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Original Research Article

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ENHANCING CAMPUS SECURITY SYSTEMS IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN RIVERS STATE

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Abstract: The study investigated artificial intelligence in enhancing campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. Two research questions and two hypotheses were drawn. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The population stood at 12,543 which comprised of 3,762 lecturers and 8,780 students across public universities in Rivers State, which include University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State University and Ignatius Ajuru University. The sample size which stood at 745 respondents, was determined using Taro Yamen formula. Stratified sampling technique was use in selecting the respondents, comprising of 362 lecturers and 383 students in public universities in Rivers State. The instrument for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire titled: "Artificial Intelligence in Enhancing Campus Security Systems in Public Universities Questionnaire". The instrument was validated by two experts in the field of Measurement and Evaluation in Rivers State University. The reliability of the instrument was determined using Cronbach Alpha method. A cumulative reliability index of 0.83 was obtained. The mean and standard deviation statistics were used to answer the research questions while the hypotheses were tested using z-test statistics at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that, AI-Powered Surveillance Systems and Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended among others that, the Government and Universities Administrators should deploy AI-enhanced surveillance systems, including facial recognition, anomaly detection, and automated monitoring, to identify and mitigate potential security threats in real

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Campus, Enhancing, Public Universities, Security Systems, Rivers State.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force across various sectors, including education. Among its many applications, AI has shown remarkable potential in enhancing campus security systems. Public universities, especially in developing regions such as Rivers State, Nigeria, face a growing need to improve safety measures due to increasing concerns about theft, violence, unauthorized access, and general insecurity (Adeoye & Ibrahim,

2023). Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems, which are programmed to perform tasks that typically require human cognition. These tasks include learning from experience, reasoning, problem-solving, understanding language, and recognizing patterns or objects. In essence, AI enables machines to analyze data, make decisions, and improve their performance over time without explicit programming for every situation. AI technologies include machine learning, natural language processing, robotics, computer vision, and expert systems, among others (Okechukwu & Musa, 2024).

In recent years, AI has become a key driver of innovation across various sectors, including education, healthcare, transportation, and security. According to Adeoye and Ibrahim (2023), AI's ability to process large volumes of data and deliver accurate, real-time insights has positioned it as a powerful tool for automation and decision-making. In educational institutions, for example, AI is being used for personalized learning, administrative efficiency, and enhancing campus security. Similarly, Okechukwu and Musa (2024) noted that the growing adoption of AI in developing countries like Nigeria reflects its potential to address local challenges, particularly in areas where human resources are limited or overstretched. As AI continues to evolve, it is expected to play an even greater role in transforming how individuals, institutions, and governments operate.

The integration of AI technologies offers a proactive approach to preventing and responding to security threats, creating a safer and more conducive learning environment for students, staff, and visitors (Nwachukwu & Bassey, 2023). AI-powered security systems use tools such as facial recognition, intelligent video surveillance, predictive analytics, and behavior monitoring to detect and respond to potential security breaches in real time. For example, facial recognition software can help identify unauthorized individuals on campus, while smart surveillance systems can alert authorities to unusual activities or behaviors (Oyediran, Salami, & Umeh, 2023). These technologies not only enhance the speed and accuracy of threat detection but also help in reducing human errors that may arise in manual monitoring. The ability of AI systems to learn from data and continuously improve their response mechanisms is particularly valuable in dynamic environments like university campuses.

AI-powered surveillance systems refer to advanced security technologies that leverage artificial intelligence to monitor, analyze, and respond to activities within a specific environment in this case, the campus of a public university. These systems use a combination of intelligent algorithms, machine learning, computer vision, and real-time data processing to identify potential threats, recognize faces, detect unusual behavior, and trigger automated alerts without the need for continuous human oversight. Replacing or supplementing traditional security methods benefits AI-powered surveillance to enhance the efficiency, accuracy, and responsiveness of campus security operations (Okeke & Tamuno, 2024).

In Public Universities, particularly those in Rivers State, where campuses are often large, open, and densely populated, managing security manually can be overwhelming and inefficient. AI-powered surveillance addresses these limitations by providing real-time video analytics, enabling authorities to detect intrusions, track movement patterns, and respond swiftly to suspicious activities. For example, intelligent cameras can differentiate between normal student movements and behaviors that suggest loitering, trespassing, or violence (Adebayo & Onu, 2023). Furthermore, facial recognition systems can help identify unauthorized individuals or those on a watchlist, while anomaly detection tools can flag emergencies such as fights, unattended objects, or fire outbreaks (Okeke & Tamuno, 2024).

These smart systems also contribute to long-term security planning by collecting and analyzing large volumes of data, which security personnel can use to identify patterns and improve preventive strategies. Through the integration of AI with existing security infrastructure, public universities responds to incidents more effectively and also predict and prevent them. As highlighted by Nwachukwu and Bassey (2023), the proactive nature of AI-powered surveillance is vital in curbing campus crime and enhancing students' confidence in their safety. Thus, the application of AI in surveillance marks a significant leap towards achieving smarter, safer, and more resilient university environments.

Predictive crime analytics refers to the use of artificial intelligence (AI), data mining, and machine learning algorithms to analyze historical crime data, detect patterns, and forecast potential criminal activities before they occur. In the context of public universities, particularly in Rivers State, this technology provides a data-driven approach to campus security by identifying high-risk zones, estimating the likelihood of crimes, and enabling proactive security interventions. Predictive analytics transforms campus security from a reactive system responding only after incidents occur to a proactive one that anticipates and prevents threats (Udo & Nwankwo, 2024).

Public Universities often experience a variety of security challenges, including theft, cultism, unauthorized access, and interpersonal violence. Traditional security methods are largely reactive and lack the ability to anticipate threats. Predictive crime analytics addresses this limitation by analyzing data such as time, location, past incidents, student behavior, and even social media activity to highlight potential security risks (Chikere & Adeoye, 2023). For instance, if certain areas on campus consistently experience theft during specific times, the system can forecast future incidents, allowing security personnel to increase patrols or install additional surveillance. As observed by Udo and Nwankwo (2024), predictive analytics can also help allocate resources more efficiently, ensuring that security measures are focused where and when they are most needed.

Furthermore, predictive crime analytics supports long-term planning and policy development in university security management. With accurate forecasting, administrators can make informed decisions about infrastructure improvements, lighting installations, or changes to student movement policies. It also promotes the integration of multiple data sources such as biometric data, access logs, and student ID card usage to build a holistic view of campus safety (Ibrahim & Worlu, 2024). This level of insight is critical in creating secure environments that protect students and staff while supporting uninterrupted academic activities. Ultimately, the adoption of predictive crime analytics in public universities is a crucial step toward smarter, safer, and more technologically advanced campuses.

Campus security systems in public universities refer to the integrated frameworks of personnel, technologies, infrastructure, and operational procedures put in place to safeguard the lives, property, and well-being of students, staff, and visitors within the university environment. These systems are designed to prevent, detect, and respond to various forms of threats such as theft, physical assault, cultism, vandalism, and other criminal or emergency situations that may compromise the safety of the academic community (Chidubem & Alabi, 2023). Key components of campus security systems typically include surveillance cameras, security personnel, access control systems, emergency alert mechanisms, and more recently, artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics tools that enhance proactive security measures.

In today's rapidly evolving security landscape, particularly in public universities with large and diverse populations, traditional security methods are no longer sufficient on their own.

According to Chidubem and Alabi (2023), the complexity of security threats on Nigerian campuses calls for smarter, technology-driven systems that can offer real-time monitoring and fast response capabilities. In addition, Oyediran and Ekong (2024) emphasized that effective campus security systems contribute significantly to creating a safe and conducive learning environment, which is essential for academic performance and institutional stability. Combining human vigilance with modern technology, helps to build campus security systems to ensure that universities remain safe spaces for education, research, and community development.

The adoption of AI in campus security is still at a developmental stage but holds significant promise. Institutions such as the University of Port Harcourt and Rivers State University are increasingly exploring the integration of digital technologies to bolster campus safety. Challenges such as inadequate funding, limited technical infrastructure, and low awareness about AI's potential may hinder progress, but government support and partnerships with tech firms can bridge these gaps. According to Nwosu and Eze (2024), stakeholders in the education sector are beginning to recognize the importance of AI in mitigating campus-related security threats and promoting a culture of safety. Moreover, the implementation of AI in campus security aligns with the broader goal of digital transformation in Nigeria's higher education system. It complements existing efforts by the Nigerian government and educational regulatory bodies to integrate ICT into university operations. Smart security systems contribute to both the physical and psychological well-being of students and staff, as a secure environment is fundamental to effective teaching and learning.

The use of AI also ensures better documentation and evidence gathering, which is useful in investigations and in making data-driven decisions on security policies (Okon & Udo, 2024). AI stands as a powerful tool for enhancing campus security in public universities within Rivers State. With the rising need to address complex security challenges, integrating intelligent systems can transform how universities detect, prevent, and respond to threats.

Statement of the Problem

The issue of campus insecurity in public universities in Rivers State has become a growing concern for students, staff, and university administrators. Incidents such as theft, unauthorized access, cult-related activities, harassment, and even violent attacks have disrupted academic activities and threatened the safety of the university community. Traditional security measures, such as manual surveillance, security guards, and physical checkpoints, have proven inadequate in effectively addressing these threats due to limitations in manpower, delayed response times, and lack of real-time monitoring. As a result, there is an urgent need for more innovative and responsive security solutions that can detect, prevent, and respond to potential threats efficiently. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a powerful tool in transforming security systems globally by offering features such as intelligent surveillance, facial recognition, predictive analytics, and automated alert systems. However, despite its proven effectiveness in other contexts, the adoption and utilization of AI technologies in enhancing campus security remain significantly underexplored in public universities in Rivers State. Several factors, including limited funding, inadequate technical infrastructure, lack of trained personnel, and insufficient awareness, have hindered the integration of AI into campus security frameworks. This creates a critical gap in addressing evolving security threats with modern and data-driven solutions.

Consequently, there is a need to investigate how AI can be effectively deployed to enhance campus security in public universities in Rivers State. Without a strategic approach to

integrating AI into university security systems, these institutions risk continuing to rely on outdated and inefficient methods that compromise the safety and well-being of students and staff. This study, therefore, seeks to investigate; What are the Artificial Intelligence tools that can Enhance Campus Security Systems in Public Universities in Rivers State? And to proffer solutions to the state problems.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to examine Artificial Intelligence in enhancing campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. Specifically, the objectives of the study are to:

- Investigate the extent AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State.
- Determine the extent Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

- To what extent does AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State?
- To what extent does Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State?

Hypotheses

The study was guided by the following null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance:

- There is no significant difference between the mean opinion scores of lecturers and students on the extent AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State.
- There is no significant difference between the mean opinion scores of lecturers and students on the extent Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The population stood at 12,543 which comprised of 3,762 lecturers and 8,780 students across public universities in Rivers State, which include University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State University and Ignatius Ajuru University. The sample size which stood at 745 respondents, was determined using Taro Yamen formula. Stratified sampling technique was use in selecting the respondents, comprising of 362 lecturers and 383 students in public universities in Rivers State. The instrument for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire titled: "Artificial Intelligence in Enhancing Campus Security Systems in Public Universities Questionnaire". The questionnaire consisted of two sections namely section

A and B. Section A of the questionnaire was used to generate demographic information while section B consisted of questionnaire items addressing the research questions of the study. This section of the questionnaire was structured using a five-point summated rating response scale of: Very High Extent (VHE) = 5 points, High Extent (HE) = 4 points, Undecided Extent (UE) = 3Points, Low Extent (LE) = 2 points, Very Low Extent (VLE) = 1 point. The instrument was subjected to face and content validity by two experts in the field of Measurement and Evaluation in Rivers State University. The reliability of the instrument was determined using Cronbach Alpha method. A cumulative reliability index of 0.83 was obtained. The mean and standard deviation statistics were used to answer the research questions while the hypotheses were tested using z-test statistics at 0.05 level of significance.

RESULT PRESENTATION

Research Question 1: To what extent does AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State?

Table 1: Mean Ratings of Respondents on the Extent AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State

		Lecturers N= 362		Students N=383				
S/N	Questionnaire Items	$\overline{\mathbf{X}}_{1}$	SD ₁	$\overline{\mathbf{X}}_2$	SD_2	Average mean	SD	RMK
1.	AI systems can instantly detect unusual activities such as loitering, trespassing, or aggressive behaviour, enabling security personnel to respond promptly and prevent incidents before they escalate.	3.65	0.89	3.69	0.87	3.67	0.88	HE
2.	Facial recognition technology helps identify authorized and unauthorized individuals, restricting access to sensitive areas like staff offices, laboratories, or dormitories, and preventing intrusions.	4.19	1.33	4.20	1.29	4.19	1.31	HE
3.	AI-powered cameras can read and track vehicle license plates entering or exiting campus premises, helping to monitor vehicle movement and prevent car theft or unauthorized access.	3.00	0.68	3.02	0.67	3.01	0.68	НЕ
4.	AI systems analyse behaviour patterns over time to detect anomalies, such as unattended bags, large crowd gatherings, or individuals acting suspiciously, and automatically alert security teams.	3.07	0.78	3.09	0.78	3.08	0.79	HE
5.	Unlike human guards, AI systems operate continuously without fatigue, ensuring round-the-clock surveillance of the entire campus, including remote or low-traffic areas.	3.00	0.75	3.03	0.74	3.02	0.75	НЕ
	Aggregate Mean/SD	3.38	0.89	3.41	0.87	3.39	0.88	HE

Table 1 in response to research question 1 which states, to what extent does AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State had the following opinion scores for both lecturers and students. Mean scores of the lecturers to questionnaire items 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 were 3.65, 4.19, 3.00, 3.07 and 3.00 with standard deviations of 0.89, 1.33, 0.68, 0.78 and 0.75 while the mean scores of the students were 3.69, 4.20, 3.02, 3.09 and 3.03 with standard deviation of 0.87, 1.29, 0.67, 0.78 and 0.74. Furthermore, the mean set representing the average mean scores for both lecturers and students were 3.67, 4.19, 3.01, 3.08 and 3.02; with standard deviation of 0.88, 1.31, 0.68, 0.79 and 0.75 respectively. The readings which were higher than the criterion mean of 3.00 indicated that AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State a high extent.

Research Question 2: To what extent does Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State?

Table 2: Mean Ratings of Respondents on the Extent Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State

			Lecturers N= 362		Students N=383			
S/N	Items	$\overline{\mathbf{X}}_{1}$	SD ₁	$\overline{\mathbf{X}}_{2}$	SD_2	Average	SD	RMK
						mean		
6.	Predictive crime analytics uses historical data to identify locations on campus that are more prone to security incidents, allowing authorities to increase surveillance or deploy more security personnel in those areas.	3.75	0.86	3.75	0.83	3.75	0.85	НЕ
7.	By analysing patterns and trends in past criminal activities, the system can forecast the likelihood of future crimes, enabling proactive measures to prevent them before they occur.	4.34	1.18	4.44	1.12	4.39	1.15	VHE
8.	Security resources such as patrol teams, CCTV placement, and lighting can be allocated based on data-driven insights, ensuring that efforts are focused where they are most needed.	3.72	1.65	3.78	1.48	3.75	1.32	HE
9.	Predictive models help prepare for potential threats by simulating various scenarios and guiding the development of effective emergency response strategies.	3.59	0.96	3.63	0.90	3.61	0.93	НЕ
10.	The system can assess patterns of student or visitor behaviour that may indicate potential threats, such as repeated entry into restricted areas, helping security personnel to intervene early.	3.72	0.87	3.82	0.82	3.77	0.85	НЕ
	Aggregate Mean/SD	3.83	1.10	3.88	1.03	3.85	1.02	VHE

Table 2 in response to research question 2 which states, to what extent does Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State had the following opinion scores for both lecturers and students. Mean scores of the lecturers to

questionnaire items 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 were 3.75, 4.34, 3.72, 3.59 and 3.72 with standard deviations of 0.86, 1.18, 1.65, 0.96 and 0.87 while the mean scores of the students were 3.75, 4.38, 3.71, 3.60 and 3.75 with standard deviation of 0.83, 1.12, 1.32, 0.90 and 0.82. Furthermore, the mean set representing the average mean scores for both lecturers and students were 3.75, 4.39, 3.75, 3.61 and 3.77; with standard deviation of 0.85, 1.15, 1.54, 0.93 and 0.85 respectively. The readings which were higher than the criterion mean of 3.00 indicated that Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State to a high extent.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between the mean opinion scores of lecturers and students on the extent AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State.

Table 3: Z-test Analysis on the Extent AI-Powered Surveillance Systems Enhance Campus Security Systems in Public Universities in Rivers State

Respondents	N	\overline{x}	Std	DF	z-cal	z-crit	LS	Decision
Lecturers	362	3.38	0.89	743	0.76	±1.96	0.05	Accepted
Students	383	3.41	0.87					

The result on Table 3 above shows Z-test Analysis on the extent AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. The result on the table showed that there is no significant difference between the mean opinion scores of lecturers and students on the extent AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. The result on the table further showed a z-calculated value of 0.76 which was less than the z-critical value of ± 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance and with a degree of freedom of 386, since the z-calculated (0.76) was less than the z-tabulated (± 1.96), the null hypothesis was accepted which states that there is no significant difference between the mean opinion scores of lecturers and students on the extent AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference between the mean opinion scores of lecturers and students on the extent Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State.

Table 4: Z-test Analysis on the Extent Predictive Crime Analytics Enhance Campus Security Systems in Public Universities in Rivers State

Respondents	N	\bar{x}	Std	DF	z-cal	z-crit	LS	Decision
Lecturers	362	3.83	1.10	743	0.63	±1.96	0.05	Accepted
Students	383	3.88	1.03					

Table 4 above shows Z-test Analysis on the extent Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. The result on the table showed that there

is no significant difference between the mean opinion scores of lecturers and students on the extent Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. The result on the table further showed a z-calculated value of 0.63 which was less than the z-critical value of ± 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance and with a degree of freedom of 743, since the z-calculated (0.63) was less than the z-tabulated (± 1.96), the null hypothesis was accepted which states that there is no significant difference between the mean opinion scores of lecturers and students on the extent Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings of the study are discussed as follows:

Table 1 in response to research question 1 which states, to what extent does AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. The result on the table 3 further showed a z-calculated value of 0.76 which was less than the z-critical value of ± 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance and with a degree of freedom of 743, since the z-calculated (0.76) was less than the z-tabulated (± 1.96), the null hypothesis was accepted which states that there is no significant difference between the mean opinion scores of lecturers and students on the extent AI-Powered Surveillance Systems enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. The findings are in line with Nwachukwu and Bassey (2023), wo opined that, the proactive nature of AI-powered surveillance is vital in curbing campus crime and enhancing students' confidence in their safety. Thus, the application of AI in surveillance marks a significant leap towards achieving smarter, safer, and more resilient university environments.

Table 2 above shows Z-test Analysis on the extent Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. The result shows the extent Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. The result on the table 4 further showed a z-calculated value of 0.63 which was less than the z-critical value of ± 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance and with a degree of freedom of 743, since the z-calculated (0.63) was less than the z-tabulated (± 1.96), the null hypothesis was accepted which states that there is no significant difference between the mean opinion scores of lecturers and students on the extent Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. This result was in line with that of Chikere and Adeoye (2023) who opined that, traditional security methods are largely reactive and lack the ability to anticipate threats. Predictive crime analytics addresses this limitation by analysing data such as time, location, past incidents, student behaviour, and even social media activity to highlight potential security risks.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concludes that; AI-Powered Surveillance Systems and Predictive Crime Analytics enhance campus security systems in Public Universities in Rivers State. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has proven to be a transformative solution in enhancing campus security systems, particularly in public universities within Rivers State. By integrating AI-powered technologies such as smart surveillance, facial recognition, and

predictive crime analytics, universities can transition from traditional, reactive security approaches to proactive, intelligent systems. These innovations enable real-time threat detection, improved monitoring, and data-driven decision-making, ultimately reducing the risk of crimes and ensuring a safer academic environment for students, staff, and visitors. With the unique challenges facing public universities in the region, such as, large campus populations, security breaches, and limited human resources, AI provides an efficient and scalable solution to address pressing safety concerns.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- Government and administrators of Public Universities in Rivers State should allocate
 dedicated funding for the acquisition and maintenance of AI-powered security systems,
 including smart surveillance cameras, facial recognition software, and predictive
 analytics tools. Government support and public-private partnerships can also be leveraged
 to bridge financial gaps.
- Administrators of Universities should organize regular training programs and workshops to equip security staff with the knowledge and skills needed to operate and manage Albased security technologies effectively. This will enhance their ability to interpret data, respond to alerts, and make informed security decisions.
- To ensure responsible use of AI in campus security, institutions should establish comprehensive policies that address data privacy, consent, and the ethical use of surveillance technologies. These guidelines will help protect the rights of students and staff while maintaining a secure environment.

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