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

Nkem E. Osuigwe          Chinelo O. Jiagbogu         Nkechi S. Udeze             Ebele N. Anyaoku
nkemekene@ymail.com      favouredoc@ymail.com      nkedez@yahoo.com           ebeleanyaoku@yahoo.com
Prof. Kenneth Dike       Prof. Kenneth Dike          Prof. Kenneth Dike          Medical Library, College of
                                                      Akwukw. e-Library Awka.

**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 strive.

**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.