

# COVID-19 Experience and the Need for Pandemic Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plans for Libraries: Awareness, Knowledge and Readiness of Librarians in South-Western Nigeria

Jerry Arthur Ijieber B.Sc (Lib.&Inf. Sc.), Abraka; MLIS,  
Ibadan.

*Lecturer in Department of Library and Information Science,  
Federal Polytechnic Offa, Kwara State, Nigeria.*

Submitted: 15-11-2022

Accepted: 26-11-2022

## I. INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 started in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and within a very short period of time it spread its dangerous and deadly tentacles across all the seven continents of the world. The nature of the pandemic is scary, deadly and volatile to the human race. Check this scenario out. From December of 2019 when it was discovered to June 20, 2020, Nigeria alone recorded 36,107 confirmed cases, 14,633 discharged cases and 778 deaths in 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. Globally, by then the case record stood at 4,210,040 confirmed, 600,435 deaths and 7,983,920 recoveries. As at January 2, 2022, Nigeria alone had 243,450 confirmed cases, 215,352 recoveries, 3,039 deaths, 25,059 active cases, with 3,909,776 as the total. The pandemic is still on as we speak today and becoming more and more elusive to tame because as one wave of it is being managed another comes out in new variant. And medically, the new waves are deadlier than earlier ones. It calls for the whole world, and publics and those who serve them, to continue to learn the new normal, especially those ones backed by policies and legislations, and adapted and solidified by organizations as rolling and strategic plans. Libraries and librarians need to key into this.

COVID-19 is described by health stakeholders as a respiratory disease, public health menace, lethal and deadly, highly contagious and spreads by contact with bodily droplets from saliva and nasal holes of infected persons. Its spread is

dramatic especially in volatile and free-floating environments. For that reason, precautionary measures and guidelines have been strategically developed by local and global health stakeholders to tame its spreading tide. Some of these are testing and treating the victims, quarantining suspected persons, tracing of persons that have had contacts with victims, restricting large gatherings of whatever purpose, social distancing measured by some metres, wearing of preventive masks, washing of hands with soap and running water, using hand, body and surrounding sanitizers, fumigating environments, and maintaining complete or partial lock down. Others are closing international borders at inlets and exits, sometimes local borders are closed between peoples, tribes and states. These are being implemented and overseen by governments using all their arms, relevant ministries, departments and agencies; and also stretching forth hands of fellowship to non-governmental organizations, religious and non-religious organizations, and societies. All these are to curtail its transmission tentacles and for the public to stay safe as they go about their normal duties. Summarily, the measures emphasize reduction or outright ban on physical interactions and sociality. The restrictive measures are in varying degrees and their administration determined by the severity of the pandemic on the environment. Sometime, all sectors and facets of the economy and government working arms are fully closed, and another time partially closed, or

open with undue restrictions. Unfortunately, the restrictive measures put in place is where the pandemic took its destructive powers on economy, business and workplaces, including libraries.

Education still remains the bedrock of development for any society and research is still its foundation and trend-setting activity, and libraries still remain their grand support. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions [IFLA] (2020) made it known that libraries around the world were hard-hit with the pandemic which is making them face hard choices bothering on which services to offer and how, ranging from minimal restrictions to full closure. Corroborating this, the Nigerian Library Association [NLA] (2020) noted that the pandemic has forced virtually all institutions of learning, as well as libraries, to observe closure and sometimes near closure, as one of the curtailing measures enforced against the deadly and highly contagious pandemic. Whatever constitutes barrier to access and utilization of information is dangerous, especially in time of pandemics. Moreover, it is a deprivation to development and transformation potentials embedded in information. This is where the functions of libraries are sacrosanct and critical during pandemics.

Libraries are social service organizations that are established, owned or sponsored by different parent bodies to serve different kinds of users who are pursuing different purposes as defined by the mission pursued by libraries' parent bodies. However, there are different types of libraries in existence and the demarcating lines are nature of parent body and their mission and purpose, which altogether define the nature of user community to serve and resources to serve them. The federal or central government of Nigeria owns a library and the main functions of that library are to serve as the nation's memory bank and to centrally handle the nation's bibliographic control business. This is called the national library. Another is public libraries, which are found in state capitals and run networks of community libraries and extension workers in order to serve everyone in the state, and with no barring conditions. Special libraries are attached to governmental and non-governmental ministries, departments, agencies, institutes, organizations, and religious bodies. They are usually small in physical size due to their specialties and serve few number of users. Two other libraries serve as educational support systems but demarcated by the age or educational grades of the users served. The ones that serve educational levels from crèche up to secondary are called school libraries, while those for tertiary or

advanced educational levels—colleges, monotronics, polytechnics and universities—are known as academic libraries. All libraries are not usually on their own rather they are attached to some parent entities or institutions to give them or their offspring quality information that no other entity can give. In turn those institutions see libraries as vital parts of them, and as living organisms that are intended to live perpetually and as well given the needed resources to do so.

Every functional library is a gateway and means of access to information, ideas and works of imagination (IFLA, 2003). Libraries have been and have remained the only sure gateways and gatekeepers to quality information and knowledge. There is no negotiation about this, because of the professional philosophies pillaring librarianship profession, and also the total quality management and quality assurance mechanisms built into library resources, processes and procedures. Libraries and librarians are known to be proactive and responsive to societal issues; so pandemics are not exceptioStudy on the new roles of libraries amidst the pandemic conducted by Deol and Brar (2021) proposed that due to the critical nature of libraries and vitality of information, the libraries cannot afford to close down and relinquish their formal duties of providing information and knowledge to the users. Libraries are highly needed in the face of pandemics to render critical services by giving factual and reliable information and also educating users on how to stay safe during pandemics. COVID-19 pandemic is scary, yet misinformation about it would spell doom for the public.

Logically, if libraries must continue with their mandates in face of pandemics they must be ready to continuously learn new knowledge, skills and abilities enough to adapt to public safety measures. And to sustain this, there is need to pull and cull them (the new knowledge, skills and abilities) together into a pool as plan—strategic and long-term plans—to be incorporated into the libraries overall plan, flowing from their visions. By so doing, this becomes pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans. This would not be useful only on short term basis—only for this pandemic alone—but for others that may come in the future. If libraries can have the traditional disaster preparedness, response and recovery plans, why not have that of pandemic to absorb and continue to render full-scale services amidst the pandemics.

## **II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Across the globe and Nigeria, libraries known as critical and essential suppliers of

information and knowledge assets have been dramatically hard-hit by COVID-19 pandemic and their services terminated for sometimes, later reduced and now render services with undue restrictions and uncertainties as the pandemic comes out in newer variants. Hence, the problem of this research is interrogatively stated thus:

- Are librarians in South-Western Nigeria aware of, knowledgeable about and ready for having pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans to help them withstand pandemics now and in the future and render their services to the public unhindered?

#### Research Objectives

The major objective of this research is to examine if librarians in South-Western Nigeria are aware of, knowledgeable about and ready for having pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans to help them withstand pandemics now and in the future and render their services to the public unhindered. However, the specific objectives derived from the above are to:

1. examine the awareness of librarians in South-West Nigeria of how having pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans can help them withstand pandemics now and in the future and render their services to the public unhindered;
2. examine the knowledge of librarians in South-West Nigeria to developing effective pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans to withstand pandemics now and in the future and render their services to the public unhindered; and
3. examine the readiness of librarians in South-West Nigeria to have and use pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans to withstand pandemics now and in the future and render their services to the public unhindered.

#### Research Questions

From the specific objectives, the following research questions are derived:

1. Are librarians in South-West Nigeria aware of how having a pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans can help them withstand pandemics now and in the future and render their services to the public unhindered?
2. Do librarians in South-West Nigeria have the knowledge to develop effective pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans to withstand pandemics now and in the future and render their services to the public unhindered?
3. Are librarians in South-West Nigeria ready to have and use pandemic preparedness, response

and recovery plans to withstand pandemics and render their services to the public unhindered?

#### Significance of the Study

This research is to first of all contribute to and increase the stock of scientific knowledge in librarianship as regards emergency and pandemic management vis a vis unhindered access to information during pandemics. It would increase knowledge on the yielding nature and sincerity of librarians in South-Western Nigeria on the issue of having and using pandemic management plans for libraries, not only in academic and public libraries but also other library types in the collective library system of the country. It would guide librarians at the executive and managerial levels to offer leadership in building team spirit in pandemic management in their respective libraries and on collaborative level. It would serve as reference point for library management and library parent bodies in aligning library services to the dictates of health stakeholders in a solidified manner as strategic and concrete plans.

This research is useful to librarians, librarianship community, library sponsors and parent bodies, stakeholders, policy makers, and governments and their working functionalities to the change paradigms in librarianship. It is a summoning and decision support research for those mentioned. The findings and recommendations are pointers for sincere and lasting actions on this.

#### Scope and Limitations

It is impossible to find a study that is all-encompassing and treating everything in a discipline. That is the same with this work. It has some limitations as it was done. Some of these are inadequate time and resources to cover more geo-political zones in Nigeria, so as to form a wholesome and integrated study on the topic. Therefore, this study was conducted using only one geo-political region in Nigeria. It is further limited to opinions of librarians on pandemic planning drawing from experiences of the novel COVID-19 pandemic.

### III. LITERATURE REVIEW

There are significant and noticeable number of literature in the area of disaster, crisis, emergency and pandemic management in librarianship, being the area of this research work. Some of them have been reviewed to underpin and guide this study.

### Applicable Theories

S. R. Ranganathan, one of the finest and renowned fathers of librarianship, has long ago, precisely in 1931, published some long-lasting laws that are somewhat omnibus and applicable to almost everything done in librarianship, especially as librarianship grows from age to age with unprecedented surge in innovations and creativities anchored on research and development on the field and those related ones that are adapted and adopted as a way of professionalizing the profession and gearing its relevance to the ever-dynamic society served by libraries. The laws are as follow:

Law 1: Books are for use

Law 2: Every reader his or her book

Law 3: Every book its reader

Law 4: Save the time of the reader

Law 5: The library is a growing organism

The one that is useful operationally in the context of this study is “The library is a growing organism”. Encyclopedia Britannica (2018) noted that Ranganathan’s Five Laws of Library Science (1931) has been long ago widely and largely accepted as a definitive statement of the ideal of library service. Thanks to Ranganathan who was trendy enough to forward-look and forecast a glamorous incremental strides to the library profession as a whole, the libraries and those who work in libraries and professionalizing the profession. If he had said that “the library is a grown organism” by now the laws would have been subsumed and falsified by manifestations of realities and there would have been confusion and calamity for the library community and its professionalism as information and knowledge is continuously growing; as publishing techniques, information dissemination technology and outlets are continuously growing; as population of library users and their overall information behaviour are continuously growing; as dimensions of information sources and modes of services are continuously growing; and as the societies served by libraries are continuously growing and throwing up trends and dynamisms for libraries to cope with. Everything else is growing in librarianship. Libraries need to be strategically positioned and sometimes pragmatic for their survival and continuous relevance, so they have to be ever-dynamic, proactive, responsive and always aligning with the growth, development, happenings and trends in the society. Logically, if the library as the super-system is growing then staff who work in it and whatever operations, programmes and interventions that they do should be growing as well. That is the only panacea and antidote if the

dinosaurial predicament would not happen to whatever is linked to the profession of librarianship.

The concern here is disaster and emergency management in libraries. It needs to grow in approach, methods and techniques as the society harbouring libraries are encountering unforeseen and never-expected types, waves and variants of disaster and emergency that are upwardly becoming complex. The “disaster” libraries have known and prepared for, are not the contagious and deadly pandemic that we have today. Libraries have ever planned for “no injury for staff and other humans who use the library”, but today the COVID-19 has stretched more than that to the level where libraries are to plan for “no death or loss of life of their staff and users”. Kennedy (2020) observed that “COVID-19 is an unprecedented pandemic for most of us”. No library was ready for it. Further, the author noted that the pandemic made research libraries to strategize and quickly responded to the shifting needs of their communities and worked collectively to adapt, alongside public health officials, senior administrators, and city officials, as well as research communities. Corroborating this, Garnett (2021) noted that history has shown that both natural and human induced hazards have impacted libraries across the globe and there are possibilities that they would still occur even at more severe intensity; therefore, it is important for libraries to consider a changed approach to risk management and shift grounds from a ‘response-reactive’ focus to ‘resilience building’.

Other theories that are relevant and applicable to the present disaster and emergency scenarios playing out today but not used in this research are Business Continuity Theory, Change Management Theory, Theory of Readiness for Change, and Theory of Planned Behaviour. The Australian Library and Information Association [ALIA] (2019) used Business Continuity Theory in its “Disaster Management for Libraries Part One – Guide 2nd edition 2019”. The theory ensures that an organization’s critical business functions continue to be available irrespective of the magnitude of the crisis that is befalling it or the society where it is operating and earning its living. A typical business continuity plan will include:

- a list of essential business requirements
- identified risks and assessment on their impact on the business; and
- a strategy to respond to, manage and recover from an incident.’



(National Archives of Australia. Business Continuity and Disaster Planning).

### **COVID-19 Experience and the Need for Disaster and Pandemic Management Plans for Libraries— An Integrated Approach**

Although COVID-19 is primarily a public health menace, its spillover effects have been on all facets and sectors, including economic, social and cultural lives. Educational systems, learning and research institutes, and libraries worldwide are not spared. Libraries are repositories, treasures of endearing value and remain the longest serving memory bank of societies across the globe. Within them are the products of illuminating brains and knowledge assets of both the dead and living. They are the purveyors and reservoirs of the knowledge assets in societies. Although they have a common underpinning philosophy and grand objective, as described above, libraries are of different types by the specificities of the objectives they pursue for their parent bodies. Upon that angle, Pathak (2019) recognized academic libraries to be the hearts of the academic learning communities as they serve as place for users to do their academic business and advance their knowledge. To the author, it is better that such libraries are safe from security threats and physical weaknesses. That lends credence to the need for security and disaster management. However, pandemic management has been added to the portfolio of library managers, drawing from the horror experience of the on-going and prolonged COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, these cannot be done without effective planning and policy formulation; hence the obvious need for disaster management plan, and the new pandemic plan. Matthews (2004) considers disaster plan as one of the key institutional factors that contribute to effective disaster management in libraries. He stated further that the written disaster control plan stands out as a crucial framework around which disaster management actions should be planned. Muir and Shenton (2002) noted with centrifugality that disaster plan is unarguably the central part of disaster management. Matthews (2004) hinted that formulating and implementing such plan needs more than words and letters on paper. Ayoung, Boatbil and Baada (2016) hinted that not only formulation, the importance of disaster management plans for library staff rests on their effective and efficient utilization to confront library-related disasters. Superio, Alayon and Oliveros (2019) opined that a disaster management plan is crucial because it serves to purposefully guide library personnel on what to do in a critical time when disaster has struck. Rachman (2020) posited that libraries need to see disaster

preparedness plans and related activities as essential functions since they collect and provide access to information and knowledge of human intellectual ideas and work. As a corroboration, Oketch and Wamae (2021) opined that preparing and planning for disaster still stands to be the most crucial component of libraries; that since the existence of libraries and information science, there has been a history of disasters happening from time to time, even till now.

### **Presence or Absence of Disaster and Pandemic Plans in Libraries: A Cross-Sectional Global Survey**

As important and crucial as disaster management plan, it is unfortunate and unprofessional that majority of libraries across the globe either do not have it at all, have it as unwritten word-of-mouth plan [which is not going to be effective and advocates like a plan], or have it but prepare for a little of its implementation. Surveys and other researches carried out in different continents and countries will help to substantiate this. These are shown below.

#### **Non-African libraries**

Kaur (2009) observed that although India is prone to natural disasters, it has become obvious that they do not take disaster planning seriously. Nonetheless, there is disaster planning at the government level which gained momentum recently but disaster planning in the university libraries in India remains a neglected area. The author used a case study of two university libraries in Punjab State of India that faced the fury of floods during July 1993, where one of the university libraries lost over 70 per cent of its collection.

Kostagiolas, Araka, and Bokos (2011) conducted a study aimed at reviewing several disaster management approaches for academic libraries and to make suggestions for Greek academic libraries by analyzing the results of a nationwide survey. They found out that the disaster management within academic libraries in Greece is handled inefficiently, if not completely neglected. They lamented that although issues on disaster prevention have extensively been studied in the literature and have been embedded in everyday library practices all over the world, the vast majority of Greek libraries have not developed any specific measures. They lacked personnel, equipment maintenance activities, and certainly no concrete plans.

Kalyani and Prabhakaran (2014) recognized that some kinds of disaster are so

frequent in India and the loss incurred in the process has been grossly exorbitant and contagious to all facets and sectors of the economy, including the libraries. The authors regretted that despite this unfortunate observation, libraries in India have less awareness about handling and sustaining disasters when compared to American and European libraries. The study first gave a brief description of the libraries in India which were worst hard-hit and went ahead to suggest ways for all to prepare for risk and disaster management in time to come. It also stresses the need for libraries in India to be enrolled into insurance companies like other investments and property in order to reduce the loss.

Juryiah, Khalid and Dol (2015) carried out a survey study on the status of preparedness in disaster management among Malaysian academic libraries in the State of Selangor and the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, using Chief Librarians or their assignees in charge of disaster or emergency preparedness from 40 academic libraries but received 34 responses. They found out that even though some of the academic libraries under study have experienced one form of disaster or the other, yet majority of them do not have a written disaster preparedness plan. Although, the risk assessments and staff involvement in disaster preparedness by these libraries were generally adequate. Hence, they concluded that academic libraries in Malaysia are still not prepared for disaster even though several occasions about it have been reported.

Moustafa (2015) surveyed librarians and archivists in national and academic libraries in the Middle East and North Africa and the results of eight in-person interviews about the status and content of wartime disaster management plans in their institutions. He found out that majority of the region's libraries and archives either lack or have insufficient plans in place. He therefore recommended the need to establish and implement protocols for the protection and preservation of their priceless holdings.

Pathak (2019) hinted that Indian libraries need disaster plan to overcome disaster and security management; at least there should be policies and procedures established and enforced in order to control theft, mutilation and related vices. The library policies should be made in consultation with all stake holders including students. Once it is finalized through broad discussion with management, students and librarians, then it should be circulated to all concerned, especially students.

Superio, Alayon and Oliveros (2019) lamented that despite the fact that a disaster

management plan serves as a blueprint and compass to guide library personnel on what to do in a critical time of disaster, results of their survey revealed that majority of the libraries do not have a disaster management plan; though they all had common disaster management practices that enabled them to save parts of their collections during the Typhoon Haiyan. This was from a survey on the impact of Typhoon Haiyan on 22 academic libraries in Northern Panay, Western Visayas, Philippines. It was also found out that the librarians in those libraries lacked professional knowledge and skills on disaster management.

Pathak (2019) research on disaster in Punjab of India and found it disgusting the lackadaisical attitudes of librarians toward having a disaster plan. He blatantly concluded that "most libraries were not very ready to cope with disaster since most did not have any comprehensive disaster plan, did not insure their collections, and only a few were collaborating with essential service departments".

Rachman (2020) conducted a survey to identify potential types of disaster that may be experienced by academic libraries in Indonesia as well as their disaster preparedness activities using 85 academic library representatives who attended an academic librarian forum in Jakarta, Indonesia. They discovered many types of natural and man-made disaster such as earthquakes, floods, theft and vandalism, unstable electrical power supply, and hardware and software malfunctions. The big bang here is that the study found out that the majority of libraries participating in the study do not have a disaster preparedness plan.

Oketch and Wamae (2021) engaged in a study to establish the level of disaster preparedness and planning at the digital library in Egerton University and found out that the library was at risk to disaster of some types, not all the library staff had adequately undergone training on disaster preparedness and planning, the library was not adequately supplied with disaster preparedness and planning equipment, the library was experiencing challenges regarding disaster preparedness and planning, and services of the library will certainly be affected in the future should a disaster happens. The study recommended among others that the management of the institution in cooperation with the library should develop disaster preparedness plan. It was anchored on the Theory of Planned Behavior.

Wijayasundara (2021) conducted a study using librarians of all 15 Sri Lankan state universities in order to ascertain the likelihood of occurrence of various types of disaster and their

potential impact on university libraries with the ultimate goal to exploring the necessity of developing disaster risk reduction plans and increasing the level of preparedness for disaster for academic libraries in Sri Lanka. The study examined some of the different types of disasters: natural, man-made, and hybrid, which can occur in university libraries. In this study, the researcher considered the likelihood of occurrence of various types of disaster and their potential impact on university libraries. It was found out that fire is the most expected disaster. The findings revealed loopholes in planning and the recommendations highlighted the importance of the libraries having an effective disaster plan and made it mandatory that every library should adopt a plan to safeguard its valuable legacies.

Duh, Jugović and Ašler (2022) assessed the state of crisis preparedness, management, and the potentials of crisis response in academic and special libraries in Croatia and found out that majority of academic and special libraries in Croatia are not standalone institutions, making their freedom in establishing crisis management actions limited, and the considerable discrepancies in the equipment, conditions, and the crisis mitigation capacities among the surveyed libraries.

#### **African and Nigerian libraries**

Echezona, Ugwu and Echezemo (2010) investigated disaster management in University Libraries in South-Eastern Nigeria, using eighty-six librarians sampled from the total of two hundred and sixty-five librarians. The findings showed that perceptions of librarians vary on disaster management; and the problems against effective disaster management in the libraries are absence of disaster management plan, inadequate facilities, inadequate fund allocation to libraries, and lack of interest on the part of some librarians on disaster management. One of their strategies to combat these was urgent development of disaster preparedness plan. Others were vulnerability analysis and risk assessment be conducted to evaluate the types of emergencies that might affect library collection, personnel and building; backing up library websites regularly, staff training and raising awareness of the need to protect document from disaster. And they recommended that modern facilities to avert disaster should be provided by government, and training of librarians and other staff on disaster control and prevention should be carried out as well as adequate funding of the libraries by the government.

Moustafa (2015) surveyed librarians and archivists in national and academic libraries in the

Middle East and North Africa and the results of eight in-person interviews about the status and content of wartime disaster management plans in their institutions and found out that majority of the region's libraries and archives either lack or have insufficient plans in place. He there recommended the need to establish and implement protocols for the protection and preservation of their priceless holdings.

Onu (2015) identified three basic causes of disaster in Nigerian Polytechnic Libraries to include fire, water and physical damage. The author was disgusted about libraries not having plans for disaster and crisis management. Recommendations were made by the author and implored for a holistic and strategic implementation of them so that Nigerian Polytechnic Libraries of the 21st century can tame disaster as they come.

Aburuki (2016) investigated nine centres of Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization and found out that there was lack of institutional capacity to fund disaster management, majority of personnel involved in disaster management are not adequately trained, no strategies put in place nor adequate tools to implement planning and prevention to manage disasters.

Using five academic libraries, Musa (2016) carried out a survey study on disaster control measures in academic libraries in Nasarawa State of Nigeria and discovered that the greatest damage to collections was from theft, followed by mutilation of library materials, water incidence, insect attack, and rodent invasion. There had never been any fire incidence, nor deterioration of audio-visual materials and any form of earthquakes in any academic library in the State. However, most libraries studied were not very ready to cope with disaster since they did not have any comprehensive disaster plan, did not insure their collections, and only a few collaborate with essential service departments in case of emergency.

Ayoung, Boatbil and Baada (2016) used a qualitative approach, interviewed five head librarians and 25 other staff members of selected polytechnics, and conducted a research for the purpose of assessing the level of preparedness of Ghanaian polytechnic libraries towards disaster. They found out that there is general absence of security policies and disaster plans among the libraries. They concluded that the libraries were ill-prepared for disaster, and therefore recommended that libraries develop policies and plans for disaster management, organise training programmes for staff in order to increase their awareness about

disaster, and try as much as possible to be involved in cooperative networks against disaster.

Adadu and Ianna (2019) conducted a survey on disaster management in academic libraries in Benue State, Nigeria and found out that majority of the academic libraries in the state lack disaster management plans. Other problems were inadequate or malfunctioning firefighting equipment, lack of disaster management committee, and lack of staff training on disaster management. The first recommendation was librarians should be sensitized on the vitality of disaster management plan and policy so that they can mitigate disaster of any kind.

Ilo, Nwachukwu and Izuagbe (2020) conducted a study on 12 federal and state university libraries in Nigeria and found out that there was complacency in development and use of disaster plan among the libraries; though when compared the state university libraries were extremely lagging behind their federal counterparts in terms of emergency preparedness, judging by the availability of emergency response plans (ERPs). Even at that, librarians in both cases attach less importance to emergency plans—in both the written emergency response plan (WERP) or unwritten emergency response plan (UERP), and hence do not view it as a crucial preparatory and control measure to emergency.

Finally, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, African Library and Information Associations and Institutions [AfLIA] sought to find out the emergency preparedness level of African libraries to the crisis, their roles in dissemination of information on preventive measures and plans for post-COVID-19 era. One hundred and fifty-three (153) libraries from twenty-four (24) out of 54 countries across the five (5) regions of the continent, namely Northern, Southern, Western, Eastern and Central Africa, were used. Nigeria had the largest number of libraries in the survey, with fifty-two (52) libraries, followed by Zambia that has thirteen (13). It was found out that a great number of African libraries (52.3%) do not have emergency preparedness plan, and of these libraries 20% never thought of drawing up such plans, while 57.5% never imagined experiencing a health crisis (pandemic) that would affect libraries. Moreover, the existing disaster management plans or emergency preparedness protocols that they claimed to have were inadequate as they covered outbreak of fire, flood as well as health related crisis including COVID-19 (44.1%). However, of the libraries with such plans, the protocols that have until recently been activated in some African

libraries are mainly for fire (73.5%) and flood (32.4%).

#### **Appraisal of literature review**

The literature showed that libraries across the world see disaster and emergency as inevitable and some of them have been badly affected by it but the degree to which they plan and respond to it varies and not very encouraging altogether. That was what happened with the COVID-19 pandemic. All libraries across the globe were affected and their services closed at a particular time during the heat of the pandemic. Some of them later strategized and continue to re-strategize in the face of the changing-variant pandemic. Libraries are too critical to be closed down especially when people need them most at critical time as pandemic that is characterized with mixture of information and misinformation. It is upon that cumulative that this research is birthed.

#### **IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Methodology of a research is purely about participants and procedure, including details about their characteristics and description. This research is quantitative and used quantitative methodology as the techniques employed led to specifically determined objectives and questions, gathering data that are in numerical form, and performing statistical calculations so that conclusions could be drawn and far-reaching implications made for the decision-making process of the beneficiaries of the research. It employed a survey design. Such design is necessitated by a fairly large, large or very large number of participants. It is suited for observing phenomena that cannot be directly observed, such as events, objects, opinions, attitudes, preferences and interests. With a large number of participants, the data collection and analysis method were highly structured having questions in close-ended form while minimal outlets were given to respondents to state their subjective states. This was done to avoid the difficulty in analyzing the data. Survey would attract close-ended questionnaire, structured interview, and observation using data recording sheets. Survey is used across all disciplines and hence used here.

The land coverage of this research is the South-West geopolitical zone of Nigeria. It is made up of six states: Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo. However, the population of this study is made up of librarians in the six states and spreads across libraries and number of library schools in the zone. According to Federal Ministry of Education (2019), South-West Nigeria has about 7 federal universities, 11 state universities and 28



private universities. Also it has 5 federal polytechnics, 14 state polytechnics and 19 private polytechnics. It has 3 federal colleges of education, 7 state colleges of education and 5 private colleges of education. There might have been others founded since then. All these must have libraries attached and librarians manning them in order to meet the basic educational and accreditation requirements of monitoring agencies for technical and university education in Nigeria e.g. National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and National University Commission (NUC). In addition, the zone has six public library boards, 5 branches of the national library, and other special and school libraries having professional librarians. The study earlier had a very large population to cover. However, because of some circumstances beyond the control of the researcher, such as insecurity and prolonged strike action (close to nine months) of the university sector, the population had to be reduced to librarians in Public Library Boards, and polytechnic libraries and polytechnic library schools in four states only. Just one of the four studied states has a library school. In survey research, it is reasonable to reduce a study population that seems impossible to cover so that it becomes manageable in size the way that it would be feasible for the researcher and also statistically sound. Due to the problems highlighted above, the study used a census approach and sampled all librarians seen in offices, library spaces and those referred by others. All professional librarians in the libraries and library schools within the sampled states were projected to be prospective respondents for the research. They were given test instruments. This was a physical exercise as their personal contact information is not widely available to the public. Well-scaled and structured questionnaire with standardized questions was used for the study. However, very little outlets as open questions, were given for respondents to shed their subjective and innate reservoirs that might not be captured in literature as at the time of developing the instrument. The questionnaire was divided into three parts comprising introduction, respondent's demographic data and subject matter sections. The instrument used in this research has been validated and made reliable over time by literature and experts' opinion. Moreover, a little pilot study was

conducted for its validity, reliability and usability. Validity ensures that a subject or object is exhaustively decomposed and everything which is supposed to be measured about it is taken care of and properly synchronized within the ambience of the major and specific objectives of the study. Reliability takes it from there and ensures that the test validity is sustained and remains consistent over a time. Research objectives tell which methodology to use in order to gather the right data, and analyzing those data gathered gives a firm basis to meet objectives. For this study, simple percentage and tabulation were used for analyzing, describing and summarizing the data.

**Presentation of Findings, Interpretation and Discussion**

Here, apart from the presentation of demographic information of the respondents, each table is organized around one research question. However, only Tables 2. 1 and 2. 2 are from one research question but the findings shared into two tables due to the nature of assertion or question and response options required. The discussion of result or findings follows.

One hundred and fifty-two (152) questionnaires were sent to the field for respondents but only one hundred and thirty-four (134) were filled in and returned. Unfortunately, out of that only one hundred and sixteen (116) became usable due to filling-in errors. So, the findings is based on 116 questionnaires filled in by 116 respondents. It should have been more but university sector of education was on strike throughout the project engagement.

**Key:** Unless otherwise stated, some abbreviations were used herein to save space and summarize data of the findings for comprehension. For instance, VGE—very great extent; GE—great extent; ME—moderate extent; SE—small extent; and NE—no extent. Others are M—mean; R—ranking; and D—decision.

**Demographic Information of Respondents**

This sub-section provides descriptive and identification information of respondents. It gives the general overview of the environment studied. The findings are presented below.

**Table 1: Demographic information of respondents**

Object	Options	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	66	56.9%
	Female	50	43.1%
Level of education	ND (Poly)	70	86%
	ND (Univ.)	14	12.1%

	HND	18	15.5%
	First Degree	45	38.8%
	Masters Degree	24	20.7%
	PhD	05	4.3%
Work status	Lecturer	12	10.3%
	Librarian	31	26.7%
	Library Officer	54	46.6%
	Library Assistant	19	16.4%
Length of service	1-5 years	34	29.3%
	6-10 years	31	26.7%
	11-15 years	32	27.6%
	16 & Above	19	16.4%

The data from Table 1 shows that 66(56.9%) of the respondents are male, and 50(43.1%) female. That is to say that majority of the respondents are male. Their educational attainment varies and range from National Diploma from Polytechnic institutions through National Diploma from Universities, Higher National Diploma, First degree, Masters degree to Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). However, majority of them 70(86%) are National Diploma holders from the Polytechnic sector of education. This is followed by first degree holders 45(38.8%), then Masters degree holders 24(20.7%), Higher National Diploma holders 18(15.5%), holders of National Diploma from University 14(12.1%), and the least are PhD holders 05(4.3%). Their works status also varies. They are on the grand shared into two professional work statuses— between lecturing and practicing as librarians. While 12(10.3%) are lecturers, others 31(26.7%), 54(46.6%) and 19(16.4%) are practicing librarians. This makes the findings of this research worthwhile. Librarians— those who work in the library—have the “first hand” experience with the COVID-19 pandemic

vis a vis library service to users amidst it. I think that they are the most fit for this research. They have the largest doze of the experience and privy to what other libraries as well go through in rendering services to users amidst the pandemic. This may likely be through operational meetings and social media platforms. However, majority here are library officer cadre, which is 54(46.6%). This is not going to be strange since majority of the library staff are national diploma holders. In addition, their length of service and experience also varies. While some have been in service for 1-5 years 34(29.3%), other have been there for 6-10 years 31(26.7%), 11-15 years 32(27.6%), and 16&above 19(16.4%). Even at that, all of them are duly qualified to shed data on this topic, because for some decades pandemic as severe as COVID-19 has not occurred in the library scene.

**Research Question 1:** Are librarians in South-West Nigeria aware of how having a pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans can help them withstand pandemics now and in the future and render their services to the public unhindered?

**Table 2. 1:** Awareness of COVID-19 as a pandemic, its destructive powers to library services, and pandemic plans to control it

I am aware that	VGE	GE	ME	SE	NE	M	R	Decision
COVID-19 is a pandemic	51(43.9%)	38(32.8%)	17(14.7%)	8(6.90%)	02(1.7%)	4.10	1	Accepted
It distorts library services	53(45.7%)	37(31.9%)	12(10.3%)	10(8.6%)	04(3.4%)	4.08	2	√
There is of PPRPPs	51(43.9%)	31(26.7%)	9(7.76%)	22(18.9%)	03(2.6%)	3.90	3	√
PPRPPs can help control it	48(41.4%)	30(25.9%)	13(11.2%)	21(18.1%)	04(3.4%)	3.84	4	Accepted
<b>Column Mean</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>			

**Criterion Mean = 3.0**

Table 2. 1 shows data about respondents' awareness of COVID-19 as a pandemic, its destructive powers to library services, and pandemic plans to control it. As you can see from the table, majority of respondents 51(43.9%) are aware of COVID-19 as a pandemic that is dangerous to public safety on a global scale,

53(45.7%) can relate this to library services, 51(43.9%) are able to know that there is a plan for pandemics beyond the traditional disaster management plan hitherto known and used by libraries, and 48(41.4%) believe that such plan can tame COVID-19 and other pandemics while libraries render services to users unhindered.

Table 2. 2: Means through which respondents became awareness of COVID-19 as a pandemic, its destructive powers to library services, and pandemic plans to control it

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Friends	25	21.6%
Professional colleagues at workplace	25	21.6%
Professional colleagues at local seminars	10	8.6%
Professional colleagues at international seminars	09	7.8%
Professional colleagues at local workshops	09	7.8%
Professional colleagues at international workshops	07	6.0%
Newspaper	34	29.3%
Magazine	20	17.2%
Other literature	08	6.9%
Social media	41	35.3%
Broadcast media	33	28.4%
Internet (WWW and Websites)	32	26.7%
Others, please specify	02	1.7%

One still has to know the means through which respondents became aware of COVID-19 as a pandemic, its destructive powers to library services, and pandemic plans to control it. On a modal basis, 41(35.3%) became aware of these through social media, while through professional colleagues at international workshops 7 (6.0%) is the least [apart from "others"]. Followed by social media is newspapers 34(29.3%), broadcast media 33(28.4%), Internet (WWW and Websites) 32(26.7%), friends 25(21.6%), professional colleagues at workplace 25(21.6%), magazines 20(17.2%), professional colleagues at local seminars 10(8.6%), professional colleagues at international seminars 9 (7.8%), other literature 8(6.9%), professional colleagues at international workshops 7 (6.0%), and other means 2 (1.7%).

The findings here are not strange because COVID-19 was fast in spreading its deadly tentacles and before anyone could know it, there

were strict guidelines barring human sociality and physical contacts, including lockdowns. When this happened, social media, broadcast media (in print and electronic), and the World Wide Web (WWW) and Websites of the internet, became the only sources for spreading pandemic, work and daily living information. This is in line with Adomi and Oyovwe-Tinuoye (2021) and Ijebor and Ahmed (2022) on matter of sources of COVID-19 information for library and information science professionals and trainees. Moreover, being aware of pandemic management plans is not strange to librarians, since they are proactive and dynamic set of people (CARL, 2010).

**Research Question 2:** Do librarians in South-West Nigeria have the knowledge to develop effective pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans to withstand pandemics now and in the future and render their services to the public unhindered?

**Table 3:** Knowledge of PRRPPs in content, purpose and formulation by librarians at the lower and top level management, and library parent bodies

I can say that	VGE	GE	ME	SE	NE	M	R	Decision
PPRRPs is effective in managing	22 (18.9%)	41(35.3%)	24(20.7%)	25(21.6%)	04(3.4%)	3.45	1	Accepted

pandemics (Purpose)								
I know PRRPs	25(21.6%)	32(27.6%)	25(21.6%)	24(20.7%)	10(8.6%)	3.32	2	Accepted
Mgt of my library has a clear vision of PRRPs	20(17.2%)	33(28.4%)	29(25%)	28(24.7%)	12(10.3%)	3.28	3	√
Mgt of my institution has a clear vision of PRRPs	20(17.2%)	29(25%)	36(31.0%)	22(18.9%)	09(7.8%)	3.25	4	√
I know the benefits of having PRRPs	22(18.9%)	29(25%)	29(25%)	24(20.7%)	12(10.3%)	3.22	5	√
I have a clear vision of PRRPs	18(15.5%)	29(25%)	34(29.3%)	27(23.3%)	08(6.9%)	3.19	6	√
I know the contents of PRRPs	11(9.5%)	37(31.9%)	34(29.3%)	27(23.3%)	07(6.0%)	3.16	7	√
PPRRPs is same as traditional library disaster plans	22(18.9%)	28(24.1%)	13(11.2%)	38(32.8%)	15(12.9%)	3.03	8	Accepted
I know how to formulate PRRPs	07(6.0%)	21(18.1%)	34(29.3%)	42(36.2%)	12(10.3%)	2.73	9	Rejected
I know the skills and resources needed to formulate PRRPs	14(12.1%)	20(17.2%)	35(30.2%)	35(30.2%)	12(10.3%)	2.65	10	Rejected
<b>Column Mean</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>10.1</b>			

### Criterion Mean = 3.0

Table 3 reveals that respondents have the knowledge of pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans in content, purpose and formulation. However, this vary in degrees. Knowledge of its purpose to a very great extent is 22 (18.9%), to a great extent 41(31.3%), to moderate 24(20.7%), to a small extent 25(21.6%), and to no extent 04(3.4%). Knowledge of its purpose has the highest mean (3.45) and ranked the highest as the first consideration. In addition, that purpose or vision is clear to both institutional managements of the libraries and library management teams themselves. However, knowledge of its formulation and knowledge of the skills and resources needed to do that is low. That is for librarians and not the management. A careful look at the column means, one discovers that **to a great extent** (29.9), respondents have the knowledge of pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans in content and purpose but not

its formulation and skills to do so. However, this is not too bad since the idea is “new” to librarians in Nigeria. If not for COVID-19 experience, who would have woken up to the call of formulating series of plans for pandemics. Nonetheless, libraries and librarianship have been on security, disaster and emergency management for a long time; at least, they are vital concepts in librarianship and supported by the curriculum across all sectors of education at the tertiary level (Muir& Shenton, 2002; Matthews, 2004; Ayong, Boatbil&Baada, 2016; Kaur, 2019; Pathak, 2019; Superio, Alayon&Oliveros, 2019;Rachman, 2020; Oketch&Wamae, 2021).

**Research Question 3:** Are librarians in South-West Nigeria ready to have and use pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans to withstand pandemics and render their services to the public unhindered?



**Table 4:** Readiness of librarians at the lower and top level management, and their opinion about that of their library parent bodies for pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans and the change that comes with, including time and resources

I can say that	VGE	GE	ME	SE	NE	M	R	D
I recommend PPRRPs for South-West libraries	48(41.4%)	49(42.2%)	17(14.7%)	02(1.7%)	—	4.23	1	A
My overall opinion for having PPRRPs	47(40.5%)	48(41.4%)	20(17.2%)	01(0.9%)	—	4.22	2	√
I am ready for having PPRRPs in the libraries	50(43.1%)	36(31.0%)	27(23.3%)	02(1.7%)	01(0.9%)	4.14	3	√
Mgt of my library is ready for the change	24(20.7%)	33(28.4%)	36(31.0%)	16(13.8%)	07(6.0%)	3.44	4	√
Mgt of my institution is ready for the change	24(20.7%)	33(28.4%)	36(31.0%)	16(13.8%)	07(6.0%)	3.44	4	√
I am ready for the change that comes with PPRRPs	28(24.1%)	29(25%)	29(25%)	24(20.7%)	06(5.2%)	3.42	5	√
I will always speak positively about PPRRPs	27(23.3%)	25(21.6%)	40(34.5%)	16(13.8%)	08(6.9%)	3.41	6	√
I am confident of my library having PPRRPs	30(25.9%)	26(22.4%)	31(26.7%)	20(17.2%)	09(7.8%)	3.41	6	√
My library will soon join others having PPRRPs globally	21(18.1%)	30(25.9%)	38(32.6%)	20(17.2%)	07(6.0%)	3.33	7	√
Mgt of my institution knows its roles in having PPRRPs	20(17.2%)	34(29.3%)	30(25.9%)	20(17.2%)	12(10.3%)	3.26	8	√
My library	20(17.2%)	34(29.3%)	30(25.9%)	20(17.2%)	12(10.3%)	3.26	8	√

knows its roles in having PPRRPs									
I am ready and willing to contribute to having PPRRPs	19(16.4%)	33(28.4%)	33(28.4%)	19(16.4%)	12(10.3%)	3.24	9	√	
Already there are negotiations and talks about PPRRPs in my library	23(19.8%)	20(17.2%)	38(32.8%)	25(21.6%)	10(8.6%)	3.18	10	√	
I know my roles and responsibilities in having PPRRPs	19(16.4%)	27(23.3%)	38(32.6%)	16(13.8%)	16(13.8%)	3.15	11	A	
I have been engaged on matters of having PPRRPs	14(12.1%)	21(18.1%)	33(28.4%)	29(25%)	19(16.4%)	2.78	12	R	
<b>Column Mean</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>8.23</b>				

### Criterion Mean = 3.0

Table 4 reveals the level of readiness of librarians at the lower and top level management, and their opinions about their library's parent bodies for pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans and the change that comes with, including time and resources. It shows that respondents are ready to have and use pandemic plans and ready for whatever happens afterwards that needs to be managed, so long the purpose of the plans is fulfilled. They even went as far as recommending it for all libraries in South-Western Nigeria to a great extent 49(42.2%). That has a mean of the highest score and ranking highest in the table (4.23).

## V. CONCLUSIONS

It is evident from the data that librarians in South-Western Nigeria are to a **very great extent** aware of COVID-19 as a pandemic, its destructive powers to library services, and equally know that with a pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans in place libraries within the region [and even beyond] can withstand pandemics now and in the future and render their services to the

public unhindered. This is evident from the column mean of the table.

It has become glaring that librarians in South-Western Nigeria to a **great extent** have the knowledge to develop effective pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans so that they can withstand pandemics now and in the future and render their services to the public unhindered. Nonetheless, they have most knowledge of its purpose, more about its content, and less of its formulation. Knowledge of its formulation and knowledge of the skills and resources needed to do that is low.

To a **great extent**, librarians in South-Western Nigeria are ready to have and use pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans so that they can align the goals of such plans to institutional goals and thereby withstand pandemics now and in the future and go ahead to render their services to the public unhindered. They even went as far as guaranteeing their managements' supports, and as well recommend and prioritize it to a great extent for other libraries in South-Western Nigeria.

## VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of this research are encouraging and contribute to increasing the stock of scientific knowledge in librarianship as regards emergency and pandemic management vis a vis unhindered access to information during pandemics. It is an exposé to the yielding or unyielding nature and sincerity of librarians in South-Western Nigeria on pandemic management birthed on the foundation of pandemic plan. Librarians in South-Western Nigeria are to a very great extent aware of pandemic management plans, know its grand purpose but lacks the knowledge, skills and resources to have it formulated. That is a pointer seeking the sincere cooperation of librarians and librarianship community across the globe. Let those who are more developed and knowledgeable on the matter offer training and education to those who are lagging behind. This may be through any dimensions of education—formal, semi-formal or informal; and using any platform—online or offline, that is feasible and effective. This too is a pointer to coopting and seeking the genuine cooperation of library sponsors and parent bodies, educational and library stakeholders, policy makers and governments and their working functionalities who are supposed to champion the change paradigms in librarianship. Libraries are too vital to be left in the destructive hands of pandemics and leave the would-be users stranded to their ugly fate. Nigerian libraries have to join others who have had their eyes opened by the ravaging pandemics. There needs to be sincere and lasting actions on this. Curriculum for educating library and information science (LIS) trainees needs to be enlarged to incorporate “pandemic management” or “public health management in libraries”. Whatever name that is called is not the issue, what is necessary is a curricular content and delivery mode centred on managing pandemics and guaranteeing public health safety among library personnel and users, and rendering full-scale services amidst. Making it a compulsory course for all levels of LIS education is not a bad idea.

## REFERENCES

- [1]. Aburuki (2016). Disaster management practices in research libraries in Kenya with reference to the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization. A research project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of master of library and information science, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Nairobi. Retrieved from [http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/bitstream/handle/11295/100359/Aburuki\\_Disaster%20Management%20Practices%20In%20Research%20Libraries%20In%20Kenya%20With%20Reference%20To%20The%20Kenya%20Agricultural%20And%20Livestock%20Research%20Organization.pdf?isAllowed=y&sequence=1](http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke/bitstream/handle/11295/100359/Aburuki_Disaster%20Management%20Practices%20In%20Research%20Libraries%20In%20Kenya%20With%20Reference%20To%20The%20Kenya%20Agricultural%20And%20Livestock%20Research%20Organization.pdf?isAllowed=y&sequence=1)
- [2]. Adadu, M. E., & Ianna, M. S. (2019). Disaster management in academic libraries in Benue State, Nigeria. *Library and Information Perspectives and Research*, 1, 59 – 69. Available online at [credencepressltd.com](http://credencepressltd.com)
- [3]. Adomi, E. E. (2008). Collection development and management. Benin: Ethiope Publishing
- [3]. Adomi, E. E., & Oyovwe-Tinuoye, G. O. (2021). COVID-19 information seeking and utilization among library and information science professionals in Nigeria. *International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions*, 48(1) 216–227. DOI: 10.1177/03400352211031587. Retrieved at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/03400352211031587>
- [4]. African Federation of Library Associations and Institutions [AfLIA] (2020). Tracking the responses of African librarians to COVID-19 Crisis. Retrieved from <https://web.afLIA.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/REPORT-TRACKING-THE-RESPONSES-OF-AFRICAN-LIBRARIANS.pdf>
- [5]. Aina, L.O. (2004). Information science text for Africa. Ibadan: Third World Information Services.
- [6]. Ali, M. Y., & Gatiti, P. (2020) The COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic: Reflections on the roles of librarians and information professionals. *Health Information and Libraries Journal*, 37(2): 158–162.
- [7]. Ameh, G. J., Ukwuoma, H. C. & Oye, P. O. (2021). COVID-19 Pandemic and evolving library and information services: Lessons for Nigeria. *International Journal of Development and Management Review (INJODEMAR)*, 16 (1). Retrieved from <file:///C:/Users/HP/AppData/Local/Temp/208110-Article%20Text-517521-1-10-20210603-1.pdf>

- [8]. American Library Association [ALA] (2020). Pandemic preparedness: Resources for libraries. Available at: <https://www.ala.org/tools/atoz/pandemic-preparedness>
- [9]. American Library Association [ALA] (2021). Pandemic preparedness: Resources for libraries. Retrieved from <https://www.ala.org/tools/atoz/pandemic-preparedness>
- [10]. American Library Association [ALA] (2022). Library disaster preparedness & response: Home. Retrieved from <https://libguides.ala.org/disaster>
- [11]. Ayong, A., Boatbil, C. S., & Baada, F. N. (2016). Disaster preparedness of libraries. Semantic scholar, Corpus ID: 61622508. DOI:10.1177/0266666915588794
- [12]. Bansal, J. (2015). Disaster management in libraries: An overview. *The Journal of Library and Information Management* 6(1), 9. DOI:10.5958/2249-3182.2015.00002.7
- [13]. Clarke, S. O. (1999). *Fundamentals of library science*. Lagos: Functional Publishing Limited.
- [14]. Decker, E. (2021) Reaching academic library users during the COVID-19 pandemic: New and adapted approaches in access services. *Journal of Access Services*, 18(1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15367967.2021.1900740>
- [15]. Deol, N. K., & Brar, K. S. (2021). The pandemic of COVID 19 and role of academic libraries. *Library Philosophy and Practice* (e-journal). 5099. Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/5099>
- [16]. Duh, J., Jugović, A. P., & Ašler, L. (2022). Libraries in the crisis. Academic and special libraries in Croatia and their crisis preparedness: A survey. *Libellarium*, 13, (1), 161–178. Retrieved from [https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/3541/cafc09166eb1f73b7e0fa075ee8e1eaf30f.pdf?\\_ga=2.239745671.50119204.1666116891-987560048.1640763914](https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/3541/cafc09166eb1f73b7e0fa075ee8e1eaf30f.pdf?_ga=2.239745671.50119204.1666116891-987560048.1640763914)
- [17]. Echezona, R. I., Ugwu, C. I., & Ozioko, R. E. (2010). Disaster management in university libraries: Perception, problems and strategies. Retrieved from file:///C:/Users/HP/Downloads/Disaster\_mangement\_in\_University\_Libraries\_percep-2.pdf
- [18]. Edoka, B. E. (2000). *Introduction to library science*. Onitsha: Palma Publishing and Links.
- [19]. *Encyclopedia Britannica* (2018). S.R. Ranganathan, Indian librarian. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/S-R-Ranganathan>
- [20]. Garnett, J. (2021). Resilient libraries. *Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association*, 70 (3), 307-312. DOI: 10.1080/24750158.2021.1960612
- [21]. Godwin, L. S. & Adeniran, P. O. (2020). Disaster management in libraries and information centers: Biblical insights. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 25 (4), 39-44. Retrieved from <https://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/Vol.%2025%20Issue4/Series-7/E2504073944.pdf>
- [22]. Ifidon S. E. (2006). *Modern theory and practice of library collection development*. Ekpoma: The Department of Library and Informations Science, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma.
- [23]. Ifidon, S. E., & Ifidon, E. I. (2007). *New directions in African library management*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd.
- [24]. Ilo, PI, Nwachukwu, V. N., & Izuagbe, R. (2020). Emergency response plans: Panacea for emergency preparedness and control in university libraries in Nigeria. *International Journal of Emergency Services*, 9 (3), 339-358. Retrieved from <http://eprints.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/13620/2/Emergency%20response%20plans.pdf>
- [26]. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions [IFLA] (2003). *World summit on the information society, information for all: key roles of libraries in the information society*. Report prepared for libraries at the heart of the information society prelude to world summit on information society. Retrieved from [www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)



- [27]. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions [IFLA] (2020). COVID-19 and the global library field. Retrieved from <https://www.ifla.org/covid-19-and-libraries>
- [28]. Juryiah, S., Khalid, M., & Dol, N. (2015). Disaster Preparedness for academic libraries in Malaysia: An exploratory study. Semantic scholar, Corpus ID: 31290431. Retrieved from <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Disaster-Preparedness-for-Academic-Libraries-in-An-Khalid-Dol/4a5a1a552215f54f71e22e3eb2fc161d564ac1c4>
- [29]. Kalyani, KS., & Prabhakaran, A. (2014). Are we ready to face the disasters at libraries in India? The need for focusing disaster preparedness from disaster management. Semantic scholar, Corpus ID: 114888223. Retrieved from <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/ARE-WE-READY-TO-FACE-THE-DISASTERS-AT-LIBRARIES-IN-Kalyani-Prabhakaran/b4469e004fe8dcef34f0b64906fc2fd41be1ad3e>
- [30]. Kaur, T. (2009). Disaster planning in university libraries in India: A neglected area. *New Library World*. doi:10.1108/03074800910941365. Semantic scholar. Retrieved from <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Disaster-planning-in-university-libraries-in-India%3A-Kaur/98698e1dafa6a69bf73074a8bc9cddb033f997>
- [31]. Kaur, T. (2016). Disaster Management in University Libraries of India and Pakistan. Researchgate. DOI:10.47657/201617903
- [32]. Kennedy, M. L. (2020). Mitigating COVID-19: The contribution research libraries are making. Association of Research Libraries. (online).
- [33]. Kostagiolas, P. A., Araka, I., & Bokos, G. (2011). Disaster management approaches for academic libraries: an issue not to be neglected in Greece. Semantic scholar, Corpus ID: 62551491. DOI:10.1108/01435121111187888
- [34]. Mathews, G. (2004). Disaster management and libraries planning into action: The institutional perspective. In K. G. Saur, *Preparing for the worst, planning for the best: Protecting our cultural heritage from disaster*. Proceedings of a special IFLA conference held in Berlin in July 2003, Edited by: Johanna G. Wellheiser & Nancy E. Gwinn, volume 111 in the series IFLA Publications. DOI: 10.1515/9783110931440
- [35]. Moustafa, L. (2015). Endangers culture heritage: A survey of disaster management planning in Middle East libraries and archives. *Library Management*. Semantic scholar, Corpus ID: 60802044. DOI:10.1108/LM-04-2015-0010.
- [36]. Muir, A., & Shenton, S. (2002). If the worst happens: The use and effectiveness of disaster plans in libraries and archives. Semantic scholar, Corpus ID: 58747072. DOI:10.1108/01435120210697216
- [37]. Musa, S. (2009). Disaster control measures in academic libraries in Nasarawa State. A research project submitted to the Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Education, University Of Nigeria, Nsukka, in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of master degree in library science (MILS). Retrieved from <https://www.unn.edu.ng/publications/files/images/SULEIMAN%20MUSA.pdf>
- [38]. Nigerian Library Association [NLA] (2020). COVID-19: NLA organises Webinar to equip librarians. Retrieved from <https://nla.ng/2020/08/10/nla-organises-a-two-day-seminar-to-prepare-librarians-in-the-covid19-and-post-covid19-era/>
- [39]. Oketch, P., & Wamae, P. (2021). Disaster preparedness and planning for service sustainability: Case of Egerton University Digital Library, Main Campus. *International Journal of Current Aspects*, 5 (3), 54-82. Semantic scholar, Corpus ID: 239859357. DOI:10.35942/ijcab.v5i3.198
- [40]. Onu, B. C. (2015). Disaster management in Nigerian polytechnic libraries of the 21st century: The way forward. *Alvana Journal of Library and Information Technology*, J(1). Retrieved from file:///C:/Users/HP/Downloads/DISASTERMANAGEMENTINNIGERIANPOLYTECHNICLIBRARIESOFTHE21STCENTURY-1.pdf
- [41]. Pathak, S. (2019). Disaster and security preparedness of libraries in India" (2019). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 1868. Retrieved from

- <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1868>
- [42]. Rachman, Y. (2020). Disaster preparedness of academic libraries: A case study from Indonesia. Semantic scholar, Corpus ID: 221159116. DOI:10.1515/pdte-2020-0002
- [43]. Reitz, J.M. (2004). Dictionary for library and information science. London: Libraries Unlimited.
- [44]. Superio, S. A., Oliveros, M. G. M. (2019). Disaster management practices of academic libraries in Panay Island, Philippines: Lessons from Typhoon Haiyan. Semantic scholar, Corpus ID: 56936768. DOI:10.1177/0266666917725905
- [45]. Wijayasundara, N. (2021). Disaster Preparedness in Sri Lankan University Libraries: Before COVID-19. Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association. Semantic scholar, Corpus ID: 237456614. DOI:10.1080/24750158.2021.1955319
- [46]. World Health Organization [WHO]. (2021). WHO-convened global study of origins of SARS-CoV-2: China Part. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-convened-global-study-of-origins-of-sars-cov-2-china-part>