



WORLD LIBRARIES

Volume 26

No. 1

2022

worldlibraries.dom.edu/index.php/worldlib |

Academic Libraries Preparedness for Reopening as the COVID-19 Pandemic Curve Flattens

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ABSTRACT

This study adopted the descriptive research design of the case study type to investigate Academic libraries preparedness for reopening amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria

from the 27 academic librarians working in the 5(five) academic libraries in Ede metropolis Osun state, Nigeria. The total population sampling, which resonates with case studies research, was used to elicit the responses. Out of the 27 copies of questionnaires distributed, 20 were retrieved and found usable for analysis, giving a 75 percent response rate. Data collected was analyzed using simple percentages and item analysis on SPSS statistical package Findings showed that there is still palpable anxiety among academic librarians in Nigeria about their safety and that of their library environment. The study concludes by admonishing Nigerian academic librarians to come to terms with the new normal and move their services online, minimizing human contact with the physical library. Strict implementation of NCDC/WHO COVID-19 protocol in academic libraries was recommended.

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the deadliest ones in the history of humanity, the novel coronavirus; COVID-19 is a new strain of virus from the family of coronavirus. According to the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (2020), Nigerians between the ages of 31 and 40 are more susceptible to contacting the COVID-19 coronavirus. Infected persons experienced mild to moderate respiratory illness, while the elderly and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disease are more likely to develop severe illness. The NCDC data showed more deaths among Nigerians between the ages of 61 and 70 years.

The highly infectious COVID-19 coronavirus is transmitted in three ways: 1 droplet transmission (occur when respiratory droplet produced when an infected person coughs or sneeze and are inhaled by a person nearby) 2 Contact transmission (occurs when an infected person touches a contaminated surface and then touch their eyes nose or mouth) 3 Aerosol transmission occur when a respiratory droplet containing the virus mix into the air and people are infected when

they inhaled. COVID-19 is stable for 24 hrs on cardboard, two to three days on plastic and stainless steel, and up to three hours in Aerosol, including fog, mist dust, an air pollutant, and smoke. Therefore, it is possible to get infected by touching contaminated surfaces/objects or through the air. The estimate for the COVID-19 incubation period varies from two (2) to fourteen (14) days. However, it is generally assumed to be five (5) days (Neutral Academy, 2020). Hence, good respiratory etiquette like coughing into a flexed elbow or tissue, avoiding shaking hands, using a face mask, maintaining physical/social distancing in public places (keep at least (six) 6 feet or two (2) arm's length from others), avoid touching your nose, mouth, and eyes with your hand, use of alcohol hand sanitizers and washing your hands frequently. As of March 12th, 2021, Researchers across the globe are working to develop a vaccine. Currently, there are [93 candidate vaccines](#), [25 candidate vaccines](#) in stage 3 clinical trials and 12 vaccines have been authorized across several countries. Confirmed total COVID-19 cases in Nigeria stand at 159,933 and 2001 deaths. (Medical News Today, 2021 and NCDC, 2020).

The COVID19 pandemic has translated into an economic crisis plunging many economies into a severe contraction; the topmost economies of the world like Japan, the United States, England, etc., that looked invisible before the pandemic are even worst hit, bringing the global economy to its knees. Irfan (2020) opined that Covid-19 is harming the global economy because the world has been experiencing the most challenging economic situation since World War II. The pandemic has disturbed the global world system's political, social, economic, educational, religious, and financial structures. In Nigeria, the National Bureau of Statistics reported that Nigeria's GDP fell by -6.10% in June 2020 (Channel television, 2020).

Virtually every human endeavor has been negatively affected by this pandemic, and Libraries are not exceptional. The lock-down syndrome has made many academic libraries result in virtual and online library services to reach out to their real and potential clients. In Nigeria, a library attached to higher institutions of learning such as a university, polytechnic and

monotechnic are referred to as academic libraries. Academic libraries have become a vital instrument in national development via the dissemination of organized information through various means. More importantly, academic librarians must do all they can to prepare their library environment, human, physical, information resources and services to provide cutting-edge library services that meet their user community needs amid the pandemic.

Channel Television (2020) reported that countries like Israel which were initially eulogized for their ability to curtail the spread of the COVID19 pandemic in their countries are now experiencing a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic forcing it to impose a severe lockdown in March this year. They stressed that Israel is now second to Bahrain when it comes to the highest COVID-19 infection rate per capita in the world. Hence, the Israeli government has decided to re-impose strict lockdown for another three weeks, with the possible extension option. Back home in Nigeria though the COVID-19 pandemic curve started flattering at the beginning of the third quarter of 2020, leading to the gradual opening of schools earlier on Monday, 23rd March 2020, by the Ministry of Education. In the twilight of 2020, the reality of the second spring in Nigeria is now obvious as new cases have been reported daily in their hundreds across the country by the NCDC. Governmental authorities are currently putting in place new protocols across the country, resulting in the re-shutting of academic institutions across states.

Currently, the Nigerian media is watched with reports of failed COVID-19 vaccines, skyrocketed cases, mutations, new strains of the virus resonating with the earlier position of Ghebreyesus (2020), the Director-General of the emergency committee on COVID19 of the world Health Organization the COVID19 who had earlier pointed out that pandemic is expected to have a longer duration. He stressed that the pandemic is a once in a century health crisis, the effect of which will be felt for a decade to come; hence it behoves librarians to prepare their libraries for this challenge, not just for reopening amid the pandemic but for a decade and more years

ahead as the world awaits a stable and trusted COVID19 vaccine. Adeleke (2020), citing John Hopkins Center (2020), pointed out that libraries are not “low-risk” for re-opening. He emphasized that normal may no longer be ‘normal’ for library practice and services in Nigeria as libraries reopen amid the pandemic as COVID-19 protocols will guide library services for many months ahead. Hence there is a need for adequate preparation by academic librarians before reopening their libraries amid the pandemic. It is against this backdrop that this research work studied academic libraries preparedness for reopening as the COVID-19 pandemic curve flattens.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The study's primary objectives pertain to an assessment of academic libraries preparedness for reopening as the COVID-19 pandemic curve flattens in Nigeria, benchmarked against the IFLA framework. The specific objectives are to determine:

1. the restriction approach academic libraries adopt to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic
2. preparations made for staff safety as the library reopen amid the COVID-19 Pandemic
3. preparations for user’s safety as the library reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic
4. the challenges faced by libraries as the library prepare to reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What restriction approach did your library adopt to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. What are the preparations made for staff safety as the library reopens amid the COVID-19 Pandemic?
3. What are the preparations made for users' safety as the library reopen amid the COVID-19 Pandemic?

4. What are the challenges faced by your Library as the Library prepared to reopen amid the COVID-19 Pandemic?

LITERATURE REVIEW

IFLA (2020) stated that Libraries worldwide are facing hard choices around which services to offer and different situations, from broadly maintaining a full service to complete closure, ranging from business as usual, some restrictions, and minimal restrictions to full closure. In agreement, ALA (2020) opined that libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic restricted access to their buildings, implemented safety protocols for staff and users, and concluded that libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic provided online library services like phone services to their patrons. Hinchliffe (2020) asserted that librarians are in a useful and advantageous position to act in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic because libraries have been building their information communication technologies infrastructure for the decades; they have been running a hybrid library; a combination of digital and traditional physical library services and concludes he is impressed that despite the full closure of the most physical libraries, librarians are still able to provide a far above the ground level library services to users; moving their services online for their users as teaching activities also moved online during the COVID-19 pandemic. Equipping users with information literacy is a key approach that libraries could respond to the pandemic. Every day library (2020) averred that Information Literacy is a non-pharmaceutical intervention approach to dealing with the pandemic, and librarians can bring an information awareness approach to mitigate the situation. Moreover, Laden, Haruna, and Madu (2020) emphasized that the role of academic libraries amid the COVID-19 Pandemic includes providing access to web-based services and sources like electronic books and journals for their user community.

OCLC (2020) view that staff in libraries of all types are helping to inform their patrons about the pandemic and listed what the library can do to include new library policies that address health

crises, sanitizing collection, post hand-washing reminders in the library, connect the community to accurate and reliable information, sharing resources and information via their websites. The most common resources are links to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and local/state health department. IFLA (2020) reported that some libraries made it compulsory that those information resources on loan be quarantined on return. It stressed that the risk posed by the cardboard is negligible after 24 hours and plastic after 72 hours. Other treatments recommended include heat (though there is the risk to books); hence, quarantine is safer. As for computers and accessories focus should be on disinfecting them. Other suggestions include the use of gloves when handling newly returned materials for proper disposal. Some libraries are using isolation and static sterilization of works, centralized book return centers, and disinfection centers using ultraviolet and ozone disinfection equipment. (IFLA, 2020).

United Nations Scientific Educational and Cultural Organization (2020) opined that academic institutions and their students would be confronted with extraordinary problems in the wake of the severe stage of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it stressed that regardless of the improbability of the COVID-19 pandemic coming to an end, academic institutions will have to reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic. NJ state library (2020) admitted that libraries are open to difficult decisions they must take before reopening, and called for a written plan for a staged reopening. At the same time, the Association of College and Research Library (2020) asserted that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the paucity of funds in libraries and stressed that many libraries now have multifaceted financial problems occasion by budget reductions and downsizing of staff are being envisaged. Most of the literature available on library management of the COVID-19 pandemic primarily reports development in America, Europe, and Asia.

On the measures if workplaces should consider before reopening amid the pandemic, NCDC (2020) published links to COVID19 resources to include an interim guideline for the

infection prevention and control guideline for COVID-19, NCDC AMR surveillance self-assessment checklist for safe management of dead bodies of infected persons, self-isolation, etc. In supporting the reopening of libraries in Africa, AFLIA (2020) Enumerated various COVID-19 information resources available and useful to the library and information science professional to include coronavirus symptoms & prevention infographic; how to get workplace ready for COVID-19; COVID-19 disease advice for the general public; frequently asked questions on COVID-19 pandemic, and how the 2019 novel coronavirus spreads. This study, therefore, shall focus on Academic libraries preparedness for reopening as the COVID-19 pandemic curve flattens in Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

In this case study, a descriptive research design was adopted as it aids the researchers in gathering, summarizing, presenting, and interpreting information to clarify and describe the phenomenon. According to Adeyemo (2001), the approach involves the interpretation of facts without manipulating any of the variables involved. The information gathered from investigating a case study may be generalized to serve the larger group (Formplus, 2020). This is supported by the definition of Nworgu (2015) that case study research design is an intensive study geared towards a thorough understanding of a given social unit which could be an individual, group of individuals, community or institution. Consequently, the study employed this type of research design to investigate academic libraries preparedness for reopening amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria from the 20 academic librarians working in the 5 (Five) academic libraries in Ede metropolis Osun, state, Nigeria. The choice of this design is based on the fact that case study research sample group (an individual, a group of people, organizations, events, etc.) whose characteristics are used to describe the characteristics of a larger group in which the case study is a subgroup.

The instrument for the study is a self-designed structured questionnaire with sub-scales to measure the study's constructs. In addition, items included in the questionnaire were self-developed as informed by related literature. The questionnaire encompasses five sections, namely, A, B, C, D, E. Section A contains five items on socio-demographic information of the respondents to include the name of the academic library, marital status, academic qualifications, religion, gender, age and work experience of the respondents was covered. Section B covers the restriction approach adopted by the library to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic variable. Items used to measure this scale were an adaptation of IFLA (2020). It was presented on a 2-point Likert scale of Agree (A) and Disagree (D) with 2 and 1 scoring points value, respectively. Section C covers the preparation made for staff safety as the library reopens amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The responses format for these items consists of a 2-point Likert scale of Agree (A), Disagree (D) with 2- and 1-point value, respectively. Section D covers preparation made for users as the library reopens amid the COVID19 Pandemic. The items on this scale were measured with a 4-point Likert scale of strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree with 4, 3, 2, 1 point-scoring. Section E covers the challenges faced by the library as the library prepares to reopen amid the COVID19 pandemic. The responses format for these items consists of a 2-point Likert scale of Agree (A) and Disagree (D) with 2 and 1 points value, respectively.

The face and content validity was used to validate the research instrument. Consequently, the instrument for the study was scrutinized by experts in librarianship and educational technology, who critically looked into the measuring items. This ensured content, construct and structural accuracy. In order to ascertain the reliability of the instrument, it was administered to a group of ten respondents from a representative outside the people used for the study. The administered instruments were analyzed for reliability using Cronbach measure and a reliability coefficient of 0.87 was obtained. As expected, the total population sampling, which resonates with case studies research, was used to elicit the responses from the respondents.

Out of the 27 copies of questionnaires distributed, all 20 were retrieved and found usable for analysis, giving a 75 percent response rate. Using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS Version 24.0.0.0), data collected were then analyzed using descriptive statistics of mean, standard deviation, frequency count and percentage, in cognizance of the objectives of the research. The result was given along with the data, which aid clarity of results and drawing of conclusion based on the information gathered.

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
<i>Male</i>	12	60.0%
<i>Female</i>	8	40.0%
Age		
<i>Below 20-30</i>	8	40.0%
<i>31-40</i>	7	35.0%%
<i>41-50</i>	3	15.0%
<i>50-60</i>	2	10.0%
Marital status		
<i>Single</i>	6	30.0%
<i>Married</i>	14	70.0%
Nationality		
<i>Nigerian</i>	20	100.0%
Religion		
<i>Christian</i>	13	65.0%
<i>Islam</i>	7	35.0%
Educational Qualification		
<i>BLIS</i>	10	50%
<i>MLIS</i>	7	34%
<i>PhD</i>	3	15%
Name of Institution		
<i>Redeemer's University Ede, Osun State</i>	5	25%
<i>Adeleke University Ede, Osun State</i>	5	25%
<i>Federal Polytechnic Ede, Osun State</i>	8	40%
<i>Ilori College of Education Ede, Osun State</i>	1	5%
<i>Redeemers School of Mission Ede, Osun State</i>	1	5%
Total	20	100%

Table1: Demographic distribution of respondents

This study is dominated by male respondents 12(60%) as against their female counterparts 8(40%) and they are mostly librarians with holders of first-degree certificate in Library Studies (BLIS) 10(50%), followed by holders of master degree in Library studies (MLIS) 7(35%) and PhD 3(15%).

Research Question 1: What restriction approach did your library adopt to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic?

S/N	Items	A(%)	D(%)	\bar{x}	Std. Dev
Business (more or less) as usual					
1.	Ensuring access to soap and warm water	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
2.	Ensuring they have a supply of hand sanitizers	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
3.	Keeping surfaces clean, including tools, computers, etc.	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
4.	Rewrite library policy to allow staff and users to stay at home when they feel sick	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
5.	Review library services to provide new pages with useful links to factual information on COVID-19 for patrons on library websites and step-up media literacy awareness to curb online misinformation and fake news	20(100%)	0(0%)	1.90	.308
Mean = 9.9; std. dev. = .308					
Some Restrictions					
6.	Cancellation of planned workshops and rescheduling them to the webinar. Implementing safety guidelines, and improving library hygiene by disinfecting surfaces/objects. Removing riskier items like headsets from circulation	17(85.0%)	3(15.0%)	1.85	.366
7.	Closing reading areas where users spend hours for studies, especially group study areas.	16(80.0%)	4(20.0%)	1.80	.410

8.	<i>Plan for further restriction; equipping staff with skills (digital skills) and tools require to work from home</i>	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	1.95	.224
<i>Mean = 5.6; std. dev. = .996</i>					
Minimal Services					
9.	<i>Closing reading areas and offering minimal services like charging and discharging, but ensuring returned information materials are dropped in the book drop, drive-through pick-up, return of the books, allowing patrons to pick up books charged online, etc.</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
10.	<i>Implementing quarantine policies on returned books</i>	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	1.95	.224
11.	<i>Providing services to support remote teaching</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
12.	<i>Implementing and test running policy for staff to work from home</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
<i>Mean = 7.95; std. dev.=.224</i>					
Full closure					
13.	<i>Assigning staff to community services designed to mitigate the pandemic, using their information proficiency skills to mitigate the pandemic and creating awareness as well as disseminating knowledge on how to stay safe and curb community spread</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
14.	<i>Closing the library door fully and ensuring staff observe NCDC protocol for a public place like social distancing and wearing of face mask when they must go into the library</i>	14(70.0%)	6(30.0%)	1.70	.470
15.	<i>Keep communication with the library's user community on the library's new resources, services and how to maximize the use of available resources.</i>	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	1.95	.224
16.	<i>Organizing digital services where copyright permits</i>	17(85.0%)	3(15.0%)	1.85	.366
17.	<i>Encourage the use of virtual libraries and subscriptions to more databases. As well as informing users of the databases that have become free because of the pandemic</i>	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	1.95	.224
18.	<i>Offer reprieve on charged books, and allow users access to more eBooks</i>	18(90.0%)	2(10.0%)	1.90	.308

19.	<i>Using library infrastructure like 3 D printing machines to support community pandemic mitigation efforts</i>	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	1.95	.224
20.	<i>Increase awareness of online services on library Webpages and placing posters on library buildings</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
<i>Mean = 15.3; std. dev. = 1.816</i>					
<i>Grand mean = 38.75; std. dev. = 3.344</i>					

Table 2: Restriction Approach adopted by the Library to mitigate COVID-19 Pandemic
NB: A=Agree (2); and D=Disagree (1)

Table 2 describes the restriction approach adopted by the librarian to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. This approach is divided into four sub-categories comprising business as usual, some restrictions, minimal service, and full closure. The result as depicted in Table 2, reveals that of all these sub-group categorizations, full closure is the most efficient as this sub-group recorded the highest mean value (\bar{x} = 15.30; std dev. =1.816), followed by business (more or less) as usual (\bar{x} = 9.9; std dev. =.308); minimal service (\bar{x} = 7.95; std dev. =.224) and some restrictions (\bar{x} = 5.6; std dev. =.996). To be able to determine the degree of effectiveness of these approaches, a test of norms was conducted. The result indicates that scale between 1-13.33 is low; 13.34-26.66, while 26.67 – 40 is high. The overall mean of restriction approach adopted by librarians to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic is 38.75, which falls within the scale of 26.67-40. Thus, it can be concluded that the restriction approach put in place by the librarians to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic is highly effective. This study synchronizes with IFLA (2020) COVID-19 and global updates, which stated that libraries around the world are facing hard choices around which services to offer and different situations, from broadly maintaining a full service to complete closure; ranging from business as usual, some restrictions, minimal restrictions to full closure. These findings agree with ALA (2020). They found that libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic restricted access to their buildings, implemented safety protocols for staff and users.

Research Question 2: Determine preparations made for staff safety as the library reopen amid the COVID19 Pandemic

S/N	Items	A(%)	D(%)	\bar{x}	Std. Dev
1.	<i>Train staff, equipping them with new proficiency skills and tools to enable them to work remotely from home</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
2.	<i>Set up exhibitions, whether online or physically, on how to effectively wash hands from elbows to the finger, in between the fingers and under the nails</i>	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	1.95	.224
3.	<i>Provision for the use of an infrared thermometer for temperature checks at the entrance of the library</i>	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	1.95	.224
4.	<i>Review library policy to encourage staff and patrons to stay at home if they feel sick.</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
5.	<i>Providing face masks for library staff while enforcing a social distancing policy of at least 1 meter (3 feet) among staff</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
6.	<i>Finalizing plans for library staff to work from home</i>	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	1.95	.224
7.	<i>Post -hand-washing reminders in the library, using the set of posters from the NCDC</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
8.	<i>Using library infrastructure like 3 D printing machines to support community pandemic mitigation efforts</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
9.	<i>Organize and prepare library resources and serves for additional restrictions ensuring staff have the skills and equipment (digital) to work from home for a longer time</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
10.	<i>Review library policy towards improved housekeeping activities</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
<i>Grand mean = 19.85, std. dev.=.672</i>					

Table 3: Preparation made For Staff Safety as the Library Reopen amid the COVID-19 Pandemic
NB: A=Agree (2); and D=Disagree (1)

Table 3 shows the preparations made for the staff safety as libraries reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The result in Table 3 reveals that some of the most potent preparatory programs put in place are; staff are trained and equipped with new proficiency skills and tools to work with (\bar{x} = 2.00; std dev. =.000); staff and users are encouraged to take time to recover if they are feeling ill(\bar{x} = 2.00; std dev. =.000); provision of disposable face mask (\bar{x} = 2.00; std dev. =.000); among others. To be able to ascertain the effectiveness of these programs, a test of the norm was conducted and the result (Table 2) shows that scale between 1-6.67 is low, 6.68-13.34 is moderate, while 13-34-20 is high. The overall mean of the preparations made for the staff safety as libraries reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic is 19.85, which falls within the scales of 13.34-20. Thus, it can be concluded that the effectiveness of the preparations made for the staff safety as libraries reopens amid the COVID-19 pandemic is high. These findings concur with ALA (2020) that libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic provided online library services like phone services to their patrons.

Research Question 3: What are the preparations made for users' safety as the library reopen amid the COVID19 pandemic?

<i>S/N</i>	<i>Items</i>	<i>SA (%)</i>	<i>A (%)</i>	<i>D (%)</i>	<i>SD (%)</i>	\bar{x}	<i>Std. Dev</i>
1.	<i>Regular update of users about ways the COVID-19 virus is transmitted relying on information from reliable websites like NCDC and WHO</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000
2.	<i>Organizing demonstration on how to effectively wash hands from the finger, then between fingers and under the nails</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000
3.	<i>Provision for the use of an infrared thermometer for</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000

	<i>temperature checks at the entrance of the library</i>						
4.	<i>Providing hand-washing facilities (soap and warm water) and alcohol-based sanitizer at the entrance</i>	0(0%)	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	0(0%)	2.95	.224
5.	<i>Implementation of guidelines for social distancing for public places as enshrines in NCDC protocol. In the library, this may involve altering the existing seating arrangement by removing some Carrels and chairs.</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000
6.	<i>Strict implementation of a new policy of compulsory use of face masks by patrons and putting measures in place for more awareness of the safety of proper use of face masks can bring to users and the library environment.</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000
7.	<i>Arrange keyboards and screens to allow for regular cleaning</i>	0(0%)	18(90.0%)	2(10.0%)	0(0%)	2.90	.308
8.	<i>Intensify efforts in updating library websites to deal with demand for more COVID-19 Pandemic related information</i>	0(0%)	17(85.0%)	3(15.0%)	0(0%)	2.85	.366
9.	<i>Move library services online, including bibliography, to keep users posted on library physical holdings.</i>	0(0%)	18(90.0%)	2(10.0%)	0(0%)	2.90	.308
10.	<i>Receiving useful coverage in the local press for COVID 19 Mitigation library service</i>	0(0%)	18(90.0%)	2(10.0%)	0(0%)	2.90	.308
11.	<i>Keeping surface clean, including library computer accessories</i>	0(0%)	18(90.0%)	2(10.0%)	0(0%)	2.90	.308
12.	<i>Ready to deploy library space and infrastructure like 3 D printing machines to support community pandemic mitigation efforts</i>	0(0%)	18(90.0%)	2(10.0%)	0(0%)	2.90	.308

13.	<i>Ready to make available face masks to users who are desperate to read but may have lost their mask on the way to the library. At the same time, making sure to enforce a social distancing policy of at least 1 meter (3 feet) and close study space where necessary.</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000
14.	<i>Post- hand-washing reminders in the library, using the great set of posters from the NCDC</i>	0(0%)	18(90.0%)	2(10.0%)	0(0%)	2.90	.308
15.	<i>Put in place a more flexible charging policy for graduating students and researchers, providing them with more digital information resources.</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000
16.	<i>Create packs of digital resources for users</i>	0(0%)	18(90.0%)	2(10.0%)	0(0%)	2.90	.308
17.	<i>Provides information about preventative actions to staff and users</i>	0(0%)	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	0(0%)	2.95	.224
18.	<i>Review library hygiene policy on frequently used resources or touched areas in the library like bathrooms, railing, doors knobs, keyboards, counters and workstations, etc.</i>	0(0%)	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	0(0%)	2.95	.224
19.	<i>Share COVID19 resources and information via their websites. The most common resources are links to NCDC, WHO, and Government health departments.</i>	0(0%)	18(90.0%)	2(10.0%)	0(0%)	2.90	.308
20.	<i>Reconsidering planned of workshop, moving them to webinar</i>	0(0%)	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	0(0%)	2.95	.224
21.	<i>Provide links to reliable information sources like NCDC and WHO to patrons and use social media tools Facebook, WhatsApp, and blogs to communicate information to</i>	0(0%)	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	0(0%)	2.95	.224

	<i>keep people aware of how the COVID-19 Pandemic situation is evolving.</i>						
22.	<i>Provide users with updates about the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on on-campus life. Especially information on self-isolating for those returning to campuses. As well as helping them understand COVID-19 Pandemic associated medicinal vocabulary</i>	0(0%)	18(90.0%)	2(10.0%)	0(0%)	2.90	.308
23.	<i>Offering access to Zoom subscriptions</i>	0(0%)	15(75.0%)	5(25.0%)	0(0%)	2.75	.444
24.	<i>Set up opportunities to contact librarians remotely</i>	0(0%)	18(90.0%)	2(10.0%)	0(0%)	2.90	.308
25.	<i>Review library policy to allow for safe returning of loaned books using book drops, assuming they are all contaminated</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0.0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000
26.	<i>Put up posters on strategic places in the library</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0.0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000
27.	<i>Review library policies to encourage more use of the virtual resources and subscription to more databases</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0.0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000
28.	<i>Stepping up awareness of new digital resources and services on library websites</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0.0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000
29.	<i>Stepping up awareness on useful links and websites providing reliable information on COVID-19 Pandemic like WHO, NCDC, ALA, Africa CDC ETC</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0.0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000
30.	<i>Offering amnesty on borrowed physical books.</i>	0(0%)	18(90.0%)	2(10.0%)	0(0%)	2.90	.308
31.	<i>Providing media literacy to users to curb fake news and misinformation on COVID-19 Pandemic</i>	0(0%)	20(100%)	0(0.0%)	0(0%)	3.00	.000

<i>Grand mean = 91.25; std. dev. = 5.318</i>
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Table 4: Preparation Made for Users as the Library Reopen Amid the COVID19 Pandemic
NB: SA = Strongly Agree (4); A=Agree (3); D=Disagree (2); and SD=Strongly Disagree (1)

Table 4 describes the preparations in place by libraries for the users as they reopen amid the COVID19 pandemic. To show the degree of effectiveness of these programs, a test of the norm was conducted. The Result shows that a scale between 1-41.33 is low, 41.34-82.66 is moderate, while 82.67-124 is high. The overall mean of the preparations put in place by libraries for the users as they reopen amid the COVID19 pandemic is 91.25, which falls between the scales of 82.67-124. Therefore, it can be concluded that the preparations put in place by libraries for the users as they reopen amid the COVID19 pandemic are highly effective. These findings corroborate Hinchliffe (2020), who asserted that librarians are in a useful and advantageous position to act in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic because libraries have been building their information communication technologies infrastructure for the decades. They have been running a hybrid library; a combination of digital and traditional physical library services and concludes he is impressed that despite the full closure of the most physical libraries, librarians are still able to provide a far above the ground level library services to users; moving their services online for their users as teaching activities also moved online during the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, Kudos goes to the library professional bodies; Nigerian Library Association, Information Association and Institutions, and IFLA, for continuous sensitization on numerous electronic platforms and workshops on the webinar, as well as resources they provided for library and information science professionals on how to manage and mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. They should keep up the excellent work as Nigeria and the rest of the world struggles to manage the second spring. More teaches, information cum knowledge is still very much required for successful mitigation of the pandemic. Thus, librarians in Nigeria are equipped to manage the library resources, environment, users, and services as the library reopens amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Research Question 4: What are the challenges faced by your library as the library prepared to reopen amid the COVID19 pandemic?

S/N	Items	A (%)	D (%)	\bar{x}	Std. Dev
1.	<i>Erratic power supply</i>	16(80.0%)	4(20.0%)	1.85	.489
2.	<i>Feeling shy communicating COVID 19 pandemic information</i>	18(90.0)	2(10.0%)	1.90	.308
3.	<i>Finance Problem</i>	17(85.0%)	3(15.0%)	1.85	.366
4.	<i>Fear of contracting the virus in the working environment</i>	14(70.0%)	6(30.0%)	1.70	.470
5.	<i>Discomfort occasion by hours of wearing a facemask</i>	15(75.0%)	5(25.0%)	1.75	.444
6.	<i>Additional responsibilities</i>	12(60.0%)	8(40.0%)	1.60	.503
7.	<i>Techno phobia as more services move online</i>	15(75.0%)	5(25.0%)	1.75	.444
8.	<i>Fear of not knowing what to happen next</i>	20(100%)	0(0%)	2.00	.000
9.	<i>Adapting to a changing working environment</i>	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	1.95	.224
10.	<i>Fears that patrons may be uncooperative</i>	19(95.0%)	1(5.0%)	1.95	.229
11.	<i>Worry that I do not have enough information to manage the new library environment</i>	15(75.0%)	5(25.0%)	1.75	.444
12.	<i>Lack of adequate training</i>	15(75.0%)	5(25.0%)	1.75	.444
13.	<i>Poor communication network</i>	17(85.0%)	3(15.0%)	1.85	.366
14.	<i>Lack of adequate ICT equipment</i>	18(90.0)	2(10.0%)	1.90	.308
15.	<i>The High cost of ICT infrastructure</i>	17(85.0%)	3(15.0%)	1.85	.366
16.	<i>There is a lack of proper discussion by a health professional</i>	15(75.0%)	5(25.0%)	1.75	.444
17.	<i>There is no need of knowing anything because I already know everything</i>	17(85.0%)	3(15.0%)	1.65	.489
<i>Grand mean = 30.80; std. dev. = 6.338</i>					

Table 5: Challenges Faced by the Library as the Library Prepare to Reopen Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

NB: A=Agree (2); and D=Disagree (1)

Table 5 explains the challenges confronted by libraries as they prepare to reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The table shows that the most severe challenges confronting them include; fear of not knowing what to happen next (\bar{x} =2.00), followed by how to adapt to the changing working environment (\bar{x} = 1.95), fears that patrons may be uncooperative (\bar{x} = 1.95)

among others. To show the overall severity of the challenges, a test of norm conducted showed that scale between 1-11.33 is low, 11.34-22.66 is moderate, while 22.67- 34 is high. The overall mean of the challenges faced by libraries as they prepare to reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic is 30.8, which falls within the scale of 22.67-34.00. It can therefore be concluded that the severity of the challenges is high. This finding is in line with the United Nations Scientific Educational and Cultural Organization (2020) which opined that academic institutions and their students would be confronted with extraordinary problems in the wake of the severe stage of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of such problems in Nigerian academic libraries will be fear of the unknown as staff and students would prioritize their safety. This change brought about by the pandemic will require a paradigm shift in service delivery in a bid to minimize contact and adhere to stipulated preventive measures. However, most librarians in Nigeria find it difficult to adapt to changing environments prompted by advances in technology, changing economy or crises (Adebayo, Fagbohun, Esse & Nwokeoma, 2017). It is pertinent to state that the COVID-19 pandemic confronts the world with uncertain situations, which could prompt negative feelings of fear and anxiety among librarians in Nigeria.

The issue of funding to reopen the library and ensure adequate ICT equipment is one of the highly identified challenges to library reopening. It should be noted that several studies like that of Ishola (2014) have identified the lack of funds to the challenges of libraries in Nigeria. On the global scale, the Association of College and Research Library (2020) asserted that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the problem of paucity of funds in libraries and stressed that many libraries now have multifaceted financial problems occasion by budget reductions. The study further reveals that patrons might not be cooperative, especially in following library guidelines for reopening vis-a-vis complying with the stipulated preventive measures.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Academic libraries in Nigeria have adopted a combination of different restriction approaches at various times to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic and halt its spread as libraries reopen. Consequently, preparations are made for staff and users' safety as the libraries reopen amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, given the need to continue education while staying safe. However, there is still palpable anxiety among academic librarians in Nigeria with regard to their health, safety and library environment as the libraries reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the uncertainties associated with the pandemic, librarians are unsure of what next and the inability to dare need to adapt to the changing working environment challenges their work productivity. The study, therefore, reinforces the need for librarians in Nigeria to come to terms with the new normal and face the fact that their library environment may not be safe as it used to be for a long time, as such embrace online service delivery, minimizing human contact with the physical library. Given this, the following are recommended:

1. Government should provide more funding for academic libraries to meet with contemporary best global practices in their library as the library reopens amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Academic libraries should implement strict COVID-19 protocols in line with NCDC/WHO recommendations as they reopen amid the COVID19 pandemic.
3. Academic library managers should, as a matter of urgency, update library policies, patron behavior policies, meeting room policies, collection development policies, etc., in line with COVID-19 preventive measures.
4. Academic Library managers should move library services online, minimizing human contact with their library physical environment.
5. Academic libraries should provide free Wi-Fi around the library and prepare the library's physical surroundings for people to study in groups of two, three, and more, without necessarily entering the library.

6. The use of artificial intelligence may be considered to reduce physical contact with library materials and objects.
7. Retraining of staff to equip them with safety tips, boosting their confidence and improving their digital skills is required for effective library service delivery amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

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