Review of: "[General Review] Digital Transformation of Government Public Library Services in Bangladesh"

Timotheus Ruurd Zijlstra[1]

1 NHS Education for Scotland

It is good to see a national perspective in the context of global developments, this gives the paper some credence and hopefully it can develop into an article that may inform policy in other countries developing a digital public library strategy.

First, as a librarian, I have to comment on the references. abdheadhoncho is a creative way to remind the author of the source of an article, but not particularly respectful to the actual author of the referenced report: Dorotea Lazaro. The references to websites and online reports should not be listed by title, but by author/institution. So no "name of website article" as author, but Educause or IG-Global. I would like to ask the author to check the references for these types of inconsistency.

Citations in this article are positioned at the end of paragraphs, this makes it difficult to assess which element of evidence they refer to and some better writing/positioning may help alleviate this. For example by starting a sentence with: 'According to X (2020),'

The writing is generally good and well structured, but the section on Asia states:
"In a great number of Asian nations, the digital transformation of public libraries is still in its infancy. In China, for instance, public libraries have used digital technology to enhance patron services and information access. "

It is my observation, that can hopefully be confirmed by Chinese reviewers with expertise in public libraries, that China is in the middle of developing its public library infrastructure at rapid pace and it is not correct to describe this as being in an 'infancy' state. This paragraph contradicts itself and should be corrected by the author.

The final paragraph of 'Challenges' should be tightened up. It currently reads:

Inadequate infrastructure is also a significant challenge for Bangladesh's digital transformation of government public libraries. Many libraries need more computers and internet access, which limits the ability of patrons to access digital resources. Hosssain and Islam found that many libraries in Bangladesh need more computers or internet access to effectively provide digital resources and services to patrons (Ashaye and Irani, 2019; Hossain et al., 2020; Islam et al., 2022).

I would recommend adding: 'internet access, **the lack of** which limits'. The second sentence does not add anything new and may as well be removed however.

There is a, common, conflation of the terms e-library (for resources accessed online) and digital library services, which are digital services accessed in a library. Opinions vary on this matter, but it would be useful for the author to define this, particularly in the second and fourth paragraph of 'Opportunities'. Stylewise in this section, the second and third paragraph start with 'another opportunity', this can be remedied by using 'A further opportunity' in the third paragraph.

All in all the perspective of this article is interesting, but it is not stating anything new or unfamiliar for those that study the library sector. The paper could significantly be boosted by changing it into a case-study of a specific library, perhaps the National Library of Bangladesh, and speaking with stakeholders about their perspective. Currently it reads as an essay that brings together a few known elements and applies them to Bangladesh, without providing a context of the library sector in this beautiful country.