



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

(Peer-reviewed, Refereed, Indexed & Open Access Journal)

DOI : 03.2021-11278686

ISSN : 2582-8568

IMPACT FACTOR : 6.865 (SJIF 2023)

LIBRARY AND LIBRARIAN TREND'S, STRATEGY AND OPPORTUNITIES SCOPE FOR COVID-19

Aman Verma

Research Scholar,

Department of Library and Information Science,

Central University of Punjab,

VPO-Ghudda, Bathinda (Punjab, India)

E-mail: aman.verma94258@gmail.com

DOI No. **03.2021-11278686**

DOI Link :: <https://doi-ds.org/doilink/02.2023-15351447/IRJHIS2302008>

ABSTRACT:

Library and Information Services advances during the COVID – 19 Pandemic are examined in this article. An examination of libraries and librarians' role in the worldwide response to the COVID – 19 epidemics is presented in this study. As a result, public worry during pandemics may be reduced, which has a positive impact on the number of infections. During the COVID-19 epidemic, virtual and remote services were promoted. There is a need to assist all sorts of libraries with enough funding so that they may effectively and efficiently address the information demands of their diverse stakeholders, as a result of the COVID–19 epidemic.

Keywords: *Innovations, Library, Information Services, COVID – 19, Pandemic.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

It was identified in December of 2019 in Wuhan, China's Hubei province, after a pneumonia outbreak with no clear cause. The virus is known as 'COVID-19.' This virus was officially declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020, after it had spread to more than 200 countries and territories throughout the world (Stewart, Connelly & Robinson, 2020). Approximately 38,197,063 confirmed cases of COVID – 19 were reported globally as of the 14th of October 2020, according to the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (2020). A total of 1,087,035 deaths were reported worldwide as of the same date. Approximately 60,834 cases of COVID – 19 have been confirmed in India as of October 14th, 2020, with 1,116 deaths recorded in 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, according to the Indian Center for Disease Control (2020). Because of the rapid spread of the corona virus-caused illness, COVID 19, which is the

official title used by the World Health Organization, it has been classified as a pandemic, indicating that it has affected a considerable population, geographic region, country or continent. According to the best available evidence at this time, COVID - 19 may be transmitted from person to person by a number of techniques. According to current knowledge, there are only two fundamental channels of transmission for the COVID virus. The first is direct contact with an infected individual, and the second is indirect contact with mite-contaminated respiratory droplets created by regular breathing (sneezing, coughing, and so on) (European centre for disease prevention and control, 2020). In addition to a fever, body aches, dry coughing fits, tiredness and chills, a sore throat and a lack of appetite, the most common signs and symptoms of COVID-19 are a headache and sore throat. In some people with COVID – 19, a high fever, a persistent cough, and shortness of breath are all symptoms of pneumonia. In order to contain the spread of COVID 19, the whole planet has been put under lockdown, quarantined, and subjected to a variety of additional measures. When Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari declared a state of emergency on Sunday, March 29, 2020, in major cities that had been hit by COVID – 19, many other state governments followed suit. Since then, libraries all across the globe have been experiencing difficulties in giving access to their collections and services due to lockdown concerns. During the COVID-19 outbreak, this essay examines the advancements in library and information services that have occurred recently.

2. PRESENT TRENDS OF LIBRARY SERVICES:

COVID-19 There seems to be no end in sight to the pandemic. The future of the library is exciting for librarians, who are eager to learn about new services and ways to improve the library's user experience. A library's ability to meet these objectives will be determined by its ability to provide the most current infrastructure, information communication technology, and personnel.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- COVID-19 will have an influence on numerous elements of Indian academic libraries, including:
- Identifying the obstacles encountered by academic libraries as a result of COVID-19;
- Examining the possibilities presented by academic libraries to enhance their operations and services as a result of COVID-19.

4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Sadia I, Naveed S, Attva S 2018 It was imperative that the worldwide library community reacted rapidly to the spread and development of the illness. The libraries supplied the most up-to-date information about the illness, librarian safety, library operations at the moment, and how to run the libraries upon their reopening, among other things. As far as library associations and institutions are concerned, the IFLA has established itself as the de facto standard-setter. All relevant and necessary information for the library community may now be found on a single website. Many

libraries, museums and archives across the United States (USA) have begun reopening, and the Reopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums (REALM) project has been launched to provide the most up-to-date information on how long the virus can survive on the various materials handled in these types of institutions. For the safety of the librarians, it provided instructions on how to handle these items.

Asif, M. & Singh, K. K. 2020 Libraries might be affected by a pandemic, according to Robertson. Infectious disorders have an effect on library usage, according to Nix. The American Library Association's 1891 meeting also touched on this subject¹⁶. When it comes to books carrying dangerous illnesses, Poole was already talking about it in the 1800s. COVID-19's influence on library operations has also been the subject of several articles. There is a lot of debate here on the potential effects of library closures caused by COVID-19 on the communities they serve, the services they provide, the kind of materials the libraries house, and the reactions of library workers to the reopening of the libraries. This pandemic's influence on today's research culture is also being considered in some fresh perspectives.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY APPROACH :

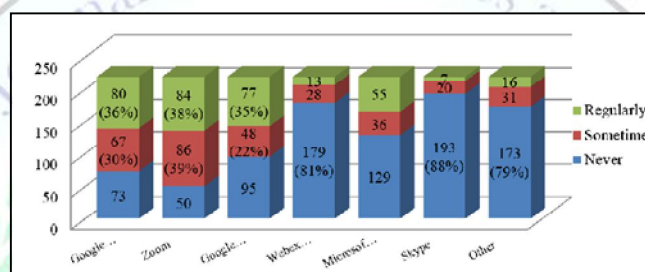
The literature that was relevant to the title was extensively reviewed and analyzed. During the COVID – 19 Pandemic, Library and Information Services provided assistance to the public. A consequence of technological developments and innovations, traditional libraries have been transformed into the modern-day smart libraries that serve the public. Through today's libraries, library patrons may now take use of a wide range of innovative services designed to assist them during this pandemic crisis (Asif & Singh, 2020). Information and communication technologies (ICTs), such as the Internet, and in particular the World Wide Web (WWW), have had a significant impact on library operations since their inception. According to Ali and Gatiti, the library must continue to serve its regular users even if there is a pandemic (2020). In this pandemic situation, libraries have emerged as important sources of knowledge and expertise for those engaged in research and development in the relevant subject areas. At this time, library staff members have the option to make use of and improve their skills for virtual outreach efforts. Many libraries have been forced to decrease or terminate their hours of operation due to budgetary constraints. This does not necessarily indicate that libraries do not offer online and virtual/remote services to all or a part of its users, but it does suggest that they do not provide such services. Because to the college closure, many public services have been halted, and academic activity and online courses have been affected (Ladan and Madu, 2020). The general populace must be aware of how to protect themselves and maintain their safety in the face of possible dangers. It is manned by a group of experts and researchers that are committed to keeping everything under control. The fact that libraries give access to information resources and services qualifies them as performing a service. Contribution of

Public Libraries and Librarians to the COVID-19 Pandemic In order to contain the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the appropriate authorities have ordered the temporary closure of practically all educational institutions and libraries. Unlike in western countries, a directive from the Indian government's Federal Ministry of Education, which ordered the closure of all schools at all levels on March 19, 2020, failed to produce policy measures to ease student disruptions or address digital learning as a possible alternative method to physical teaching or the learning process in today's dynamic society.

The government, parents, students, and educators at all levels have had to reassess how they would pay for their children's education and that of the country's education system as a whole as a result of the pandemic-induced disruption of India's educational system, according to Samuel (2020). In order to keep up with the new and innovative online courses that instructors were using to reach their students while the lockdown was in effect, some parents were compelled to purchase laptops, Android phones, television cables, and other ICT equipment for their children during the lockdown period. A huge number of Indian governments have begun broadcasting school lessons over the radio, which is a fact. Aside from that, the COVID – 19 Pandemic has brought to light the socio-economic disparities in India's educational system, with children from wealthy families being sent to private schools while children from lower-income families being forced to attend public schools with inadequate resources and facilities. Because most regular private schools have excellent ICT infrastructures and can accommodate remote learning, it is unlikely that private school students would experience severe interruptions in their educational experience. Students from low-income and marginalized communities were unable to use computers and other technologies outside of the classroom setting until recently. COVID – 19 has completely revolutionized and redefined library and information services throughout the globe, and it will continue to do so. In many cases, these children and teenagers live in remote communities with limited or non-existent internet connectivity, as well as an unstable power supply (Samuel, 2020). The corona virus pandemic has caused libraries of all types to promote their digital resources to the public at this time. COVID – 19 is an unique and unknown illness that demands round-the-clock research efforts on the part of scientists in order to have a better understanding of it. Because of this, procedures and attempts to contain and regulate it have been developed, which have had unintended consequences for ordinary life and social connections. One of the measures used by governments throughout the world to prevent sick individuals from transmitting the illness to others is to encourage people to stay at home to enhance social isolation and distance, as well as to keep the environment as clean as possible (Mabuie, 2020). In order to comply with public health standards, libraries and other places of social interaction have been closed as a result. The American Library Association recommended that all libraries be closed on March 17th, 2020, since they were unable to offer social distancing and other public health

measures due to budget constraints. As a consequence, libraries all over the world have been forced to develop new and novel means of doing business online. According to Ali and Gatiti (2020), who did study in Pakistan on the role of libraries during a pandemic, librarians were recognized as having the following responsibilities: In the case of a pandemic, librarians may be called upon to perform three primary functions: To increase the general public's awareness of health issues, information on preventive actions should be developed and distributed. The library offers information on the most current breakthroughs in research and literature in order to assist the research team, as well as researchers and faculty members, in their respective fields.

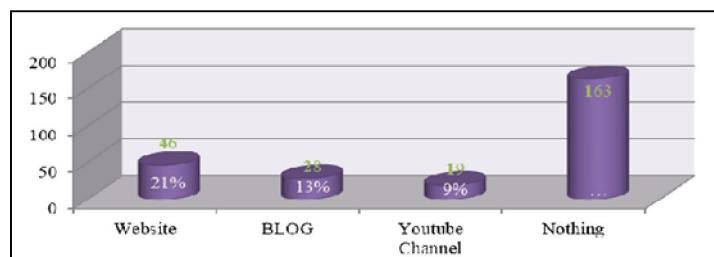
The 19 COVID Public Health Campaigns Ali and Gatiti (2020) claim that social media outlets like Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp are used to disseminate disinformation. People who work in libraries and the information industry may use these networks to raise awareness about the efforts people can take to avoid the spread of disease.



Source: library of India

FIG 1

Use of facemasks, hand washing and the use of disinfectants are among the main guidelines for transmission. Handshakes should be avoided, social distance and personal cleanliness should be practised and crowded locations should be avoided. The use of social media as a means of communication and engagement between people is on the rise. Libraries may benefit from social media networks because of their ability to develop and build connections and build social engagement, which enables them to connect with the information demands of their patrons. Social networks assist libraries in bringing new information resources and services to the attention of their online patrons. In addition, social media facilitates the sharing of questions. It is not unusual for libraries to be active on a number of social media platforms at once. The (Ifijeh & Yusuf, 2020).



Source: online resources

FIG 2

Librarians and Information Professions in India and across the globe contributed to the fight

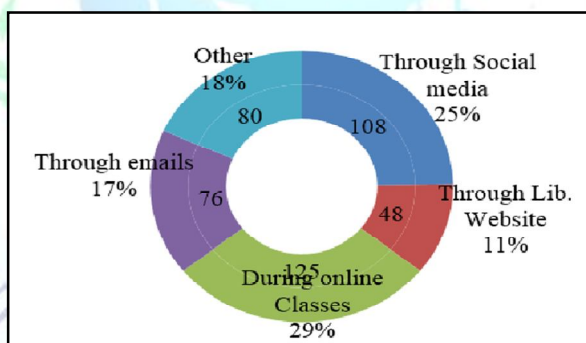
against COVID – 19 by sharing reliable and Trust worthy information on the pandemic in order to combat misinformation and rumours among library users through institutional and individual social media profiles and platforms. Provide up-to-date information about current research, scholars, and academics in order to assist researchers. Researchers are working around the clock to learn more about the COVID – 19 illness since it is novel and little information about it existed previous to the outbreak. Libraries facilitate scientific cooperation by facilitating the flow of research materials between researchers and the general public as well as between researchers and each other (2020). There are many ways librarians can assist medical professionals by pointing them to recent developments in vaccination, diagnostic kits, and relevant studies in medical journals and the many well-known databases that provide free access to articles about COVID – 19 – and other infectious diseases research (Ali & Gatiti, 2020).

6. MAINTAIN CORE LIBRARY SERVICES FOR USERS:

In the event of a pandemic, the library's normal patrons must still be supported. During a pandemic, the availability of appropriate information helps to reduce public concern, which is critical to the prevention of new infections.

7. LIBRARY HAS ITS OWN:

There are few School Library Professionals who have a presence on social media like YouTube, a blog, or a website. Fewer than 20% of people are aware of these amenities.



8. CHALLENGES FACED BY LIBRARIES DURING THE COVID – 19 :

Pandemic It was a major task for the International Federation of Libraries Associations and Institutions (IFLA, 2020) to decide whether or not to limit services or shut libraries, which had to be done while taking into account the risks involved. Libraries have to devise new methods of reaching out to the wider public while simultaneously meeting the demands of their own patrons. Another problem that libraries are currently dealing with is a lack of finances to help them move to a new location after their closure (Libraries connected, 2020). Several libraries have been forced to shut down because of the high costs of converting to a virtual system, according to Libraries Connected (2020). In addition, it was difficult to decide what services to provide and how to provide them while still conforming to public health regulations. Due to the unexpected nature of the epidemic, libraries

had little opportunity to gather public opinion on the matter before it was too late. For the Association of Research Libraries (2020), networking and social media have helped alleviate some of the challenges that libraries face. As a result, the majority of individuals are still unable to take use of the library's online services because they lack a consistent internet connection. A number of individuals have been able to access library resources as a result of partnerships between governments and data service companies. Because of poor technological infrastructure, epileptic power supply, lack of internet access, and lack of skilled personnel in developing countries like India, the libraries in developed countries could offer virtual and remote services to their users, whereas the libraries in developing countries like India were left behind.

“Table 1: Awareness about the useful Technological Tools”

S. No.	Tools	Aware about the Tools							
		Don't Know		Beginner		Average		Expert	
1	Google Drive	10	5%	23	10%	93	42%	94	43%
2	PDF Tools	14	6%	36	16%	89	40%	81	37%
3	Google site	21	10%	36	16%	89	40%	74	34%
4	Padlet, Wakelet & Slido	82	37%	63	29%	45	20%	30	14%
5	Google form	15	7%	50	23%	68	31%	87	40%
6	Nearpod	138	63%	50	23%	19	9%	13	6%
7	Google Books	54	25%	54	25%	75	34%	37	17%
8	Google doc, sheet, slide	23	10%	40	18%	78	35%	79	36%
9	Mentimeter	148	67%	39	18%	19	9%	14	6%
10	Video recorder and editor	56	25%	64	29%	61	28%	39	18%
11	Graphic Designing tools	119	54%	60	27%	25	11%	16	7%
12	E- Book creator	111	50%	50	23%	36	16%	23	10%
13	Flip Grid	125	57%	55	25%	24	11%	16	7%
14	Audio & Video books	26	12%	59	27%	72	33%	63	29%
15	Creative Commons, OER and Free to use resources	89	40%	46	21%	55	25%	30	14%
16	Gamification tools	142	65%	40	18%	27	12%	11	5%
	Average	73.3	33%	47.8	22%	54.6	25%	44.1	20%
		1	%	1	%	9	%	9	%

Source ERDA library online

9. CONCLUSION:

The COVID – 19 pandemic led to worldwide lockdown, quarantine and several restrictions in an effort to halt the virus's spread. Every aspect of life has been affected with COVID – 19 pandemic. Libraries have found innovative ways to remain relevant and participate in the global

response against COVID – 19 by offering remote and virtual services that reach more people compared to when they are operating from a physical location. It is clear evidence from the literature reviewed above that libraries have contributed and still contributing to the global response and fight against the COVID – 19 pandemic by meeting the information needs of various stakeholders.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Arising from the foregoing the following recommendations, are made:

1. The Indian Government through the Federal Ministry of Education, Communication and Digital Economy should ensure that Schools and libraries around the country are being equipped with the necessary ICT infrastructure to allow teaching and learning in a virtual environment.
2. To provide remote and virtual services during a pandemic of this nature requires a lot of funds to purchase software's, technology devices to support the learning, transition from physical systems to the virtual system, employees who can operate the equipment and access to electronic books, as well as the ability to distribute them online. Therefore, Governments, philanthropists, organizations and donor agencies, individuals should support libraries with adequate funds to enable them function efficiently and effectively.
3. This pandemic has changed and redefined library and information services from traditional methods to a virtual system, which necessitates the need for librarians and Information Professionals to be trained on how to use different software to provide online library services during the outbreak and after COVID – 19 pandemic.
4. In the fight against the COVID – 19 pandemic, librarians and Information Professionals should collaborate with various stakeholders to promote public health awareness by creating and disseminating information relating to preventive measures, such as the creation and distribution of educational materials.

11. REFERENCES:

1. *Information sources during COVID-19 a Pandemic crisis & quot;. Library Philosophy and Practice (2020) 4180.*
2. *Sadia I, Naveed S, Attya S. Information Dissemination during Covid-19 and Lockdown: The Role of University libraries of Sindh, Pakistan & quot;. Library Philosophy and Practice (2020):4280.*
3. *Kammer J, Burress R. "School Librarian's Questions about Remote Instruction: Opportunities for LIS Educators" ALISE 2020 Proceedings, pp. 203-10.*
4. *Bhati P, Kumar I, Role of Library Professionals in a Pandemic Situation like COVID-19. Int J Libr Inf Stud. 2020;10(2):33- 48.*
5. *Das S, Verma MK. Role of Library and Information Professionals During Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic. JTransition Transformation. 2021:187-97.*

6. Asif M, and Singh KK, Trends, opportunities and scope of libraries during Covid-19 pandemic. *Indian J Libr Sci Inf Technol.* 2020;5(1):24-7.
7. Dhamdhere SN, Digital Library Services and Practices: an online survey. *Int J Libr Sci.* 2012;6(2):65-75.
8. Dold CJ. *The Role of Librarians in Academic Success.* *Sys Cybernetics and Inf.* 2013;11(2):1-5.
9. American Library Association (2020). *Pandemic Preparedness.* Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/tools/atoz/pandemic-preparedness>
10. Asif, M. & Singh, K. K. (Jan-June, 2020). Trends, Opportunities and Scope of Libraries during COVID-19 Pandemic. *IP Indian Journal of Library Science and Information Technology*, 5(1), 24-27.
11. Australian Library Association (2020). *Australian Government Responding to COVID-19.* Retrieved from <https://www.alia.org.au/australian-libraries-responding-covid-19>
12. Fernando, I. D. K. L. & Jayasekera, P. K. (July, 2020). Re-opening the Academic Library in the Post-pandemic Season: A Lesson-Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of the University Librarians Association of Sri Lanka*, 23(2), 47-70.
13. Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (2020). *COVID-19 in India as on 27th November, 2020.* Retrieved from www.mohfw.gov.in
14. Government of South Australia (2020). *Local Government Libraries: Road Map to Reopen the Libraries-COVID-19 South Australia Factsheet.* Retrieved from https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/_data/assests/pdf_file/0003/196635
15. International Federation of Library Association (2020). *COVID-19 and the Global Library Field.* Retrieved from <https://www.ifla.org/covid-19-and-libraries>
16. Mestri, D. D. (Jan-June, 2020). Reopening Libraries in COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Recommendations. *IP Indian Journal of Library Science and Information Technology*, 5(1), 16-23. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.18231/j.ijlsit.2010.004>
17. National Library and Documentation Services Board (2020). *Guide lined for Opening of Public Libraries.* Colombo.
18. Singh, K. K. & Asif, M. (2019). *Emerging Trends and Technologies for Digital Transformation of Libraries.* *IP Indian Journal of Library Science and Information Technology*, 4(2), 41-43
19. World Health Organization (2020). *Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Technical Guidance: Humanitarian Operations, Camps, and Other fragile Settings as well as Refugees and Migrants in Non-humanitarian and Non-camp Settings.* Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technicalguidance>.