

## **Perception and attitude of library and information professionals towards COVID 19 pandemic and the compulsory lockdown in Nigeria**

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**Abstract.** This article investigated perception and attitude of library and information professional towards COVID 19 and the compulsory lockdown in Nigeria. Some of the objectives adopted for the study are: To determine library and information professionals' perception of COVID 19 pandemic in Nigeria, find out the attitude of library and information professionals towards COVID 19 pandemic in Nigeria, to determine the type of lockdown preferred by Nigerian library and information professionals in time of COVID 19 pandemic, ascertain the perception of library and information professionals towards the COVID 19 compulsory lockdown and one other. An online survey was developed to get responses from 97 Nigerian library and information professionals. Total enumeration sampling technique was adopted and the following findings were recorded: Majority of the respondents in Nigeria are of the view that COVID 19 has changed the whole world, followed by those that perceived Coronavirus as manmade virus from Wuhan, China, most of the respondents indicated that they try to adhere to all the WHO stipulated preventive measures. This was followed by respondents who indicated that they fight against infodemic and also those that disseminate correct and current information about COVID 19, majority of library and information professionals in Nigeria prefer partial lockdown to full lockdown and others, majority of respondents in Nigeria feel that the current lockdown has brought economic recession and acute hunger in the land and one more.

**Keywords:** Corona virus, behavioural tendencies, pandemics in Nigeria, WHO, infodemic

### **1. Introduction**

The primary role of information professionals is to ensure that current and correct information is disseminated to prospective users of information. This may be through online or offline means. But on the other hand, this may either be hampered or become fruitful depending on the perception and attitude of librarians about certain concepts. Observing the actions and activities of people

on social media and mass media, one cannot but feel or think that Nigerian people including library and information professionals may have developed a different perception about the corona virus pandemic and the lockdown of states that followed. There is therefore no doubt that a man is who he is or what he does according to the amount of information he possesses; and how he feels about those pieces of information.

Library and information professionals as generators/keepers of old and current information may stand in a better position to analyse how this novel pandemic came about and how they feel about it. This view is substantiated by Wu (2020) that one of the steps so far taken by a team of librarians and historians at Indiana's IUPUI Arts and Humanities institute is going into their archives and inviting researchers and general public members to share stories through an online forum. Being aware/Knowing the behavioural tendencies of a learned professional group such like the information society will go a long way in educating the people and the government on further steps to take in tackling the menace. Librarians as other humans are expected to form their own opinion about issues of health and national concern; this opinion may be positive or negative. In this situation of Covid 19, if library and information professionals' opinion is negative, it could negatively affect the common man on the street and if positive, it affects an average Nigerian negatively. This analogy is hinged on the fact that this category of professionals deals with the generation, analysis, keeping and sharing of information. To this end therefore, this study is to investigate the perception and attitude of library and information professionals towards COVID 19 and the compulsory lock down in Nigeria.

## **2. Aims**

The major aim of the study is to investigate the perceptions and attitudes of library and information professionals towards COVID 19 pandemic and the compulsory lockdown in Nigeria. This study has become necessary as it will assist library and information experts who are also members of a country affected by COVID 19 know how they feel about the pandemic. Data collected will help government know the thoughts of this professional group on major issues regarding the dreaded virus and also on decision making in the area of the type of lockdown to be adopted in the country. There is no doubt that library and information professionals are opinion moulders and leaders in their own right. Specifically, the following objectives will guide the study.

- (1) To determine library and information professionals' perception of COVID 19 pandemic in Nigeria
- (2) Find out the attitude of library and information professionals towards COVID 19 pandemic in Nigeria
- (3) To determine the type of lockdown preferred by Nigerian library and information professionals in time of COVID 19 pandemic
- (4) Ascertain the perception of library and information professionals towards the COVID 19 compulsory lockdown

- (5) Find out the perceived attitude of library and professionals towards the compulsory lockdown due to COVID 19

### **3. Research Questions**

- (1). What is the perception of library and information professionals towards COVID 19 pandemic?
- (2). What are the attitudes of library and information professionals towards COVID 19 in Nigeria?
- (3) What type of lockdown do library and information professionals in Nigeria prefer ?
- (4).What is the perception of library and information professionals towards the COVID 19 compulsory lockdown?
- (5).What is the perceived attitude of library and professionals towards the compulsory lockdown due to COVID 19

### **4. Literature Review**

Around the world today, medical professionals, scientists, public health experts and other allied sister agencies are working tirelessly to addressing the problem of coronavirus pandemic. Though librarians may not be experts, they are still actively involved in a bid to curbing the pandemic. Brennan (2020) reported that the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in the United States is currently ensuring adequate and maximum access to needed and relevant information and data. The NLM is therefore making sure that librarians are contributing meaningfully to research and response efforts during this period. The perception and attitude Nigerian library and information professionals will go a long way rendering effective or ineffective services in this period of national disaster. This is why the researcher has structured the literature review of this research as follows:

#### **4.1. The Concept of COVID 19**

The world is presently going through a major pandemic which has brought fear, tension and apprehension irrespective of influence and affluence. As it stands today, the COVID 19 pandemic is no respecter of any person as its cure is still debateable.

In line with the history of the novel Coronavirus pandemic, WHO (2020) hinted that a pneumonia of yet to be identified cause started in a city called Wuhan, China and was first reported at World Health Organisation (WHO) branch office in China in 2019, December 31, after critical analysis, observation and monitoring by WHO, it was therefore declared as a public health emergency of national and sub national concern on 30 January 2020 (a month after). This was followed by a name adopted for the new disease by WHO in February 11, 2020 known as COVID 19. The virus is said to be spread by people (not airborne) through close contact, sneezing, small droplets from coughing or talking. The droplets are not said to be in the air but fall on the ground. Means like touching

contaminated surfaces and using same hands to touch one's face are also other ways of spreading the disease (Velavan & Meyer, 2020).

The novel epidemic which has caused so much harm to humanity is a product of natural evolution according to Pinkeyes (2020). The author analysed the findings that were published in the Journal Nature Medicine. In that journal, the findings of public genome sequence from COVID 19 and other similar viruses were said to have no evidence whatsoever that the dreadful virus was developed in any laboratory as being speculated in some quarters. As at 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020, according to WHO, the world had recorded over two million (precisely 2,314,621) cases. In Nigeria for example as at 20<sup>th</sup> of April, 2020, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) had reported that there were 1,728 cases in the country, 307 discharged patients and 51 fatalities recorded in Federal Capital territory and other 34 states of the country out of the 36 states of the federation (NCDC, 2020).

The COVID 19 havoc already caused in Africa and by extension Nigeria which is the largest country in African continent cannot be underestimated. Government activities are at lower ebbs, businesses closed down, libraries closed and a very few people working from their homes.

The corona virus disease has remained a dreadful and dreaded virus all over the world as there is yet to be any acceptable vaccine for the disease. Despite the claims by Madagascar and the United States of some effective vaccines, the World Health Organisation is yet to approve any as at 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2020. Tih and Rabearisoa (2020) noted that some days back Madagascar president Rasoelina Andry recommended an organic concoction to cure corona virus infected patients. The concoction which is named COVID organics (CVO) is said to be in form of tea (herbal) which cures COVID 19 patients.

Fox, Gumbrecht, Yan and Klein (2020) hinted that though the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not yet approved any drug for the treatment of the pandemic, there is possibility that the remdesivir may assist patients suffering from corona virus to recover faster and quickly. This was made known on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2020..... IFLA (2020) quoted WHO by stating that a large number of people suffering from the COVID 19 virus will experience respiratory illness and may recover without any major intervention. It was therefore noted that older people with underlying illnesses are the worst hit. Some of the symptoms that accompany the virus disease according to IFLA are: tiredness, fever, dry cough, sore throat, short breath, pains, aches and others. There are therefore recommended preventive measures which are highlighted by the World Health Organisation, they are: accurately being informed about the COVID 19 pandemic. This is no doubt, where the librarians and other information professionals' role becomes more appreciated as librarians are custodians of current and relevant information in all fields. Other preventive measures are: social distancing, regular washing of hands, coughing into elbow, isolation, use of nose masks and more.

This deadly scourge has therefore led to lockdown of economies both at the state and federal levels. The Cambridge Dictionary (2020) explains that the term

lockdown is used to mean a particular setting which humans are not permitted to move freely from one place to the other. This therefore means that people are asked to remain or confined to a particular place. It is said to be caused mostly by an emergency situation or case. A very good example is the lockdown of economies currently being witnessed by nations of the world due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Lockdown can also be referred to as a security measure deliberately put in place in time of emergency to disallow people from movement, either leaving or entering a given location. The COVID 19 lockdown is not far from the explained meanings of lockdown as it is a deliberate government measure put in place to stop people from unnecessary movement or travelling. This is certainly to prevent or limit the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

#### **4.2. Library and information professionals' Perception of COVID 19 Pandemic in Nigeria**

There are so many beliefs and perceptions about this novel virus otherwise known as COVID 19 pandemic. Some people, including librarians believe that it has come to reshape the world, others think it has come to cause havoc in humanity meanwhile, some librarians, most especially in some African states feel that COVID 19 is not real. Contrary to this, Osowobi (2020) noted that it feels great to have survived the dreaded virus disease. She noted that seeing the data of people who die in isolation center can be amazing and frustrating. As she thanked God for saving her life, she also expressed joy that she is alive to share with Nigerians that COVID 19 is not a hoax but real. There is no doubt that the virus truly exist, this is hinged on the study of Madden (2020) when she studied South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria level of awareness of COVID 19. The author discovered that there is high level of awareness in these three countries and they believe also that the virus is truly deadly. There are so many stories being circulated in the social media which one may term infordemic. Quite a reasonable number of people including elite and librarians feel that the COVID 19 is just a mere avenue for government at the federal and state levels to embezzle funds and attract sympathy from international community by extension, this they said can lead to debt waiver. To others, the symptoms allegedly being exhibited by Coronavirus patients are normal malaria symptoms which have been with us several decades ago hence, people are treated and get well in the absence of any known cure. To this end, Hoechnen (2020) reported that a renowned Malam and Islamic scholar in the Northern Nigeria was heard telling his subjects that there is nothing like coronavirus in Nigeria as it is a mere scam brought by government for their selfish gains. Somehow, he is not the only person that have come out publicly to reject the existence of COVID 19 in Nigeria. Some librarians in Nigeria are still not very convinced with the existence of the pandemic as they are just neutral, others believe that the number of cases being quoted is very far from the reality, this is based on a personal interaction with some librarian colleagues.

On the other hand, Onyesi and Adebowale (2020) stated that despite the daily increase in the number of COVID 19 patients, about three out of ten people in Nigeria feel that Nigerians have very active immune system that can resist the COVID 19 virus. These people including some librarians believe that the virus is real in other countries but certainly not Nigeria.

There are insinuations in some quarters that the virus cannot be contracted by young people as the young ones have stronger immune system that is capable of resisting the virus (BBC, 2020). There is a sense in which we say that some library and information professionals in developing countries like Nigeria may likely have questionable perception about COVID 19 pandemic while others develop positive perception. For instance, some questionable perception could be a situation where a learned librarian still feels or thinks that COVID 19 is a platform falsely introduced into the country to siphon tax payers' money.

#### **4.3. Attitude of Library and information professionals towards COVID 19 Pandemic in Nigeria**

There are several attitudes that may be exhibited by librarians all over the world, for instance, librarians can decide to be more proactive in sharing information about the pandemic, they can also decide to counter those that share fake information or rather remain neutral in time like this. It is also at the discretion of Nigerian librarians to either keep to the various preventive measures as prescribed by the World Health Organisation. In the study of Zhong et al (2020), librarians and other citizens in China are quite positive in their attitude as 96.4% of their respondents agreed that they have not gone to any crowded place and they have always wore masks while leaving the house in recent days. From another standpoint, Wolf et al (2020) found out that female librarians are currently taking the pandemic more seriously. They discovered that the male librarians do not see the scourge to be anything serious as it will surely recede the same way it came. The female counterparts are therefore not leaving any stone unturned as they go extra miles to educate their children, wards and neighbours about the deadly virus.

A number of librarians' attitude towards the internet facilities may have grown exponentially as they now have full access to the internet while at home. Pew Research Center (2020) supported this point by saying 5.3% of American Librarians say the internet has been essential in this period of COVID 19 outbreak. Nigeria as a developing country may not have reached the peak of ICT. This means that not all librarians have full and uninterrupted access to internet while at work. To this end, some are using this period to develop themselves instead of wasting the time.

There can also be the attitude of stigmatizing recuperated corona virus patients. Since the virus is a very deadly one, there is every tendency to stigmatize those that have recovered from the disease. This is perhaps the reason why the governor of Kaduna state of Nigeria, Nasir Elrufai has continually spoken against stigmatizing those that have recovered from the virus. The Governor is reported to be one of the survivors of the killer virus disease. The bottom line is

that librarians in Nigeria should remain proactive and develop a positive attitude that will contribute to the recovery of all coronavirus patients and prevention of the disease.

The pandemic has no doubt changed the lifestyle and behaviour of all professionals as everybody is now a suspect. Recently, a father refused to accommodate his son who returned from Lagos state of Nigeria because of the fear that the son could have contacted the disease while in Lagos. This could also be the attitude of some librarians by way of seeing people around them as suspects in this trying and challenging period of our life's journey.

#### **4.4. Type of Lockdown Preferred by Library and Information Professionals in Nigeria**

The word lockdown according to Futurelearn (2020) is a term that is used to mean measures so far put in place in a community, society or a country that stop them from movement in which the word quarantine is similar to. Lockdown according to Futurelearn includes but not limited to: not being able to visit friends, not permitted to socialize, only essential duty workers are allowed to move out, weddings and sporting activities are temporarily banned. As an amorphous term, the word lockdown encapsulates quarantine measures in its definitions.

COVID 19 has been known to be a very contagious disease which otherwise means that it is easily spread by people as it is not spread by itself. It is said to be deadly and those that contract the virus require immediate medical attention in order to prevent death. This is therefore the major reason why various countries in the world have one form of lockdown or the other. The various movement restrictions that come to mind in the Nigerian setting are

- (a) Full lockdown
- (b) Partial lockdown
- (c) Intrastate lockdown
- (d) Interstate lockdown
- (e) Dusk to dawn curfew lockdown

According to ET online (2020), a full lockdown is that which is used to mean a situation when a person is under compulsion to remain wherever he is. This means one is not expected to move out for anything. In this period of full lockdown, there is always room for essential supplies, grocery stores, bank operation and pharmaceuticals.

For the sake of this study, partial lockdown is used to mean the act of allowing only a certain category of workers to come out of their homes while observing all the preventive measures as stipulated by the World Health Organisation (Madden, 2020). In this situation, some citizens may hide under the guise of belonging to that category of staff to violate the partial lockdown. Lexico (2020) explains curfew as a law put in place directing people to remain at home between specific hours. By dusk to dawn curfew, Lexico explained it as a restriction of movement that usually begin before nightfall and ends in the morning of the following day.

There is also intrastate lockdown and interstate lockdown, while intrastate lockdown mean restriction of movement within a state, interstate lockdown is used to mean restriction of movement between states. For us as librarians, there may be reservations about any of the above explained lockdown otherwise known as movement restrictions. This will no doubt varies according to one's current itinerary, location, marital status, business and others. Nonetheless, movement restrictions in times of global pandemic like COVID 19 are not uncommon. In this time of various degrees/levels of lockdowns, the library and information professionals are arguably the worst hit. This is because of the essential duties they render which are information service delivery and others. They are therefore entitled to indicate or choose a particular type of lockdown which they prefer.

#### **4.5. Perception of Library and Information Professionals towards the COVID 19 Compulsory Lockdown**

As good as lockdowns may appear in the eyes of some librarians, others are likely to see it as an obstruction in their day to day activities. This section of the study will look at the feelings of Nigerian librarians towards the various lockdowns declared by government in various states and at various levels.

For some librarians according to Diamond, Adeowo and Ezeilo (2020), it is even costlier to stay at home than go to work, as one of the respondents noted that since she exhausted her money and it was yet to be end of the month, she had to disobey the lockdown law. They concluded that hunger will definitely not obey any lockdown law. To other librarians, the lockdown is believed to be an effective means of containing the deadly virus, this set of librarians were therefore quick to query the move by some governors to lift their lockdown order (Onyeji and Adebowate, 2020). Perpetual lockdown of states will no doubt drain the economy thereby sliding into recession, this is the view of some close colleagues who argue that if the economy remains locked down, many organisations are likely to fold up and some state governors may not be able to pay workers' salaries in Nigeria. To this end, they feel the lockdown should be lifted as scientists continue to find a vaccine that could cure the virus.

Other librarians think that since the government of Nigeria is not ready to give out palliatives to those staying at home, it will be very difficult if not impossible to remain at home. In another development, Koslow and Lee (2020) are of the opinion that lockdowns are not good enough for people as this affect their health drastically. They noted specifically that the restrictions currently put in place are forcing consumers out of their normal way of life; as people find it difficult to set up new child care arrangements and avoid interesting activities such as visiting the gym, attending community gatherings, sporting activities, dining out and others. The outcome of this research will no doubt assist government to know what librarians as professionals feel or think about introducing a lockdown or curfew in a state. This is very important as it will guide government in decision making because librarians are educators, teachers and image makers.



#### **4.6. Attitude of Library and Information Professionals Towards Lockdown During the Time of COVID 19**

There is no doubting the fact that people respond to things differently. In the case of COVID 19 compulsory lockdown, librarians are likely to react or behave differently like any other citizen of the country, Nigeria. Since the inception of the lockdown, some people had disobeyed while others adhered. For instance; BBC news (2020) reported that a prominent Nigerian actress Funke Akindele was fined 260 dollars after holding a birthday party during the lockdown period. The case is not different in Edo state of Nigeria where the Governor of the state had introduced partial lockdown and dusk to dawn curfew between 7pm to 6am. Unfortunately people, including some few librarians are fond of moving out even when it is past 7pm in the night. In a similar vein, on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020, Aljazeera (2020) reported that, not fewer than 18 people in the Nigerian state had been killed by the security agents in a bid to enforce measures put in place to curb the spread and spike of the COVID 19 virus. This figure was said to be higher than the number of fatalities recorded from the virus itself. Also speaking, a professor of Psychology at University of Lagos warned that there was likely to be a situation where there will be civil disobedience regarding the lockdown directive. This he said was linked to the “hunger virus” that Nigerians are currently subjected to. There are also reports from Warri, a city in Delta state, Nigeria where Adurokiya (2020) reported that a mobile court in Warri South arrested and arraigned 30 people for deliberately violating the sit-at-home order put in place in order to prevent the spike and spread of the deadly virus, COVID 19. For the mean time, schools in Nigeria are closed down, likewise, churches, clubs, conferences and similar gatherings that can endanger the lives of citizens including librarians. It becomes imperative for all and sundry to adhere to government directives and measures in preventing the disease. As we all know, library and information professionals are all members of the larger society and they also have their different attitudes towards different concepts as professionals in the country. This research will help unravel librarians’ attitudes toward the lock down is either positive or negative.

#### **5. Research Methods**

The research method adopted for this work was survey method otherwise known as survey monkey. Nigerian library and information professionals were the focus as constructed online questionnaire was circulated through social media to elicit responses from respondents. The questionnaire items were generated after a thorough and rigorous literature review (from the literature review). 97 respondents completed the online questionnaire and the 97 responses were used for the analysis using bar chart and tables. Total enumeration sampling was also invoked for the study, this was because the recorded number of responses were of a manageable size. These responses could be effectively used for adequate generalization as the respondents cut across all the 36 states within Nigeria. The population of the study consisted of library and information professionals who

are members of the Nigeria Library Association (NLA) accessed on social media platform. The choice of this population group is informed by the prevalence of COVID-19 pandemic as at the time of data collection, which enforces social distancing and the consequent inability to physically collect data from the study's respondents. However, the strength of this population group is that it comprises of library and information professionals regardless of demographics, geographical distribution, types of library affiliation and career level. These reasons according to Igbinovia (2016) makes it fit to adopt an online community of this nature as a population group for a survey investigation.

The structured questionnaire was adopted as instrument for data collection. The questionnaire consisted of eight sections. Section one to three was on the demographic characteristics of the respondents which include respondents' gender, highest educational qualification and affiliated institution. Section four to eight elicited data from the respondents in accordance with the objectives of the study. Items for each of the sections were generated based on review of literature and researchers' prior experience on the topic under study.

The instrument was converted to an online survey using Google forms. The introductory part of the survey contains a letter to the respondents which fulfils the ethical requirement of informing respondents that participation in the study is voluntary and assures them that results will be for research purpose only. The online link was posted on the NLA platform soliciting responses from members of the platform. After two weeks, a reminder message was sent to allow maximum participation.

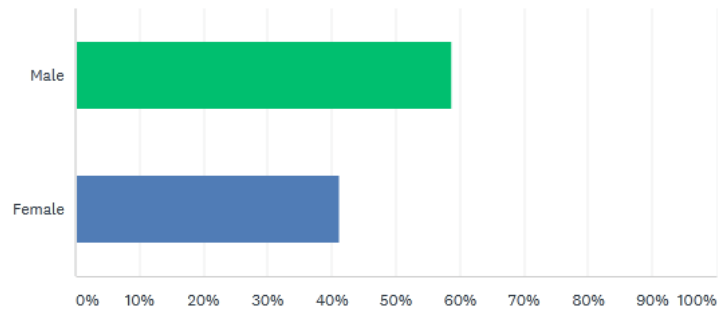
After the three weeks allocated for data collection, the online survey was closed from accepting responses. The survey response summary shows that 97 library and information professionals participated in the study. The data were retrieved and analysed using tables and charts and tables.

### **Data Analysis and Presentation**

**Table 1**

## Gender

Answered: 97 Skipped: 0



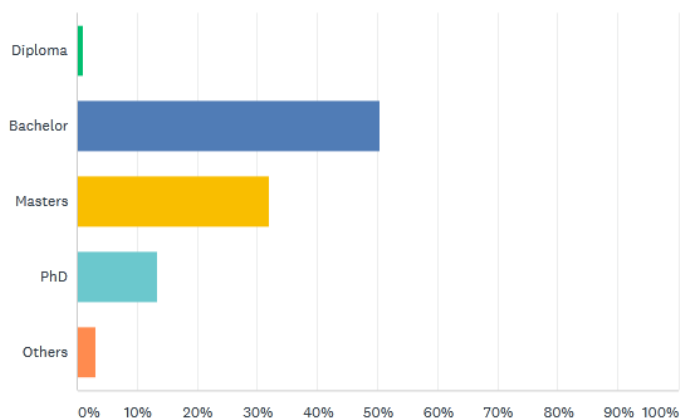
| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |           |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Male           | 58.76%    | 57        |
| Female         | 41.24%    | 40        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |           | <b>97</b> |

From the gender table 1 above, it is obvious that the number of male respondents is higher than that of the female counterparts.

**Table 2**

## Educational background

Answered: 97 Skipped: 0



It was discovered that among the respondents, only one person had diploma, 49 respondents had B.Sc., 31 possessed Masters, 13 had Ph.Ds and 3 ticked others.

**Table 3 Affiliated Institution**

| ANSWER CHOICES     | RESPONSES |
|--------------------|-----------|
| ▼ National library | 1.03% 1   |
| ▼ Public library   | 2.06% 2   |
| ▼ Academic library | 71.13% 69 |
| ▼ School library   | 6.19% 6   |
| ▼ Special library  | 2.06% 2   |
| ▼ Library school   | 8.25% 8   |
| ▼ Others           | 9.28% 9   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>97</b> |

The table 3 above indicated that 1 person is from a national library, 2 respondents from a public library in Nigeria, 69 respondents are from academic library, 6 from a school library. Others are from special library, library school and others with 2,8 and 9 respondents respectively.

**Table 4 Perception of COVID 19 by library and information professionals**

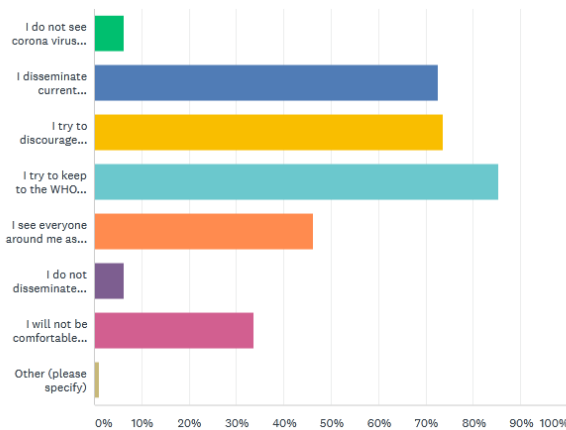
| ANSWER CHOICES   | RESPONSES         |
|--|-------------------|
| I think that with Covid 19 pandemic, life has changed                              | 75.00% 72         |
| I don't believe that there is Covid 19 pandemic in Nigeria                         | 8.33% 8           |
| Covid 19 is an avenue for stakeholders to embezzle money                           | 48.96% 47         |
| I believe that Corona virus was created in a laboratory in Wuhan, China (man made) | 55.21% 53         |
| Corona virus is not as deadly as people think                                      | 34.38% 33         |
| I think that Nigerians' immune system is stronger than the corona virus            | 12.50% 12         |
| Young people do not contact corona virus   | 4.17% 4           |
| I feel that the number of cases in Nigeria is being inflated                       | 36.46% 35         |
| Other (please specify)   | Responses 6.25% 6 |
| Total Respondents: 96  |                   |

As shown in the above table 4, 75.00% of respondents perceived that life has changed with COVID 19, 8.33% affirmed that there is no COVID 19 in Nigeria, 48.96% perceived that COVID 19 is just an avenue to embezzle money, 55.21% believed that the virus was manufactured at a laboratory in Wuhan, 34.38% stated that Corona virus is not so deadly, 12.50% think that immune system of Nigerians is stronger than the virus itself, 4.17% noted that younger people cannot contract the virus and 36.46% feel that the number being announced in Nigeria is being inflated.

**Table 5**

(Tick as many as you can) Attitude of librarians towards Covid 19 pandemic in Nigeria

Answered: 95 Skipped: 2



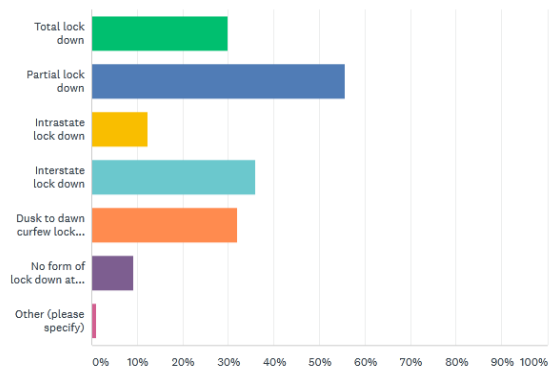
The above table which is table 5 shows the attitude of LIS professionals towards.....6.32% don't see corona virus as any health challenge, 72.63% of respondents disseminate information about COVID 19, 73.68% use different

platforms to discourage fake news about COVID 19, 85.26% keep to WHO preventive measures, 46.32% see people around them as possible carrier of the virus, 6.32% do not disseminate information about COVID 19 at all and 33.68 will not be comfortable staying close to a COVID 19 survivor.

**Table 6**

(Tick as many as possible) What type of lock down do you prefer in this time

Answered: 97 Skipped: 0

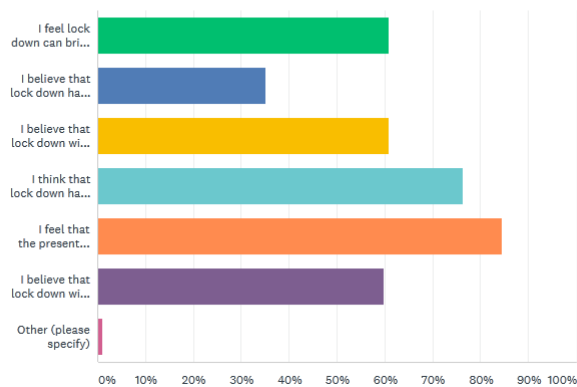


From the above table (Table 6), it is obvious that 29.90% of respondents prefer total lockdown, 55.67% prefer partial lockdown, 12.37% prefer intrastate lockdown, 36.08% want interstate lockdown, 31.96% prefer dusk to dawn curfew and 9.28% of respondent do not like any form of lockdown

**Table 7**

(Tick as many as possible) Perception of compulsory lock down by librarians in time of corona virus

Answered: 97 Skipped: 0



In table 7 above, 60.82% respondents feel that lockdown brings depression to people, 35.05% of respondents believe that the lockdown has brought more health challenges to people, 60.82% believe that lockdown will reduce the spread of the virus, 76.29% think that lockdown has brought hunger to the land, 84.54% noted that the lockdown has brought economic recession to both individuals and governments and 59.79% of the respondents feel that lockdown will lead to downsizing.

**Table 8**

Attitude of librarians towards the corona virus compulsory lock down

Answered: 97 Skipped: 0

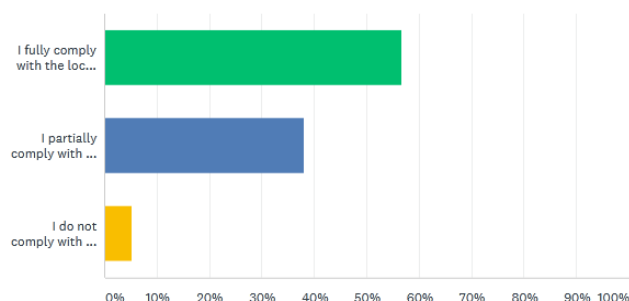


Table 8 above shows that 56.70% of respondents complied with government's lockdown directive, 38.14% partially complied and 5.15% didn't comply at all

## 6. Discussion of findings

Findings to objective one indicated that majority of the respondents who responded in Nigeria are of the view that COVID 19 has changed the whole world, followed by those that perceived Coronavirus as manmade virus from Wuhan, China. In line with this, Torres (2020) noted that life has currently changed in different ways, she noted that life has indeed changed in the aspects of greeting, politics, hygiene, public gatherings, economy/markets, travel and more. On the other hand, Perper (2020) position contradict the findings of this study as he noted that Dr. Anthony Fauci, a director in charge of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, reiterated in another interview that there wasn't any evidence to show that the COVID 19 virus was manmade.

Findings to objective 2 which is on the attitude of library and information professionals towards Covid 19, majority of the respondents who attempted the online questionnaire indicated that they try to adhere to all the WHO stipulated preventive measures. This was followed by respondents who indicated that they fight against infodemic and also those that disseminate correct and current information about COVID 19. This shows that librarians' attitude towards

COVID 19 is quite positive. The findings agree with the submissions of Ali and Gatiti (2020) when they both argued that the role of librarians in this season is to first make sure that they stay alive and by extension provide COVID 19 health information to all and sundry.

On findings to objective three, showed that majority of library and information professionals who filled the survey in Nigeria prefer partial lockdown to full lockdown and others. This finding correspond with the position of Sault (2020) when he stated that the EU, US, UK and other Nations are presently undergoing some level of lockdown with bars, schools, shops, gyms and restaurants closed, and people required or encouraged to remain at home in order to avoid or limit the spread of the virus.

Finding to objective 4 which is on the perception of library and information professionals about the lockdown directive by government. Majority of respondents who were studied in Nigeria feel that the current lockdown has brought economic recession and acute hunger in the land. This agrees with the findings of BBCNEWS (2020) when it noted that more than two thirds of those asked in 20 countries in Africa firmly agreed that they would go terribly hungry if they are made to remain at home for fourteen days.

Finally, findings to objective 5 showed that most of the library and information professionals studied in Nigeria fully complied with the lockdown directive by the government. This shows that librarians have positive attitude towards government lockdown directive. This finding disagrees with Diamond, Adeowo and Ezeilo (2020) when they wrote that some Nigerians do things as if everything is alright. They noted that some Nigerians defy the Nigerian government directive for citizens to stay at home in a bid to contain the spike and spread of Coronavirus pandemic.

## **7. Summary of Findings**

1. Majority of the respondents studied in Nigeria are of the view that COVID 19 has changed the whole world, followed by those that perceived Coronavirus as manmade virus from Wuhan, China.
2. Most of the respondents examined indicated that they try to adhere to all the WHO stipulated preventive measures. This was followed by respondents who indicated that they fight against infodemic and also those that disseminate correct and current information about COVID 19.
3. Majority of library and information professionals who filled the survey in Nigeria prefer partial lockdown to full lockdown and others.
4. Majority of respondents that completed the online questionnaire in Nigeria feel that the current lockdown has brought economic recession and acute hunger in the land.
5. Most of the library and information professionals studied in Nigeria fully complied with the lockdown directive by the government.



## 8. Conclusion

Going by the revelation of this article, it is clearly on record that library and information professionals in Nigeria have positive perception and attitude towards COVID 19 and government compulsory lockdown by extension. Be that as it may, librarians are therefore expected to live up to expectation at all times (including this period). Despite the fact that a few may have negative perception about COVID 19 and the general lockdown, information professionals must not deviate from providing current and adequate information in times like this. This will not only sustain the prestige of the profession but also assist various governments in fighting and tackling the pandemic to a standstill.

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## APPENDIX 1

### PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS TOWARDS COVID 19 AND THE COMPULSORY LOCKDOWN IN NIGERIA

The primary role of librarians is to ensure that current and correct information is disseminated to prospective users of information. This may be through online or offline means. On the other hand, this role may either be hampered or become eventful depending on the perception and attitude of librarians towards certain concepts. To this end, the study focuses on the perception and attitude of librarians towards Covid 19 pandemic and the compulsory lock down in Nigerian states.

O. U. IDHALAMA (CLN)

#### Question Title

##### \* 1. Gender

- Male
- Female

#### Question Title

##### \* 2. Educational background

- Diploma

- Bachelor
- Masters
- PhD
- Others

**Question Title**

**\* 3. Type of library**

- National library
- Public library
- Academic library
- School library
- Special library
- Library school
- Others

**Question Title**

**4. (Tick as many as possible) Perception of librarians towards Covid 19 pandemic in Nigeria**

- I think that with Covid 19 pandemic, life has changed
- I don't believe that there is Covid 19 pandemic in Nigeria
- Covid 19 is an avenue for stakeholders to embezzle money
- I believe that Corona virus was created in a laboratory in Wuhan, China (man made)
- Corona virus is not as deadly as people think
- I think that Nigerians' immune system is stronger than the corona virus
- Young people do not contact corona virus
- I feel that the number of cases in Nigeria is being inflated
- Other (please specify)

**Question Title**

**5. (Tick as many as you can) Attitude of librarians towards Covid 19 pandemic in Nigeria**

- I do not see corona virus as any serious health challenge
- I disseminate current information about corona virus

- I try to discourage infodemic (fake news) about corona virus
- I try to keep to the WHO recommended preventive measures
- I see everyone around me as possible carrier of corona virus
- I do not disseminate information about corona virus
- I will not be comfortable staying close to a corona virus survivor
- Other (please specify)

**Question Title**

**6. (Tick as many as possible) What type of lock down do you prefer in this time**

- Total lock down
- Partial lock down
- Intrastate lock down
- Interstate lock down
- Dusk to dawn curfew lock down
- No form of lock down at all
- Other (please specify)

**Question Title**

**7. (Tick as many as possible) Perception of compulsory lock down by librarians in time of corona virus**

- I feel lock down can bring depression to people
- I believe that lock down has brought more health challenges to people
- I believe that lock down will contain the spread of the corona virus
- I think that lock down has introduced more hunger in the land
- I feel that the present lock down has brought economic recession to both individuals and governments
- I believe that lock down will lead to downsizing of Nigerian workers
- Other (please specify)

**Question Title**

**\* 8. Attitude of librarians towards the corona virus compulsory lock down**

- I fully comply with the lock down directive
- I partially comply with the lock down directive
- I do not comply with the lock down directive