

*Full Length Research Paper*

# The effects of public libraries on the attainment of health millennium development goals in the South-south of Nigeria

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**This study surveys the roles of public libraries in the attainment of health Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria. It also identifies the health-information needs of the community and information services rendered by the libraries. The role of public libraries in the attainment of health-MDGs has been a daunting task for public libraries as a result of government's negligence. The methodology adopted for the study is the survey design in which questionnaire was used for obtaining data. The target population was public library staff/users in the South-south of Nigeria. The result showed that public libraries have played significant role in the attainment of health-MDGs and library users make significant demand for all categories of health information especially in the area of maternal and childcare. However, majority of the public libraries have no Internet services. The findings make it imperative for all other relevant agencies to key into the health-MDGs especially in assisting the public libraries. The study will bring to the awareness of users, the roles public libraries play in supporting local and international policies and the provision of information services for library users.**

**Key words:** Public libraries, health information resources, health Millennium Development Goals, information services, South-south of Nigeria, HIV/AIDS.

## INTRODUCTION

People all over the world have accepted education as an essential instrument for human development, and various means have been put in place to extend the benefits of education to all. Another means that has attracted little or no attention is the public library. Saliu (1999) in Wali (1991) describes a public library as a key source of information to citizens and to a lesser extent, politicians and businessmen. Harrod (1997) defines a public library as a library established by local, state or central government for the use of the general public. However, there are some individuals or organizations that establish library for the general use of the people. A public library is therefore a library that offers services to the public free of charge and it also provides educational, social and political information to people in a particular community

(Saliu, 1999).

Since libraries have to play a significant role in developing countries where there is scarcity of information and even less production of knowledge, librarians need to be equipped with knowledge principles to dismantle the semantics of many concepts for providing information and knowledge where it is lacking. It becomes critical for librarians (especially in Nigeria) to adopt an uncomplicated definition of knowledge in favour of an examination of the role that the public library would play in embracing or supporting access to data, information and knowledge. The critical issue is the creation of awareness, awareness that one plus one equals two, that good nutrition helps eradicate infant mortality, that abstinence or protected sex reduces the spread of HIV/AIDS and so on.

The bid to reduce infant and maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, malaria level worldwide led to the declaration of

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Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the year 2000. Countries, especially developing countries, were mandated to cut by half the incidence of poverty and child mortality rate by 2015 among other goals. In Western and Central Africa, mortality rates for under-fives are among the highest in the world (Oyelude and Oti, 2007).

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) came as a tool through which governments are struggling to implement and succeed in transforming the lives of their citizenry in all aspects of human endeavour. Libraries as an important agent for information dissemination and other services have a vital role to play in the actualization of the MDGs. Universal access to information on health related issues is a prerequisite for meeting the health Millennium Development Goals and achieving health for All. Lack of access to information remains a major barrier to knowledge-based health care in developing countries. The development of reliable, relevant, usable information can be represented as a system that requires co-operation among a wide range of professionals including librarians, health-care providers, policy makers, researchers, publishers, indexers, and system reviewers. It is essential that public libraries take the lead in championing the goal of "Universal access to essential health-care information by 2015" or "Health Information for All" of the Millennium Development Goals.

### Statement of the problem

The attainment of the health-MDGs in most African nations, especially, Nigeria is very slow considering the effort of international organizations in meeting the deadline, which is 2015. Nigeria, as a country is still at the implementation stage of attaining the MDGs because of her slow developmental process and political instability, which has been a bane to achieving any set target aimed at improving the lives of her citizenry. The area of health related issues including, maternal and child mortality has plagued the country through time. Lately, government and stakeholders are discussing development of health policies, establishment of health centres, and setting up information management centres on health for some hospitals in the country. However, public libraries expected to champion dissemination of health information have been overlooked in this regard. Therefore, the role of public libraries in the attainment of MDGs health issues becomes a daunting task in Nigeria.

The non-inclusion of libraries, especially public libraries, where users of all categories can have access to up to date information is another challenge retarding the attainment of MDGs in Nigeria.

### Purpose of the study

The specific purposes of the study are to:

- i) To know the roles of public libraries in the attainment of health-MDGs
- ii) To ascertain the level satisfaction on the part of users
- iii) To identify the types of health information needs of users of public libraries
- iv) To find out the health information services offered by public libraries.

### Research questions

- 1) What roles has the library played in the attainment of health millennium development goals?
- 2) What is the level of satisfaction from users?
- 3) What are the health information needs of library users?
- 4) What kind of information services do public libraries provide in achieving health Millennium Development Goals?

### Research Hypotheses

1. There is no significant relationship between the provision of information of public libraries and reduction of health related problems.
2. There is no significant relationship between public library services and attainment of the health MDGs
3. There is no significant relationship between public libraries and health information needs of users.

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

People all over the world have accepted education as an essential instrument for human development, and various means (such as schools and seminars) have been put in place to extend the benefits of education to all. Another means that has attracted little or no attention is the public library. Wali (1991) in Saliu (1999) describes a public library as a key source of information to citizens and to a lesser extent, to politicians and businessmen. Library's Glossary (1997) defines a public library as a library established by local, state or central government for the use of the general public. However, there are some individuals or organizations that establish library for the general use of the people. A public library is therefore a library that offers services to the public free of charge and it also provides educational, social and political information to people in a particular community (Saliu, 1999).

Since libraries have to play a significant role in developing countries where there is scarcity of information and even less production of knowledge, librarians need to be equipped with knowledge principles to dismantle the semantics of many concepts to provide information where there is such a lack of data, information and knowledge. It becomes critical for librarians (especially in Nigeria) to adopt an uncomplicated definition of knowledge in favour of an

examination of the role that the library would play in embracing or supporting access to data, information and knowledge. The critical issue is the creation of awareness, awareness that one plus one equals two, that good nutrition helps eradicate infant mortality, that abstinence or protected sex reduces the spread of HIV/AIDS and so on.

Libraries have long been crowned (described as) knowledge institutions as they provide the public with opportunities for information and learning. These opportunities are accessible to all groups of society, irrespective of age, gender and ethnic affiliation (IFLA, 2003). This role of the library must be seen against the backdrop of the fact that the development of society and individuals can only be attained through the ability of well-informed citizens to exercise their democratic rights and to play an active role in society (Drotner, 2005). Public library is a library, which is accessible by the public, is generally funded from public sources, such as tax money, and may be operated by civil servants.

### **Brief history of public libraries in Nigeria**

Akpotiade (2002) clearly explained in his paper titled "Development of Public and school libraries in Nigeria" delivered at Rabat in Morocco stated that "The UNESCO seminar on the development of Public libraries in Africa held at the University College Ibadan from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 21<sup>st</sup> August 1953 laid the foundation for public library development in Nigeria. The seminar was the fourth in the series of seminars on public library developments organized by UNESCO.

The Ibadan seminar advocated for library legislation to empower the appropriate authorities to provide library services and ensure adequate financial support and efficient administration according to a national standard. It also ushered the National library schemes in addition to autonomous local authority library service. Consequently, the Ibadan seminar ushered in new era for public library development in Nigeria. In 1955, the Eastern Region of Nigeria Library act was enacted and in 1964, the National library act was enacted in Lagos. The Western Regional Library was established in 1954 and this coincided with the introduction of free primary education in the region in 1955. Other regions and later states in Nigeria started setting up their own state public library boards and necessary edicts and decrees were enacted and passed respectively. Presently, public libraries have flourished all over the country. Although, many of them may be suffering neglects, but they continue to strive in keeping their existence through several legal means.

### **The United Nation Millennium Development Goals**

About a decade ago, a total number of one hundred and

ninety one countries adopted the United Nations Millennium declaration at the Millennium summit which was held from September 6 to 8 in the year 2000, thereby renewing their commitment to peace and security and to promote democracy, good governance and respect for internationally agreed upon human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development. The summit identified and adopted a set of eight time-bound, measurable goals aimed at eradicating extreme poverty and improving living conditions for women and men alike. Forsyth (2005) discusses the advances that some of the developed countries have made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. However, a large number of the developing countries have not even got out of the starting blocks as they are plagued by extreme poverty, high death rates due to diseases, high infant mortality rates, devoid of sound educational system, and are hounded by ravages of HIV/AIDS. Even though the challenges are massive, the opportunities to improve access to information and knowledge become greater.

### **Public libraries and United Nations Health Millennium Development Goals**

As indicated by Tyerman (1996), libraries have the potential of being key partners with health workers and health initiatives in promoting the behavioural changes needed to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Ghosh (2005) claims that "public libraries should be proactive in providing information about HIV/AIDS including the use of "drama, song and dances, seminars, peer discussion and to provide information in regional languages". In other words, information should be acquired especially in the area of health and other related subjects to meet the different category of users in the library.

Without the proactive involvement of libraries, these Millennium Development Goals (especially on health) are going to be very hard to achieve as each country looks for ways to fulfill these goals. Libraries, especially public libraries, need to be at the forefront of the discussion, offering skills and ideas and showing what is possible with libraries as key participants in this change. The collaboration will involve helping patrons, patients and providers access healthy information by becoming part of the health team. Public libraries can approach neighborhood clinic or health care facility to develop partnership. Librarians are expected to be trained to explain food security, poverty, health resources at library and be willing to collaborate for referral of patients seeking health or patient education.

With the provision of wide variety of information sources, users of library are exposed to different information with their respective values. They also give users the opportunity to learn and continue learning

public throughout their lives. Despite life-long learning provision, libraries also provide a much wider range of information services including those from local and central governments, health authorities and other organizations. Libraries being "not only an information system but also a communication system, the more complex the society is in its bureaucratic and educational requirements, the greater its dependence upon library based information services" (Aguolu and Aguolu, 2002).

In view of this, the provision of information by public libraries on the state of health and its interactions is critical in helping decision makers develop sound policies that can ensure health related sustainability. In order for different sectors of society to appreciate and mitigate possible MDGs health impacts, access to reliable maternal health, child mortality and HIV/AIDS information is vital (Lungu and Njobvu, 2008). Libraries are playing a role in ensuring Millennium Development Goals Health attainment. They provide information and related initiatives for users' utilization. MDGs therefore, serve as the new framework for sustainable development by setting social equity goals and targets that aim at contributing to economic development. Public libraries are expected therefore to play an active role in achieving these targets.

Literature has shown that many public libraries are in a poor state without adequate funding (Iya, 2007). This also includes inadequate staffing, relevant information sources and necessary facilities. With the advent of information technologies, most libraries and librarians are yet to embrace the new trend for effective services.

The government can work in collaboration with libraries particularly the public libraries to enlighten a larger population (literate and non-literate alike) on the health Millennium Development Goals, the opportunities attached to them and government's plan to achieve the goals by the year 2015. Public libraries can be used in continuing education through its print and non-print materials where librarians, due to their professional skills in both educating and searching for information, will enhance the process. Iya (2007) also states that public librarians are trained on how to relate with everybody as well as to interpret policies and decisions of government to the people and vice versa. This is paramount in any society particularly in a democratic society where people need information on government activities and programmes such as the HIV/AIDS eradication, maternal health and child mortality. According to Iya (2007), libraries facilitate in reducing HIV/AIDS and malaria fever through the provision of such materials like, the newspapers that give or announce opportunities of campaigns and immunization, place of study, health organizations that give health services etc.

Today's public libraries as social institutions look vastly different, since a variety of forces, such as Social, Technological, Economic and Political (STEP) developments have reshaped and redefined their roles as

community activities center, community information center, formal education support center, independent learning center, popular materials library, preschoolers' door to learning, reference library, and research center. To fit into in the above-depicted roles, assuring 'equitable access to information and/or knowledge' to the public should be the prime motive for public libraries (Indira, 2009).

In a society where targets are set - whether of a formal or informal nature - public libraries will be nodes connecting the development goals, setting with the global resources of information and knowledge. Public libraries must therefore be allowed to play a role of fundamental importance in the development of future systems of the Millennium Development Goals. The development of the information and communication technology has already laid the basis for the creation of information networks, giving users even of small local public libraries access to the worldwide sources of information. The public libraries also offer guidance and training in information search and quality rating of information sources. Thus, public libraries are prerequisites for a democratic knowledge society.

In this new situation of attaining the Millennium Development Goals, public libraries and professional librarians will have to change and adapt to new demands, professional tasks and working conditions. At the present though, we need more knowledge about how libraries and the professional profiles of librarians should be designed in order to improve their preconditions to meet the new needs and demands directed towards them.

Apart from informational provision, public libraries also provide and facilitate the search for information from the large information available in various formats (print and electronic, database and the Internet). The NGOs, on the other hand, particularly those aimed at the Millennium Development Goals, libraries can facilitate in activities geared towards youths, adult literacy program and in providing research reports that would help in improved farming, eradication of poverty and maintenance of healthy environment and the society in-general. Libraries provide recreational facilities for children's activities, good and conducive environment for relaxation with light reading materials, academic environment for conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures and literacy programs. Libraries, librarians and library associations mount activities that aim at improving reading habit among people, inculcate and wake the interest of reading in children and the importance of using libraries e.g. The Library Week, mounted by the National Library of Nigeria since 1981 (Iya, 2007). Therefore, libraries have a big and important role to play to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015.

### **Health information provision by public libraries**

However, the health information provision by libraries is

**Table 1.** Demographic information of population sample.

States	Cross River	Edo State	Delta State	Bayelsa State	River State	Akwa Ibom	Total selected
No. of public libraries	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
No. of respondents	35	33	33	33	33	33	200

Source: Fieldwork 2011.

**Table 2.** Gender of respondents.

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	122	61.0
Female	78	39.0
Total	200	100

**Table 3.** Distribution of respondents according to age.

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
0 – 17 years (1)	10	5.0
18 -30 years (2)	134	67.0
31-40 years (3)	41	20.5
41 -50 years (4)	9	4.5
51 – above (5)	6	3.0
Total	200	100

challenging, but the objectives of meeting the health information needs of the people towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals have propelled the library in the provision of effective information services to the users. On the demand side, there are different users and uses of information, which include people and patients, communities, service providers, programme managers, policy-makers, providers of funds, global agencies and organizations. All need information on a range of health-measurement areas including mortality and morbidity rates; disease outbreaks; determinants of health such as nutrition, environment, and socioeconomic status; access, coverage and quality of services; costs and expenditures; and equity. On the supply side, the libraries have challenge in the acquisition of different categories of information materials treating health related issues. Unfortunately, supply and demand in the health information materials are not currently in equilibrium because of the financial challenges of public libraries.

Information on adult mortality and cause of death is not generally available in libraries. Morbidity too is poorly measured, while the coverage and costs of many interventions are not measured properly, and the information needed to monitor equity is inadequate. In addition, the quality of health information is often highly variable with little standardization across definitions and methodologies, and considerable overlap and duplication.

Information dissemination is inconsistent, and the use of information to inform decision-making is weak at all levels of the health-care system.

## METHODOLOGY

A survey design was adopted in the study. The target population of this study consists of 17,730 respondents made up of staff and users of public libraries in South-south (Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross river, Delta, Edo and River States) region of Nigeria. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 200 respondents from the selected public libraries. Thereafter, a total of 200 questionnaires were administered for staff and users of the libraries in the study. Six public libraries from the region were randomly chosen. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics involving the use of tables showing frequency of responses and corresponding percentages (Table 1).

The six public libraries are Edo State Public Library Board, Delta State Library Board, River State Library Board, Akwa Ibom State Library Board, Bayelsa and Cross River State Library Board. A questionnaire was used to collect data. Data are presented in tables and analyzed using statistical percentages.

In Table 2, 61.0% of the respondents are male which shows a less significant difference with the female (39.0%) counterpart. Table 3 shows that respondents within the ages of 18 to 30 years (67.0%) are the highest, while others are; 0 to 17 years (4.0%), 31 to 40 years (20.5%), 41 to 50 years (4.5%) and 51-above (3.0%).

The results of Table 4 show that the entire respondents in the public library in the survey strongly agreed or agreed that there is relationship between public libraries and health related issues like HIV/AIDs, child/mother mortality. From the above data, public library services have contributed to the attainment of the Health Millennium Development Goals through various programmes and services. Table 5 presents responses on various types of health information. Most of the public libraries provide health information needs such as HIV/AIDs, sexually transmitted diseases, typhoid fever, cancer, hypertension, diarrhea, maternal/child care, food and nutrition.

In Table 6, it can be seen that majority of the respondents claimed that the library renders Internet services (55.5%). Other responses had lower percentages such as; statistical data analysis (20.0%), photocopying (7.0%), technical report writing (7.0%), canteen (6.0%), loaning of materials (3.5%) and Video rental (1.0). Therefore, it can be concluded that the library renders more of Internet services than other form of information services.

Table 7 indicates that 40.0% of the respondents indicated fair services. Other lower responses include very satisfactory, 23.5%; and satisfactory, 32.0%; however 4.5% indicated not satisfactory.

## HYPOTHESES TESTING

The analysis of data based on the hypotheses have been presented in the order in which they are listed.

**Table 4.** Public libraries and health-MDGS.

<b>Public libraries and Health-MDGS</b>	<b>SA(4)</b>	<b>A(3)</b>	<b>D(2)</b>	<b>SD(1)</b>
Provision of community health information by libraries can help to reduce health-related problems	56(28.0.)	120 (60.0)	24 (12.0)	-
We frequently organise forum on child/maternal health in our library	64 (32.0)	28 (14.0)	80 (40.0)	28 (14.0)
Public libraries are in partnership with other agencies like NGOs, health workers etc in contributing to the attainment of MDGs	28 (14.0)	76 (38.0)	68 (34.0)	28 (14.0)
We have partnered with international organizations in the distribution of mosquito net to rural dwellers	40 (20.0)	96 (48.0)	36 (18.0)	28 (14.0)
Our library organizes programmes on environmental sanitation around our community	92 (46.0)	108 (54.0)	-	-
Our library acquires materials related to health focusing on the MDGs	184 (92.0)	16 (8.0)	-	-
Public libraries services have contributed to the attainment of the health MDGs	80 (40.0)	120 (60.0)	-	-
Our library has organized seminar, lectures, talk shows etc on health information for their patrons	92 (46.0)	52 (26.0)	28 (14.0)	28 (14.0)
Our library is connected adequately and effectively to the Internet at all times for easy access to information	24(12.0)	32(16.0)	76(38.0)	68(34.0)
Our library has relevant materials on health information	56 (26)	80 (40.0)	36 (18.0)	28 (14.0)

Note: SA (strongly agree), A (agree), D (disagree) and SD (strongly disagree).

**Table 5.** Types of health information needs of user.

<b>Health information needs</b>	<b>SA(4)</b>	<b>A(3)</b>	<b>D(2)</b>	<b>SD(1)</b>
HIV/AIDS	92 (46.0)	61 (30.5)	27 (13.5)	20 (10.0)
Sexually transmitted diseases	101 (50.5)	57 (28.5)	30 (15.0)	12 (6.0)
Typhoid fever	118 (59.0)	45 (22.5)	29 (14.5)	8 (4.0)
Malaria fever	106 (53.0)	51 (25.5)	33 (16.5)	10 (5.0)
Cancer	102 (51.0)	46 (23.0)	38 (19.0)	14 (7.0)
Headache/Migraine	100 (50.0)	43 (21.5)	41 (20.5)	16 (8.0)
Hypertension	119 (59.5)	33 (16.5)	31 (15.5)	17 (8.5)
Diabetes	110 (55.0)	38 (19.0)	39 (19.5)	13 (6.5)
Influenza/Cold	102 (51.0)	43 (21.5)	44 (22.0)	11 (5.5)
Old age diseases	103 (51.5)	36 (18.0)	41 (20.5)	20 (10.0)
Hepatitis	117 (58.5)	38 (19.0)	34 (17.0)	11 (5.5)
Maternal and Child care	120 (60.0)	49 (24.5)	25 (12.5)	6 (3.0)
Food and Nutrition	113 (56.5)	53 (26.5)	28 (14.0)	6 (3.0)
Diarrhea	122 (61.0)	38 (19.0)	26 (13.0)	14 (7.0)

### Hypothesis 1

There is no significance relationship between the provision of information of public libraries and reduction

of health related problems. The result of the analysis of hypothesis 1 is presented in Table 8.

Table 8 shows that the  $X^2$  – Calculated Value of 9.868 was greater than the  $X^2$ -Critical value of 3.84. Therefore

**Table 6.** Information services rendered in the library to users.

Information services	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Internet services (1)	12	6.0
Photocopying (2)	14	7.0
Statistical data analysis (3)	40	20.0
Video rental (4)	2	1.0
Loaning of materials (5)	7	3.5
Canteen (6)	12	6.0
Technical report writing (7)	14	7.0
Use of book resources	99	49.5
Total	200	100

**Table 7.** Level of satisfaction with the services offered in the public library.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Not satisfactory (1)	9	4.5
Fair (2)	80	40.0
Satisfactory (3)	64	32.0
Very satisfactory (4)	47	23.5
Total	200	100

the null hypothesis was rejected. This indicates that there was a significant relationship between the provision of information of public libraries and reduction of health related problems.

### Hypothesis 2

There is no significance relationship between the provision of information of public libraries and reduction of health related problems.

The result of the analysis of hypothesis 2 is presented in Table 9. The table shows that the  $X^2$  – Calculated Value of 5.730 was greater than the  $X^2$ -Critical value of 3.84. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected. This shows that there was significant relationship between public library services and attainment of the health MDGs.

### Hypothesis 3

There is no significant relationship between the health information needs of users and public library services. The result of the analysis of hypothesis 3 is presented in Table 10. The table shows that the  $X^2$  – Calculated Value of 56.902 was greater than the  $X^2$ -Critical value of 3.84. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected. This indicates that there was a significant relationship between the health information needs of users and public library services.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In relation to the research questions and the objective of the study, the analyzed data fully showed that, public libraries have played significant role in the attainment of health Millennium Development Goals. Public libraries offered range of services, which include other forms of non-information related services. Hence, they fit into the role of assisting the government in achieving any set target since they are at the heart of the community. This finding is in line with Iya (2007) who stated that libraries facilitate in reducing HIV/AIDS and malaria fever through the provision of such materials like, the newspapers that give or announce opportunities of campaigns and immunization, place of study and health organizations that give health services. Thus, libraries are playing a role in ensuring Millennium Development Goals Health attainment.

In addition, library users make significant demand for all categories of health information especially in the area of maternal and childcare. This type of information is considered the most striking part of the health system in most communities. Libraries are places where information to empower communities to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health, can be made available in written, spoken or electronic form. The pervasive influence of libraries in modern societies is well illustrated in the study of the role of public libraries as disseminators of information regarding health promotion and illness prevention (Linnan, 2004).

## FINDINGS

The finding revealed that the library has contributed significantly in the attainment of health-MDGs, especially in the acquisition of information materials on health issues.

In addition, the result also indicated that the users make significant demand for all categories of health information especially in the area of maternal and childcare.

The findings also revealed that most public libraries do not render Internet services to users, consequently the result showed that the level of users' satisfaction with the services offered in the libraries in view of attaining the health millennium goals clearly indicated unsatisfactory rating.

## Conclusion

The research, which was conducted to survey the role of public libraries in the attainment of health Millennium Development Goals, generated the following findings:

- Public Libraries contributed significantly to the

**Table 8.** Chi-Square ( $\chi^2$ ) analysis of the provision of information of public libraries and reduction of health related problems.

Variables	Agreed	Disagreed	Total	Df	X <sup>2</sup> -Cal	X <sup>2</sup> - Crit	Level of sign	Decision
Provision of information of public libraries	107	5	112					
Reduction of health related problems	72	16	88	1	9.868	3.84	0.05	Significant (rejected)
Total	172	28	200					

**Table 9.** Chi-Square ( $\chi^2$ ) analysis of public library services and attainment of the health MDGs.

Variables	Agreed	Disagreed	Total	Df	X <sup>2</sup> -Cal	X <sup>2</sup> - Crit	Level of sign	Decision
Public library services	139	41	180					
Attainment of the health MDGs.	72	16	88	1	5.730	3.84	0.05	Significant (rejected)
Total	194	6	200					

**Table 10.** Chi-Square ( $\chi^2$ ) analysis of the health information needs of users and public library services.

Variables	Agreed	Disagreed	Total	Df	X <sup>2</sup> -Cal	X <sup>2</sup> - Crit	Level of sign	Decision
Public library services	70	10	80					
Health information needs of users	40	80	120	1	56.902	3.84	0.05	Significant (rejected)
Total	110	90	200					

attainment of health Millennium Development Goals, especially in the acquisition of related materials on health issues.

- Library users make significant demand for all categories of health information especially in the area of maternal and childcare.

- The findings also reveal that most public libraries do not render Internet services to users hence the level of users' satisfaction with the services offered in the library is significantly low.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

From the result of the findings in the study, the researchers recommends the following;

1. There should be more attention from government and individuals on development of the public libraries in Nigeria.
2. Public libraries should be considered as the hub towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.
3. Public libraries should be adequately funded so as to acquire adequate and relevant books, computers and ensure regular Internet facilities.
4. Library staff should be trained and saddled with the responsibility of providing services geared towards the attainment of health Millennium Development Goals.

5. Policy makers should also consider the unique role of public libraries in various communities. In this regard public librarians should be well paid.

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