Review of: "Are Academic Libraries Doing Enough to Support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? A State-of-the-Art Review"

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Please find below my review of the article together with some suggestions for improvement. I hope this is helpful and can enrich future versions. I have structured the analysis for each of the sections.

Introduction and Aims

The paper explores the pertinent question regarding the role of academic libraries in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is commendable for its relevance in contemporary research and library science. The aims are clearly stated, providing a solid foundation for the investigation. However, the introduction would benefit from a more detailed exposition of the current landscape of academic libraries within the context of the SDGs, potentially including brief examples of current initiatives to provide a clearer backdrop for the study.

Materials and Methods

The methodology is thorough, with a well-defined state-of-the-art review process. The detailed description of database searches, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and data analysis is good but, nonetheless, the paper could be enhanced by elaborating on the rationale behind the selection of specific databases and search terms, as well as justifying the chosen time frame for the literature search. Further, a discussion on potential biases in literature selection and how they were mitigated could strengthen this section.

Results

The results section offers interesting data and valuable insights into the contributions of academic libraries to the SDGs. The categorization into themes such as library activities, sustainability awareness, and partnerships is effective. I am aware that the number of SDGs and targets makes it difficult to present a visual summary of the information, but I would suggest enlarging the explanations given at this point.

Discussion

The discussion provides a comprehensive analysis of the findings in relation to the broader context of academic libraries and the SDGs. The identification of key areas such as the four pillars of sustainability and the role of leadership is insightful. To enhance this section, the paper could include a more explicit comparison with existing literature, identifying

gaps the current study fills and areas where its findings corroborate or diverge from previous research.

Conclusions and Future Directions

The conclusions drawn from the study are pertinent and align well with the aims outlined in the introduction. The call for future research is appropriately placed, suggesting valuable directions for subsequent inquiries. To further improve, the conclusion could benefit from a stronger emphasis on practical implications for academic libraries and a more detailed roadmap for future research, possibly including specific methodologies or theoretical frameworks that could be employed.

Style and Presentation

The paper is generally well-written and organized. However, attention to certain stylistic elements could enhance its readability and impact. For instance, transitioning between sections could be smoother, guiding the reader through the narrative more effectively. Additionally, the use of jargon is at times excessive; simplifying the language where possible could make the paper more accessible to a broader audience, including practitioners in the field of library science who may not have a research background.

Potential Areas for New Research:

- Comparative studies across different regions to explore regional variations in academic libraries' contributions to SDGs.

- Impact assessment studies to quantify the outcomes of academic libraries' initiatives related to SDGs.

- Investigative studies into the barriers and facilitators of SDG implementation in academic libraries, including organizational culture and policy frameworks.

Overall, the paper makes a significant contribution to the understanding of academic libraries' roles in supporting the SDGs. With the suggested improvements, it has the potential to serve as a foundational piece for future research and practice in the field.