The perspective of e-learning and libraries in Africa: Challenges and opportunities

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The perspective of e-learning and libraries in Africa: challenges and opportunities

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Abstract:

**Purpose**

- This paper aims to examine and discuss the crucial roles libraries play in e-learning; the challenges and opportunities facing the e-learning program and the library's involvement.

**Design/methodology/approach**

- To elicit the necessary information, a literature review of studies done on e-learning and libraries was done. Materials were sourced online and offline to build the literature of this work. The paper gives an overview of e-learning and types; benefits of e-learning; the infancy stage of e-learning, libraries, and e-learning technologies; starting points for libraries and e-learning and challenges facing e-learning.

**Findings**

- A lot of challenges are facing the successful implementation of e-learning in institutions and also the role of libraries in enhancing e-learning needs a lot of issues to be addressed as library’s involvement in e-learning is found to be very crucial.

**Practical implications**

- This paper establishes that libraries are the heart of institutions and so, are meant to play a vital role in the learning activities, as well as support all kinds of learning which includes e-learning. There is also need for librarians to be trained in adopting e-learning technologies and collaborating with faculties and departments in tutoring the learners.

**Originality/value**

- The study possesses two characteristics that make it different from other studies in the related area. First of all, it provides a theoretical basis for librarians to be actively involved in e-learning as it listed some responsibilities of the library and librarians in executing e-learning programmes. Secondly, the paper proposes six laws (Sm^2U^2L) to govern e-learning and libraries.

**Keywords:** E-learning, Libraries, Librarians, Africa

**Type:** Viewpoint

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