

Perceptions of Library Professionals towards Innovative use of Short MessageService (SMS) for library services in public libraries in Nigeria.

Nkem E. Osuigwe

nkemekene@ymail.com

Prof. Kenneth Dike

e-Library Awka.

Chinelo O. Jiagbogu

favouredoc@ymail.com

Prof. Kenneth Dike

e-Library Awka.

Nkechi S. Udeze

nkedez@yahoo.com

Prof. Kenneth Dike

e-Library Awka.

Ebele N. Anyaoku

ebeleanyaoku@yahoo.com

Medical Library, College of

Health Sciences, Nnamdi

Azikiwe University, Nnewi

Campus.

Background: Advances in information and communication technologies in the current era has made information a competitively traded commodity. Therefore, the innovative adoption of ICT is essential for libraries to remain relevant in the society. Innovation means harnessing changes to positively improve services. It is driven by appropriate skills and attitude. The use of mobile technologies to provide access to information is one innovative service that is being explored by many libraries especially in developed countries. Positive attitude and infrastructural support are highly essential for the service to thrive.

Objectives: This study investigated the attitude of public librarians in two States of Nigeria towards the use of Short Message Service (SMS) for library services, their perceptions of services that the library could provide through SMS, the amenities that are available for the introduction of the service and the challenges that might negatively affect the implementation of the innovation in their various libraries.

Method: Forty library professionals in public libraries in two States of Nigeria participated in the study. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire. Collected data were analyzed using frequencies, percentages and mean.

Results: Findings of the study indicated that the professionals are willing to embrace innovations however amongst other factors, lack of a data bank of users' profiles and information requirements are considered impediments.

Conclusion: The study concludes that library professionals in the public libraries in the developing countries of the world especially Nigeria, need to key in into this innovation as it can be conveniently and cheaply provided with mobile phones in the Reference section. This would increase their reach, boost membership and equally raise their visibility and relevance.