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Artificial Intelligence and the Transformation of Legal Research: Competencies and Challenges for Law Librarians in Nigerian Universities

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Abstract

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into legal research has fundamentally altered the landscape of legal information management, presenting both opportunities and challenges for law librarians. This study examines the AI competencies and skills required by academic law librarians in Nigeria, investigates the current state of AI tool adoption, and identifies barriers to implementation. Using a quantitative cross-sectional survey design, data were collected from 98 academic law librarians across public and private universities in Nigeria. Findings reveal that while awareness of AI tools is relatively high, actual adoption remains limited, with significant challenges including inadequate technological infrastructure, unreliable power supply, and insufficient training opportunities. The study identifies five critical competencies—prompt engineering, verification architecture, hybrid learning curation, ethical monitoring, and data stewardship—that law librarians must develop to remain professionally relevant. Recommendations include establishing dedicated AI training programmes, improving technological infrastructure, and integrating AI literacy into library and information science curricula.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Legal Research, Law Librarians, Digital Transformation, Nigerian Universities, AI Competencies

1. Introduction

The legal profession is experiencing a paradigm shift driven by rapid advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI). From AI-powered legal research platforms to automated document analysis and predictive analytics, technology is reshaping how legal information is accessed, processed, and utilised. This transformation extends to the heart of legal scholarship and practice: the law library. As the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, recently observed, “The incorporation of artificial intelligence, cloud-based databases, blockchain technology, and assisted legal research tools has revolutionised the way legal information is processed and utilised” (“Chief Justice of Nigeria Calls for AI Adoption in Judicial Library Services,” 2025). Judicial libraries, she noted, are no longer mere repositories of books and documents but have become the “intellectual nerve centres of the courts” (“Chief Justice of Nigeria Calls for AI Adoption in Judicial Library Services,” 2025).

This digital transformation demands a corresponding evolution in the roles and competencies of law librarians. In advanced jurisdictions, law libraries are pioneering AI integration. Stanford Law School’s Robert Crown Law Library, for instance, has established dedicated AI-focused librarian positions and developed comprehensive AI literacy programmes for law students, faculty, and staff (“Stanford Law School Library Leading in Legal AI,” 2026). The library’s approach includes hands-on training, critical evaluation of AI outputs, and ethical guidance, underscoring that “these AI platforms are powerful when used thoughtfully by legal researchers” (“Stanford Law School Library Leading in Legal AI,” 2026).

In Nigeria, however, the landscape is markedly different. Law libraries in Nigerian universities face persistent challenges including inadequate funding, unreliable internet connectivity, interrupted power supply, and insufficient electronic resources (Umar & Sokari, 2020). Yet, the imperative for transformation is



urgent. Nigerian law librarians must navigate the tension between traditional print-based legal research and the emerging demands of AI-enabled legal practice. As one commentator noted at a recent seminar on AI and legal librarianship, law librarians must develop five critical competencies in the AI era: “prompt specialists, verification architects, hybrid learning curators, ethical monitors, and data stewards” (“MOAU Library Holds Special Seminar on AI and Legal Librarianship,” 2026).

This study investigates the competencies and skills required for law librarians in Nigerian universities to effectively integrate AI tools into legal research services. It examines the current state of AI adoption, identifies barriers to implementation, and proposes strategies for developing the necessary professional competencies.

2. Literature Review

2.1 The Evolution of Legal Research in the AI Era

Legal research has traditionally been a labour-intensive process requiring mastery of complex indexing systems, familiarity with print legal resources, and sophisticated search strategies. The advent of electronic databases such as LexisNexis and Westlaw represented a significant leap forward, but AI has accelerated this transformation exponentially.

Contemporary AI-powered legal research platforms offer capabilities far beyond traditional keyword searching. Thomson Reuters’ CoCounsel Legal, launched in August 2025, includes Deep Research—an agentic AI capability that “reasons” through legal questions, generates multi-step research plans, explains its logic, and delivers comprehensive reports grounded in authoritative legal content. Similarly, Lexis+AI with Protégé enables drafting of full legal documents, conducting research with citation validation through Shepard’s, and analysing documents up to 300 pages in length. The platform even allows users to upload thousands of documents to the Protégé Vault for secure AI-powered analysis (“Legal Research AI Update: Latest Versions from Westlaw and Lexis,” 2026).

The Sabinet Legal Research Assistant, tailored for the South African legal context, exemplifies the jurisdictional-specific AI tools emerging globally. Users can “ask legal research questions in natural language and receive clear, contextual answers drawn from Sabinet’s curated legal information collections,” with each answer linked to underlying source material for verification (Sabinet, 2026). This approach addresses a critical limitation of generic AI tools—the lack of clear attribution and jurisdiction-specific grounding.

2.2 The Changing Role of Law Librarians

As AI transforms legal research, the role of the law librarian is evolving from information custodian to strategic partner in legal knowledge management. This shift is particularly evident in leading academic law libraries. At Stanford Law School, librarians have moved beyond simply reviewing and recommending AI tools to developing proprietary applications and contributing to AI literacy education. The library’s AI framework “stretches across research guidance, pedagogy, technical development, and training

for the full law school community,” including a one-credit AI Literacy for Lawyers course (“Stanford Law School Library Leading in Legal AI,” 2026).

The competencies required of law librarians in this new environment are substantial. Research indicates that law librarians must develop proficiency in evaluating AI-generated outputs—understanding “the mechanics” of AI tools, developing “critical evaluation skills” to verify AI-generated citations, and assessing “the quality of research outputs” (“Evaluating AI-Generated Prompts for Enhancing Library Services,” 2025). Additionally, ethical considerations loom large: librarians must understand “professional responsibility considerations, including disclosure requirements, confidentiality concerns, and when AI use may be inappropriate” (“Evaluating AI-Generated Prompts for Enhancing Library Services,” 2025).

Okpogidi’s framework of five critical competencies—prompt specialists, verification architects, hybrid learning curators, ethical monitors, and data stewards—provides a useful lens for understanding the transformed professional identity of law librarians (“MOAU Library Holds Special Seminar on AI and Legal Librarianship,” 2026). As prompt specialists, librarians must master the art of designing effective queries to elicit accurate, relevant responses from AI tools. As verification architects, they must develop methodologies for validating AI-generated outputs against authoritative sources. As hybrid learning curators, they must blend traditional legal research instruction with AI literacy education. As ethical monitors, they must safeguard the integrity of legal information and ensure responsible AI use. And as data stewards, they must manage the complex data ecosystems on which AI tools depend.

2.3 Law Librarianship in Nigeria: Context and Challenges

The Nigerian context presents unique challenges for law librarians seeking to integrate AI into their practice. A comprehensive study on the utilisation of legal information resources by postgraduate law students in federal universities in northern Nigeria revealed significant infrastructural deficits. Key challenges included: problems of internet connectivity (99.63% of respondents), interrupted power supply (90.77%), poor local area network connection (94.10%), and insufficient computers (92.62%) (Umar & Sokari, 2020). These challenges are not merely inconvenient—they fundamentally constrain the ability of law libraries to provide electronic and AI-enabled services.

Furthermore, the study noted that “law libraries are still faced with challenges in the provision of electronic library services to the users,” and that these challenges “cause law libraries to be left behind in modern library services” (Umar & Sokari, 2020). This observation underscores the risk that Nigerian law libraries may increasingly fall behind their counterparts in advanced jurisdictions, with implications for the quality of legal education and research in the country.

A related study focusing on postgraduate law students found that while printed legal information resources were frequently utilised, “electronic resources and online legal databases are found not

frequently utilised” (Umar & Sokari, 2020). This digital divide has significant implications for law librarians, who must not only master AI tools themselves but also cultivate AI literacy among their users.

The professional development of Nigerian law librarians is further complicated by limited access to learning resources. A study examining knowledge dissemination for continuous professional development among Nigerian law librarians found that “limited access to learning resources hampered knowledge dissemination for CPD,” recommending “open access to more learning resources” (“Knowledge Dissemination: A Way of Continuous Professional Development for Law Librarians in Nigeria,” 2025). This finding points to a systemic challenge: without adequate professional development opportunities, Nigerian law librarians may struggle to acquire the competencies necessary for the AI era.

2.4 AI Competencies for Law Librarians: An Emerging Framework

Synthesising the literature, several key competencies emerge as essential for law librarians in the AI era:

1. **AI Literacy and Technical Proficiency:** Law librarians must understand the capabilities and limitations of AI tools, including the mechanics of natural language processing, the importance of grounding in authoritative sources, and the potential for “hallucination” or inaccurate outputs (“Evaluating AI-Generated Prompts for Enhancing Library Services,” 2025).
2. **Critical Evaluation and Verification Skills:** Librarians must develop sophisticated skills for evaluating AI-generated outputs, including verifying citations, assessing the quality of research outputs, and identifying when AI findings require deeper investigation (“Evaluating AI-Generated Prompts for Enhancing Library Services,” 2025).
3. **Ethical and Professional Responsibility:** Librarians must navigate complex ethical issues, including confidentiality concerns, appropriate disclosure of AI use, and maintaining the integrity of legal information.
4. **Pedagogical Skills:** As educators, librarians must develop the ability to teach AI literacy to law students, faculty, and practitioners.
5. **Technological Adaptability:** In a rapidly evolving landscape, librarians must embrace lifelong learning and remain adaptable to emerging technologies.

These competencies are particularly relevant for Nigerian law librarians, who must operate within a context of significant infrastructural constraints while preparing their users for an AI-enabled legal profession.

3. Research Questions

This study addresses the following research questions:

1. What is the level of awareness of AI-powered legal research tools among academic law librarians in Nigerian universities?
2. What AI competencies and skills do academic law librarians in Nigerian universities perceive as essential for effective legal research services?
3. What are the current levels of adoption of AI tools for legal research services in Nigerian university law libraries?
4. What barriers hinder the adoption and effective utilisation of AI tools for legal research among academic law librarians in Nigerian universities?

4. Methodology

4.1 Research Design

This study adopted a purely quantitative research approach using a cross-sectional survey research design. This design was appropriate for collecting data on the current state of AI competencies, awareness, adoption, and barriers among academic law librarians at a single point in time.

4.2 Population and Sample

The target population for this study comprised academic law librarians from both public and private universities in Nigeria. According to available data, there are 48 academic law librarians in the South-West zone alone (“Law Librarians in South-West Nigeria: A Field Study,” 2024). Nationwide, estimates of the population of law librarians who are members of professional associations range from 145 to approximately 200 (“Law Librarians in South-West Nigeria: A Field Study,” 2024).

Using a stratified random sampling technique, the study selected a sample from academic law librarians across Nigeria’s six geo-political zones. The sample included law librarians from federal universities, state universities, and private universities. Based on an estimated population of 145 law librarians and using a 95% confidence level with a 5% margin of error, the required sample size was calculated as 106. A total of 120 questionnaires were distributed, and 98 valid responses were received, yielding a response rate of 81.7%.

4.3 Instrumentation

Data were collected using a structured questionnaire designed specifically for this study. The questionnaire comprised four sections:

Section A. Demographic information

Section B. Awareness of AI-powered legal research tools

Section C. AI competencies and skills

Section D. Barriers to AI adoption

Items were measured using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree).

4.4 Data Collection Procedure

The questionnaire was administered using a combination of physical distribution and online survey (via Google Forms). Academic law librarians were contacted through their institutional email addresses and professional networks, including the Nigerian

Association of Law Librarians (NALL) and the Association of Academic Law Librarians.

4.5 Data Analysis

Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26.0 was used for data analysis.

5. Findings

5.1 Demographic Profile of Respondents

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Type of Institution	Public University	67	68.4
	Private University	31	31.6
Professional Qualification	BL/LLB Only	14	14.3
	MLS/MLIS	58	59.2
	PhD (in progress/completed)	12	12.2
	Other	14	14.3

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Years of Experience	Less than 5 years	22	22.4
	5–10 years	31	31.6
	11–15 years	25	25.5
	More than 15 years	20	20.4
Membership in Professional Associations	NALL	72	73.5
	AALL	14	14.3
	Both	12	12.2

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 1 shows that the majority of respondents (68.4%) work in public universities, while 31.6% are from private universities. Most respondents (59.2%) hold a Master's degree in Library and Information Science, and 73.5% are members of the Nigerian Association of Law Librarians. Experience levels were relatively balanced, with most respondents having between 5 and 10 years of experience.

5.2 Awareness of AI-Powered Legal Research Tools

Table 2: Awareness of AI-Powered Legal Research Tools

AI Tool/Platform	Aware	Not Aware	Unsure
Lexis+AI / LexisNexis AI	67 (68.4%)	22 (22.4%)	9 (9.2%)
Westlaw CoCounsel	48 (49.0%)	34 (34.7%)	16 (16.3%)
ChatGPT (for legal research)	89 (90.8%)	4 (4.1%)	5 (5.1%)
General AI tools (Copilot, Claude)	76 (77.6%)	12 (12.2%)	10 (10.2%)
Sabinet Legal Research Assistant	12 (12.2%)	73 (74.5%)	13 (13.3%)
Law Pavilion AI features	34 (34.7%)	41 (41.8%)	23 (23.5%)

Source: Field Survey, 2026

The findings reveal a paradoxical picture. While awareness of general AI tools such as ChatGPT (90.8%) and Copilot (77.6%) is high, awareness of specialised legal research AI platforms is more limited. Only 68.4% of respondents were aware of Lexis+AI, and fewer than half (49.0%) were aware of Westlaw CoCounsel.

Awareness of locally relevant platforms such as Law Pavilion's AI features was notably low at 34.7%, and only 12.2% were aware of the Sabinet Legal Research Assistant, a tool specifically designed for the African legal context.

5.3 AI Competencies Perceived as Essential

Table 3: Perceived Essential AI Competencies

Competency	Mean Score	Standard Deviation	Agreement (%)
Prompt engineering skills	4.21	0.76	86.7
Ability to verify AI-generated citations	4.43	0.68	91.8
Understanding AI limitations and biases	4.38	0.72	89.8
Ethical monitoring and responsible AI use	4.51	0.59	93.9

Competency	Mean Score	Standard Deviation	Agreement (%)
Teaching AI literacy to users	4.27	0.81	87.8
Hybrid research skills (print + digital + AI)	4.16	0.84	84.7
Data management and stewardship	3.98	0.91	77.6
Continuous professional development	4.49	0.63	92.9

Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree. Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 3 shows that law librarians perceive all identified competencies as essential, with mean scores ranging from 3.98 to 4.51. The highest-rated competencies were: ethical monitoring and responsible AI use (M = 4.51), continuous professional development (M = 4.49), verification of AI-generated citations (M

= 4.43), and understanding AI limitations and biases (M = 4.38). These findings suggest that Nigerian law librarians are acutely aware of the need for responsible AI use and the importance of verification—a critical concern given AI's propensity for generating inaccurate or hallucinated outputs.

5.4 Current Levels of AI Adoption

Table 4: AI Tool Adoption for Legal Research Services

Activity/Application	Never Used	Occasionally Used	Frequently Used
Assisting users with AI-powered legal research	45 (45.9%)	38 (38.8%)	15 (15.3%)
Using AI for document summarisation	52 (53.1%)	31 (31.6%)	15 (15.3%)
AI-assisted citation checking	58 (59.2%)	27 (27.6%)	13 (13.3%)
AI for collection development/selection	67 (68.4%)	22 (22.4%)	9 (9.2%)
AI for developing research guides	71 (72.4%)	18 (18.4%)	9 (9.2%)
Teaching AI literacy to users	62 (63.3%)	24 (24.5%)	12 (12.2%)

Source: Field Survey, 2026

The adoption of AI tools for specific library functions remains low. The most common application—assisting users with AI-powered legal research—is still only occasionally used by 38.8% of respondents and frequently used by only 15.3%. Alarming, 45.9% have never used AI for this purpose. Adoption is even lower for more advanced applications, with over 60% of respondents never having used AI for citation checking, collection development, or developing research guides.

5.5 Barriers to AI Adoption

Table 5: Barriers to AI Adoption

Barrier	Mean Score	Standard Deviation	Agreement (%)
Inadequate technological infrastructure	4.58	0.62	94.9
Unreliable power supply	4.61	0.58	95.9
Poor internet connectivity	4.53	0.65	93.9
Insufficient funding for AI tools/subscriptions	4.49	0.67	92.9
Limited training opportunities	4.42	0.71	91.8
Lack of institutional	4.18	0.84	83.7

Barrier	Mean Score	Standard Deviation	Agreement (%)
support/policy			
Resistance to change/traditional approaches	3.87	0.96	73.5
Concerns about AI accuracy/reliability	4.12	0.89	82.7
Lack of awareness of available AI tools	3.94	0.93	76.5
Concerns about AI cost	4.33	0.74	89.8

Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree. Source: Field Survey, 2026

The most significant barriers to AI adoption are infrastructural and financial. Unreliable power supply (M = 4.61) and inadequate technological infrastructure (M = 4.58) were the highest-rated barriers, consistent with previous studies on electronic resource utilisation in Nigerian law libraries (Umar & Sokari, 2020). Poor internet connectivity (M = 4.53), insufficient funding (M = 4.49), and limited training opportunities (M = 4.42) were also identified as major obstacles.

Interestingly, “resistance to change” was the lowest-rated barrier ($M = 3.87$), suggesting that Nigerian law librarians are not inherently resistant to AI adoption but are constrained by systemic factors beyond their control. Similarly, “lack of awareness of available AI tools” ($M = 3.94$) was rated relatively low, indicating that awareness, while not comprehensive, is not the primary barrier.

6. Discussion of Findings

6.1 Awareness: Paradoxical but Promising

The finding that awareness of general AI tools (ChatGPT, Copilot) far exceeds awareness of specialised legal research AI platforms is both encouraging and concerning. On one hand, it suggests that Nigerian law librarians are engaging with AI at a general level and are not technologically isolated. On the other hand, it indicates a gap in awareness of legal-specific tools that may be more appropriate for legal research purposes. This gap is significant because generic AI tools are not grounded in authoritative legal sources and may generate outputs that are inaccurate, unverifiable, or jurisdictionally inappropriate (“Evaluating AI-Generated Prompts for Enhancing Library Services,” 2025).

The particularly low awareness of the Sabinet Legal Research Assistant (12.2%) and Law Pavilion’s AI features (34.7%) is noteworthy. These platforms represent the vanguard of AI tools specifically designed for the African legal context. The limited awareness of these resources suggests a need for more aggressive outreach and training by vendors and professional associations.

6.2 Competencies: Alignment with Global Standards

The competencies identified by Nigerian law librarians align closely with those identified in the international literature. The high ratings for ethical monitoring, verification of AI-generated citations, and understanding AI limitations suggest that Nigerian law librarians are aware of the critical challenges posed by AI—hallucination, bias, and the need for human oversight. This awareness is particularly important given the Nigerian legal system’s reliance on precedent and the potentially serious consequences of relying on inaccurate legal information.

The emphasis on continuous professional development ($M = 4.49$) reflects a recognition that AI competencies cannot be acquired once but require ongoing learning. This is consistent with the Stanford Law Library model, where “librarians were experimenting with AI long before anyone asked them to” and “much of their AI infrastructure happened organically” (“Stanford Law School Library Leading in Legal AI,” 2026).

6.3 Adoption: Lagging Behind Awareness

The low adoption rates revealed in this study are concerning but perhaps not surprising given the significant infrastructural barriers. The finding that only 15.3% of law librarians frequently use AI to assist users with legal research suggests that AI is far from being integrated into the routine practice of Nigerian law librarianship. This contrasts sharply with the situation in advanced jurisdictions, where AI is becoming “woven into the way the library functions as

much as how it teaches” (“Stanford Law School Library Leading in Legal AI,” 2026).

The extremely low adoption of AI for teaching AI literacy (12.2% frequent use) is particularly concerning. If law librarians are not teaching AI literacy, it is unclear who will prepare law students for an AI-enabled legal profession. This gap suggests that Nigerian law schools may be graduating students who are ill-prepared to use AI tools effectively and responsibly—a significant disadvantage in the global legal marketplace.

6.4 Barriers: Systemic Challenges

The predominance of infrastructural barriers confirms that the challenges facing AI adoption in Nigerian law libraries are systemic. Unreliable power supply, poor internet connectivity, and inadequate technological infrastructure are not problems that individual librarians can solve. These challenges require institutional and national-level intervention.

The finding that “resistance to change” was the lowest-rated barrier is encouraging. It suggests that Nigerian law librarians are open to innovation and willing to adopt new technologies. This is consistent with the observation at the MOAU seminar on AI and legal librarianship, where librarians were urged to “embrace lifelong learning and collaborative innovation as essential strategies for sustaining excellence” (“MOAU Library Holds Special Seminar on AI and Legal Librarianship,” 2026).

The high rating for “limited training opportunities” ($M = 4.42$) points to a clear area for intervention. Professional associations—particularly the Nigerian Association of Law Librarians—could play a crucial role in providing training on AI tools and competencies. Similarly, library and information science programmes could integrate AI literacy into their curricula.

7. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

7.1 For University Administrations

- Invest in Technological Infrastructure:** University administrations should prioritise investment in reliable power supply, high-speed internet connectivity, and modern computer facilities for law libraries. These infrastructural improvements are prerequisites for AI adoption.
- Provide Funding for AI Tools and Subscriptions:** Institutions should allocate dedicated funding for subscriptions to AI-powered legal research platforms such as Lexis+AI, Westlaw CoCounsel, and Law Pavilion’s AI features.
- Develop Institutional AI Policies:** Universities should develop clear policies on the use of AI in legal research and education, addressing ethical considerations, data privacy, and professional responsibility.

7.2 For Professional Associations

4. **Organise AI Training Programmes:** The Nigerian Association of Law Librarians should organise regular training workshops on AI tools, prompt engineering, and verification techniques. These programmes should be accessible to law librarians across Nigeria, including those in private universities and less-resourced institutions.
5. **Establish a Community of Practice:** A dedicated online community or forum where law librarians can share experiences, best practices, and resources related to AI adoption should be established.
6. **Collaborate with Vendors:** Professional associations should facilitate partnerships with AI tool vendors to provide training, demonstrations, and discounted subscriptions for member institutions.

7.3 For Library and Information Science Education

7. **Integrate AI Literacy into Curricula:** Library and Information Science programmes should integrate AI literacy into their curricula, covering topics such as prompt engineering, critical evaluation of AI outputs, and ethical considerations in AI use.
8. **Offer Specialised Courses:** Institutions offering LIS programmes should consider offering specialised courses or certificates in AI for information professionals.

7.4 For Individual Law Librarians

9. **Pursue Continuous Professional Development:** Law librarians should actively pursue professional development opportunities related to AI, including online courses, webinars, and workshops.
10. **Develop Core Competencies:** Law librarians should focus on developing the five critical competencies identified in this study and the literature: prompt engineering, verification, ethical monitoring, teaching AI literacy, and data stewardship.
11. **Experiment with AI Tools:** Even without institutional subscriptions, law librarians can experiment with freely available AI tools to build familiarity and understanding.

8. Conclusion

This study has examined the AI competencies and skills required by academic law librarians in Nigerian universities, the current state of AI adoption, and the barriers to implementation. The findings reveal a complex picture: Nigerian law librarians are aware of the transformative potential of AI, have a clear understanding of the competencies required, and are not resistant to change. However, they are significantly constrained by systemic barriers—inadequate infrastructure, unreliable power supply, poor

internet connectivity, and limited funding—that prevent meaningful AI adoption.

The gap between awareness and adoption is a cause for concern. While Nigerian law librarians recognise the competencies they need to develop and are open to innovation, the actual integration of AI into their professional practice remains limited. This gap has implications not only for the law librarians themselves but also for the quality of legal education and research in Nigeria.

The urgency of addressing this gap cannot be overstated. As the Chief Justice of Nigeria noted, judicial libraries and their custodians play an “indispensable role in the administration of justice” (“Chief Justice of Nigeria Calls for AI Adoption in Judicial Library Services,” 2025). If Nigerian law libraries fall behind in the adoption of AI technologies, the quality of legal research—and ultimately, the quality of legal decision-making—may be compromised.

However, there are grounds for optimism. The awareness and openness demonstrated by Nigerian law librarians, combined with the growing recognition of the importance of AI in the legal profession, suggest that significant progress is possible. With targeted investment in infrastructure, training, and institutional support, Nigerian academic law librarians can develop the competencies needed to navigate the AI era and continue to play their essential role in legal education and research.

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