

Introduction "Africa's development depends on its ability to generate knowledge and drive innovation through research that responds to local needs" African Union, Agenda 2063 (Almeida, 2022). Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) into LIS practices offers an additional opportunity, as it could position Namibia as a leader in preserving and disseminating traditional knowledge within library services (Mubofu & Malekani, 2022). Such initiatives might not succeed, though, if the underlying socio-economic inequalities are not addressed. Correspondingly, various scholars have highlighted the debate surrounding the dearth of LIS professionals with adequate digital and technological expertise essential for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). In a similar context, authors explored the significance of upskilling the LIS workforce to address 4IR demands, pointing out the existing obstacles in synchronising educational frameworks with technological progress (Tella, 2020; Nwaohiri & Wosu, 2021; Savic, 2021; Shupe, 2021). Notwithstanding these challenges, Namibia possesses significant opportunities, notably in leveraging its emerging ICT infrastructure and expanding the academic sector to enhance LIS research output. Tella, (2020), for example, stressed the necessity for LIS schools in Africa to revamp their curricula to provide graduates with pertinent 4IR competencies, including digital preservation, cloud computing, and information curation. This perspective establishes the foundation for this study, as it examines the growth, trends, challenges, and opportunities within Namibia's Library and Information Science (LIS) field over the last decade, contributing to a broader understanding of Africa's evolving research landscape. A content and optos the lit aure review reveals a shift in focus toward information-seeking behavior and scholarly communications, indicating a broader interest in how information is accessed and utilized (Sahoo et al., 2019). A significant challenge is the limited access to information infrastructure in rural and under-resourced areas, which exacerbates the digital divide and impedes equitable access to knowledge (Mufeti, 2020). For example, Raju discusses this trend within the context of decolonial research methodologies, pointing out that much of the existing LIS research in Africa does not exploring the LIS research landscape over the past decade. On the other hand, some contend that specific legislation and investments in ICT infrastructure could close the digital divide and promote more inclusion and knowledge access in Namibia. Scholars have complemented this paradigm shift with the emergence of social media, networking, and knowledge dissemination through information and communication technology as critical research themes (Ma & Lund, 2021). Tackling these obstacles and leveraging these prospects through focused research can strengthen the country's LIS framework and contribute to national development by improving information. In Africa, critics have noted that librarianship research methods often lack a robust theoretical foundation and fail to contribute significantly to theory construction. The field of LIS is experiencing dynamic evolution in research verica. This underscores the current deficiency in skills among many LIS graduates.