

A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY OF LIBRARIANS AND LIBRARY USERS' VIEWS ON LIBRARIES' RESPONSE TO CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC IN NIGERIA

By

Blessings Amina Akporhonor (Ph.D)¹

Florence Nwanne Olise ²

Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State

Delta State Polytechnic, Ogwashi-uku, Delta State

Email: bakporhonor@gmail.com

Abstract

Purpose: *This study aims to cross-examine librarians' and library users' views on libraries' response to the coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria.*

Design/methodology/approach: *This study was a cross-sectional online descriptive survey. A sample size of 744, comprising of 359 librarians and 385 library users, was used. Data were collected using an online questionnaire, Data were imported into Excel, then SPSS version 20, and analyzed using cross-tabulations, descriptive statistics, and t-test.*

Key finding(s): *Libraries respond to the new (Covid-19) pandemic in Nigeria, although library users and librarians rated libraries' response and coverage very low. More library users (42.0%) rated libraries' response and coverage of the pandemic low than librarians (35.5%) did.*

Practical implication(s): *The study is beneficial to all stakeholders in all types of libraries, including library managers, librarians, policymakers, etc. It can be utilized as a standard to improve the direction of library response and activities as they unfurled all through the Coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria. It has paved the way for other libraries wishing to respond to the coronavirus pandemic and develop a library policy of pandemic preventions and preparedness.*

Contribution to Knowledge: *This study provides data on facts relevant to libraries' response and coverage of the Covid 19 pandemic in Nigeria.*

Paper type: *Research*

Keyword(s): *Coronavirus, Covid-19, Libraries, Librarians, Library Users, Nigeria, Pandemics*

Introduction and Background to the Study

Coronavirus, commonly known as Covid-19, is a respiratory and heart-related disease characterized by the high potency to kill (Khan & Roomi, 2020). However, the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) has given the mortality rate approximately 3.4 percent in Nigeria. Given its pervasive epidemic and easily contagious nature, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned everyone to be proactive in taking necessary measures geared towards its avoidance. The pandemic has had a devastating impact on unemployment, economic downturn, recession, crime, hunger, and lives (Hutt, 2020). This new coronavirus pandemic has led to global uncertainty (Knowledge@Wharton, 2020), economic crisis (Ozili, 2020), significant shifts in the stock markets (Jones, Brown, & Palumbo, April 3, 2020), panic buying, price gouging (Nicas, March 15, 2020), etc. Libraries are also greatly affected by the pandemic.

In order to limit the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic, governments throughout the globe have put their nations on complete or partial lockdown. Lockdowns, on the other hand, have had serious economic and social repercussions, forcing students, policymakers, and service providers, including librarians, to adapt and adopt technology as a viable and valuable option

to ensure the educational needs of stakeholders and to overcome various hurdles in this pandemic era (Pooja et al., 2020). It posed serious problems for libraries and librarians because funding and high technological infrastructure has always been a problem for libraries in Nigeria.

Again, with a wide array of both fake and meaningful information available to library users, a new challenge has emerged for libraries. Libraries are expected to step up to their role as agents of socialization by providing authentic information to library users to flatten the curve of the virus spread. There are over thirty states in Nigeria with index cases of the virus, with states like Lagos, Edo, and Osun state and the Capital city (Abuja) recording a relatively high number of cases of the Covid-19. Therefore, to reduce the pandemic's likelihood and consequences, libraries in Nigeria, as information agents and analysts, are expected to help library users differentiate between facts from myths during this pandemic.

Furthermore, libraries are expected to be highly responsive to the pandemic that has become a global challenge. There are citizens in Nigeria that are yet to believe in the new coronavirus's existence in Nigeria. Besides, library users need to be provided with meaningful information on the coronavirus pandemic to curb the virus's spread. Interestingly, libraries worldwide are stepping up to curb the new coronavirus, which has "killed over 550,000 persons" (Jones, Brown & Palumbo, April 3, 2020). However, are Nigerian libraries doing the same? What do their library users and librarians think of libraries' response to the new coronavirus pandemic? This study seeks to cross-examine librarians and library users' views on libraries' response to the coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria.

Problem Statement

As the new coronavirus pandemic grows, the question as to whether libraries are stepping up to their role in responding to the new coronavirus pandemic in the country is a nagging one. Libraries have a social responsibility (as an agent of socialization) to sensitize, at least, its community about the pandemic with the intent of creating positive attitudes and flattening the curve. Are libraries in Nigeria adequately responding to the new coronavirus pandemic to flatten the curve? Certain theoretical studies like those of Koscieljew (2020) have stressed the need for libraries to step up to the challenge of responding to their information role during this new coronavirus pandemic. Other studies (Barua and Li, 2020), only focused on researchers' experiences in using libraries during the pandemic. Few studies are yet to investigate if and how libraries respond to the coronavirus pandemic and the challenge encountered therein. The few studies (Schultz, n.d.) that focused on libraries' response to the coronavirus pandemic were not empirical studies and covered developed nations like the U.S. Thus, a lack of empirical data on how libraries are responding to the virus in Nigeria has been noticed. This is not surprising as the coronavirus is relatively new, as the virus is a recent disease that struck first in 2019 in China. It is therefore not surprising that there have not been significant empirical studies on library response and coverage of the pandemic in Nigeria. Therefore, this study would provide empirical data on facts relevant to libraries' response and coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study are to:

1. Find out how libraries in Nigeria respond to the coronavirus pandemic in the country.
2. Determine library's coverage of information on the Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria.
3. Find out the problems affecting libraries' response and coverage to the pandemic in Nigeria
4. Determine the difference between the perceptions of librarians and library users on how libraries in Nigeria respond to the coronavirus pandemic in the country

5. Ascertain the difference between the mean rating of librarians and library users on Nigerian libraries' coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic

Literature review

Libraries Response to Pandemics

The new coronavirus is a pandemic that has spread over 34 states in Nigeria with over 45,000 cases (Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, NCDC, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the entire system of nations, including the library systems. Nevertheless, libraries have individual and collective roles to play during and beyond the pandemic. For instance, libraries are agents of information and are charged with the unique responsibility of feeding library users with the right information on the COVID-19 pandemic and preventive measures needed therein. This is because misinformation during this pandemic would undermine public health messaging. More worrisome is that there have been many cases whereby library clients are exposed to misinformation on the coronavirus pandemic. Li, Bailey, Huynh, & Chan, (2020) reported that approximately 23% to 26% of YouTube videos contain misinformation on the coronavirus, mostly false cures, vaccines, and several conspiracy theories. Indeed, on social media, many unverified and fake news on Covid 19 is spreading. Examples are:

"Treatment:- Hydroxychloroquine - 200ml (Twice a Day - 5days) - Azithromycin. - 500mg (Once a Day - 5days) - Zinc Sulphate. - 220mg (Once a Day - 5days) -Goodbye !!! Thanks, Dr Zev Zelenk, Thanks USA. "

This sort of news can promote self-medication and drug abuse, leading to poisoning or even death. Therefore, Libraries have to challenge countering such misinformation as libraries are the main channel for disseminating authentic and reliable information to curb the proliferation of misinformation among library users. Quick response is needed by countering fake news with verified websites and sources to provide reliable information. Interestingly, in a survey, the Public library Association (2021) found that library staff is taking creative measures to adapt and respond to community needs during the new coronavirus pandemic.

Some of the steps public libraries in their survey used include providing non-COVID online resources such as activities to do at home, etc. The expansion of access to specialized services like canceling of defaulters fines, online assistance, and services to the disabled users, etcetera. It was also found that libraries were distributing materials such as free supplies, kits, bookmobile deliveries, and mailing items. Access to technology like laptops, printers, fax services, etcetera; for library users was, however, found to be minimal with just 13% response. This shows that libraries worldwide are taking up responding to the pandemic to keep library users informed about the pandemic.

However, libraries should prepare for pandemics through proper planning (McGuire, 2007). Given this, Schultz (n.d) suggested that libraries could liaise with their municipalities, host communities, or institutions to find out the libraries' services during a pandemic in the community, state, or nation. A viable library policy on pandemic prevention and preparedness must be in place. This policy can be developed with the help of lawyers, health professionals, and Library professionals. From the available literature, few or no libraries in Nigeria have a viable library policy on pandemic prevention and preparedness, despite pandemic preparedness policies are receiving increased attention all over the world (American Library Association, 2020; & Koscijew, 2020)

Library's coverage of information on Covid-19 pandemic

Libraries can also share news articles and updated information on the coronavirus pandemic, even amidst lockdown (Kargbo,2008). Coats, Sutton, Vorwerk, & Cooke (2009)

opined that library managers should provide "up-to-the-minute access" to information and improving staff knowledge and information retrieval skills. This would enhance librarians' skills in sharing up-to-date information with library clientele. Apparently, Libraries goes beyond books. Moreover, the strength of libraries is no longer measured by the number of library users that sit in the four walls of the library but rather in the impact they are able to make in terms of information disseminated, and the extent to which the library is able to satisfy library users' information needs both online and offline.

Libraries in their coverage of pandemics such as Covid 19 are to help refute myths from facts about pandemics. There are several myths on the new coronavirus, such as:

"Exposing one to the sun or temperature higher than 25c degrees can prevent the new coronavirus."

"5G mobile network spreads"

"Mosquitoes transmits Covid 19."

"Chloroquine cures Covid 19" etc

These myths can be debunked by librarians using any preferred channels. Libraries are to help clients stay informed correctly. Libraries may share some WHO has illustrated contributions on the virus to help refute myths associated with Covid-19. The African library and information association and institutions, ALIAI (2020), recommended using social media to clear misinformation. ALIAI wrote that using social media platforms and messaging apps are very useful for disseminating the right information to library users (Collins, Hoang, Nguyen, & Hwang, 2020). These can be pictorially repackaged in local languages to make it more attractive and impactful. Questions and answers section on the new coronavirus can be created on their websites to help debunk myths and answer library users' queries on the pandemic.

Given these, Buss (2020) laid down some tools and websites libraries should use to get updated and authentic information about the coronavirus. These tools included websites such as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sites, MedlinePlus, World Health Organization (WHO); News and Updates like those of New York Times, Science News; Books such as Crawford, Dorothy (2018) book on Viruses, Davidson, Tish. (2017) book on vaccines' History, Science, and Issues, Rhodes, John (2013) The End of Plagues: The Global Battle Against Infectious Disease book, etc. Although it may be too early to have books on, Buss (2020) believes some books may be invaluable to library clientele and libraries in their coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods

This study was a cross-sectional online survey. The target population of the study includes all certified librarians and all library users in Nigeria. The total number of certified librarians by the Librarian Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) is 5,437 librarians. (Source: Librarians Registration Council of Nigerian, LRCN, 2018). A total sample size of 744 (359 librarians and 385 library users) was selected. A sample size of 359 librarians was derived using Wimmer and Dominick's (2011) sample size calculator with a 95% confidence level and 5.0% margin of error.

On the other hand, since the total number of library users in the nation was unknown, the Cochran formula was used to determine students' sample size. The Cochran formula allows one to calculate an ideal sample size even when the population is unknown. Hence, a sample size of 385 (95% confidence level, $p= 0.5$) was derived. Then, data was collected from both librarians and Library users using a well-designed online questionnaire. For librarians, the mobile numbers and emails of 359 librarians were systematically selected from the LRCN's list of certified librarians in Nigeria, and the link to the online survey was sent to them. For students, chain referral was adopted. Thus, the online survey link was advertised on different

social networks inviting library users in higher institutions in Nigeria to fill the online questionnaire and extend the link to other users found in their network. In the end, a total response rate of 62.2% (463 questionnaires), being responses from both librarians and library users, was achieved. The researchers intended that the survey gather data as quickly as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, thus resorting to online questionnaires to ask librarians and library users to share their opinions on their library's response and coverage pandemic in Nigeria. The opinion of experts in librarianship, health, and research was taken into consideration and used for the face validity of the research instrument. Corrections were made, and some questions were changed. Cronbach's Alpha formula on SPSS version 20 was used to check the internal consistency, and a reliability coefficient of 0.69 was obtained. Data collected from the online survey were imported into Excel, then SPSS version 20, and analyzed using frequency counts, cross-tabulations, simple percentages, means, and t-test.

Results

Table 1: Socio-demographic variables of Respondents (n=463)

Variables		Category of respondents		Total
		Librarian (N=325)	Library user (n=138)	
Gender	Male	186	80	266
		40.2%	17.3%	57.5%
	Female	139	58	197
		30.0%	12.5%	42.5%
Age in Years	16-20	0	21	21
		0.0%	4.5%	4.5%
	21-29	9	8	17
		1.9%	1.7%	3.7%
	30-39	156	33	189
		33.7%	7.1%	40.8%
	40-49	120	59	179
		25.9%	12.7%	38.7%
	50 years and above	40	17	57
		8.6%	3.7%	12.3%
Types of library	National Library	25	23	48
		5.4%	5.0%	10.4%
	Public/State library	9	25	34
		1.9%	5.4%	7.3%
	Academic library	206	46	252
		44.5%	9.9%	54.4%
	School library	53	19	72
		11.4%	4.1%	15.6%
	Special library	32	25	57
		6.9%	5.4%	12.3%

A cross-tabulation of respondents' socio-demographic variables was done across their library status (Librarians and library users). Understanding the socio-demographic variables

such as gender, age, status, etc would help explain the different indexes that may have formed respondents' opinions and perceptions. Out of the 463 retrieved responses, 325 were librarians while 138 were library users. Perhaps, librarians were more willing to fill the online questionnaires than library users. From these categories, the majority of respondents were males (57.5%), within the age bracket of 30-39 years (40.8%), and were basically from academic libraries (54.4%)

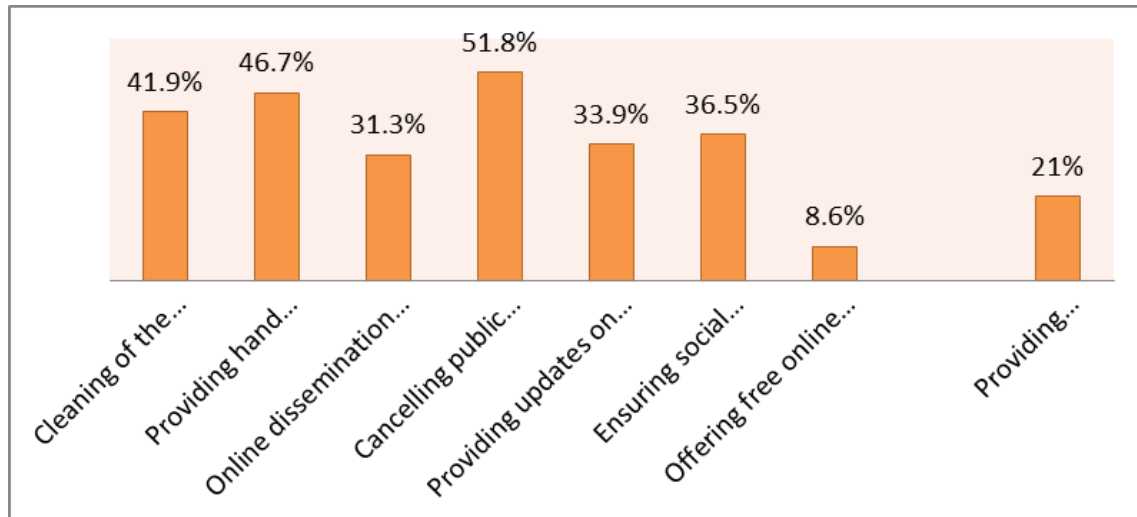


Figure 2: Ways Libraries in Nigeria Respond to the Pandemic In The Country (n=463)

Information was solicited from respondents as to if their respective libraries responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of respondents (258 respondents) believed that libraries respond to the (Covid -19) pandemic in Nigeria. Out of the 258 respondents who answered in affirmation that libraries respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, more library users (66.7%) believed that libraries respond to the new pandemic than librarians (51.1%). Meanwhile, figure 2 shows the ways libraries respond to coronavirus pandemic. The primary way libraries respond to the new coronavirus pandemic was to cancel public events earlier scheduled (51.5%). Out of the 463 respondents, 46.7% affirmed that their libraries provided hand-sanitizers for patrons, while 41.9% pointed out that their libraries always cleaned library surfaces. However, only about 8.6% of respondents attested that their libraries offered online courses for library users and provided hotspots or WiFi for library users (21%).

Table 2: Libraries coverage of information on the Covid-19 pandemic (n=463)

Variable	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean	Std. Deviation
Your library debunks misinformation on COVID-19 using authentic/verified sources	101(21.8%)	233(50.3%)	83(17.9%)	46(9.9%)	2.84	0.878
Your library covers information on the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases	101(21.8%)	188(40.6%)	87(18.8%)	87(18.8%)	0.03	0.010

your library help share news on lockdown during the pandemic	89(19.2 %)	198(42.8 %)	176(38.0 %)	0	2.81	0.734
Library staff usually share information with you on non-pharmaceutical measures (washing hands regularly, social distancing, etc.) to be adopted to curb the spread of the virus	89(19.2 %)	257(55.5 %)	69(14.9 %)	48(10.4 %)	2.84	0.855

Criterion mean=3.00

Although all of the items had mean scores below the 3.00 criterion mean, most of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that their libraries helped to debunk misinformation on COVID-19 using authentic/verified sources(72.1%). Libraries also covered information on the number of confirmed Covid 19 cases (62.4%), help share news on lockdown during the pandemic (62.0%); and usually share non-pharmaceutical measures (washing hands regularly, social distancing, etc.) to be adopted to curb the spread of the virus (74.7%).

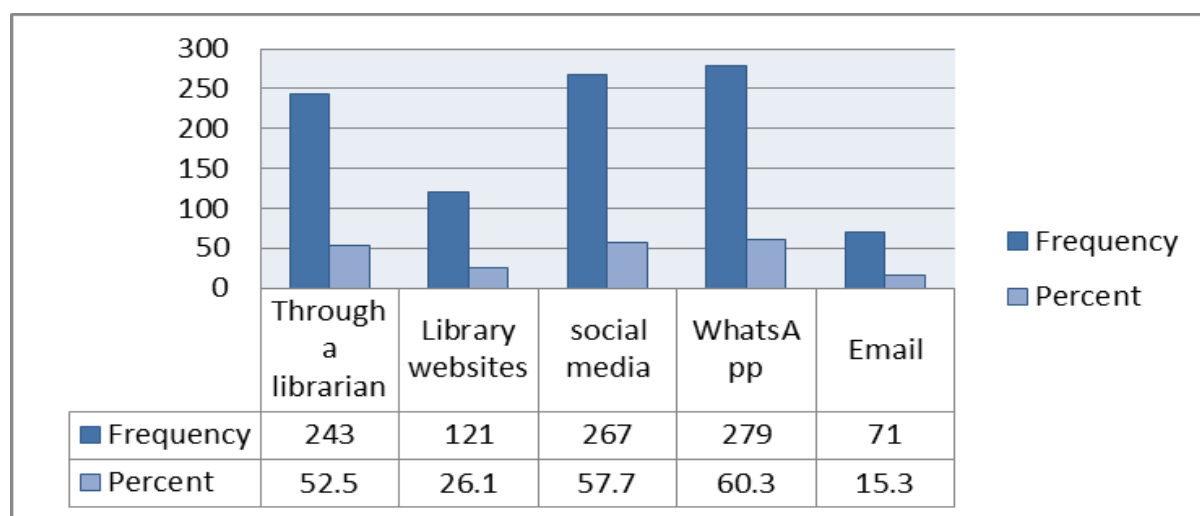


Figure 3: Platforms/Channels Librarians in Nigeria use to cover information on (n=463)

Figure 3 shows that 57.7% of the 463 respondents chose social media as the platform used to cover information on the new coronavirus pandemic. The least used platform was email (15.3%).

Table 3: Librarian & Library users ratings of Libraries Response to Covid-19 pandemic (n=463)

Variable		1	2	3	4	5
On a scale of 0-5, rate your library's response to the COVID-19 pandemic	<i>Librarian (n=325)</i>	59	55	68	92	51
		18.2%	16.9%	20.9%	28.3%	15.7 %
	<i>Library user</i>	49	23	22	23	21

	(n=138)	35.5%	16.7%	15.9%	16.7%	15.2%
On a scale of 0-5, rate your library's coverage of information on the coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria	<i>Librarian</i> (n=325)	67	68	63	89	38
		20.6%	20.9%	19.4%	27.4%	11.7%
	<i>Library user</i> (n=138)	58	23	24	14	19
		42.0%	16.7%	17.4%	10.1%	13.8%

With five being the highest on the scale, most respondents rated their library's response and coverage relatively low. More library users rated libraries' response and coverage of the pandemic low (35.5% and 42.0%, respectively) than librarians (18.2% and 20.6%, respectively). Library users are more dissatisfied libraries' coverage of information on the coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria.

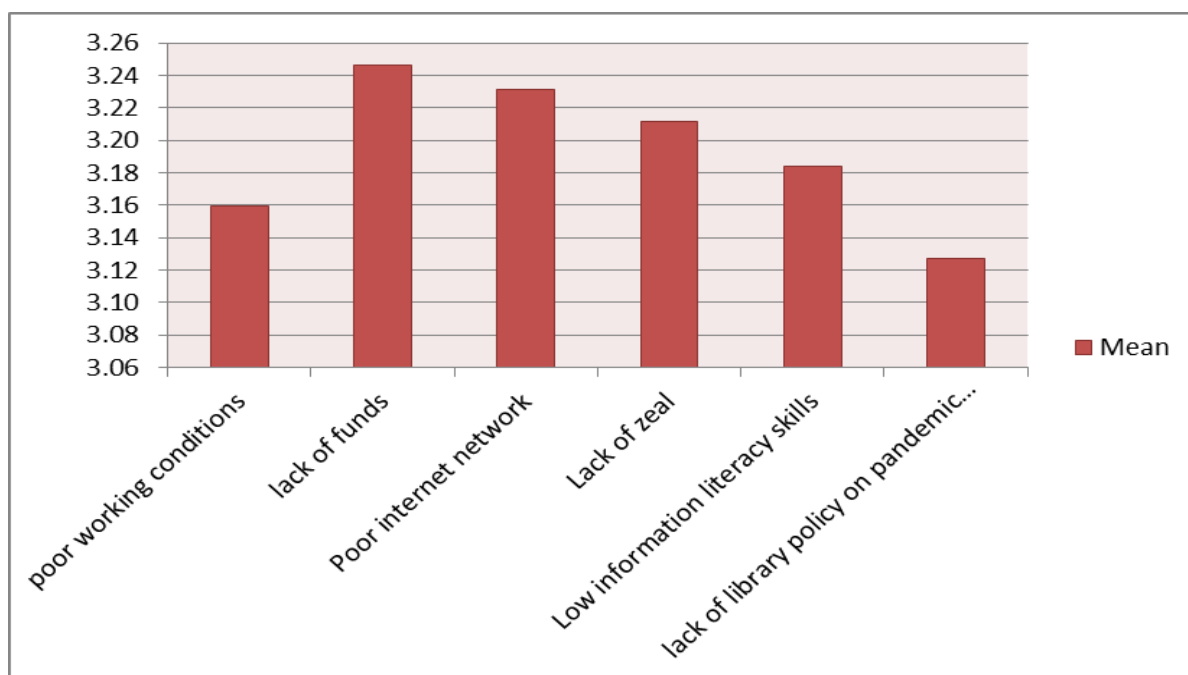


Figure 4: Problems affecting libraries response to and coverage of the pandemic in Nigeria (n=463)

The main problem is the lack of funds (=3.35, figure 4). Other problems given are poor working conditions (=3.16), Poor internet network (=3.23), lack of zeal (=3.21), Low information literacy skills (=3.18), lack of library policy on pandemic prevention and preparedness (=3.13).

Table 4: T-test for Significant difference between librarians and Library Users perceptions (n=463)

Variables	Category	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Remark
Cleaning of the	<i>Librari</i>	32	1.42	.495	.169	461	.866	NS

library regularly.	<i>an</i>	5						
	<i>Library user</i>	138	1.41	.494				
Providing hand sanitizers for patrons	<i>Librarian</i>	325	1.52	.500	3.793	461	.000	S
	<i>Library user</i>	138	1.33	.473				
Online dissemination of information	<i>Librarian</i>	325	1.23	.424	-5.841	461	.000	S
	<i>Library user</i>	138	1.50	.502				
Canceling public events earlier scheduled	<i>Librarian</i>	325	1.56	.497	2.769	461	.006	S
	<i>Library user</i>	138	1.42	.495				
Providing updates on COVID -19 to library users	<i>Librarian</i>	325	1.27	.445	-4.877	461	.000	S
	<i>Library user</i>	138	1.50	.502				
Ensuring social distancing is observed in the library.	<i>Librarian</i>	325	1.38	.486	.921	461	.357	NS
	<i>Library user</i>	138	1.33	.473				
Offering free online courses for library users	<i>Librarian</i>	325		.241	-2.942	461	.003	S
	<i>Library user</i>	138	1.14	.353				
Providing WiFi/hotspot for library users	<i>Librarian</i>	325		.420	1.476	461	.141	N.S.
	<i>Library user</i>	138		.374				

The result in table 4 revealed that the t- calculated for most of the items is significant. This value of t is significant at 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, it could be implied that there is a significant difference between the mean rating of librarians and library users on how libraries in Nigeria respond to the pandemic in the country. This means that the perceptions of library users differ from those of librarians in this regard.

Table 5: Significant difference of librarians & Library Users perceptions on library's coverage of information on the pandemic (n-463)

Variable		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error
On a scale of 0-5, rate your library's	Equal variance assumed	3.37	0.067	3.716	461	0.000	0.517	0.139

coverage of the coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria	Equal variance not assumed			3.583	238.65	0.000	0.517	0.144
---	----------------------------	--	--	-------	--------	-------	-------	-------

Since the p-value in the Levene's Test for Equality of Variances is greater than the 0.05 significance level chosen for this study, only the equal variances assumed test would be used. The results indicate a statistically significant difference between the mean scores for librarians and library users on library coverage of information on the covid-19 pandemic ($t=3.716, p=.000$). Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Discussions of findings

The researchers received more responses from librarians than library users. This could be that more librarians are more willing to fill online questionnaires than library users. There were more male respondents that is 57.5%, which would be that males dominate the library community. However, this was not empirically determined by the researcher. Regarding age, librarians and library users were relatively young and fell within the age group of 30-39 years.

Libraries were found to respond to the new (Covid-19) pandemic in Nigeria. This is somewhat consistent with Fasae, Ola, and Adegbilero-Iwari (2020) study. Their study revealed that libraries responded to the coronavirus pandemic by putting some safety measures in libraries in Nigeria including total closure of the library (59.3%), provision of hand sanitizer (55.6%) and the use of face mask and nose covers by library users (31.9%). Their finding further indicates social distancing measures were put in place to include communication via social media. However, in this present study, more library users than librarians believed that libraries were responding to the pandemic. Also, more library users than librarians were of the view that libraries frequently respond to the pandemic. Apparently, library users seem to feel the impact of libraries in their response to the pandemic.

More so, only 1.4% of library users said libraries never respond to the pandemic out of the 80 respondents who claimed so. Library users seem to have more beliefs than librarians that libraries in the country respond to the pandemic. This may be because library users are the direct recipients of libraries' services in their response to the pandemic. Ironically, more library users rated libraries' response to the pandemic low than librarians did. Perhaps, library users expect more from libraries in their response to the pandemic than they are doing.

This should be because libraries in Nigeria were only able to cancel earlier scheduled public events. Little was done about cleaning the library regularly, providing hand sanitizers for patrons, disseminating information online, providing updates on COVID 19, and ensuring social distancing in the library. This may have informed the ratings both librarians and library users had on library response to Nigeria's pandemic. Respondents rated libraries' response and information coverage of the pandemic very low (between 1-2).

With regards to the ways libraries covered information on the pandemic, it was found that libraries were not doing much. It was found that libraries did not debunk misinformation on COVID-19 using authentic/verified sources, covered information on the number of confirmed Covid 19 cases, and helped share news on lockdown during the pandemic, and shared non-pharmaceutical measures (washing hands regularly, social distancing, etc.) to be adopted to curb the spread of the virus. These items had mean scores below the criterion mean score of the study. From the minimal done to cover the pandemic, social media was found to be platforms/ channel libraries in Nigeria to cover information on the new pandemic. The least used platform was email. This finding is contrary to that of Featherstone, Boldt, Torabi, and Konrad (2012). They found that Email and in-person requests were the most popular methods

by which librarians disseminate information on H1N1 (a virus causing influenza A). Perhaps, time factors and geographical factors may have caused the variations in both studies. The minimal response and cover of the country's pandemic may be due to specific problems found such as lack of funds, poor working conditions, poor internet network, Lack of zeal, low information literacy skills, and Lack of library policy on pandemic prevention and preparedness. This finding confirmed the findings of Amusa, Iyoro & Olabisi (2013), Dolye (2019), and Solon (2020). They found that the work conditions of librarians in many nations, Nigeria inclusive, are disheartening. When librarians are not operating in conducive work conditions, there are likely to feel de-motivated to responding promptly and efficiently to the new coronavirus. This may have informed library workers in Hennepin County, Minnesota, to fight for safer working conditions amid the pandemic (Solon, 2020). The said libraries in the region claimed not to have adequate cleaning agents for surfaces to prevent the virus spread and thus resorted to closing the library to both users and staff.

Finally, findings have revealed that library users' perceptions differ from those of librarians on ratings of libraries' response to and coverage of the pandemic. More library users rated libraries' response and coverage of the pandemic low than librarians did. Hence, from a statistical test done, it was discovered that there is a statistically significant difference between the mean scores for librarians and library users on how libraries responded to the Covid-19 pandemic and their coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Conclusion

Libraries in Nigeria have not been able to meet up to both library users and librarians' expectations in their response and coverage of information on the pandemic. The perceptions of library users differ from those of librarians on how libraries respond to and cover information on the pandemic. Since libraries' response to and coverage of the pandemic was rated low, the library's social image is at stake, and public health messaging may be dampened. This notwithstanding, with the various problems found to affect libraries such as lack of funds, poor working conditions, low internet network, lack of library policy on pandemic prevention and preparedness, etc., libraries may not improve their response and coverage to the pandemic.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

1. Librarians must recognize that they are the powerhouse of information for change. They must take up the challenge of effectively responding to the pandemic by exploring available literature in all formats and repackage such for researchers and library users at large.
2. Libraries can provide an alternative source of funding using other options such as information brokerage and soliciting for funds through well-meaning individuals and organizations both within and outside the country. This would help ameliorate the problem of funding in libraries
3. Libraries must begin to work towards formulating a viable library policy of pandemic preventions and preparedness. This is because no library can respond to a pandemic effectively without proper planning. Besides, a library without this policy may not be able to work effectively in case of pandemics such as the new coronavirus.
4. Social media are the tool used by librarians in their response to and coverage of the pandemic. Librarians can also take advantage of other platforms like WhatsApp in their coverage of pandemics.
5. Libraries can collate interviews granted by victims of the virus, take pictures and videos of isolation centers and disseminate information to actual and potential library users all over the country. This would help libraries create well-informed citizens in the country.

References

- American Library Association (ALA)(2020). *Pandemic preparedness*. Retrieved from <https://ala.org/tools/atoz/pandemic-preparedness>
- Amusa, O.I., Iyoro, A.O., & Olabisi, A. (2013). Work environments and job performance of librarians in public universities in Southwest Nigeria. *International Journal of Library and Information Science*, 5(1), 457-461.
- Barua, Z. & Li, M. (2020). Effects of misinformation on COVID-19 individual responses and recommendations for resilience of the disastrous consequence of misinformation. *The progress I disaster science*, 8. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.101b/j.pdisa.2020.100119>
- Buss, S. (2020). Coronavirus What Public Libraries Need To Know About the. *Library Journal*. Retrieved from <https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=what-public-libraries-need-to-know-about-the-coronavirus>
- Coats T.J., Sutton S.S, Vorwerk C, &Cooke M.W. (2009). In an emergency—call the clinical librarian. *Emerging Medical Journal*, 26(5), 321–323. doi: 10.1136/emj.2008.065011
- Coats, T. J., Sutton, S., Vorwerk, C., & Cooke, M. W. (2009). In an emergency--call the clinical librarian! *Emergency Medicine Journal*, 26(5), 321–323. <https://doi.org/10.1136/emj.2008.065011>
- Collins, B., Hoang, D. T., Nguyen, N. T., & Hwang, D. (2020). Trends in combating fake news on social media – a survey. *Journal of Information and Telecommunication*, 5(1), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24751839.2020.1847379>
- Crawford, D. H. (2018). *Viruses : a very short introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Davidson, T. (2017). *Vaccines : history, science, and issues*. Santa Barbara, California: Greenwood, An Imprint Of Abc-Clio, Llc.
- Dolye, A. (2019). *Interview Question: "What Type of Work Environment Do You Prefer?"* Retrieved from <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/what-type-of-work-environment-do-you-prefer-2061291>
- Farhang, N.M., & Bordbar, G. (2013). Librarians and information technology skills assessment and factors affecting it in public libraries. *Information research and public libraries*,19(2), 169–188.
- Fasae,J., Ola. A.C. & Adegbilero-Iwari. (2020). Academic libraries' response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria. *Library Hi Tech*, DOI:10.1108/LHT-07-2020-0166
- Featherstone, R.M., Boldt, R.G., Torabi, N., & Konrad, S. (2012). Provision of pandemic disease information by health sciences librarians: a multisite comparative case series. *Journal of the Medical Library Association: JMLA*, 100 (2), 104- 113
- Hutt, R. (2020). The economic effects of COVID-19 around the world. *World Economic Forum*. Retrieved from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/02/coronavirus-economic-effects-global-economy-trade-travel/>
- Jones, Brown, & Palumbo, O. (April 3, 2020). Coronavirus: A visual guide to the economic impact. *BBC News*. Retrieved from <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.bbc.com/news/amp/business-51706225>
- Kargbo, J.A. (2008). Libraries in the Era of HIV/AIDS: facing the challenges in Sierra Leone. *Information Development*, 24 (1), 37-43.
- Khan, Y.D., & Roomi, M.S. (2020). Promising compounds for the treatment of covid-19. *VAWKUM Transactions on Computer Sciences*,17(1),1-8. Retrieved from <http://vfast.org/journals/index.php/VTCS@2020>

- Knowledge@Wharton (2020). *Global uncertainty: The economic fallout from coronavirus*. Retrieved from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/02/containing-the-coronavirus-what-s-the-risk-to-the-global-economy/>
- Knowledge@Wharton. (2020). Containing the coronavirus: What's the risk to the global economy? - knowledge@wharton. Retrieved November 19, 2021, from Knowledge@Wharton website: <https://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/will-coronavirus-impact-global-economy/>
- Kosciejew, M (2020). The coronavirus pandemic, libraries, and information: a thematic analysis of initial international responses to COVID-19. *Global Knowledge, memory, and communication*. Retrieved from http://doi.org/10.1108/GKMC_Of_2020_004
- Li, H. O.-Y., Bailey, A., Huynh, D., & Chan, J. (2020). YouTube as a source of information on COVID-19: a pandemic of misinformation? *BMJ Global Health*, 5(5), e002604. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2020-002604>
- McGuire, L. (2007). Planning for a pandemic influenza outbreak: roles for librarian liaisons in emergency delivery of educational programs. *Medical Reference Services Quarterly*, 26(4),1–13. doi:10.1300/J115v26n04_01
- Nicas, A. (March 15, 2020). Price Gouging Complaints Surge Amid Coronavirus Pandemic. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/14/technology/coronavirus-purell-wipes-amazon-sellers.html>
- Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, NCDC, (2020). *March 21, 2020- Ten New Cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Nigeria*. Retrieved from <https://ncdc.gov.ng/news/press>
- Ozili, P.K. (2020). *COVID-19 Pandemic and Economic Crisis: The Nigerian Experience and Structural Causes*. Retrieved from https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3567419&download=yes
- Parirokh M. &Ilkhani M. (2014)./Evaluation of infrastructure and of librarians skills of the Ferdowsi University of Mashhad to set up and Development of digital reference services. *Bulletin of information process and management*, 30(1):121–149.
- Pooja, P., Dubey, & Manju, N. (2020). Library Services Provided During COVID-19 Pandemic: Content Analysis of Websites of Premier Technological Institutions of India. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 4445. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=8403&context=libphilprac>
- Public library Association (2020). (2021, January 20). 2020: PLA's year in review. Retrieved November 19, 2021, from Public Library Association (PLA) website: <https://www.ala.org/pla/about/mission/2020highlights>
- References
- Rhodes, J. (2013). *The end of plagues : the global battle against infectious disease*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Schultz, S. (n.d). *Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness: Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness for Wisconsin Public Libraries*. Retrieved from <https://dpi.wi.gov/pld/boards-directors/disaster-planning>
- Soleymani, M.R., Akbari, Z. &Mojiri, (2016). The essential skills required by librarians to support medical virtual learning programs. *Medical Journal Islam Republic of Iran*, 30, 463. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5419224/#R14>
- Solon, O. (April 8, 2020). *Library workers fight for safer working conditions amid coronavirus pandemic* *NBC news*. Retrieved from <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/ncna1179346>

Wimmer, R., D, & Dominick', J. R. (2021). Sample size calculator - wimmer dominick mass media research. Retrieved November 19, 2021, from Rogerwimmer.com website: <http://rogerwimmer.com/samplesizecalculator.htm>