4TH CARLIGH CONFERENCE 2024

By

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INTRODUCTION

The 4th Consortium of Academic Libraries and Research Libraries (CARLIGH) Conference is a biennial international conference for librarians of academic and research institutions, which aims to bring together information professionals, publishers, IT professionals, book vendors, researchers, industrialists, and academicians. This conference fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing among professional librarians and academic and research communities. It provides a platform for discussing trends, challenges, and innovations in library and information science, networking and mentoring young professionals. This year's conference attracted participants from various institutions, both local and international, facilitating a rich exchange of ideas and best practices. GIMPA Executive Conference Center hosted over one hundred and fifty participants from 6th-10th May 2024.

Pre-Conference Workshop Highlights

The conference commenced with a highly engaging two-day pre-conference workshop from 6th to 7th May. This workshop featured a series of presentations and interactive sessions led

by esteemed resource persons, including representatives from prominent publishers such as Clarivate, ORCID, Open Science and Figshare**.** The pre-conference enlightened participants on research data management and prompt engineering skills and techniques for obtaining relevant accurate information using Artificial Intelligence and Chatbots.

IMPACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIANSHIP

This year's conference had the theme "Enhancing Information Access in an Era of ChatGPT and other Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools". This theme guided participants to explore the fascinating world of artificial intelligence and its transformative impacts in the field of libraries and related professions. The keynote addresses and conference papers delivered ignited attendees' interest in grey areas and trends on new skill sets. Participants' horizon knowledge was broadened to impact positive change in their local libraries.

THEMATIC DELIVERABLES AND LESSONS LEARNT

i. The position of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in academic and research libraries

The integration of artificial intelligence in academic and research libraries was strongly advocated under policy and guidance to ensure their responsible and ethical use.

ii. Improvement of library service delivery

It was acknowledged that artificial intelligence and its encompassing peripherals have come to stay and therefore there is a need to explore the integration of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Gemini amongst others facilitate services and user enquiries.

iii. Skill sets for librarians

It was recognized that the advent of the 4th industrial revolution occasioned the need for librarians to retool, reskill, and retrain in the five broad skill sets namely physical and manual skills, high cognitive skills, basic cognitive skills, social and emotional skills, and technological skills.

iv. Framework for funding

It was proposed that the management of academic and research institutions adhere to the 5% budget allocation directed by the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission. This money shall be used to acquire new books and revamp space to enhance the service delivery of libraries.

v. Future of libraries

It was encouraged that academic and research libraries ought to revamp and modernize existing library spaces into commons that create value and boost the aesthetics of the library.

CONCLUSION

The conference organisers offered thanks to participants, institutions who supported by sponsoring participants, speakers, exhibitors, publishers, and organisers. An invitation was extended to the 2026 upcoming CARLIGH conference.

IMAGES FROM THE CONFERENCE

Group photo of participants at the Conference

During a session at the Conference

Participants at a session

Participants interacting during a poster session

Participants with some speakers at the Conference

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