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

Kolawole Francis Ogunbodede

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

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

The article aims to assess the role of academic libraries in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It conducts a state-of-the-art review of the contributions made by academic libraries towards the SDGs. The author examines existing literature, identifies key targets, and discusses the challenges and opportunities in integrating the SDGs into library activities.

Strengths:

Comprehensive Literature Review: The article demonstrates a thorough literature review, utilizing various databases and hand-searching techniques to identify relevant papers. This approach enhances the credibility of the review and provides a comprehensive overview of the topic.

Identification of Key Targets: The article highlights specific targets within the SDGs that are closely interlinked and emphasizes the importance of providing access to educational resources, job opportunities, and skill development programs. This analysis adds depth to the understanding of how academic libraries can contribute to the SDGs effectively.

Recognition of Challenges: The article acknowledges the existence of challenges, such as "SDG washing" and the scarcity of sustainability literacy within the literature. By raising awareness of these challenges, the author encourages librarians to critically evaluate their contributions and adopt effective strategies.

Weaknesses:

Limited Sample Size: The article acknowledges that the sample size of 164 libraries may not represent all academic libraries globally. This limitation raises concerns about the generalizability of the findings. Future studies with larger and more diverse samples would strengthen the validity of the conclusions.

Lack of Discussion on Methodology: The article does not provide explicit details about the methodology used for the state-of-the-art review. Information on the inclusion and exclusion criteria, data extraction process, and quality assessment would enhance transparency and allow readers to evaluate the rigor of the review.

Insufficient Practical Recommendations: While the article discusses the importance of incorporating the SDGs into library activities and highlights the need for awareness-raising efforts, it provides limited practical recommendations for academic libraries to enhance their contributions. Concrete strategies, best practices, and case studies could have been included to guide librarians in implementing SDG initiatives effectively.

Overall, the article provides valuable insights into the contributions of academic libraries towards the SDGs. It identifies key targets and challenges, emphasizing the significance of sustainability literacy and the need for librarians to critically evaluate their efforts. However, the limited sample size and lack of methodological details slightly weaken the study's generalizability and transparency. Additionally, the article could have provided more practical recommendations for libraries seeking to enhance their support for the SDGs.