



KADUNA STATE UNIVERSITY

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KASU Marching to Excellence: Motivation and Utilizing Emergent Technologies

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KASU LIBRARY: LIFELINE OF RESEARCH, LEARNING AND INNOVATION



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Whatever misconceptions one may harbour about the workings of a library, an encounter with the Kaduna State University Librarian, Dr. Babangida Dangani is certain to change that perception. Far from the stereotype of a quiet administrator tucked away in an office, he is hands-on, accessible, and deeply familiar with every resource within the library system. Always ready to guide, he engages users directly, offering insight into the vast opportunities the library provides.

He is quick to acknowledge the role of leadership in the library's transformation, noting that the Vice Chancellor Professor Abdullahi Ibrahim Musa himself an immediate past University Librarian, has been instrumental in driving the institution's success in fulfilling its mandate. This continuity of vision, Dr. Dangani explains that it has significantly

strengthened the library's capacity to deliver on its core responsibilities.

Interestingly, what began as a planned interview by the Corporate Services team to showcase the library's impact took a different turn. Dr. Dangani encouraged engagement with library users instead, underscoring his belief that the true measure of success lies in the experiences of those who benefit from its services. Nonetheless, upon our insistence, this interaction offers a valuable window into the evolving role of the library.

At Kaduna State University, the library is no longer just a quiet space for reading; it is fast emerging as a dynamic hub for innovation, research support, and global academic connectivity.

In an exclusive interaction, Dr. Dangani describes the library as “the heart of any university



Dr. Babangida Umar Dangani
University Librarian

system,” emphasizing that “the quality of any university depends on the quality of its library.” He notes that deliberate steps have been taken to reposition the facility in line with global best practices. “In the university setting, there are only two places where knowledge is produced: the library and the laboratory. These are critical pillars of the system,” he adds.

A major milestone, he reveals, is the full automation of library operations. “All routine processes are now driven by a software called KOHA. Our library is online and accessible from any part of the globe,” he says. “With a handheld device, users can access our resources from anywhere.” This digital shift has significantly boosted patronage, with a noticeable influx of users since the beginning of the current academic session. To effectively support the university's tripartite mandate of teaching, research, and community service, the library has been restructured into specialized departments. At the core of this is the Research Support Department. “We run weekly research clinics and provide training on how to write papers; whether empirical or opinion-based,” he explains. “Beyond providing answers, we focus on building users' research capacity.”

The department also offers training in literature review, data collection, and analysis. “If you want to conduct a survey or analyse data, our specialists guide you using relevant tools and software,” he adds.

Equally impactful is the Teaching Support Department, which collaborates closely with lecturers to enhance course delivery. “We identify materials used across universities and develop course packs that include recommended texts, lecture notes,



PowerPoint presentations, and videos,” Dr. Dangani explains. “This makes learning more practical, engaging, and easier to grasp.”

Beyond content delivery, the library is redefining the learning environment itself. Through the Learning Support Department, it promotes collaborative learning over rote memorisation. “Our goal is to move from knowledge reproduction to knowledge construction,” he says. “We provide spaces for group discussions, peer learning, and even outdoor study in natural settings.”

Maintaining academic integrity remains a top priority. “No research output goes online without passing our originality check,” he states firmly, noting that strict plagiarism thresholds are enforced to ensure quality and credibility.

The library's digital repository further strengthens its academic footprint. “It serves as an archive of all academic outputs: theses, dissertations, and journal articles, accessible globally,” he says. In addition, the e-learning unit supports virtual teaching and learning by providing the necessary technology, training, and user onboarding.



Dr. Babangida Dangani, University Librarian (center) with the Vice Chancellor Prof. Abdullahi Ibrahim Musa and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Muhammad Bashir Ali during the KASU Strategic Retreat



Conversation with University Librarian

Perhaps most striking is the library's bold push into innovation and real-world impact. Dr. Dangani highlights the introduction of a Maker Space. "It is a space for creating new things. Nigerians are largely consumers; we want to change that," he says. "We partner with faculties and industries to develop solutions that can be patented and commercialised."

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Closely linked to this is the Graduate Employability Initiative. "We engage captains of industry to understand the skills they require," he explains. "We then work with faculties to integrate those skills into our training, ensuring a smoother transition from university to the workplace." While some specialised databases require institutional access, the broader

vision remains one of inclusion. "Our aim is to expand access to information resources. You don't have to be a member of this university to benefit from many of our services," he affirms.

For Dr. Dangani, the vision is clear: a library that not only supports learning but drives innovation, fosters global connections, and prepares students for life beyond the classroom.

In a university striving for relevance in a rapidly changing world, the KASU Library is not merely supporting the system; it is quietly redefining it.

E-Library and other resources at the KASU Library Complex

