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August 2023

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UWHEJEVWE, Diseiye Oyighan Mrs and OKOH, Helen Ewere CLN, "POST COVID-19 INFORMATIVE ROLES OF LIBRARIANS TO LIBRARY PATRONS IN NIGERIA" (2023). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 7844.

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POST COVID-19 INFORMATIVE ROLES OF LIBRARIANS TO LIBRARY PATRONS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Many people were aware of the covid-19 pandemic, primarily via social media or other sources of information. The news is widely available on the radio, in the newspaper, on television, and on social media. The information spreads panic, anxiety, and misinformation about the pandemic during and after the pandemic. Consequently, after the stop of the extent of Covid-19 virus, many researchers has been trying to stop the fears associated with the pandemic to enable people live together and continue their post covid-19 business. Librarians are already recognizing the possibilities of social media in offering up-to-date information to their voluminous user base in their responsibility of ensuring that patrons are properly informed on post Covid 19 integration. The study concluded that Librarians are tasked with reaching user populations in post Covid-19 and improving their access to current, pertinent information regarding the social integration is very useful. Librarians are required to gather, store, organize, and sort out the accurate information for their clients in this age of information explosion when thousands of bits of information are chunked out every day to prevent misinformation on post Covid-19. It was recommended in the study that the traditional means of library should be sustained, alongside the usage of social media platforms by the library and librarians.

Keywords: Post Covid 19, WHO, Librarians, Integration and Nigeria

Introduction

Poor health information has contributed to a number of illnesses and viral infections that have spread over the world, including the Ebola virus, avian flu, and the most recent worldwide pandemic known as Corona Virus (Covid 19). (WHO, 2020). An infectious condition known as coronavirus disease is brought on by the recently identified SARS-CoV-2 novel coronavirus strain (WHO, 2020). It spreads from person to person using the same method as other common cold or influenza viruses, i.e., through direct contact with sneezes, coughs, or secretions of infected individuals (WHO, 2020). According to the global infection rate, as at the end of July 2020, there were confirmed over 15 million cases and 600,000 fatalities (European Centre for Disease

Prevention and Control) (ECDC, 2020). Numerous medical professionals have attempted to offer a treatment and preventative measures for this epidemic, but it is evident that the instances, as recorded by WHO (2020), occur on a regular basis are quite alarming.

Many people were aware of the covid-19 epidemic, primarily via social media or other sources of information. The news is widely available on the radio, in the newspaper, on television, and on social media. The information spreads panic, anxiety, and misinformation about the pandemic during and after the pandemic. Consequently, after the stop of the extent of Covid-19 virus, many researchers has been trying to stop the fears associated with the pandemic to enable people live together and continue their post covid-19 business, according to Boberg, Quandt, Schatto-Eckrodt, and Frischlich (2020) including Ashrafi-rizi and Kazempour (2020). Various information professionals are constantly working to establish the fact that the pandemic as stopped or people to start their normal life. According to this theory, the librarian should take part in this movement.

The librarian is required to gather, assess, organize, package, and transmit information, especially to the information-poor society that has put a great deal of pressure on it to act in urgent situations like the post Covid-19 pandemic era (Ladan, Haruna&Madu, 2020). The librarian wants to make sure that customers have access to the most recent information about this issue. Additionally, it is required of librarians to disseminate and make accessible health information via social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Skype, and Google+. This is owing to the fact that more effective information dissemination through appropriate social media platforms continues to significantly stimulate positive health behaviors (Sokey, Adjei&Ankrah, 2018).

Librarians are already recognizing the possibilities of social media in offering up-to-date information to their voluminous user base in their responsibility of ensuring that patrons are properly informed about the importance of integration in post Covid 19. Librarians too can fill this gap of disinformation by providing selective dissemination of information (SDI), and customer services in general (Sahu, 2013). However, patrons in both urban and rural locations struggle to get reliable information from librarians through email, text messages, social media, and other online channels because of low levels of education and a lack of information technology. This theoretical article will explore the librarian educational responsibilities to clients in the instance of

post COVID-19 pandemic as a result of passing accurate information to clients about post covid-19 pandemic era. With proper and useful information from librarians to the entire public, the social economic activities will have a speedy growth.

Information Dissemination

Wu, Yang, and Li (2016) defined information distribution as the method of getting information to the intended audience while meeting criteria including reliability, timeliness, and latency. Information dissemination, according to Dhawan (2018), information dissemination is a proactive information service created to inform and educate diverse user groups about social, economic, and educational challenges, difficulties, problems, and opportunities that are relevant to them. Information must be carefully planned, gathered, organized, and stored before being delivered to the target. Information dissemination. According to Chhiato (2018), is the act of exchanging thoughts and messages, such as through symbols, signs, speeches, pictures, signals, writing, or conduct. It involves a meaningful flow of information between two parties or between several parties. Information Dissemination denotes the process of communicating information through stated channels and media in order to reach various groups as indicated.

Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19)

The infectious condition known as coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is brought on by the recently identified novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (WHO, 2020). It first appeared in the Chinese city of Wuhan, and it has since quickly spread to practically every nation on earth. The coronavirus is a member of a group of viruses that causes a number of symptoms, including pneumonia, fever, difficulty breathing, and lung infection (WMHC, 2020). Although these viruses are widespread among animals worldwide, very few human infections have been reported. The World Health Organization (WHO) referred to the coronavirus that infected patients with pneumonia in Wuhan, China, on December 29, 2019, by the label "2019 novel coronavirus" (Li, Guan, Wu, Wang, Zhoum& Tong, 2020). The WHO declared that the 2019 novel coronavirus is officially known as coronavirus illness (COVID-19) (WHO, 2020). Additionally, the virus's current scientific name is severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. (SARS-CoV-2). A small Huanan South China Seafood Market in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China was reportedly connected to a cluster of people with pneumonia of unclear cause in December 2019. (Zhu, Zhang, Wang, Li, Yang & Song, 2020).

Corona virus appears to travel from person to person via the same mechanism as other common cold or influenza viruses, namely by face-to-face contact with a sneeze or cough, or from contact with secretions of infected people, (World Health Organization (WHO). 2020). Fever, a dry cough, exhaustion, shortness of breath, aches and pains, and sore throat are among the usual symptoms. Very few people will experience diarrhoea, nausea, or a runny nose (WHO, 2020). Most COVID-19 infections result in mild-to-moderate fever and respiratory sickness, with no specific treatment options. The 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is currently the illness with the greatest social impact (Ryu and Chun, 2020) as a result of a number of factors, including related deaths, its geographic expansion, the global stock market crash, the cancellation of sporting and artistic events, a lack of goods in marketplaces, among others (Castro, 2020). The behavior of societies at various levels (micro and macro) is related to that in turn (VillegasChiroque, 2020)

Informative roles of Librarian to Patrons in Post Covid-19 Using Social Media Platform

The task of a librarian in providing information to its clients has been enormous after the Covid-19 pandemic's severe effects. However, Covid-19 pandemic has created fresh chances for librarians to interact with their clients and control the extent of false information. The advent and spread of the coronavirus are reportedly having an impact on libraries all over the world. This circumstance has prompted librarians round the globe to organize a collection of priceless information on the end to coronavirus and distribute it to those in need (IFLA, 2020). It is clear that fake news and misinformation fostered confusion and made it more difficult to educate the public and build the interest of library users after the covid-19 epidemic.

Librarians has to improve their social media online services to increase access to their resources. Meanwhile the major of these services are offered through the library social networking pages, most libraries have started creating specially designed collections of electronic resources for particular groups of students to aid the student community against future occurrence of such surge of virus due to the situation that may equally arise in the suspension of physical classes and closure of physical libraries arising (National Digital Library of India, 2020). In support of this initiative, Ladan, Haruna, and Madu (2020) assert that through their social networking pages on sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn, librarians can provide and share information quickly, effectively, and in real-time as strategies in response to emergence situation like the Covid-19 epidemic. Additionally, librarians can act as a platform for using the internet and blogs

for information collection and dissemination in an effort to raise awareness of the current situations.

In order to complement their job as information providers to their clients, librarians can educate their clients on local concerns via social media-reliable platforms and raise worldwide awareness through online activism and campaigns. In addition, librarians can use links on library websites to other organizations that publish relevant content about Covid-19 online. Librarians can use these resources to build a blog to provide Covid-19 information because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) frequently post and update awareness and guidelines across a variety of online platforms (WHO, 2020). However, since the end of Covid-19 it is important for librarians to take full advantage of the social media to curtail future eventually of virus surge.

Since there are reports that more than 2.9 billion people access social media frequently on mobile devices, academics have further established social media as the most practical, quick, and accessible medium for informing a large audience. It would be advantageous for librarians to use this platform to spread information about their library resource their educating patrons. Similar to what Brindha, Jayaseelan, and Kadeswara (2020) said, these sources of knowledge dissemination include Facebook, Google Scholar, and Twitter. The WHO collaborates with Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, Tencent, and TikTok to promptly deliver accurate information to the public and get rid of false and misleading material during and after Covid-19 pandemic. By sharing these resources with their clients and customers, librarians may correlate the advancements made by various social media firms with their professional expertise.

Platforms and Social Media Used by Librarians to Inform Patrons Post Covid-19

Social media is quickly affecting all facets of library and information services as a Web-based platform for information dissemination. Additionally, it has noted that social media is quickly replacing other methods as the preferred way for librarians to form social and professional networks. It is also being used to connect with potential library users and to provide information services to other remote users, particularly in the academic community (Ganiyu & Oluwafemi, 2016). Bradley and McDonald (2011) opined that social media is any web-based or mobile application that facilitates collaboration and enables users to connect, produce, comment on, watch, share, rate, find, profile, and exchange user-generated material. With the aforementioned,

it is established that social media, when actively used by librarians, may play a crucial role in supplying customers with reliable information. Social media has been openly utilized to communicate, spread, and share knowledge (Sahu, 2013). The potential of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Skype, and Google+, as well as other social technologies, are now being recognized by librarians, who are incorporating them into library services.

Additionally, there are several other channels that librarians might utilize to educate users about Covid 19. According to Shonhe (2017), libraries can reach their target audiences by utilizing a diversity of information sharing strategies, including tailored collections, SMS/text notifications, QR codes, online reference services, social networks, websites, mailing lists, and OPACs. By using mobile devices to receive text notifications, information and multimedia materials like films, photos, and audio files can be distributed. Through the use of this service, librarians can tell clients on the most recent developments surrounding Covid-19 and build a new post Covid-19 information, and other pertinent information. Again, quick response (QR) codes, which are two-dimensional barcodes that point users to precise websites on a given subject or topic, are used by librarians. According to Verma and Verma (2014), QR codes are comparable to mobile tagging.

Online reference resources are very useful in promoting research. Barnhart and Pierce (2011) claim that by offering a 24/7 reference and information service through online platforms, librarians can strengthen their relationships with clients and increase their effectiveness. These services could take the shape of current affairs information on post COVID-19. Libraries can use mailing lists to targeted fusers to receive individualized information at the same time as effectively using their websites to offer information, links, updates, and news (Okike, 2020)

Other information media that are used by the librarians on post Covid-19 to facilitate public health awareness are as summarized by Ali and Bhatti (2020) are:

Mobile Apps - used to educate the people to know about the post Covid-19 issues and how to fit into the society again with any fear of the virus and also to inform the general public against future occurrence of such virus surge. This can support the task of librarians in Covid 19 information sharing

Artificial Intelligence-Based Chatbots - Artificial intelligence-based chatbots are designed in different local and international languages by developers, and one can chat 24/7 and get information about issues on virus symptoms, diagnosis, and precautionary measures.

Video-Based Lecture - Vimeo, and Dailymotion are sources where infectious disease experts share video clips on diseases symptoms, cure, and possible measure to avoid any individual notice with pandemic challenges, Video-based lectures on YouTube,

Electronic Resources- Medical researchers have continually disseminate information's on latest developments regarding preventive measures on issues of health challenges such as vaccination, diagnosis kits, and latest literature published on various health/virus topic. Renowned publishers such Oxford, Wiley, Elsevier, BMJ, Nature, Sage, Emerald, Cambridge, and others, have provided free access to the latest literature on post covid-19 pandemic (Agim, Obiekwe, & Eneh, 2020).

Factors Affecting Informative Roles of Librarian on Post Covid-19 Information Sharing

It is significant that after the Covid-19 epidemic, librarians have been giving their clients timely and useful information. These generous efforts have greatly benefited many library users as well as other visitors, including patients of Covid-19 and other consumers of health information. Despite these accolades, there are problems with some librarians' lack of awareness of the usefulness of social media in spreading information on post Covid-19, poor infrastructure (such as phones and other enabling systems that can facilitate information sharing), low bandwidth, the librarians' lack of ICT and social media skills, and the librarians' individual beliefs about the reality of manage the post Covid-19 pandemic era, by fitting back into the social and economic activities. These and other factors may have an effect on how librarians disseminate health information to the general public.

The majority of individuals regrettably still hold on to the Covid-19 preventive measures rather than be incorporated into the post covid-19 epidemic era of social collaborations, that is, attend social and religious gatherings including weddings, funerals, protests, clubs, open marketplaces, and malls. Most residents of developing nations now have basic knowledge of how to use social media technologies to acquire information about issues especially with the integration of social media into librarianship. This also make it more viable to the general public that social media is an important tool in information dissemination. The use of social media by libraries to

educate people about social collaboration in post covid-19, is considered one of the key measures of societal development after the surge of Covid-19, in other, to bring the economy and build commercial activities.

The role of religious leaders is another element that influences how informative librarian jobs are shared after the Covid-19 surge. Most religious leaders as to accept the circumstance that people should be living together and they seriously abolish the distancing policy immediately after the covid-19 epidemic. The leaders because of their influence on their followers, the followers immediately believed them to quickly integrate into the society and start their normal life. This good deeds of the religious leaders immediate assisted the awareness created by the librarians on the end to covid-19. However, majority of people were on able to get access to phones and subscriptions but the information got to them through the religious leaders.

In addition, the increase of lies, fabrications, and propaganda that Covid-19 pandemic has not ended took over the social media sphere at a time, giving many information consumers and users conflicting notions and beliefs about the situation on Covid-19 at a time. Consequently, with rapid attention of most people giving information to debunk the fake news gradually waded the information to the general public that truly covid-19 pandemic as come to an end. This presents a significant obstacle for the librarian's educational efforts to persuade people of the end to Covid-19 pandemic was done through print and social media.

Conclusion

Librarians are tasked with reaching user populations in post Covid-19 and improving their access to current, pertinent information regarding the social integration is very useful. Librarians are required to gather, store, organize, and sort out the accurate information for their clients in this age of information explosion when thousands of bits of information are chunked out every day to prevent misinformation on post Covid-19. In the current global posture of post Covid-19 era, it is required that librarians operate autonomously to create service-oriented, researcher-centered apps, educational programmes, projects, and services that would improve their informing function to their clients. Suggestions for integrating people into the social development after the surge of Covid-19 exposure is useful for individual growth. After the lockdown phase, librarians are to make these integration of people back into the c=society very effective by using widespread social networking sites like Facebook, LinkedIn, and Whatsapp, among others.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made, arising from the study;

1. The traditional means of library should be sustained, alongside the use of social media platforms by the library and librarians
2. The librarian should emphasize more on the use of social media since it has a wide coverage and can be accessed by patrons from their comfort zone without necessarily visiting the library.
3. Librarians should thoroughly examine data they have to send out to the general public for the purpose of accurate and dependable information on post covid-19 integration.

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