Therefore, addressing examination malpractice is essential for maintaining the integrity and quality of education in tertiary institution.

Examination malpractice in Nigerian universities is driven by a variety of factors, including societal pressure to succeed, inadequate preparation, and systemic issues within the educational system. According to Oduwaiye (2014), the prevalence of examination malpractice is linked to a culture of corruption and a lack of effective deterrents. This phenomenon not only affects students'

academic performance but also has broader implications for the nation's development, as it undermines the credibility of its educational institutions and the quality of its workforce.

The issue of examination malpractice is not new and has evolved over time. In Nigeria, the history of examination malpractice can be traced back to the colonial era when formal education systems were first established. (Oduwaiye, 2014).H owever, it has become more pronounced in recent decades, with the advent of mass education and the increased pressure on students to excel academically. Anecdotal evidence and historical records suggest that malpractices were relatively isolated incidents in the past, but they have now become systemic problems that require urgent attention (Oduwaiye, 2014).

A primary function of academic libraries is to provide access to high-quality resources that support teaching, learning, and research. By ensuring students have access to comprehensive and up-to-date materials, libraries help mitigate one of the key drivers of examination malpractice: inadequate preparation. When students are well-prepared and have the necessary resources at their disposal, they are less likely to resort to dishonest practices. Adewale (2016) emphasizes that the availability of a well-stocked library can significantly reduce the incidence of examination malpractice. Students with access to the right materials are better equipped to understand their course content and perform well in their assessments. Furthermore, libraries often offer subject-specific resources and guides that can help students navigate complex topics and improve their study habits, thereby reducing the temptation to cheat.

Examination malpractice is a significant challenge facing Nigerian universities, with far-reaching implications for the quality of education and the integrity of academic qualifications. Libraries, as vital components of academic institutions, play a crucial role in the campaign against examination malpractice. By providing access to quality resources, promoting information literacy, implementing plagiarism detection tools, collaborating with faculty, offering educational workshops, and creating a culture of academic integrity, libraries can help address this pervasive issue and ensure that students graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed honestly in their academic and professional endeavors.

**Literature Review**

Examination malpractice is a persistent challenge in Nigerian universities, undermining academic integrity and the credibility of educational qualifications. Various scholars have explored its causes, implications, and possible solutions, with libraries emerging as crucial stakeholders in the fight against this academic vice. Libraries serve as knowledge hubs, promoting a culture of academic honesty through access to quality resources, information literacy programs, and advocacy for ethical academic practices. This literature review examines the role of libraries in curbing examination malpractice, drawing insights from existing research on academic integrity, library services, and educational policies in Nigeria.

The prevalence of examination malpractice in Nigerian universities has been widely documented. Scholars argue that factors such as inadequate preparation, high-stakes examinations, societal pressure for academic success, poor teaching quality, and ineffective examination administration contribute to the menace. According to Omonijo et al. (2019), examination malpractice takes various forms, including impersonation, collusion, smuggling of materials, and technological fraud, all of which threaten the credibility of the education system. The psychological and social consequences of examination malpractice are severe, as it fosters a culture of dishonesty, devalues academic achievements, and produces incompetent graduates who struggle in the job market. Thus, addressing this challenge requires a multidimensional approach, with libraries playing a fundamental role in shaping students' attitudes toward academic integrity.

Libraries in Nigerian universities are traditionally perceived as repositories of knowledge, but their function extends beyond providing books and journals. Libraries are essential in fostering a reading culture, enhancing students' research skills, and equipping them with the necessary tools to engage in ethical academic practices. Information literacy programs, for instance, have been identified as a key strategy in reducing examination malpractice. Scholars such as Ajidahun (2020) emphasize that libraries should actively engage in training students on proper research methods, citation techniques, and the dangers of plagiarism. Through workshops, seminars, and digital literacy programs, libraries can educate students on ethical writing practices, thereby reducing the temptation to engage in examination malpractice.

A major contribution of university libraries to the fight against examination malpractice is their role in promoting open access to learning materials. In many Nigerian universities, students

often resort to examination malpractice due to inadequate access to textbooks, lecture notes, and other academic resources. Ogbuiyi and Okpechi (2021) argue that limited learning materials compel students to seek shortcuts to pass their examinations. Libraries, therefore, bridge this gap by providing access to academic resources both in print and electronic formats. The introduction of digital libraries and institutional repositories has further expanded students' access to scholarly materials, reducing their dependence on unauthorized sources or illicit means of acquiring knowledge.

Furthermore, academic libraries contribute to the campaign against examination malpractice by supporting faculty members in creating fair and effective assessment methods. Research indicates that poorly designed examinations, which emphasize rote memorization rather than critical thinking, encourage students to cheat. Adebayo and Olayemi (2022) highlight that librarians can collaborate with lecturers to develop alternative assessment techniques such as open-book examinations, continuous assessment, and project-based evaluations that reduce the likelihood of cheating. By advocating for innovative and research-oriented assessment strategies, libraries indirectly curb the motivation for examination malpractice.

The integration of technology in library services also plays a pivotal role in combating academic dishonesty. Many university libraries in Nigeria now incorporate plagiarism detection software, such as Turnitin and Grammarly, into their services. According to Adekunle and Nwosu (2023), the use of such tools discourages students from engaging in plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct. Librarians also play an advisory role in guiding students and faculty on how to use these tools effectively, thereby reinforcing a culture of academic integrity. Additionally, digital surveillance systems in libraries, such as the use of CCTV cameras, help monitor students' activities during study sessions and examinations, deterring potential malpractice.

Another critical area where libraries contribute to the fight against examination malpractice is through advocacy and policy implementation. Many universities in Nigeria have developed academic integrity policies, but their enforcement remains a challenge. Library professionals can take an active role in sensitizing students and faculty on these policies, ensuring that ethical guidelines are well understood and followed. Scholars like Okoro and Eze (2021) suggest that libraries should display academic integrity policies in prominent locations within their premises, organize integrity campaigns, and engage students in discussions about the consequences of

examination malpractice. By serving as an information center for academic regulations, libraries reinforce the importance of ethical academic behavior.

Peer learning and mentoring programs facilitated by libraries have also been identified as effective measures in reducing examination malpractice. Many students resort to cheating due to a lack of confidence in their abilities or inadequate preparation for examinations. According to Nnadozie and Ekeh (2020), university libraries can support mentorship programs where academically strong students assist weaker ones in their studies. Study groups, academic coaching sessions, and library-organized tutorials can provide students with alternative means of improving their knowledge rather than engaging in malpractice.

The role of libraries in examination malpractice prevention extends to supporting research on academic integrity. By curating and disseminating scholarly works on ethics, academic dishonesty, and best practices in assessment, libraries contribute to the broader discourse on examination malpractice. Studies like those of Yusuf and Adeyemi (2019) suggest that the availability of research findings on examination malpractice can influence policy decisions at institutional and governmental levels. Through publications, newsletters, and library websites, librarians can provide stakeholders with up-to-date information on strategies to combat academic dishonesty.

Despite the significant role libraries play in curbing examination malpractice, several challenges hinder their effectiveness. Limited funding remains a major constraint, as many university libraries in Nigeria struggle with inadequate budgets for acquiring up-to-date resources, implementing technological solutions, and organizing literacy programs. Additionally, the lack of skilled personnel in some university libraries affects their ability to deliver information literacy training effectively. Akinola and Bello (2022) note that some Nigerian university libraries are understaffed, making it difficult to implement robust academic integrity programs. Addressing these challenges requires increased government and institutional support for library services, ensuring that libraries are well-equipped to fulfill their role in promoting ethical academic practices.

Moreover, the attitude of students and faculty toward library usage presents another challenge. Studies have shown that many students in Nigerian universities underutilize library resources, preferring to rely on lecture notes, past questions, or even illegal means to pass

examinations. According to Oladipo and Adebisi (2023), a cultural shift is needed to make libraries central to students' learning experiences. Universities must actively integrate library usage into their academic curriculum, making it mandatory for students to participate in library literacy programs as part of their coursework.

**Historical Context of Examination Malpractice**

Examination malpractice is not a new phenomenon. Historical records indicate that cheating has been a challenge for educational systems for centuries. In ancient China, for example, rigorous civil service exams were often subject to various forms of cheating, including the use of hidden notes and impersonation (Bai, 2006). Similarly, during the Renaissance, European universities grappled with students engaging in dishonest practices to pass their exams (Davis, 2017). As educational systems evolved, so did the methods of cheating, prompting institutions to develop more sophisticated strategies to uphold academic integrity. The history of examination malpractice went as far back as the early 19th century way before the era of technology, this further proves how long this problem as existed even when Medieval Universities: In medieval Europe, universities began to emerge, and with them came more formalized examination systems. Exams were often conducted orally, with students required to defend their theses or answer questions from professors. Cheating was a concern, and universities implemented various measures to prevent it, including requiring students to swear oaths of honesty.

The 19th and 20th centuries saw the development of standardized testing and the expansion of educational systems. With the increase in the number of students taking exams, concerns about cheating grew. This period also saw the rise of new forms of malpractice, such as the use of cheat sheets, plagiarism, and impersonation. In the digital age, examination malpractice has taken on new forms, such as the use of smartphones, smart watches, and the internet to cheat. The widespread availability of information has made it easier for students to access unauthorized materials during exams. Additionally, the pressure to succeed in a competitive academic environment has contributed to the prevalence of malpractice.

**Impact of Examination Malpractice on Academic Libraries**

The impact of examination malpractice is far-reaching, affecting not only individual students but also educational institutions and society. Amigud and Lancaster (2019) argue that examination malpractice undermines the credibility of academic qualifications, leading to a lack

of trust in the education system. Employers may hire graduates lacking the necessary skills and knowledge, ultimately affecting workplace productivity and efficiency. Moreover, examination malpractice can demoralize honest students and faculty, creating an environment where unethical behavior is perceived as the norm (Banerjee, 2016). Examination malpractice is a pervasive issue in higher institutions of learning, with far-reaching implications for various stakeholders, including libraries.

Examination malpractice in higher education institutions has significant and multifaceted impacts on library resources. Libraries, as central hubs of academic activity, are directly affected by the practices and pressures of the academic environment. Examination malpractice exacerbates the strain on library resources in several ways, including the misuse of materials, increased demand for specific resources, the need for additional investment in anti-plagiarism tools, and the reallocation of library staff and services to address integrity issues. This section explores these impacts supported by relevant academic citations. One direct impact of examination malpractice on library resources is the misuse of materials. Students engaging in dishonest practices may exploit library resources inappropriately, such as copying large sections of texts without proper citation, or using library computers and facilities to access unauthorized information during examinations. According to Adewale (2016), libraries often find that materials related to heavily examined subjects are particularly susceptible to misuse. This not only includes physical damage to books and resources but also digital misappropriation, where students download and distribute content illegally. Such misuse necessitates frequent replacements and updates of library collections, imposing additional financial burdens on the institution.

Examination malpractice can lead to an uneven demand for library resources. For instance, students may rush to borrow specific textbooks or reference materials just before examinations, leading to a shortage of these resources. This high demand can be driven by students seeking quick and easy ways to cheat, rather than engaging in comprehensive study throughout the semester. Adewale (2016) notes that libraries in Nigerian universities often experience a surge in the demand for past examination papers, solution guides, and key textbooks as exams approach. This surge can overwhelm library staff and limit access for other students who require the same resources for legitimate study purposes. To combat examination malpractice, particularly plagiarism, libraries need to invest in sophisticated anti-plagiarism tools and software. These tools, such as Turnitin and Grammarly, require significant financial investment and ongoing maintenance. While these

tools are essential for maintaining academic integrity, they also divert resources from other areas of library operations.

Ison (2015) highlights that while plagiarism detection software effectively reduces the incidence of plagiarism, it also increases the financial and administrative burden on libraries. The cost of licensing, training staff, and integrating these tools into the library's existing systems can be substantial. Addressing examination malpractice often requires the reallocation of library staff and services. Libraries may need to dedicate personnel to monitor the use of plagiarism detection software, conduct workshops on academic integrity, and assist in the investigation of suspected cases of malpractice. Julien and Barker (2009) argue that the increased focus on promoting information literacy and academic integrity necessitates a shift in the traditional roles of library staff. Librarians are required to take on additional responsibilities, such as providing one-on-one consultations with students on proper citation practices and ethical research methods. This reallocation can strain staff resources and limit their ability to perform other critical functions.

The cumulative effect of the misuse of materials, increased demand for specific resources, investment in anti-plagiarism tools, and the reallocation of staff and services places a significant financial strain on library budgets. Libraries are often required to operate within tight budgetary constraints, and the additional costs associated with combating examination malpractice can divert funds from other important areas. Senechal (2014) discusses the financial implications of maintaining a robust academic integrity framework within libraries. She points out that while it is essential to invest in measures to prevent and detect examination malpractice, this often comes at the expense of expanding collections, upgrading facilities, and improving overall library services.

Examination malpractice can also influence the direction of collection development in libraries. To support academic integrity initiatives, libraries may prioritize acquiring resources related to ethical research practices, proper citation methods, and academic writing. While these resources are important, this focus can limit the acquisition of materials in other academic areas. Baker and Hanson (2014) emphasize that libraries need to balance their collections to support both academic integrity and the diverse research needs of their user communities. However, the pressure to address examination malpractice can skew collection development priorities, potentially neglecting other critical areas of academic inquiry.

To safeguard against examination malpractice, libraries may need to implement technological and security upgrades. This includes installing surveillance systems to monitor library usage, especially during examination periods, and upgrading computer systems to prevent unauthorized access to exam-related materials. Adewale (2016) mentions that libraries in Nigerian universities have increasingly adopted technological solutions to monitor and control access to resources. These upgrades are necessary to maintain the integrity of the library environment but require substantial investment and ongoing maintenance.

**The Role of Libraries in Promoting Academic Integrity**

Libraries are pivotal in promoting academic integrity within tertiary institutions. According to Oakleaf (2010), academic libraries play a central role in fostering a culture of honesty and ethical behavior. This is achieved through the development and dissemination of policies, guidelines, and resources that emphasize the importance of academic integrity. Libraries often collaborate with faculty and administrative departments to create a unified approach to combating examination malpractice, ensuring that all stakeholders are committed to upholding ethical standards.

- Information Literacy Programs

One of the primary ways libraries promote academic integrity is through information literacy programs. These programs equip students with the skills needed to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively and ethically (Julien & Genuis, 2011). Information literacy programs typically cover topics such as proper citation practices, avoiding plagiarism, and the importance of original research. By teaching students how to conduct research and use information responsibly, libraries help create a foundation for academic integrity. Several studies highlight the effectiveness of information literacy programs in reducing examination malpractice. For instance, a study by Emmons and Wilkinson (2011) found that students who participated in information literacy workshops demonstrated a better understanding of plagiarism and were less likely to engage in dishonest practices. Similarly, Julien and Genuis (2011) argue that information literacy education can significantly reduce instances of academic dishonesty by fostering a deeper appreciation for ethical research practices.

Furthermore Information literacy programs are essential initiatives within academic libraries aimed at equipping students with the skills necessary to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively and ethically. In the context of combating examination malpractice, these programs

play a crucial role by fostering a culture of academic integrity and reducing students' reliance on dishonest practices. This section delves deeper into the components, implementation, and impact of information literacy programs in higher education institutions, particularly in Nigerian universities. Components of Information Literacy Programs Research Skills, Ethical Use of Information, Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving and Synthesizing Information: Training students.

- Access to Quality Resources

Providing access to quality resources is another crucial role of libraries in combating examination malpractice. Libraries offer a wide range of educational materials, including books, journals, and databases, which support students' learning and research needs (Makori, 2018). By ensuring that students have access to comprehensive and up-to-date resources, libraries can help mitigate one of the key drivers of examination malpractice: lack of adequate preparation. Research indicates that students who have access to quality resources are better equipped to understand their course material, reducing the likelihood of resorting to cheating. For example, a study by Jiyane and Onyancha (2010) found that students who frequently used library resources were more confident in their academic abilities and less likely to engage in dishonest practices. Additionally, libraries often provide subject-specific resources and guides, which can help students navigate complex topics and improve their study habits.

More so, access to quality sources is a fundamental aspect of academic success and integrity. Libraries play a crucial role in ensuring that students and faculty have access to a wide range of high-quality, authoritative, and up-to-date resources. This access is instrumental in combating examination malpractice, as it addresses several root causes of dishonest behavior, including inadequate preparation, lack of confidence, and the temptation to use unreliable or unethical sources. Below, we delve into how access to quality sources impacts academic integrity and how libraries can enhance this access. The importance of having access to quality source are as follows enhance academic preparation,it will support original search already made, promote critical thinking and build confidence and competence.

- Support **Services**

Libraries offer a range of support services that can help alleviate some of the pressures that lead to examination malpractice. These services include tutoring, writing centers, and study skills

workshops, which assist students in improving their academic performance (Bostick, 2016). By offering these services, libraries can address the root causes of cheating, such as lack of understanding or fear of failure. For instance, writing centers provide students with assistance in developing their writing skills, ensuring that they can produce high-quality, original work. Tutoring services offer personalized support in various subjects, helping students grasp difficult concepts and prepare adequately for exams. Study skills workshops teach students effective study techniques and time management skills, reducing the anxiety and stress that often lead to examination malpractice.

Furthermore Libraries are not only repositories of information but also crucial support systems within academic institutions. By offering a range of support services, libraries can play a significant role in combating examination malpractice. These services include academic support, technological assistance, and personal development resources that help students adhere to academic integrity standards. Below, we explore the various support services libraries can provide to mitigate examination malpractice in higher education institutions

**Collaborative Efforts in Combating Examination Malpractice**

Combating examination malpractice requires a collaborative effort among various stakeholders within an educational institution. Libraries can play a central role in this by partnering with faculty, administrators, and student organizations to develop comprehensive strategies to address the issue (McCabe, Treviño, & Butterfield, 2001). For example, libraries can work with faculty to integrate information literacy components into the curriculum, ensuring that students receive consistent and reinforced messages about academic integrity throughout their education.

- Partnerships with Faculty

Libraries often collaborate with faculty to promote academic integrity and provide support for students. This partnership can take many forms, including co-teaching information literacy sessions, developing course-specific resource guides, and integrating academic integrity modules into the curriculum (Oakleaf, 2010). By working closely with faculty, libraries can ensure that students receive consistent messages about the importance of ethical academic practices. Research indicates that faculty-librarian collaborations are highly effective in promoting academic integrity. For example, a study by Blevins and Elton (2009) found that students who participated in courses with integrated information literacy components demonstrated a better understanding of

plagiarism and were less likely to engage in dishonest practices. Similarly, Julien and Genuis (2011) argue that faculty-librarian partnerships are essential for creating a culture of academic integrity within educational institutions.

The partnership between libraries and faculty is essential in the campaign against examination malpractice in higher education institutions. Faculty members play a critical role in shaping the academic environment and setting standards for academic integrity. By working closely with faculty, libraries can effectively promote ethical practices, provide necessary resources, and support the academic success of students. This section explores the ways in which libraries and faculty can collaborate to combat examination malpractice

- Collaboration with Student Organizations

Libraries can also collaborate with student organizations to promote academic integrity and combat examination malpractice. Student organizations often play a crucial role in shaping campus culture and can be valuable allies in the fight against dishonest behavior. By working with student leaders, libraries can develop peer-led initiatives and awareness campaigns that resonate with the student body (McCabe, Treviño, & Butterfield, 2001). For example, libraries can partner with student organizations to host academic integrity workshops, develop honor codes, and create promotional materials that highlight the importance of ethical behavior. Research indicates that peer-led initiatives can be highly effective in promoting academic integrity. For instance, a study by McCabe, Treviño, and Butterfield (2001) found that students were more likely to adhere to academic integrity policies when they were involved in developing and promoting these policies.

Collaboration with student organizations is a powerful strategy in the campaign against examination malpractice in higher education institutions. Student organizations, which include academic clubs, student unions, honor societies, and other campus groups, have significant influence and reach among the student body. By partnering with these organizations, libraries can extend their efforts to promote academic integrity and prevent examination malpractice more effectively. This section explores the benefits, strategies, and impacts of such collaborations.

- Institutional Policy Development

Libraries play a significant role in the development and implementation of institutional policies related to academic integrity. By participating in academic committees and working groups,

libraries ensure that policies are comprehensive, up-to-date, and effectively communicated to the academic community. Additionally, libraries often lead the charge in raising awareness about these policies through various means, such as orientation programs for new students, information sessions, and distributing informational materials. Research supports the importance of institutional policy development in combating examination malpractice. For example, a study by Macfarlane, Zhang, and Pun (2014) found that clear, well-communicated policies on academic integrity significantly reduced instances of cheating and plagiarism. Similarly, McCabe, Treviño, and Butterfield (2001) argue that institutions with strong academic integrity policies and a culture of ethical behavior are less likely to experience widespread examination malpractice.

**Case Studies and Best Practices**

Several case studies highlight the effective role of libraries in combating examination malpractice. These examples provide valuable insights into best practices and strategies that can be adopted by other institutions. These case studies illustrate the multifaceted role that libraries in Nigerian universities can play in combating examination malpractice. By leveraging resources, promoting information literacy, enhancing academic integrity policies, implementing technological solutions, and fostering a culture of integrity, libraries can significantly contribute to reducing malpractice and promoting a culture of honesty and excellence in higher education

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- University of Lagos: Integrating Plagiarism Detection Tools

**Background:** The University of Lagos (UNILAG) it is located in the South west of Nigeria , precisely in Akoka, Lagos state. It is one of Nigeria's leading tertiary institutions, known for its robust academic programs and significant student population. However, like many Nigerian universities, it has faced challenges related to examination malpractice, particularly plagiarism.

**Intervention:** In response to rising concerns about academic dishonesty, UNILAG's library introduced Turnitin, a widely used plagiarism detection software. This initiative was part of a broader effort to promote academic integrity and uphold the quality of academic work.

**Implementation:** The library organized training sessions for faculty and students on how to use Turnitin. These sessions covered the importance of proper citation, how to interpret similarity reports, and strategies for avoiding plagiarism. The library also integrated Turnitin into the university's Learning Management System (LMS), making it accessible for all coursework submissions.

**Outcome:** The introduction of Turnitin significantly reduced instances of plagiarism at UNILAG. Faculty reported improved quality in students' work, as students became more aware of the importance of original writing and proper citation practices. The library's proactive stance in promoting academic integrity helped foster a culture of honesty and respect for intellectual property among the university community.

- University of Ibadan: Promoting Information Literacy

**Background:** The University of Ibadan (UI), Nigeria's premier university, it is located in the South West of Nigeria, precisely in Ibadan, Oyo State, it has a long-standing tradition of academic excellence. However, examination malpractice, particularly cheating and the use of unauthorized materials, has been a persistent issue. Therefore, a measure had to be put in place as an intervention to the problem of malpractice, below is the intervention, implementation of the tool put in place and the outcome at the end of the implementation

**Intervention:** To address this, the university's library launched an extensive Information Literacy Program aimed at educating students about ethical research practices and the importance of academic integrity.

**Implementation:** The program included workshops, seminars, and online courses focusing on topics such as effective research strategies, evaluating sources, proper citation techniques, and understanding plagiarism. The library collaborated with various academic departments to integrate these information literacy components into the curriculum, ensuring that all students received this critical training.

**Outcome:** The program led to a noticeable decrease in incidents of cheating and plagiarism. Students reported feeling more confident in their research abilities and demonstrated a greater understanding of the ethical use of information. Faculty members noted an improvement in the overall quality of student submissions, with fewer instances of suspected malpractice.

- Obafemi Awolowo University: Enhancing Academic Integrity Policies

**Background:** Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) is located in the Southern west of Nigeria precisely in Ile Ife Osun state. it has a large and diverse student body, making it challenging to enforce academic integrity consistently. Examination malpractice, including impersonation and the use of unauthorized materials during exams, was a significant concern. Therefore a measure had to be put in place as an intervention to the problem of malpractice, below is the intervention, implementation of the tool put in place and the outcome at the end of the implementation

**Intervention:** OAU's library took the lead in revising and strengthening the university's academic integrity policies. This involved drafting clear guidelines on acceptable academic conduct and the consequences of malpractice.

**Implementation:** The library worked with the university's administration and faculty to develop comprehensive academic integrity policies. These policies were communicated to students through orientation programs, workshops, and informational materials available in the library and online. The library also set up an Academic Integrity Office to handle cases of misconduct and provide support and guidance to students and faculty.

**Outcome:** The strengthened policies and the establishment of the Academic Integrity Office helped create a more transparent and consistent approach to handling examination malpractice. Students were more aware of the expectations and consequences, leading to a reduction in malpractice incidents. The library's role in this initiative underscored its commitment to promoting ethical academic behavior and supporting the university's mission of excellence.

- Ahmadu Bello University: Implementing Secure Examination Platforms

**Background:** Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) located in the Northern part of Nigeria, precisely in Zaria Kaduna state. The school faced significant challenges with examination malpractice, particularly in online and distance learning programs. Cheating during online exams was a growing concern. Therefore a measure had to be put in place as an intervention to the problem of malpractice, below is the intervention, implementation of the tool put in place and the outcome at the end of the implementation.

**Intervention:** To combat this, ABU's library collaborated with the university's IT department to implement secure examination platforms. These platforms included features such as browser lockdowns, randomized question banks, and online proctoring.

**Implementation:** The library provided training sessions for both faculty and students on how to use the secure examination platforms effectively. These sessions included demonstrations of the technology, instructions on best practices for maintaining academic integrity during online exams, and guidance on addressing technical issues.

**Outcome:** The implementation of secure examination platforms significantly reduced instances of cheating during online exams. The library's proactive approach in training and support helped ensure smooth adoption of the technology. Faculty members expressed confidence in the integrity of online assessments, and students adapted well to the new system.

- Covenant University: Creating a Culture of Integrity

**Background:** Covenant University, is located in south west Nigeria, precisely in Ota Ogun state owned by the Living Faith Church. A private institution prides itself on high academic standards and a strict code of conduct. However, maintaining these standards requires ongoing efforts to combat examination malpractice.

**Intervention:** The university library launched a campaign titled "Integrity First," aimed at instilling a culture of academic integrity across the campus. This campaign included various initiatives such as honor codes, integrity pledges, and educational programs.

**Implementation:** The library organized events like integrity weeks, where activities focused on the importance of honesty in academia. These events included guest lectures, student forums, and interactive sessions where students discussed the implications of academic dishonesty. The library also provided resources and materials that highlighted the university's commitment to integrity.

**Outcome:** The "Integrity First" campaign had a profound impact on the university community. There was a noticeable shift in student attitudes toward academic integrity, with many taking personal responsibility for upholding these values. The library's role in championing this cause helped reinforce the importance of integrity and positioned it as a central pillar of the university's culture.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, libraries play a crucial role in the campaign against examination malpractice in Tertiary institutions. By providing access to quality resources, promoting information literacy, supporting academic integrity and offering support services, libraries contribute significantly to creating an environment where honest academic conduct is valued and practiced. Libraries serve as the intellectual hubs of educational institutions, offering a wealth of resources and services that support teaching, learning, and research. They can help mitigate the key drivers of examination malpractice, such as lack of adequate preparation, by ensuring that students have access to comprehensive and up-to-date resources. Moreover, libraries promote information literacy, teaching students how to conduct research, cite sources correctly, and avoid plagiarism. By equipping students with these skills, libraries help create a foundation for academic integrity. Libraries also play a pivotal role in promoting academic integrity within their institutions by developing and disseminating policies, guidelines, and resources that highlight the importance of honest academic conduct. They can collaborate with faculty and administrative departments to create a unified approach to combating examination malpractice. Overall, the role of libraries in the campaign against examination malpractice is multifaceted. With their active involvement, it is possible to uphold the values of integrity and excellence in education, ensuring that students graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed honestly in the workforce.

Examination malpractice poses a significant threat to the integrity and quality of education in tertiary institutions. Libraries, as key players in the academic ecosystem, have a vital role to play in addressing this issue. By providing access to quality resources, promoting information literacy, supporting academic integrity, and offering support services, libraries can help create an environment where honest academic conduct is the norm. The campaign against examination malpractice is multifaceted, but with the active involvement of libraries, it is possible to uphold the values of integrity and excellence in education.

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