Ebiraland in many ways as follows:

* It has revealed that the crises in Ebiraland have threatened the peace and social cohesion she had enjoyed in the past years.

* It has established that there is a high level of youth unemployment and this has made them restive and ready tools in the hands of politicians who manipulated them for their inordinate ambitions.

* It also discovered that Ebiraland had lost her past glory and core-value system that the "value centre" can no longer hold.

* It has also established the fact that the Kogi State government is reluctant in implementing the recommendations of the panels and committees it set up to investigate the crises. Those indicted by the panels were never prosecuted or brought to book. This has encouraged incessant crises in Ebiraland.

* The study has also discovered that apart from the economy of the land that was ruined, many became internally displaced persons(IDPs) and had to take refuge in many neighbouring villages and states of Edo, Ondo, etc, while others went on self-exile for their safety as many who did not make such moves died.

* One of the findings is that poverty and squalor have become entrenched as many can no longer meet up with their family up-keeps and financial obligations. And the relief agencies like NEMA and SEMA never showed any concern for the victims' plight in Ebiraland.

* The crises have also created social problems as married couples are forced to separate and some have engaged in an ignoble social relations.

* It has revealed that both political and traditional leadership had soiled their hands in the crises leading to leadership question. This is a big challenge to Ebiraland and her people.

* The cultural festivals in Ebiraland have been labeled to foster crises, so their celebrations create apprehension to the people of Ebiraland and passers-by. The government needs to overhaul it for possible attraction to the tourists leading to revenue generation rather than crises.

* It has also been found that all the clans in Ebiraland maintained youth wings that have become a standing gang that can be used to challenge any slightest provocation from any quarter.

* The study found out that some elements of para military dimension and the use of sophisticated weapons now characterize Ebira crises even with the slightest provocation.

* Virtually all the house-holds in Ebiraland is suspected to have acquired light weapons for defensive purposes.

* The research has found that the creation of 'Ohi' stool meant to resolve clannish squabble produced mixed feelings and generated animosity among the traditional leadership in Ebiraland.

* The Ebira crises have lingered because her politicians and the political class have no political ideology that can help them to aggregate their potentials for optimum benefits to the land because

every politician is a leader. Ebiraland has no political springboard that can be relied upon for purposeful political direction.

* Finally as Chinua Achebe puts it, Nigeria can change if good leaders are chosen and given the enabling environment to function; Ebiraland can as well experience such change also.

* The issue of drug peddling and abuse has been discovered to be rampant in Ebiraland with its attendant negative effects on the youth populace; this requires adequate government attention in stepping up the fight against drug peddling and policies that will cortail the indiscriminate sales and distributions of orthodox drugs.

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INTERVIEWS

Academic Library services and Covid-19 Pandemic: The Way Forward

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ABSTRACT

This work examined Covid-19 pandemic with its attendance effects on academic library services. It also examined concise history of Covid-19 pandemic, and its present situation in Nigeria. The paper also conceptualized academic library in relation to academic library functions. X-rayed in the work were academic library services in Covid-19 pandemic which include among others; provision of online access, organization of virtual events, assistance in information delivery and referral services, use of social network. Challenges such as inadequate skilled manpower, poor internet services by service providers, apathy of library staff towards social medias among others. The paper recommended provision of adequate funding of academic library, training or workshops/seminars for library staff on use of ICT in library services, improvement on internet, provision of modern equipment and materials by library management for effective services among others. The work concluded that in spite of the dreaded monster (Covid-19), academic libraries in Nigeria are adjudged to providing needed services for academic community in Nigeria. Keywords: Academic Library, Academic Library Services, Covid-19 Pandemic

Introduction

Covid-19 is a virus identified on December 31, 2019 in Wuhan, Hubei city of China (World Health Organization,2020). The virus is highly contagious and has a mortality rate that is much higher than the one of seasonal flu, fever, a dry cough, shortness of breath, and extreme tiredness. It is a global pandemic spread within a short time. The virus affected several countries around the world including Nigeria. As a reaction to this spread of Covid-19, WHO (2020) recommended social distancing, lockdown and isolation or quarantine to fight the pandemic. Because of this sudden disaster, life has changed drastically overnight. All educational institutions are closed, due to this crucial situation; human activities are put on hold because of human safety and benefits. During this lockdown, educational institutes all over the world are adapting distance learning methods and shifting towards online courses. Nigeria being a developing country is also trying to adapt distance learning methods to move all the work and educational system to an online system.

This situation challenged the ways academic libraries used to function. The suspension of in-person services and loss of

access to physical collections at the institutions' libraries has left the students, faculty and library professionals with consideration of adopting the technology which is the only way out to resilience the challenging time. In fact library professionals have demonstrated their skills, empathy and flexibility during lockdown to respond to the rapidly evolving situation. And in such circumstances the website is an essential and dynamic platform to connect and serve the targeted users. But technology cannot do this alone. In this unique and urgent situation the role of library professionals is very crucial to make their users aware about the facilities and services provided by them. In developing countries specially Nigeria library professionals known as traditional gatekeepers of knowledge are mostly not familiar with the latest Information and Communication Technology (ICT), they need to rebuild their profession, however by adopting ICT skills.

Tertiary institutions in Nigeria have to meet global academic standards and promote universal academic values, update their services, skills, resources through the latest network so users can access the library resources from their offices, hostel or home of residence whether the library is physically opened or not.Therefore, it is on this note, the paper examines academic library services and challenges of Covid-19 pandemic, and also engages in cursory look at conceptual clarifications.

Brief History of Covid-19 Pandemic

Coronavirus known as "COVID-19" appeared in the city of Wuhan, China, and has spread rapidly to more than 70 countries across the world. However, the viruses found no evidence that was made in a laboratory or otherwise engineered. Several authors have discussed the origin of the virus. For example, Anderson et al (2020) confirmed that, it was originated through natural process. According to World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) corona virus disease is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus which affect people in different ways. The common symptoms include fever, dry cough, tiredness, shortness of breath, pains and aches, sore throat, and very few people will report diarrhoea, nausea or a runny nose. The virus spreads rapidly across the world. The WHO report on 2nd April 2020, shows that there are 827,419 confirmed cases of coronavirus in 206 countries. The rapid spread of this virus has called the attention of the world to quickly take all the necessary measure fight and control the spread of the virus. Presently, the global community is ravaged by the pandemic while the end to the COVID-19 pandemic remains unknown due to variations of its spread among the countries.

The Present situation of Covid-19 in Nigeria

The first case of COVID-19 was reported to have been confirmed in Africa on 14th February 2020, and subsequently to the sub Saharan Africa. Consequently, Nigeria has also recorded a first case of COVID-19 virus on 27th February 2020 where an Italian citizen who entered Nigeria from Milan on a business trip, was tested positive in Lagos, Nigeria (Wikipedia, 2020). Similarly, on 9th March 2020 a second case of the virus was

reported in Ogun State all in South West of Nigeria. However, the Nigeria Centre for Disease and Control (NCDC)on 1stApril 2020 reported 12 new cases in the country, which account for 210 confirm cases, 25 discharge, and 3 deaths (see table 1). Following the announcement by WHO that Nigeria is among other 13 African countries identified as high-risk for the spread of the virus. The Federal government of Nigeria has set up a Coronavirus Preparedness Group (CPG) to mitigate the impact of the virus on 31st January 2020. The Federal Government of Nigeria on 28th January 2020 assured its citizen on the readiness and strength to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the country. Likewise, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) set up a group for coronavirus which was ready to activate the incident if any case emerged in Nigeria.

The outbreak of Covid-19 has resulted to Public services been paralyzed, academic activities and classes now restricted to online due to closure of our tertiary institutions.The United Nations Education and Scientific Council (UNESCO) press released on COVID-19 dated 24th March 2020 provided perturbing revelations of "the number of students whom academic activities have been affected by academic institutions closures in 138 countries has nearly quadrupled to 1.37 billion, representing more than 3 out of 4 children and youth worldwide. In term of teaching personnel, nearly 60.2 million teachers are no longer in the classrooms (UNESCO, 2020). In Nigeria, for instance the management of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria on Tuesday 24th March 2020

disseminated through its special bulletin a "stay-at-home" directive in compliance with the Federal government's commitment to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the country (Ahmadu Bello University Special Bulletin, 2020). The consequence of such directive to contain COVID-19 have been enumerated by Jacob et'al(2020) to disrupt academic activities on higher institutions thereby also reducing international education, disruption of academic calendar, cancellation of local and international conferences, responsible for teaching and learning gaps, loss of workforce in the educational institutions, and cut in budget of higher education.These challenges have significantly affected academic library's roles of facilitation and support to the institutions to attain their academic objectiveness.

The online services have become order of the day, first, to ensure that public services which have been paralyzed by the pandemic, the closure of academic and classes due to different regimes of lockdowns and restrictions, and second to guarantee that access to information resources and services is provided to their respective community. Therefore, as libraries around the world are being affected by the emergence and spread of the corona virus, the situation has caused libraries around the globe, particularly academic libraries to mobilize and provide a collection of valuable and reliable information in order to give people trusted and reliable information for decision making. Ladan, Haruna and Madu (2020) gave instances of different types of libraries initiation which designated e-resources for specific group of students to help the student

community in the difficult situation rising out of the suspension of physical classes and closure of physical libraries arising out of COVID-19 lockdown.

Academic Library

Academic libraries are libraries found in tertiary institutions, such as Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education other allied institutions. They provide information resources and services to serve the parent institution. Aji, Yisadoko and Saidu (2020) supported this view citing Akinlubi who defined Academic libraries as libraries found in institutions of higher learning, such as Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education, School of Nursing and other allied institutions. They are considered to be the nerve centre of the institutions that own them. This is because all activities within the institution revolve round it.

Functions of Academic Libraries

The basic functions of academic libraries are:

*   Provision of research information resources in consonance with the needs of faculty and research students;
*   Provision of information materials required for the academic programmes;
*   Provision of information resources for recreation and personal self development of users;
*   Provision of study accommodation in a useful variety of locations
*   Provision of protection and security for these materials;
*   Cooperation with other libraries at appropriate segment of the wider community.

Academic Library Services Provided in Covid-19 Pandemic

Provision of Information on Covid-19

Academic libraries provide access to trustworthy COVID-19 information via different media, provision of digital contents to patrons, connecting patrons/citizens for accurate and reliable data on COVID-19 cases around the world, organizing online streaming programs, collecting relevant open-access databases for use by both COVID-19 researchers and the entire populace, provision of social resources for the disadvantaged, organizing online reading session as well as loaning of E-books. This finding is in tandem with Featherstone, Lyon, and Ruffin (2008) that libraries render a range of services which include collection management and information dissemination during the period of crisis. Malizia et al. (2012) in the same vein opines that libraries serve important collaborative roles with community emergency responds in a bid to help put an end to a health disaster. Many libraries have prepared an information page which displays health advice, updates on the Government's and World Health Organisation's guidelines, and ideas on how to deal with fake news at the time of the pandemic. Academic library also provide access to databases, websites, e-books, e-journal and repositories to health workers, scientists and health agencies on how to tackle coronavirus. Academic libraries also provide current awareness services and trustworthy resources for understanding

and responding to the pandemic. This have resulted to the development of blog to support learning from home. The information guide should include information on what coronavirus is all about, how the virus spread, steps to self and family protection and steps to protect others in the community.

Provision of Online Access

Academic libraries also provide online services to assist students with access to materials for assignments, selection and dissemination of information resources on COVID-19 to researchers, virtual research help, virtual instruction, online reference services, access to e-books and e-journal, linking users to health institutions and organization on information relating to Coronavirus, publish a pamphlet and handbills for safety measures against Coronavirus (Dadhe and Dubey, 2020). Recently, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and internet companies such as Google, Microsoft have provided free teaching and learning tools to support students and academic staff learning at home. For example, Google lunched its "Teach from Home Hub" in aid to teachers and learners across the world unable to attend schools (https://memeburn.com /2020/03/google-teach-from-home-covid-19/). Libraries in Nigeria can facilitate access to those tools.

In the education sector, online learning has emerged as an elixir to address the restrictions imposed in the wake of coronavirus pandemic and considered as a feasible option to overcome the challenges. Consequently libraries have been exploring the collection of potential e-resources and providing remote access to those which may be of interest to the fraternity in support of academic and research activities. While many libraries have significant digital services, some even have introduced multi-mode access to resources in order to deal with the demand. Some of the significant services and facilities provided by academic libraries are discussed here.

Remote Access to E-resources:

The main aim of any academic library is to enhance and strengthen the teaching, learning and research process by installing seamless document/information delivery system. In many countries, libraries of higher education have been working hard to provide services and access to collections to the users who have been displaced due to COVID-19. Beyond this, there are many free scholarlyresources available, notably National Digital Library of India (NDLI), Shodhganga, a repository of Electronic Thesis and Dissertation, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), AMS Free Online Books, Book Boon, Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) and many more (Dadhe & Dubey, 2020).

Organisation of Virtual Events

Many academic libraries have taken effort in arranging webinars relating to topics starting from information literacy to research ethics to educate their users on the use of digital information in their learning and research activities While many have hold a series of webinars to strengthen the research capabilities of the patrons on topics like Turnitin user awareness, getting aliened to the publishing process, empowering research on COVID - 19

Assistance in Information delivery and referral services

In order to easing the stress level of users to get the required information, academic libraries are doing great work to inform their members and support them in this difficult time. Academic Library welcomes the patrons with flashing message like "We are always here for you", "we are open both physically as well as virtually". All these tag lines provides a great motivational impetus in easing out the COVID-19 related concerns in the mind of the library patrons in a big way. The virtual nature of services provided by the academic libraries is in line with continuous technological development which gave boost to all services in this time of COVID -19 health emergency. It was found that efficiency of academic libraries in providing virtual reference services in a new and improved manner got enhanced during this COVID -19 obligations on providing virtual services. Various attempts were made to facilitate Inter library loan services on a virtual basis from requisition to supply. Many academic libraries have also embraced the use of social media platforms in information and reference services delivery. From a survey on the use of social media in over 1200 libraries across Europe, Allen (2010) observed that social media platforms like Facebook, blogging, widgets and microblogging were used by academic libraries in maximizing library exposure, modernizing library image, and promoting specific content offers. Social media platforms are also helpful in online reference and information services, as well as library orientation and information

literacy programs. Cook (2015) reported that the American Public University used social media to connect online students with library resources. This trend is common among libraries in developed nations. The use of social media networks for library services is still at infant stage in most developing countries, including Nigeria (Adewoyin et al., 2017).

Use of social networks

Social media networks are growing rapidly as channels of communication and interaction among individuals. The major advantages of social media networks are their abilities to establish and build relationships and build social interaction; thus helping libraries to connect with the information needs of users. For online users, social networks help academic libraries to create awareness and promote new information material and services in this period of Covid-19 pandemic. Social networks also promote the exchange of queries and answers among librarians and library users; thus librarians are able to provide answers to the queries to online users. Some of the social networks used by libraries include Facebook, YouTube, Blogging, Whatsapp, telegram, twitter among others. Online orientation and user training programs can be promoted through these social media platforms. Academic libraries in Nigeria could also leverage on these networks to promote information resources and services to online users. Details of these networks should be available on the libraries' websites for easy identification and access. Abubakar, Haruna and Madu(2020) asserts that academic

libraries in Nigeria can provide and share information quickly, efficiently and in real time as strategies in response to Covid-19 pandemic through their social networking page like facebook, twitter, instagram and linkedin.

Challenges of Academic Library Services in Covid-19 Pandemic

1. Inadequate skilled manpower in ICT:The Internet and web technologies have created a new and unparallel environment and enabling the libraries to enhance and strengthen the research, teaching and learning even in this difficult and uncertain time. The drawback is due to the fact that the library employees are not skilled with technologies to be able to remotely carry out their duty effectively and efficiently. It severed challenges in some cases because working remotely was never envisaged and no provisions were readily available because of the locked down that regrettably made academic library not effective with services delivery. Nkamnebe et al, (2015) supported this view when he asserts that a number of librarians in Nigeria are low on ICT skills needed to provide efficient library services in support of teaching. Unless Academic librarians take up the challenge of acquiring new skill sets necessary to operate in an environment of constant change, their future relevance may be in doubt.

2. Poor Internet Network:In the process of learning to do their work at home, some library staff has experienced frustration due to various problems such as inconsistent internet services providers', timelines variations and in most cases these library staff pays for data/bandwidth from their own pockets.

3. Apathy of Library staff towards social Media: The limitation of working from home increase by experiencing difficulty caused by factors such as library colleagues not being able to collaborate, support each other on the social network subscribed by the library. Many staff became hesitant, irritated and negative in emotion feelings. These negative emotions that prevailed include staff isolation, anxiety, uncertainty and stress (Kasa and Abdilsalam, 2020).

4. Un-conducive environment at homes:Some complain of not having a private working space at home. The library retooling effort was also affected in terms of sustaining the confidence and ability of library staff to explore and use the right tools to provide virtual services efficiently, confidently and comfortably during the pandemic period.

Conclusion

The world wide pandemic (Covid-19) has impacted both positively and negatively on academic library services, users and effectiveness of academic library personnel that provide these services in many ways. The transformations are visible and pronounced on operating traditional models, practices and corresponding interfaces. The challenges of using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and social media platforms affected academic library staff and patrons. Some of the challenges have opened the door for academic libraries to learn, become more equipped and fast tract the use of technologies. On the other hand, it suggests innovation, creativity and

collaboration to ease past the unforeseen barriers such as the one created by COVID-19 pandemic. Even though, the COVID-19 crisis has brought the use of social media platform for academic libraries and librarians in a manner that were not seen in the past, this demonstrated that the potential of academic library to provide an all including and free e-content using the online platform is encouraging. The global crisis caused by Covid-19 pandemic cannot and should not downplay the essential role of academic libraries before, during, and after with appropriate and responsive measures put in place.

Recommendation:-

The following recommendations are offered:

1. The provision of adequate funds is essential for the development of the academic library system in this new environment. There should be proper allocation of funds for libraries by authoritative bodies concern.

2. Government, NGOs and other major stakeholders in academic library development and management should provide modern equipment and materials so that academic library can play better role in this new pandemic situation.

3. Encourage awareness of new emerging technologies and changing concepts in the field of library and information science.

4. Training and re-training of staff on new advance technologies to enhance their activities.

5. Personnel Evaluation: There should also be an evaluating system. This will act as check and balance on the performance of library staff after training.

6. Provision of needed ICT resources which the staff are required to work with and make use of their newly acquired knowledge and skills.

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