



Management of University Security Issues through Modern Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the management of university security issues through modern artificial intelligence technologies in Nigeria. The society has been transformed to a digital era consisting of emerging technologies which can perform the work of humans. Nigerian universities are plagued by security issues such as cultism, theft, armed robbery, amongst others. The existing strategies for securing the university environment have proven to be ineffective. Thus, it is necessary for university administrators to divert to the area of artificial intelligence to solve security issues within their universities. The paper discussed the concepts of management, university education, security, artificial intelligence technologies and management strategies that could be adopted to diminish security issues in Nigerian universities using artificial intelligence technologies. The benefits of artificial intelligence security in Nigerian universities were also discussed. The paper also highlighted challenges that serve as hindrances to Nigerian university administrators in the management of security issues within their universities using artificial intelligence to include high cost of procurement and maintenance of AI technology, epileptic power supply, lack of technical expertise, amongst others. The paper concluded that the existing strategies for combatting insecurity within Nigerian universities can no longer cater to the security needs of the university community and thus the university administrators in Nigerian universities need to keep up with innovative trends in university security to enable progress and development within their universities. Suggestions to the challenges stated were proffered in the paper in which university administrators can apply to properly manage security issues using artificial intelligence technology.

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INTRODUCTION

The world has transitioned to a digital age whereby computers can perform the tasks of human beings. This move has touched every facet of life including the security of institutions. The Nigerian university system is plagued with various security issues. In affirmation, Ofor-Douglas, (2024a) stated that insecurity is fast becoming a rampant issue in Nigeria today and has been able to influence the university education system of the youth in Nigeria. Globally, the rate of rising

violence and criminal activities in most campuses have led more than 90 percent of students to feel unsafe in accessing higher education (Albinali, Krishen & Bakdash, 2022).

Amao-Kehinde as cited in Chukwu et al, (2017) that nothing has shaken the very foundation of the nation's academic community and threatened internal security more than cultism. Buttressing this, Enang (2019) reported that university communities in recent times have been infested with all manner of criminalities

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which, quite sadly, paint an opaque and rather disheartening picture. Despite the deployment of tech-security measures, such as CCTV cameras and security personnel, crime rates remain high, suggesting a need for innovative solutions (Liu et al., 2020). Emerging technologies including mobile learning and artificial intelligence have been noted as transforming tools in the education industry (Meroto et al. 2024).

The leadership of any organization plays a vital role in ensuring a secured and peaceful environment in Nigerian universities. However, Nigerian universities are not yet ready to explore the benefits of artificial intelligence to manage security issues within their universities. This is as a result of constraining issues such as poor power supply, lack of IT expertise, high cost of procurement and maintenance of AI technology, amongst others. In agreement with this assertion, Izunna (2024) deduced that the utilization of artificial intelligence may not be effective and efficient in crime prevention and responses in view of constraining conditions inherent in Nigeria system. It is against this background that this paper examines methods in which artificial intelligence can be adopted by Nigerian university administrators for the proper management of security issues within their universities. The objective of this paper is to identify the challenges that may deter Nigerian university administrators from the proper management of security issues within their universities using artificial intelligence and to proffer possible solutions to the challenges identified.

Management

Management involves the planning, controlling, directing and organizing of the affairs of an institution to ensure a smooth operation of the institution's activities and the achievement of its goals and objectives. In university education, management is the process of planning, organizing, coordinating, directing, controlling, staffing, supervising, monitoring, budgeting, evaluating and communicating to achieve the goals and objectives of the university efficiently and effectively in a seamless manner (Ofor-

Douglas, 2024b). Going further, Ofor-Douglas (2024b) submitted that the university is dependent on effective management for the smooth day-to-day operation of the university fostering a conducive learning environment and maintenance of academic standards.

The management of Nigerian universities is placed in the hands of university administrators who are responsible for the day to day running of their universities. In a similar notion, Ofor-Douglas, (2024c) affirmed that Nigerian university administrators are qualified men and women entrusted with the authority to run the day-to-day affairs of the university and to achieve the university's targeted objectives in a seamless manner, with the aid of their subordinates who also have administrative skills such as planning, organizing, coordinating, directing, controlling, staffing, communicating, budgeting, monitoring and supervising for the realization of the university's mission and objectives. In any working society, there must be a person or a group of persons to pilot the affairs of the organization through planning, organizing, controlling and coordinating human activities toward goal attainment (Ofor-Douglas, 2023a).

For the university administrators in Nigerian universities to achieve such laudable goals and objectives, the university administrators need some managerial skills and intellectual capabilities to face and resolve challenges within the organization (Ofor-Douglas, 2023a). The university administrators in Nigerian universities therefore bear the primary responsibility in ensuring the safety of individuals and property within their universities by having adequate managerial skills that would be used to promote and implement policies that allow for such. Supporting this, Nwosu (2024) reiterated that the management of security is paramount to the effective management of schools and it is an issue that has attracted a great deal of attention and concern from learners, educators, parents, and the public at large.

While most university administrators have bolstered security personnel and protocols, some state governments have declared state of emergency in high-risk areas and national policies



were initiated to weaken criminal networks, yet, threat of attack, kidnapping of staff and students and vandalism of school infrastructure have shown no sign of abating on campuses across Nigeria (Obialo, Njoku & Okonkwo, 2023).

University Education

A university is an institution of higher learning that promotes the development of the intellectual and moral aspects of an individual. University guides the development of innate talent, possessed by students and researchers. University education differs from other institutions stemming from its ability to create knowledge and increase potentials of graduates and researcher's knowledge creation, human power creation, the transfer of knowhow, technological innovation, capital investment, religious leadership, have their influence on environment and knowledge (Ofor-Douglas, 2023b). The university is a creative spirit, the spirit of humanism, education and culture. It is innovation, combining pedagogics with scientific achievements of the modern level (Kugai, 2016).

There are violent crimes such as assaults, homicides, sexual assaults, domestic violence, hate crimes, mass shootings, among others (Ajayi & Edet, 2023). Most Nigerian universities are battling with property crime (including theft from vehicles), burglary, vandalism, arson and other criminal acts where property is the main target (Kumar, 2022). In the same vein, Badiora (2017) observed that the spectra of crimes on the campuses of tertiary institutions (university education inclusive) in Nigeria have grown to an alarming rate and level, that it has remained a permanent issue in national discourse. As security threats continue rising nationally, universities are exploring Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to enhance campus safety initiatives while maintaining quality service delivery.

Security

Security is the state of being free from danger. It encompasses a situation whereby lives and property are given protection. Security is the status in which an individual or environment acquires when there is a freedom from danger

(Ofor-Douglas, 2024a). Aligning with this, Rosenberg (2014) mentioned that security is an integral, proactive part for creating a safe environment, preparing for all hazards free, as well as, actively promoting a safer place to study, work and visit. Also, Oladipo, Awoyinfa and Adefarakan (2018) stated that security is the degree of protection against danger, damage, loss and criminal activity. Similarly, Gubuk and Bulus (2018) were of the view that that security is related to the presence of peace, safety, happiness and the protection of lives and property or the absence of crisis, threats to human survival, among others.

University security services encompass all measures utilized to combat security threats to staff and students within the university community. Abdullahi and Orukpe (2016) noted that theft, cultism, kidnapping, rape, room break-in, cell-phone snatching, stealing, violent demonstration by students, vandalism and other forms of assaults are major security challenges on campuses. Studies indicate that students experiencing threats and security breaches report heightened stress and anxiety, suffering decreased performance, lower graduation rates, inflict infrastructural damages and reputational declines that undermine institutional growth and inclusive sector development (Peeters, 2023). Ofor-Douglas (2023c) highlighted some benefits of security in the university and nation. The following are the benefits with which security would bring to the university community and the nation large:

1. There would be an assurance by Nigerian citizens that their lives and property will be secure.
2. It will boost the economy of the country in the sense that when all the sectors are working in a conducive environment it then means there will be no fear of any sort.
3. The academic calendar in universities would also run smoothly in a state of peace within the university community and the nation.
4. Students would be less sceptical when choosing their choice of academic

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institution as they would be assured of a level of security within their preferred choice.

5. A state of security in Nigeria would bring about foreign investments.

Artificial Intelligence Technologies

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the use of computer and internet technology to simulate human tasks as if performed by human beings. It can be seen as the simulation of the human mind to make computers think and act like human by performing tasks like learning and problem-solving (Zhang & Lu, 2021). Similarly, Ogunode and Gregory (2023) mentioned that AI refers to the development of computer systems and machines capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence. Russell and Norvig (2020) affirmed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) involved computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception and decision-making. Furthermore, Ayorinde (2023) submitted that AI is the ability of a computer or machine to mimic the capabilities of the human mind-learning from examples and experiences, recognize objects, understanding and responding to languages, making decisions, solving problems and combining these and other capabilities to perform functions a human might perform, such as greeting a hotel guest or driving a car.

Artificial Intelligence has brought forth opportunities to contribute to areas such as education (Abayomi 2021). Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies have become an indispensable part of daily life, often without individuals even realising their presence. These technologies are embedded in various platforms through different devices and applications, including smart home applications, autonomous vehicles, and smartphone applications. According to Source Security (2023), some AI technology that can be adopted in universities in Nigeria for the management of security issues in the universities include:

1. **Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Systems:** Automated number plate recognition

(ANPR) systems pinpoint the license numbers of cars that enter the institutions' parking entrance or gate and can match the numbers to a watch list and provide an alarm. The technology could further be used to monitor compliance with restricted areas; for example, to only allow vehicles that are registered for a parking pass to park in a certain lot. A more advanced approach could involve dual identification technologies – vehicle plate and facial recognition of a driver to add another layer of security.

2. **Video Surveillance Security:** Video surveillance is a technology that is unobtrusive and can promote security beginning at the outermost boundaries of the school environment – at the perimeter and as automobiles drive onto school grounds. Surveillance security can keep a silent and constant watch as people come and go. Moreover, incorporating new artificial intelligence (AI) and deep learning technology is increasing the real-time capabilities of video surveillance to provide early warning of a possible security threat as it enters a campus. Systems to maximize school surveillance and security include detailed, high performance cameras for event capture, an embedded network video recorder for event recording and storage, and a centralized video management platform to unify the system. AI and deep learning technologies automate security processes and provide useful real-time information that extends beyond video images.
3. **Facial Recognition System:** Facial recognition systems can be used at school entrances and gates to promote the security of students and staff and to identify unknown suspects who attempt to enter the building. "Blacklist alarm" technology generates a notification if a known suspect enters. Clarity is

paramount when identifying faces and cameras that provide wide dynamic range (WDR) can offset challenges such as backlighting on a bright day when the light behind a person coming in is brighter than the light inside.

4. **People Counting Cameras:** People counting cameras can be used in cafeterias and libraries to provide daily or monthly traffic reports and to better understand peak times and arrange workflow accordingly.

Benefits of Modern AI Technology in Solving University Security Issues

There are various benefits attached to the utilization of modern AI technology to solve security issues in Nigerian universities. Firstly, it was noted that AI-based security solutions can monitor and analyze huge amounts of data in real-time, identify potential security threats, and also prevent the security issue before it occurs. This helps universities to provide a safe and secure environment for their staff and students (Garvey & Lari, 2021). Similarly, Sridhar et al. (2019) further stated that the use of AI-based video analytics systems in universities allows for real-time monitoring of campus activities, enabling the identification of potential security threats more efficiently. Abunike et al. (2024) rightly mentioned that AI-driven surveillance improves detection and response times, enabling security personnel to respond more effectively to criminal activity. Moreover, AI technology is able to gather and analyze data from various sources, such as CCTV footage, social media, and student records in order to identify possible risks and patterns of criminal behaviour before the actual crime occurs (Luke & Uzoigwe 2024). This implies that there is a widespread reach of security using AI technology.

Mechanisms for Managing University Security Issues Using Artificial Intelligence

The following mechanisms can be adopted by Nigerian university administrators to adequately manage security issues within their universities:

1. **Training Seminars for AI Security:**

University administrators in Nigerian universities can adequately manage security issues within their universities through the use of modern-day AI technology by the use of training programmes for the members of the university community in artificial intelligence security. They can invest in capacity-building programs through workshops, seminars and degree programs to promote modern AI skillsets in the staff and students. This would improve the implementation strategies of the university administrators as it will allow for the members of the university community to keep themselves up to date with modern trends in AI security measures in order to comply with the security measures set by the university.

2. **Partnership for AI Technology:**

Another way in which university administrators can properly manage the university security issues through modern AI technology is through the partnership with artificial intelligence companies. This would provide access to cutting edge technology for securing the university environment at a relatively discounted rate. Additionally, the expertise of these companies would be needed to guide the training of members of the university community in the utilization of these AI technology and these experts can also provide expert advice to the university administrators on strategies to improve university security using AI technology.

Challenges Facing the Management of Security Issues in Nigerian Universities through Modern AI Technology

The following serve as hindrances to the management of the university security issues through modern artificial intelligence technologies:

1. **High Cost of Procurement and Maintenance of AI Technology:** One



of the major challenges facing the management of university security issues through modern artificial intelligence technologies is the high cost of procurement and maintenance of modern AI technology. The cost of acquiring and maintaining AI technology is already at a high scale and one cannot expect Nigerian universities whose funds are limited to engage in the utilization of AI technology to solve their security issues. Fausta & Onyekaba (2025) rightly stated that due to the poor funding of educational institutions by the government, administrators cannot procure or guarantee effective maintenance of these AI facilities in institutions.

2. **Epileptic Power Supply:** The epileptic power supply in Nigeria poses another significant challenge to the management of university security issues through modern artificial intelligence technologies. Auyo et al. (2020) argued that Nigeria being a developing nation cannot boast of a twenty-four-hour electricity supply to its citizens. Most of these artificial intelligence security technologies requires consistent power supply to activate and perform its functions effectively. The absence of consistent power supply will no doubt hinder the management of security issues within the universities if these systems do not work at all.
3. **Lack of Technical Expertise:** Another significant challenge facing the management of university security issues through modern artificial intelligence technologies in Nigerian universities is the lack of skilled personnel with expertise in both AI and ICT. In alignment with this, Oladimeji (2020) submitted that the lack of technical expertise is a significant barrier to AI solutions. The lack of technical expertise in Nigerian

universities in the area of artificial intelligence security poses a significant threat as artificial intelligence requires a high level of skill set and knowledge in ICT and software programmes. Okafor et al. (2025) observed that the rapid pace of technological advancement in AI may outpace the capacity of universities to adapt their curricula and provide relevant training to students and faculty members. Agreeing with this, Zhang et al. (2020) confirmed that technological barriers arise from the rapid pace of technological change, making it challenging for universities to keep up with the latest security technologies and best practices.

4. **Ethical Issues:** Another challenge that hinders the proper management of university security issues through modern artificial intelligence technologies in Nigerian universities is that of the ethical issues that may arise. The use of AI technology for security in Nigerian universities raises several ethical concerns especially when it has to deal with the right to privacy of the staff and students of the university. Artificial Intelligence is still faced with social, ethical, legal and technological challenges (Thiebes et al., 2021). AI security systems often require access to vast amounts of data, which may include sensitive personal information (Odoh, 2021). In agreement with this assertion, Okafor et al (2025) were of the view that the use of AI in educational settings raises ethical considerations related to privacy, data security, and algorithmic bias. This challenge not only hinders the utilization of artificial intelligence for security solutions but also diminishes the trust in AI systems generally. To this end, Huang et al. (2021) lamented that the risk of data misuse can undermine trust in AI systems, making it essential for



universities to implement stringent data protection measures.

5. **Cybercrime:** Cybercrime poses a significant challenge to the management of university security issues through modern artificial intelligence technologies in Nigerian universities. AI technologies for security are vulnerable to cyber-attacks which could compromise sensitive data information of members of the university community. These technologies can be targeted by malicious hackers with the intention to disrupt the university's security system in order to wreak havoc thereafter.

CONCLUSION

The paper discussed mechanisms in which Nigerian university administrators can adopt to manage university security issues using artificial intelligence. It has been established that the state of security in a country's university system would determine the progress and achievements in which the university gains. A quality university thrives in an environment that fosters peace and a secure learning environment. The paper examined some of the mechanisms for managing university security issues using artificial intelligence through the lens of various authors and these authors agreed with the paper when suggesting that the existing mechanisms for combatting insecurity within Nigerian universities can no longer cater to the security needs of the university community and it is thus impertinent that Nigerian university administrators must explore innovative ways to ensure the use of AI technology for increased and improved campus security.

The mechanisms for managing university security issues using artificial intelligence discussed in this paper include training of experts, partnership with security companies, amongst others. The paper further discussed some challenges in managing university security issues using artificial intelligence to include high cost of procurement and maintenance of AI technology, epileptic power

supply, lack of technical expertise, amongst others. Possible suggestions to the problems stated in the paper include the following:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The university administrators should partner themselves with companies that produce these artificial intelligence technologies to enable them procure these security materials at a relatively cheaper price.
2. The university should invest in alternative sources of power supply such as solar panels to ensure constant power supply for these AI security technologies.
3. The university should hold regular training sessions for their security team to allow for expertise in the area of security through AI technology.
4. The university should develop guidelines for the use of AI security technology in security, ensuring transparency and respect for privacy.
5. The university security team should inculcate the use of firewalls, intrusion detection systems and encryption to protect AI systems and personal data.

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