



# The Role of Academic Libraries in Contributing to Students Academic Achievement

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Received: September 17, 2025

Revised: February 03, 2026

Accepted: February 09, 2026

Published: February 28, 2026

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DOI: [10.56566/mandalika.v4i1.446](https://doi.org/10.56566/mandalika.v4i1.446)

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**Abstract:** Academic libraries play a crucial and evolving role in promoting student success within higher education. Beyond providing access to diverse collections of print and digital materials, libraries actively contribute to academic achievement through tailored support services, research assistance, and information literacy training. This research is a Descriptive analytical research with a focus on case studies in the field of higher education. The purpose of this study is to confirm that academic libraries are a crucial element in creating an effective, equitable, and dynamic learning environment that contributes directly to student success. This work examines how libraries adapt to the changing educational landscape by fostering inclusive learning environments, partnering with campus agencies, and addressing the needs of underrepresented groups. It highlights the positive correlation between library engagement and academic performance, particularly among first-generation and distance-learning students. Challenges such as limited resources and fragmented feedback systems are also discussed, with recommendations for leveraging data-driven approaches to enhance library services and better support diverse student populations. Ultimately, the work underscores the integral role of academic libraries in shaping equitable, dynamic, and effective learning environments that drive student success.

**Keywords:** Academic achievement; Academic libraries; Contributing; Students

## Introduction

In the evolving landscape of higher education, the resources and support systems available to students significantly influence their academic success. Among these, academic libraries stand out as essential hubs that provide not only access to vast information but also critical instructional support aimed at enhancing students' research skills and knowledge acquisition (Purkarthofer et al., 2024; Fergusson, 2022). As educational policies increasingly emphasize the need for enriched learning environments, academic libraries have adapted to meet these demands by integrating innovative instructional methods and assessment strategies (Mierzecka, 2025; Rincon-Flores et al., 2024). These adaptations align with the shift from traditional standards to more dynamic frameworks that emphasize critical thinking and information literacy (Pinto et al.,

2025; Walter, 2024). By fostering an environment that encourages effective information usage and critical analysis, academic libraries play a crucial role in supporting students' academic achievement and overall educational outcomes (Bloom et al., 2025; Shana et al., 2024).

This work explores these contributions in detail, highlighting the multifaceted impact of academic libraries on student success (Rabelo et al., 2024; Kalota et al., 2025). In higher education, the support systems that foster student success extend beyond traditional classroom instruction, with academic libraries playing a pivotal role (Parmar et al., 2025; Deja et al., 2021). These institutions not only provide access to vast resources but also offer tailored services that address the diverse needs of a heterogeneous student body (Goyibova et al., 2025; Bao et al., 2025). Academic librarians actively engage in continuous learning and form partnerships with campus

### How to Cite:

Atanda, L. A. (2026). The Role of Academic Libraries in Contributing to Students Academic Achievement. *MANDALIKA : Journal of Social Science*, 4(1), 46-50. <https://doi.org/10.56566/mandalika.v4i1.446>

agencies to enhance inclusivity (Moonasar, 2025; Merga, 2019; Shal et al., 2024) and support for underrepresented groups, thereby contributing to a more equitable educational environment (Ramdas et al., 2025; Lau & Zheng, 2025). Additionally, understanding student experiences through comprehensive feedback mechanisms allows libraries to refine their services, ensuring they meet evolving academic and social demands effectively (Zhang et al., 2025).

Such efforts are critical, as they help bridge gaps that might impede academic achievement, particularly for first-generation university students, underscoring the library's integral role in student retention and success within higher education institutions. The purpose of this study is to confirm that academic libraries are a crucial element in creating an effective, equitable, and dynamic learning environment that contributes directly to student success.

## Method

Descriptive Analytical Research methods focusing on case studies in higher education, such as in research on the role of libraries, work according to the following flow:

### *Descriptive Stage (Describing)*

Identification and Observation: Researchers begin by observing and collecting data about the role of libraries broadly. They identify the services offered (e.g., book collections, digital services, study spaces, information literacy classes); Data Collection: Data is collected through various qualitative methods, such as; Interviews: Talking with librarians, staff, and students to understand their experiences and perceptions; Surveys: Distributing questionnaires to collect data on library service usage; Direct Observation: Observing how students use library facilities and services on a daily basis.

### *Analytical Stage (Analyzing)*

Data Analysis: The collected data is then analyzed to find patterns and relationships. For example, researchers might look for a correlation between students' frequency of library visits and their GPAs; Case Studies: Researchers select several "cases" (e.g., a single university or a single library program) for in-depth study. In this case, the case study allows researchers to understand a richer context, such as how the library collaborates with other departments or how it addresses specific challenges; Critical Analysis: Researchers evaluate the effectiveness of existing services and identify barriers or challenges, such as budget constraints, lack of student feedback, or unmet needs.

### *Recommendation Stage (Providing Suggestions)*

Conclusions and Recommendations: Based on the analysis, researchers formulate conclusions about the library's integral role. They also provide practical recommendations, for example, suggesting that libraries use a data-driven approach to adapt their services to be more relevant to student needs. In short, this method moves from "what exists" (descriptive) to "why it matters and how can we improve it" (analytical), using the case study to provide concrete and in-depth examples.

## Result and Discussion

The availability of educational materials plays a critical role in shaping students' academic outcomes, with academic libraries serving as pivotal access points. When students have ready access to well-funded, professionally managed library collections, their likelihood of achieving higher standardized test scores increases significantly. Studies have demonstrated that schools allocating greater resources to their libraries tend to see improvements in student performance, highlighting the importance of equitable and prioritized funding within educational institutions (Alam & Mohanty, 2023; Khatri et al., 2024). Furthermore, in the context of distance learning, access to online library resources reveals a strong positive correlation with student success. Analysis of extensive usage data indicates that students who engage more frequently with digital academic resources perform better in their assessments, underscoring the integral role of continuous and convenient library access in fostering achievement across diverse learning environments (Zuo et al., 2025). Thus, resource accessibility remains a fundamental factor linking academic libraries to student achievement.

### *The Variety of Academic Materials Available to Students, Including Books, Journals, and Digital Resources*

Academic libraries serve as vital gateways to a diverse range of academic materials that significantly enhance students' learning experiences and academic success. Beyond traditional print books, libraries offer an extensive collection of scholarly journals that provide current research findings essential for in-depth study and critical analysis. Additionally, the increasing availability of digital resources, including e-books, databases, and multimedia content, facilitates convenient access to information anytime and anywhere, accommodating diverse learning preferences and schedules. This comprehensive variety ensures that students can engage with multiple formats, promoting a richer and more flexible academic environment. Moreover, embracing digital openness supports the seamless sharing of information, fostering collaborative

learning and innovation within higher education (N/A). Understanding how students from different backgrounds utilize these resources is crucial for academic libraries to tailor their collections and support effectively (Thakur et al., 2025). Hence, the variety of academic materials available through libraries plays a central role in supporting student achievement (Corrall & Jolly, 2019).

#### *Support Services*

Effective support services within academic libraries play an indispensable role in fostering students' academic achievement by addressing diverse learning needs and ensuring equitable access to resources. Beyond providing materials, libraries offer tailored assistance that helps mitigate barriers faced by underrepresented groups, including first-generation university students, thus promoting inclusivity and retention in higher education (Gonçalves et al., 2024; Li et al., 2024). This personalized support often involves navigating digital platforms and research tools, which can be crucial for distance learners who rely heavily on online resources. Research demonstrates a positive correlation between effective support services and student success, with data indicating that students who engage more frequently with library assistance tend to achieve higher academic outcomes (Scoulas et al., 2024; Soltani & Nikou, 2020). By combining qualitative feedback with usage data, libraries can refine their service models to better align with students' unique challenges, ultimately transforming support services into a dynamic foundation that supports academic excellence across various disciplines and student demographics (Tadesse Bogale & Debela, 2024).

#### *The Role of Librarians and Support Staff in Providing Research Assistance and Information Literacy Training*

Effective academic achievement often hinges on students' ability to navigate vast amounts of information critically and efficiently (Liu, 2025; Le et al., 2024). Librarians and support staff play an indispensable role in guiding students through this complex process by offering personalized research assistance and targeted information literacy training. These professionals equip students with essential skills to locate, evaluate, and utilize resources effectively, fostering independent learning and critical thinking (Van Der Zanden et al., 2020; Calma & Davies, 2025). However, challenges such as limited resources and insufficient specialized training sessions can hinder the full potential of these services, particularly in environments where libraries struggle to provide tailored instruction (Zamiri & Esmaeili, 2024). To address these limitations, academic librarians increasingly collaborate with campus agencies to engage diverse student populations (ODonnell & Anderson,

2022), ensuring more inclusive and responsive support systems that enhance students' academic success (Ainscow, 2020; Anyichie & Butler, 2023). Through such proactive involvement, librarians and support staff contribute significantly to developing students' lifelong learning capacities necessary for scholarly achievement in higher education (Merga, 2020; Abumandour, 2021).

## **Conclusion**

The multifaceted contributions of academic libraries extend beyond simply providing access to resources; they actively shape the academic trajectories of students by fostering inclusive learning environments and offering tailored support services. By collaborating with campus agencies dedicated to diversity and student development, libraries effectively address the needs of an increasingly heterogeneous student body, promoting greater academic inclusion and success. Moreover, library employment presents tangible benefits for students, as evidence suggests such positions positively influence academic performance and engagement, reinforcing the library's role as both an educational and professional development space. These combined efforts underscore the crucial position academic libraries hold in advancing student achievement, demonstrating that their impact transcends traditional boundaries. Therefore, institutions must recognize and support the evolving functions of academic libraries to sustain and enhance their critical contribution to student success.

#### **Acknowledgments**

Thanks to all parties who have supported the implementation of this research. I hope this research can be useful.

#### **Author Contributions**

Conceptualization, methodology, validation, formal analysis, investigation, resources, data curation, writing – original draft preparation, writing – review and editing, visualization: L. A. A. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

#### **Funding**

Researchers independently funded this research.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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