

**X-Raying the Million-Point Agenda of the Nigerian Government by
Library and Information Professionals in the Country**

Ogagaoghene Uzezi Idhalama
Ambrose Alli University, Nigeria

Angela Ishioma Dime
Niger Delta University, Nigeria

Kingsley Efe Osawaru
College of Education Library, Nigeria

Abstract

This study investigated X-raying the million-point agenda of Nigerian government by library and information professionals in the country. Six objectives were formulated to guide the study. A descriptive survey research design was adopted using the online Google Form to collect data/responses from the library and information science (LIS) professionals in Nigeria. The population of the study comprised LIS professionals in all the states in Nigeria. The sampling technique used for the study was the total enumeration sampling technique (120) as the whole responses were used for the analysis using tables, frequencies percentages, mean and standard deviation for easy appreciation and comprehension. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23 was also deployed and it was found out that there appears to be some high level of corrupt practices in the country, Nigeria, insecurity as of today remains on the high side which is not only worrisome but disturbingly a threat to too many households. Respondents have rated the economy to be at its lowest ebb as the majority of the citizens now wallow in poverty and agony, education standard is quite low in the country, there are deliberate steps to take in order to save Nigerian country from war and disintegration. To this very end, the well-informed class including library and information professionals should deliberately rise up to their duty by not just studying the current situation but also proffer recommendations and solutions to disturbing problems; hence recommendations are all Nigerians, irrespective of position or social, status must resolve to live a corrupt-free life; Government and all security agencies must be on the alert and, if possible, request international assistance; economic policies must be reviewed as a matter of urgency in Nigeria; education must be made easily accessible and funds made adequately available for educational institutions at all levels as prescribed by UNESCO; library and information professionals should continue to put government officials on their toes by regularly exposing their inadequacies to the citizens amongst others.

Keywords: corrupt-free country, corruption in Nigeria, governance, librarians and government, LIS professionals, librarians' role, national development

The way authority is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development is referred to as good governance. It is a form of governance in which citizens' socio-economic conditions continue to improve. It is also a kind of government in which citizens' economic, political, educational, and social spheres continue to develop over time. It therefore, ensures that citizens' living standards are high, that creativity and intellectual development are encouraged, that human rights are maintained, that leaders are accountable and responsible, and that poverty and inequality are reduced greatly, and there is no longer any fear or oppression (Raffu and Sodiq, 2015). As a result, there is a growing recognition that sustainable development necessitates competent government.

As part of their broader goal to providing access to information, librarians and information professionals play a critical role in delivering this Good governance. Good governance creates an ideal atmosphere for information freedom to flourish. The government is obligated under freedom of information legislation to provide public information whenever it is requested. Zamir (2008) contends that individual freedom of information is not only a fundamental right, but also a means to power because once an individual gets the right information, he will be able to respond and make appropriately informed decisions about how he should be governed. Despite the fact that freedom of information is guaranteed by Kenya's Constitution, the government has yet to pass a Freedom of Information Act. Only Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria, and Ethiopia have passed such legislation in Africa. Citizens are unable to request information held by the government in the absence of legislation. According to the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) (2018), libraries and librarians can help improve policymaking, make it simpler for individuals to participate in government services and exercise their rights, and promote transparency and accountability. The Open Government Partnership is also mentioned by library and information professionals as an initiative that could allow libraries to better communicate their functions. There is no doubting the fact that libraries play a critical role in fostering bottom-up development (Idhalama, Igbinovia and Ezeabasili, 2021). They help citizens to gain access to information and develop the skills and confidence to use it to better their lives and the lives of their families. People can benefit much from information in terms of getting employed, staying healthy, boosting agricultural protection, and simply keeping in touch with family and friends. Individuals' awareness of their rights is also based on information. However, some issues must be addressed on a larger basis. Effective governments can accomplish what individuals cannot, such as keeping people safe and providing access to welfare, education, and social security. This includes building infrastructure, running health systems and schools, and encouraging residents to develop soft skills. Governments at all levels must be well-informed, capable of implementing policy goals, and accountable to the people in order to be effective. In terms of governments' own use of knowledge and citizens' ability to get the most out of eGovernment tools and hold those who rule them to account, information is critical.

Informing policymaking, promoting the use of eGovernment tools, and providing the public with access to information and the support they need are all areas where librarians and information workers may help. In a democracy like ours, librarians play a critical role in reawakening individuals' awareness so that they can analyze and scrutinize government activities. This is accomplished by library and information science (LIS) experts supplying appropriate information to all government entities. Another important function of libraries is to "promote and spread a political philosophy for national development and cohesion" (Anyika, 2005; p. 134). Effective citizen action, according to Agbo and Onyekweodiri (2014), is only achievable when citizens understand how to obtain all types of information and have the ability to become responsible and educated participants in democracies. This is particularly true as e-

government develops. Libraries provide both physical and virtual civic places where residents can freely express themselves, discuss common interests and concerns, and pursue what they believe is in the public interest. Finally, civil society is ensured by free speech among knowledgeable citizens, and civil society, in turn, provides the social capital required to realize common goals. “Perhaps no venue in any community is fully democratic as the town library,” Lady Bird Johnson said, as recounted by Ogbonna (2013, p. 70). The only criterion for admission is that you are interested. Information, according to Wright (2001), fosters and empowers citizens’ engagement in the democratic process; it upholds the rule of law and provides a viable avenue for the injection of public opinion, as quoted by Bhatti (2010). Information informs political leadership’s policy-making process, all of which contributes to the establishment of long-term peace for the benefit of the state.

General Muhammadu Buhari is the man Nigerians demanded, wanted, and got; a man with an excellent record of service and experience in Africa. His personal life is already a model, and his public records will serve as a national curriculum for younger Nigerians to mimic and assimilate as the most important civic education they will ever receive. His selflessness and patriotism earned him the title of selfless and patriotic leader, and everyone must work hard to ensure his success. Buhari is without a doubt God’s chosen, his political win is a form of remuneration, while it also serves as a summons to greater sacrifice (Muhammad, 2015). General Buhari restated his government’s intention to battle corruption, insecurity, and unemployment in a TVC interview in April, according to Muhammed (2015). He outlined and emphasized these three points throughout his campaign. He neatly and wonderfully reduced all of the world’s problems into these three fundamental issues. The economy would automatically stabilize, meet the demands of the citizens, and build the necessary resilience to endure international turbulence or pricing disorder if well-articulated and pursued. Designing his agenda in this manner is fulfilling his job, and using aggressive language to underline the magnitude and weight of the work before his government, as he was trained to fight for the country’s unity and cohesiveness. President Muhammadu Buhari’s three-point program, which included anti-corruption, restoring the economy, and securing the country, was so appealing since it encapsulated the country’s current needs that Nigerians easily bought into it in 2015. Buhari’s reputation as an “upright” and “no-nonsense” leader was the icing on the cake. Five years later, the economy appears to be the only source of hope, thanks in large part to the valiant efforts made by the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, under Godwin Emefiele, to lead the Federal Government’s fiscal policy responses at every turn.

According to Thisday Newspaper (2020), President Muhammadu Buhari recently listed nine policy concerns that will occupy his attention for the duration of his term when welcoming some new ambassadors to Nigeria. The president stated that he will focus his efforts and resources on strengthening the economy, combating poverty, boosting access to excellent education, healthcare, and national security, as well as combating corruption. The unusual agenda has sparked a slew of concerns, as one might expect. What went wrong with the administration’s three-pronged policy directions of safeguarding the country, reviving the economy, and combating corruption over the previous couple of years? What happened to the agenda that the president promised during his re-election campaign? Indeed, the main opposition, the People’s Democratic Party (PDP), has slammed the president’s new policy focus as an admission of failure, claiming that five years into his presidency, he is still campaigning and “reeling out hollow promises.” In response, the presidency stated that the primary topics of an election campaign are not the same as the objectives that have been established, nor the policies that must be developed and implemented. As “no administration elected for two terms could ever justify continuing merely to deliver the agenda it set in the

first election campaign,” it claims that governance is dynamic, just like society. As the situation of Nigeria is compared to sister countries, there are allegations and counter-accusations among political parties and individuals.

Some people believe that the current leadership has failed Nigerians miserably, while others disagree. LIS professionals are major stakeholders in the country due to the major role they play in dispensing information to the government and the governed. In this direction, the paper is focused on X-raying the million-point agenda of the Nigerian government by library and information professionals in the country.

Statement of Problem

It is very clear today that around the globe, there is a plethora of challenges that world leaders face which are not limited to economic downturn, corruption, terrorism, health issues just like the outbreak of the corona virus, the HIV, and Ebola diseases. What is central in times like this is the ability of various governments to take adequate and commendable steps in order to tackle the problems facing the countries. No doubt, there are developed, developing, and underdeveloped nations, but the zeal and zest to find solutions to a country’s challenges are very paramount. Some world leaders appear to be proactive while others seem to be “preactive”. In the case of the latter, citizens will not only be dissatisfied but feel neglected by their governments thereby leading to civil disobedience and frequent protests. If this is not properly checked, it could lead to the dethronement of constituted authorities and secession. African countries, especially Nigeria has its own fair share of the global challenges (Idhalama, 2020) which some opined are insecurity, economic meltdown, corruption, poor standard of education, and others. But this is not an outright opinion as other citizens are of the opinion that the current Nigerian government should be commended for rescuing the country from total collapse. This is therefore not too surprising as Nigeria runs a multi-party system where opposition parties may want to indulge in constructive criticism while the party in power tries to justify actions taken in repositioning the country. The Nigerian state is said to be made up of thirty six (36) states (and Federal Capital Territory), six geopolitical zones, and a population of over 200 million people. To this end therefore, one may not be taken aback if there are different perceptions about the government. The various recent agitations from different regions in Nigeria; demanding government to be more responsive have therefore prompted the researchers to embark on this study. The library and information professionals were deliberately selected as respondents based on the premise that they have more access to information of all kinds. This information may also relate to the activities of government and how satisfied are the people.

Objectives of the Study

The sole objective of this study is X-raying the million-point agenda of Nigerian government by library and information professionals in the country. The “million-point agenda” is just a concept developed by the researchers which is used to draw the attention of readers to too many agenda of government that are being introduced and a reasonable number of them not being prosecuted. The points of agenda listed in the objective of this study are just a few selected ones by the researchers compared to what is in the public domain. To this end, the article will specifically analyze the following points of agenda as observed by library and information professionals:

1. To determine the state of corruption in the country as observed by LIS professionals in Nigeria.
2. To evaluate the level of insecurity as assessed by LIS professionals in Nigeria.
3. To assess the present situation of the Nigerian economy from the standpoint of LIS professionals.
4. To find out the current standard of education in Nigeria as seen by LIS professionals.
5. To determine how rule of law is being handled in the country as perceived by LIS professionals.
6. To proffer tangible solutions in saving the Nigerian country from disintegration.
- 7.

State of Corruption in Nigeria Today

Corruption is without doubt one of the agenda items promised by Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. As a result, library and information professionals, organizations, and other persons have differing perspectives on Mr. President's anti-corruption campaign. Pervasive corruption, according to Tade (2021), was a crucial straw that shattered the People's Democratic Party's 16-year hegemony in Nigeria. Nigerians expressed their dissatisfaction by voting for Muhammadu Buhari, the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), in the 2015 general elections. Buhari campaigned on a platform of fighting corruption, defeating terrorism, and repairing the economy. Corruption remained unabated six years into Buhari's two-term presidency. Buhari's anti-corruption campaign is built on three pillars: the Treasury Single Account, the Biometric Verification Number (BVN), and the policy of "Whistle Blowing." These have been praised, as they are seen as instrumental for higher savings. However, factors like "politicization of the anti-corruption struggle" and the refusal to examine allegations have tainted the fight. Some examples include the suspension of Ibrahim Magu, the acting head of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, on corruption accusations, and the alleged double standards in Buhari's treatment of his supporters. When anything goes wrong in a country, the elite are supposed to show concern and, if possible, propose a solution. This is a task that the Nigerian library profession has taken on, and it is hoped that it will bear fruits. Corruption has been acknowledged as a big concern worldwide, according to Adeleke, Alabede, Osayomi, and Iyanda (2021). Despite the fact that corruption is pervasive, its extent, kinds, and repercussions vary. Corruption is rampant in Nigeria, and it is to be blamed for the country's numerous socio-economic issues.

Level of Insecurity in Nigeria

Many Nigerians, particularly library and information science specialists, now fear that the country is sitting on a keg of gun powder. Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari is in the middle of the storm, according to Africanews (2021), as criticism grows around him over the level of insecurity under his watch as the country's leader. Multiple conflicts afflict Africa's most populous country, ranging from a jihadist insurgency in the northeast to attacks by criminal gangs carrying out large kidnappings in the Northwest to separatists attacking security forces in the Southeast. There hasn't been a day, or even an hour, that the press hasn't reported a murderous attack or a kidnapping. Buhari has been chastised from all sides for failing to address insecurity. On April 26 of 2021, the violence reached a peak, with numerous deaths. Some Nigerian internet users suggested renaming the day "Black Monday" on social media, while others countered, "In Nigeria, there is no longer a day that isn't a black day." As a result, the parliament requested that the president proclaim a state of emergency. At the same time, a flurry of declarations from members of Parliament, local governors, and even Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka urged President Buhari to keep the violence under control. "Our country is at

war. Those who have demonstrated their weakness and incapacity must learn to swallow their pride and seek assistance”, Soyinka pleaded. Obi, on his part (2015), noted that insecurity and terrorism have been a significant challenge to the Nigerian government in recent years.

The operations of the Islamic sect Boko Haram have resulted in the loss of lives and property across Nigeria, particularly in the North. Bombings, suicide bomb attacks, random shootings of unarmed and innocent residents, burning of police stations and churches, kidnapping of schoolgirls and women, and other actions are among them. Kidnapping, rape, armed robbery, political crises, murder, and the damage of oil installations by Niger Delta militants, as well as attacks carried out by Fulani Herdsmen on specific towns in the North and South, have all contributed to the country’s instability and insecurity. Nigeria has been designated as one of the world’s most dangerous countries. In contrast to the aforementioned viewpoints, Nigerian Defense Minister, Magashi (2020) stated emphatically that the security of lives and property has greatly improved in recent years. This is what he said on Channels TV, Nigeria’s most popular national television station.

How the Rule of Law is Being Handled in The Country

The subject of taming the overwhelming impulses of rulers or powerful members of society has troubled legal philosophers and political theoreticians for decades, dating back to the dawn of human society. Rule of law has been directed on ensuring that the rulers and powerful members of society operate in a manner that is not only rational but also humane. This is to ensure that power is not wielded at the expense of society’s weakest members. The rule of law, according to the United Nations (UN) system, is a principle of governance in which all public and private persons, institutions, and entities, including the state itself, are held accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated, and are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. It necessitates measures to ensure that the supremacy of the law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness, and procedural and legal transparency are all adhered to. According to Kolawole (2019), Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has demonstrated a startling disrespect for the rule of law and human rights since taking office on May 29, 2015, disobeying judges on at least 40 instances. His rhetoric has emphasized the fight against corruption, but his repeated disobedience of court decisions, contempt for courts, and egregious breaches of human rights while in office call into question his dedication to eliminate fraud. It is difficult to stress the importance of this disrespect for court rulings, not just for the rule of law, but also for effective respect for constitutional and international human rights including freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, association, and information access. Abubakar Malami, Buhari’s attorney general, once claimed that the rule of law is defined by the authorities. But contrary to that standpoint, only an independent and impartial body, not the attorney general, has the authority to address any alleged legal errors in subordinate courts. Human rights lawyer Femi Falana obtained court decisions that have yet to be implemented, including a verdict by Nigerian courts demanding the release of Islamic Movement of Nigeria leader Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zakzaky and his wife, Zeenah, from wrongful confinement (Kolawole, 2019). According to Akhabue (2013), one of the major problems in the Nigerian polity is the “holy cows” attitude. Those who believe they are a member of the “holy cows” believe they are above the law, or, to put it another way, they believe they are not subject to the law. On this score, the majority of Nigeria’s powerful people can do whatever they want and get away with it. These high-ranking officials cut across the political spectrum. They could be involved in politics or the business world. The aforementioned is known as the culture of

impunity. The government is the primary perpetrator of this culture of impunity. Since the inception of the current democratic dispensation, which was initiated by former President Olusegun Obasanjo, there has been a complete disdain for the concepts of separation of powers and the rule of law. The recent events in Nigeria represent an internally driven massive assault on the constitution, a deflation of the rule of law, and the entrenchment of impunity.

Saving Nigeria from Disintegration

The problem of underdevelopment, high poverty, inequality in resource distribution and wealth control, as well as the socio-political composition of the Nigerian state, creates tension, instability, and insecurity, as well as countless agitations for restructuring, fairness, justice, and equity, including the Biafra agitation. According to Adibe (2017), agitations surrounding Biafra have drowned out other separatist agitations, producing the false impression that Biafra is the country's lone separatist threat. The truth is that separatist movement can be found in almost every part of the country, indicating that Nigeria's nationhood is still on precarious ground. Separatism is heard among the Yoruba in several forms, from a direct call for the Oduduwa Republic to those advocating for a Sovereign National Conference to determine whether the country's federating units still wish to remain together and, if so, under what conditions. There are occasional aspirations for Arewa Republic in the north, and some refer to the "north" as if it were "a country within a country." Apart from the call for the Niger Delta Republic, regional activists' demands for "resource control" have shades of separatism ingrained in them. In essence, there is a widespread sense of alienation and dissatisfaction among the Nigerian federation's many parts, a scenario that has exacerbated mistrust and fueled separatist activity. However, because no referendum has ever been held in any of the districts advocating for independence, it is difficult to tell whether the leaders of the various separatist parties truly represent the interests of the people in those areas or if the agitations are just a front to pursue other agendas. Many Nigerians, especially librarians and information professionals, are concerned about the country's future, which is why many stakeholders have spoken out about the country's fragmentation. Afenifere, a pan-Yoruba socio-political party, has urged President Muhammadu Buhari to save the country from disintegration by heeding calls for restructuring, according to Adebajo (2021). According to the group, this is the only way to prevent the country from disintegrating further. Ayo Adebajo, the group's acting National Leader, made the announcement following a meeting at his country residence in Ogbo Ijebu, Odogbolu Local Government Area, Ogun State. He also recommended President Buhari to put the idea of general elections in 2023 to rest unless the country is restructured to a federalist course. Good administration, the provision of basic facilities, and national debate, according to certain librarians in the country, are the only things that can keep the country from seceding... So many people in the country today, are concerned about disproportionate federal government selections, as well as the country's ongoing security issues. Economic hardship has been a major source of concern too for many residents since it has become difficult to meet basic demands.

Methodology

The research was conducted using a descriptive survey research approach. This approach was chosen for the study because it used data to define library and information professionals in the context of assessing the Nigerian government's million-point plan. The study's participants were librarians and information specialists who were members of the Nigeria Library Association (NLA) Google group (official online platform for librarians in Nigeria). The presence of the COVID-19 pandemic at the time of data collection influenced the choice of this population group, which imposed social separation and made it impossible to physically gather

data from the study's respondents. The strength of this population group is that it is made up of library and information professionals from all walks of life, regardless of demographics, geographic distribution, library affiliation, or career level. The structured questionnaire was used as a data gathering tool. There were seven sections to the questionnaire. The first section dealt with the respondents' demographic data, such as their gender, age range, institutional affiliation, and highest educational qualification.

Sections two through seven elicited information from respondents in accordance with the study's objectives. Items for each section were created based on a review of the literature and the researchers' prior knowledge of the situation of Nigeria. The replies were based on a four-point Likert scale with scoring points ranging from four to one for each concept. This means that for each concept, the criterion mean was 2.5. Using Google Forms, the instrument was transformed into an online survey. The survey's initial section includes a letter to respondents that satisfies the ethical requirement of telling respondents that participation in the study is voluntary and assuring them that the results would be used solely for research purposes. The web link was put on the NLA platform, and members of the platform were asked to respond. To ensure optimum participation, a reminder message was issued after three weeks. The online poll was closed to new responses after the four weeks allotted for data collecting were up. The study drew 120 library and information professionals, according to the survey response summary. Table, frequency, percentages, mean, and standard deviation descriptive statistics were used to retrieve and analyze the data (SPSS version 23). The researchers calculated the mean by adding the sum of each item's scores and dividing by the sample size (n). The standard deviation, on the other hand, is a measurement of the spread of scores over a collection of data.

Analysis of Data

Table 1
Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	52	43.4
Female	68	56.7

Table 1 above shows that 43.4 percent of the respondents are male while 56.7 percent are females. This indicates that the female respondents are more than their male counterparts. This may be due to the fact that in Nigeria for instance, more ladies are into librarianship than men.

Table 2
What is the State of Corruption in Nigeria?

S/ N	Question	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Mean	Std. Deviation
1.	Nigerian government is free from corruption.	2	1.7%	1	0.8%	64	53.3%	53	44.2%	1.6	0.59
2.	Government is highly corrupt.	82	68.3%	25	20.8%	9	7.5%	4	3.3%	3.54	0.77
3.	Anti-corruption officials are also corrupt.	71	59.2%	36	30%	9	7.5%	4	3.3%	3.45	0.77
4.	There is corruption in every sector, including my office.	56	46.7%	42	35%	18	15%	4	3.3%	3.25	0.83
5.	Fight against corruption in the country is genuine.	9	7.5%	15	12.5%	66	55%	30	25%	2.03	0.82
	Grand Mean	2.77									

Source: Online Survey (2021)

Table 2 looks at the state of corruption in Nigeria as a country. Topping the table, 53.3% and 42.2% of respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed that Nigeria is free from corruption. Furthermore, 68.3 percent affirmed that the Nigerian government is highly corrupt and 59.2 percent of the responses are of the view that even anti-corruption officials are also corrupt. 46.7 percent believe that there is corruption in every sector, including their individual offices and finally, 55 percent of respondents disagreed that the fight against corruption in Nigeria is genuine. This simply indicates that there is massive corruption in Nigeria currently.

Table 3:
What is the Level of Insecurity in the Country?

S/N	Question	Insecurity in Nigeria is currently very high.		Insecurity in Nigeria is high.		Insecurity in Nigeria is low.		Insecurity in Nigeria is very low.		Mean	Std. Deviation
1.	What is the level of insecurity in the country today?	106	88.3%	9	7.5%	1	0.8%	4	3.3%	3.81	0.61

Source: Online Survey (2021)

Table 3 has shown us that the level of insecurity in Nigeria today is painfully on the high side and this is indicated by the 88.3 percent of the respondents who noted with concern that the insecurity in Nigeria today is very high.

Table 4*What is the State of the Economy?*

S/ N	Question	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Mean	Std. Deviation
1.	It is difficult for me to meet up with family needs.	59	49.2%	51	42.5%	8	6.7%	2	1.7%	3.39	0.67
2.	I no longer have savings.	53	44.2%	47	39.2%	18	15%	2	1.7%	3.26	0.77
3.	The Nigerian GDP is now high.	25	20.8%	26	21.7%	53	44.2%	16	13.3%	2.5	0.97
4.	There is good standard of living in Nigeria.	7	5.8%	3	2.5%	74	61.7%	36	30%	1.84	0.73
5.	There are good economic policies by government .	7	5.8%	22	18.3%	57	47.5%	34	28.3%	2.03	0.83
	Grand Mean	2.60									

Source: Online Survey (2021)

Table 4 studies the current state of the economy in Nigeria and the finding was that 49.2 percent of the respondents noted that they can no longer find it easy to meet up with their family responsibilities. Also, 44.2 percent affirmed that they no longer have savings of their own and 44.2 percent disagreed that the Nigerian GDP is now high. Meanwhile, 61.7 percent of people disagreed that there is a good standard of living in Nigeria and finally, 47.5 percent disagreed that there are good economic policies enacted by the government. In the final analysis, it is clear that Nigerian country lacks good economic policies.

Table 5
How is the Standard of Education in Nigeria?

S/N	Question	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Mean	Std. Deviation
	Nigerian educational standard is higher than sister African countries.	4	3.3%	16	13.3	74	61.7%	26	21.7%	1.98	0.69
	Education is being deliberately neglected by government.	65	54.2%	34	28.3%	15	12.5%	6	5%	3.32	0.88
	Teachers at all levels are being motivated in Nigeria.	3	2.5%	6	5%	74	61.7%	37	30.8%	1.79	0.64
	Budgetary allocation for education is above average.	5	4.2%	7	5.8%	75	62.5%	33	27.5%	1.87	0.69
	Researchers in Nigeria are encouraged by government.	5	4.2%	18	15%	65	54.2%	32	26.7%	1.97	0.76
	Grand Mean	2.19									

Source: Online Survey (2021)

Table 5 which is on the standard of education in Nigeria showed that 61.7 percent disagreed that Nigerian educational standard is higher than that of sister African countries. 54.2 percent agreed that education is deliberately being neglected by the government and 61.7 percent disagreed that teachers at all levels are being motivated in Nigeria. Again, 62.5 percent disagreed that budgetary allocation for education is above average and finally, 54.2 percent disagreed that researchers in Nigeria are being encouraged by their government. This has gone to show that the standard of education in Nigeria is sadly appalling. This is highly corresponded with the grand mean of 2.19 which is not up to 2.5.

Table 6*How effective is the practice of the rule of law?*

S/N	Question	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Mean	Std. Deviation
	There is fairness in the application of law in the country.	2	1.7%	9	7.5%	75	62.5%	34	28.3%	1.83	0.63
	Separation of power is adhered to.	4	3.3%	15	12.5%	74	61.7%	27	22.5%	1.97	0.69
	Government officials are thoroughly punished when they break the law.	1	0.8%	4	3.3%	71	59.2%	44	36.7%	1.68	0.58
	Court orders are obeyed by government.	3	2.5%	9	7.5%	72	60%	36	30%	1.83	0.67
	Human rights are being violated by people in authority.	68	56.7%	23	19.2%	18	15%	11	9.2%	3.23	1.01
	Grand Mean	2.11									

Source: Online Survey (2021)

From table 6, it is quite obvious that there is no practice of rule of law in Nigeria today. This was substantiated by 62.5 percent of the respondents who disagreed that there is fairness in the application of the rule of law. This was also followed by 61.7 percent of the respondents who disagreed that there is separation of powers among organs of government. 59.2 percent of the responses disagreed that government officials are thoroughly punished when they break the laws of the land. In all, it is obvious that the practice of rule of law which is an important feature of any democratic nation has been relegated to the dustbin.

Table 7
How can Nigeria be saved from Disintegration?

S/N	Question	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Mean	Std. Deviation
	Respect for rule of law.	89	74.2%	27	22.5%	4	3.3%	-	-	3.71	0.52
	Equality of all states and individuals.	81	67.5%	35	29.2%	3	2.5%	1	0.8%	3.63	0.58
	Poverty reduction.	89	74.2%	27	22.5%	3	2.5%	1	0.8%	3.7	0.56
	Fairness in political appointments.	89	74.2%	28	23.3%	2	1.7%	1	0.8%	3.81	0.54
	Massive infrastructural development.	95	79.2%	22	18.3%	2	1.7%	1	0.8%	3.76	0.52
	Call for a national dialogue/conference.	75	62.5%	34	28.3%	6	5%	5	4.2%	3.49	0.77
	Adoption of former President, Goodluck Jonathan's national conference.	51	42.5%	48	40%	14	11.7%	7	5.8%	3.19	0.89
	Grand Mean	3.61									

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 7 is on recommendations for saving Nigeria from disintegrating and some of the recommendations outlined are: respect for rule of law, equality of all states and individuals, poverty reduction, fairness in political appointments, massive infrastructural development and adoption of former President, and Goodluck Jonathan's national conference report with 74.2, 67.5, 74.2, 74.2, 79.2, 62.5 and 42.5 respective percentage responses.

Discussion of Findings

Objective one is on the state of corruption in the most populous country in Africa which is Nigeria. Findings to objective one therefore showed that there appears to be some high level of corrupt practices in the country, Nigeria. In line with the findings of this study, Adeleke et al (2021) noted thus: In the world today, corruption is being identified as a terrible problem. Despite the fact that corruption is known to be widespread, it therefore varies in magnitude, also in types and consequences. Today in Nigeria, corruption is highly endemic, and it is said to be responsible for so many socio-economic problems in the Nigerian state. For objective two which is on the level of insecurity in Nigeria, it was found that insecurity as at today remains on the high side which is not only worrisome but disturbingly a threat to too many households. This is in sync with the position of Africanews (2021) when it was opined that Nigeria's President who is Muhammadu Buhari is currently in the eye of the storm as criticism and counter-criticism swells around his administration over the state of insecurity and terrorism under his watch as Nigeria's foremost leader. Africa's most populous country is now plagued by multiple conflicts, from a jihadist insurgency in the northeast to operations by criminal

elements carrying out massive kidnappings in the northwest of the country and separatists targeting security agents in the southeast.

Objective three's findings highlight the state of the Nigerian economy which is rated to be at its lowest ebb as the majority of the citizens now suffer poverty. This outcome corresponds with Imhonopi (2007) when he noted that Nigeria's economic story and history has been terribly characterized by frequent degradation and inconsistency, laced with increasing unemployment, inadequate social facilities, poverty, inadequate health care facilities, to mention just a few. This ugly state has, for the past many years, engaged the focus and attention of scholars who in turn, have shared their opinions on these unhealthy and negative trends which prove too complicated for a successful holistic study.

The fourth objective is on the current standard of education in Nigeria which indicated that education standard is quite low in the country. This, Ekundayo (2019) noted that Nigeria's system of education is in assorted mess of infrastructural decay, waste of resources, neglect and sordid conditions of service. The African country has above 10 million out-of-the-school children. That's known to be the highest in the world. Another 27 million of children in school are said to be performing poorly. Millions of the Nigerian citizens are half-educated, also, over 60 million – or 30% – are said to be illiterate.

The fifth objective is on how effective is the practice of rule of law. It was discovered that the concept of the rule of law is being undermined. This aligns with the opinion of Kolawole (2019) when he revealed that since assuming power on May 29, 2015, Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has shown a stunning neglect for the rule of law and rights of citizens, ignoring judges on at least 40 occasions. The fight against graft has been an important facet of his rhetoric but his persistent violation of court orders, disdain for judges and flagrant disregard of human rights under his watch now puts into question his true commitment to ending fraud in Nigeria.

The last objective looks at how the Nigerian government can take requisite and deliberate steps in saving Nigeria from war and disintegration. Some of the issues noted by respondents are: problems of respect for the rule of law, equality of all states and individuals, poverty reduction, fairness in political appointments, massive infrastructural development, and the adoption of former President, Goodluck Jonathan's national conference report.

Conclusion

In rounding off this research, effective government and governance are said to be a very important aspects of man's life without which life could be meaningless or end up in fiasco. When governance and politics are not well managed, the citizens including library and information professionals will no doubt, be at the receiving end. To this very end, the well-informed elite should deliberately rise up to their duty by not just studying the current situation but also proffer recommendations and solutions to disturbing problems. The librarians and other information professionals belong to this learned class and as a matter of responsibility; they should be ready to provide answers to unanswered national questions. This they could do by constructive criticisms, lobbying and publishing research findings for those in government to be abreast of the lapses that are needed to be bridged. The outcome of this particular research could help in stabilizing the governance of developing countries especially Nigeria if keenly reviewed and adopted by various governments. It is therefore the expectation of the researchers that these findings will not end up in the government archives as has been commonly seen in

many African countries. For the avoidance of doubt, some of the findings are: there appears to be some high level of corrupt practices in the country, Nigeria, insecurity as of today remains on the high side which is not only worrisome but disturbingly a threat to too many households, respondents have rated the economy to be at its lowest ebb as the majority of the citizens now wallow in poverty and agony, education standard is quite low in the country, the concept of rule of law is being undermined and finally, there are obviously deliberate steps to take in order to save Nigeria country from war and disintegration.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were drawn from the study based on the findings:

1. All Nigerians, irrespective of position or social status must resolve to live a corrupt-free life.
2. Government and all security agencies must be on the alert and if possible, request international assistance.
3. Economic policies must be reviewed as a matter of urgency in Nigeria.
4. Education must be made easily accessible and funds made adequately available for educational institutions at all levels as prescribed by UNESCO.
5. Government must retrace its steps in order to respect rule of law and ensure that no citizen is above the law.
6. Library and information professionals should continue to keep government officials on their toes by regularly exposing their inadequacies to the citizens.

References

- Adebanjo, A. (2021). Nigeria is evidently dying. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://pmnewsnigeria.com/2021/11/11/nigeria-is-evidently-dying-pa-adebanjo-speaks>
- Adeleke, R., Alabede, O., Osayomi, T., & Iyanda, A. (2021). The geographies of corruption in Nigeria: understanding the patterns and correlates, *Journal of Financial Crime*, 28(4), 1124–1140. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JFC-10-2020-0213>
- Adibe, J. (2017). Separatist agitations in Nigeria: Causes and trajectories. Brookings. Africa in Focus. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/07/12/separatist-agitations-in-nigeria-causes-and-trajectories>
- Africanews (2021). Nigeria’s Buhari faces backlash over worsening insecurity under his watch. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://www.africanews.com/2021/04/30/nigeria-s-buhari-faces-backlash-over-worsening-insecurity-under-his-watch>
- Agbo, A. D., & Onyekweodiri, N. E. (2014). Libraries are dynamic tools for national development. *Chinese Librarianship: an International Electronic Journal*, 38. <https://white-clouds.com/iclc/cliej/cl38AO.pdf>
- Akhabue, D. A. (2013). The rule of law-The Nigerian experience at fifty two. *International journal of law and jurisprudence*. 6(2). Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <http://ijlljs.in/the-rule-of-law-the-nigerian-experience-at-fifty-two-lecturer-akhabue-d-a-esq-faculty-of-law-ambrose-alli-university-ekpoma-edo-state-nigeria>
- Anyika, F. (2005). African humanities: Humanities and nation building. Nsukka: Afro-Orbis Publications.
- Bhatti, R. (2010). Libraries and education for Peace in Pakistan. Library Philosophy and Practice. Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/467>
- Ekundayo, O. (2019). Education in Nigeria is in a mess from top to bottom. Five things can fix it. The Conversation. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://theconversation.com/education-in-nigeria-is-in-a-mess-from-top-to-bottom-five-things-can-fix-it-112894>
- Idhalama, O. U. (2020). Perception and attitude of library and information professionals towards COVID 19 pandemic and the compulsory lockdown in Nigeria. *Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries*. Special issue, 133–151. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <http://www.qqml-journal.net/index.php/qqml/article/view/673>
- Idhalama, O. U., Igbinovia, M. O., & Ezeabasili, C. A. (2021). Use of webinar tools for teaching and learning by library and information professionals in Nigeria. *Information Development*, 37(3), 334–344. <https://doi.org/10.1177/026666669211003923>
- IFLA (2018). Libraries and Good Governance: A briefing. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from https://repository.ifla.org/bitstream/123456789/51/1/libraries_and_good_governance_brief.pdf
- Kolawole, O. (2019). Rule of law? What rule of law? Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://mg.co.za/article/2019-11-22-00-rule-of-law-what-rule-of-law>

- Magashi, B. (2020). Insecurity: Nigeria is better than what we were seven years ago, defence minister says. Channels Television. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BD8QBdBuets>
- Muhammad, E (2015). GMB and his 3-point agenda. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://pmnewsnigeria.com/2015/05/05/gmb-and-his-3-point-agenda>
- Obi, C. (2015). Challenges of insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria: Implication for national development. *International Journal of Sustainable Development*, 8(2), 11–18. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2586395
- Ogbonna, I. M. (2013). Books, libraries and reading in the digital age. Enugu, Nigeria: Eminota Nig. Ltd.
- Raffu, J., & Sodiq, O. (2015). Effective library services for good governance in Nigeria: A case study of selected libraries in Kwara State. *Information and Knowledge Management*, 5(7), pp. 10-21. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://www.iiste.org/Journals/index.php/IKM/article/view/23906/24477>
- Tade, O. (2021). Why Buhari’s government is losing the anti-corruption war. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://theconversation.com/why-buharis-government-is-losing-the-anti-corruption-war-155488>
- This Day, (2020). Buhari’s nine point agenda: It is late to reinvent the wheel of political promises. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/09/09/buharis-nine-point-agenda>
- Varella, S. (2021). Key indicators of Nigeria’s economy – Statistics & facts. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://www.statista.com/topics/6440/key-indicators-of-nigeria-s-economy>
- Wright, E. H. (2001). Opening statement on the fourth annual SLAALIS Conference, 21–23 March, 2001. British Council, Freetown (unpublished).
- Zamir, M. (2008). Freedom of access to information in South Asia. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from <https://www.apc.org/en/blog/freedom-access-information-south-asia>

Corresponding author: Ogagaoghene Uzezi Idhalama
E-mail: idhalamao@gmail.com