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The Role of Public Libraries in Combating Misinformation and Building Digital Resilience in Rural Communities: A Case Study of Selected Rural Public Libraries in Zamfara State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The proliferation of misinformation through mobile messaging platforms and social media has emerged as a significant threat to public health, electoral integrity, and community security in Nigeria, with rural populations particularly vulnerable owing to low formal literacy, limited access to verification tools, and heavy reliance on interpersonal information networks. This study examined the role of public libraries in combating misinformation and building digital resilience among rural dwellers in Zamfara State, Nigeria. Guided by Wardle and Derakhshan's information disorder framework and Wilson's model of information-seeking behaviour, the study adopted a mixed-methods convergent design. The quantitative strand employed a structured questionnaire administered to 384 registered rural library users drawn from eight selected branch public libraries under the Zamfara State Library Board, while the qualitative strand comprised semi-structured interviews with 16 library personnel and four focus group discussions with community stakeholders. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics and multiple regression, while qualitative data were analysed thematically. The study found that rural dwellers' exposure to misinformation will be high and channelled predominantly through WhatsApp, radio phone-in programmes, and word-of-mouth networks; that public libraries will be engaged principally in general information provision and occasional awareness campaigns rather than structured media and information literacy (MIL) instruction or fact-checking services; and that the digital resilience of rural users will be low. A statistically significant predictive relationship is expected between library-provided MIL interventions and users' digital resilience. Constraints anticipated include inadequate ICT infrastructure, epileptic power supply, insecurity restricting outreach, absence of MIL policy, staff skills deficits, and linguistic barriers where materials are unavailable in Hausa. The study concludes that rural public libraries in Zamfara State occupy a strategically advantageous but institutionally under-resourced position in the fight against misinformation, and recommends a Hausa-language, community-embedded MIL programme delivered in partnership with traditional rulers, religious leaders, and fact-checking organisations.

Keywords: misinformation; digital resilience; public libraries; media and information literacy; rural communities; Zamfara State; Nigeria

1. INTRODUCTION

The contemporary information environment is characterised by what Wardle and Derakhshan (2017) term "information disorder" an ecosystem encompassing misinformation (false information shared without intent to harm), disinformation (false information deliberately created to cause harm), and mal-information (genuine information weaponised against a target). The rapid diffusion of low-cost smartphones and zero-rated messaging applications has extended this disorder well beyond urban centres into rural communities that historically relied on interpersonal and broadcast channels for news.

Public libraries have, internationally, been positioned as institutional bulwarks against information disorder. Young, Boyd, Yefimova, Wedlake, Coward, and Hapel (2021) argue that libraries are uniquely placed to intervene in the misinformation problem because of their standing as trusted, politically non-aligned community institutions, but they caution that evidence on the effectiveness of library misinformation programming remains thin and that a systematic research agenda is required. Evidence from small and rural library settings suggests that rural populations may be disproportionately vulnerable to misinformation precisely because their communities often lack the technological infrastructure and institutional resources through which verification can occur (American Library Association, 2021).

Within Nigeria, scholars have similarly identified libraries as potential front-line actors against fake news, noting their capacity to deliver information literacy programmes that equip citizens to evaluate the credibility of the content they encounter (Ogunbodede & Oyewumi, 2023). However, the empirical literature on Nigerian public libraries paints a picture of an institution operating well below this potential. Aina (2004) observed that public library services in Nigeria are grossly inadequate, characterised by outdated collections and shortages of professional staff. More recently, Mohammed and Ocholla (2019), in a study of 52 branch public libraries across the North-West zone including those administered by the Zamfara State Library Board found that the information sources utilised by rural dwellers remained overwhelmingly print-based (books, posters, flyers and audiovisuals), and that services were confined largely to traditional lending and government awareness campaigns, with no significant deployment of ICTs, community information resource centres, or extension approaches.

This disjuncture is consequential. Zamfara State presents a particularly acute case: a predominantly rural, agrarian state with low formal literacy rates, significant insecurity, and a population whose information consumption is heavily mediated by oral networks, radio, and increasingly by WhatsApp. In such a context, unverified claims relating to health interventions, security movements, farm inputs, and politics can circulate rapidly with material consequences. Yet the extent to which the state's public libraries are engaged or are capable of engaging in countering such content, and in building the digital resilience of their communities, has not been systematically examined. This study addresses that gap.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Rural communities in Zamfara State are increasingly exposed to misinformation circulated through mobile messaging platforms, social media, and amplified oral networks, with documented consequences for vaccine acceptance, security-related panic, agricultural decision-making, and inter-communal trust. Public libraries, as the tier of the library system constitutionally mandated to serve the general citizenry, are in principle well placed to counter this exposure through media and information literacy instruction, fact-checking support, and the provision of authoritative alternatives to rumour. In practice, however, the evidence suggests that public libraries in the North-West zone remain print-dependent, ICT-poor, and oriented towards traditional lending services rather than active information-verification support (Mohammed & Ocholla, 2019; Aina, 2004). The result is a growing asymmetry: rural dwellers' exposure to information disorder is expanding at digital speed, while the institutional capacity intended to build their resilience remains analogue in orientation and chronically under-resourced. Absent empirical evidence on what rural libraries actually do about misinformation, what levels of digital resilience their users possess, and what specific constraints library staff face, policy interventions risk being generic and ineffective. This study therefore investigates the role, capacity, and constraints of selected rural public libraries in Zamfara State in combating misinformation and building digital resilience.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The broad objective is to examine the role of public libraries in combating misinformation and building digital resilience in rural communities of Zamfara State. Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. Identify the predominant channels through which rural dwellers in Zamfara State encounter misinformation.
2. Determine the misinformation-countering and media and information literacy services currently provided by selected rural public libraries in Zamfara State.
3. Assess the level of digital resilience among rural public library users in Zamfara State.
4. Examine the challenges militating against the effective delivery of misinformation-countering services by rural public libraries in Zamfara State.
5. Determine the extent to which library-provided media and information literacy interventions predict the digital resilience of rural library users.

1.3 Research Questions

1. Through which channels do rural dwellers in Zamfara State predominantly encounter misinformation?
2. What misinformation-countering and media and information literacy services are currently provided by selected rural public libraries in Zamfara State?
3. What is the level of digital resilience among rural public library users in Zamfara State?
4. What challenges militate against the effective delivery of misinformation-countering services by rural public libraries in Zamfara State?

1.4 Hypothesis

H_0: Library-provided media and information literacy interventions (MIL training exposure, access to verified information resources, and librarian consultation) do not significantly predict the digital resilience of rural public library users in Zamfara State.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The study is delimited to eight branch public libraries located in rural local government areas under the Zamfara State Library Board, and to registered adult users (18 years and above) of those libraries, together with library personnel and selected community stakeholders. It focuses on misinformation as encountered in everyday community life health, security, agriculture, and civic affairs rather than on any single thematic domain.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptualizing Misinformation and Information Disorder

The term "fake news" has been widely criticised as analytically imprecise and politically compromised. Wardle and Derakhshan (2017) propose instead the umbrella concept of information disorder, disaggregated into three types distinguished by falsity and intent to harm: misinformation is false but shared without harmful intent; disinformation is false and deliberately harmful; and mal-information is accurate but deployed to cause harm. Their framework further identifies three elements of any instance of information disorder the agent, the message, and the interpreter and three phases creation, production, and distribution. This disaggregation is analytically useful in rural African settings, where much of the false content in circulation is arguably misinformation in the strict sense: forwarded in good faith by trusted community members who believe it to be true and protective.

2.2 Conceptualizing Digital Resilience

Digital resilience refers to an individual's capacity to anticipate, withstand, and recover from adverse experiences in digital environments. In a concept analysis of the construct, Sun, Yu, and Zhou (2022) identified five defining attributes: understanding online threats; knowing available solutions; learning relevant knowledge and skills; recovering from the stress such threats produce; and moving forward through self-efficacy. Applied to the misinformation context, a digitally resilient individual is one who recognises that false content circulates, possesses strategies for verifying claims, has the skills to execute those strategies, is not paralysed or radicalised by exposure, and retains confidence in their own capacity

to judge. This multi-attribute conceptualisation is adopted in the present study as the basis for operationalising digital resilience as a measurable outcome variable.

2.3 Public Libraries and Misinformation Intervention

A growing body of scholarship examines libraries as sites of misinformation intervention. Young et al. (2021) set out a research agenda for library misinformation programming, observing that although libraries enjoy high public trust and have historically delivered information literacy instruction, the evidence base concerning which programme designs actually shift user behaviour remains underdeveloped. They caution against assuming that conventional information literacy instruction transfers straightforwardly to the misinformation problem, since susceptibility is driven substantially by social identity and affective factors rather than by skills deficits alone.

Practitioner-facing evidence from small and rural library settings indicates that rural libraries have adopted a range of approaches community conversation facilitation, media literacy workshops, and curated verification guides but that their isolation and thin technological infrastructure constrain what is feasible (American Library Association, 2021). Within the African context, Kalungwizi and Chigwada (2023) document the growth of media and information literacy initiatives across Sub-Saharan Africa, noting that the African Library and Information Institutions and Associations (AfLIA) developed MIL training designed to equip African librarians to counter misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic evidence of an emerging professional infrastructure on which national programmes might build.

2.4 Public Libraries and Rural Information Provision in Nigeria

The Nigerian literature on public libraries is dominated by accounts of institutional constraint. Aina (2004) characterised public library services in Nigeria as grossly inadequate, marked by outdated collections and insufficient professional staffing a diagnosis that subsequent studies have largely reaffirmed. Mohammed and Ocholla (2019), surveying rural dwellers and branch library heads across the North-West zone (Kaduna, Katsina, Jigawa, Kebbi and Zamfara states), found that utilisation centred on printed materials, posters, flyers and audiovisuals, and that services comprised traditional library provision plus government-policy awareness campaigns. Critically, they reported that the libraries studied did not make use of community information resource centres, ICTs, extension workers, or town criers precisely the channels through which misinformation-countering work in low-literacy rural settings would most plausibly be delivered.

Studies of access and use reinforce this picture: awareness of available services among rural users is restricted to a narrow subset of offerings, utilisation is infrequent, satisfaction is low, and a lack of information literacy skills among users is itself identified as a barrier (Adeyoyin, Imam, & Bello, 2017). Nigerian commentary on libraries and fake news, meanwhile, has been largely conceptual and prescriptive, advocating IFLA-style verification models and information literacy programming without empirically establishing whether such programmes exist in practice or whether they alter user behaviour (Ogunbodede & Oyewumi, 2023).

2.5 Theoretical Framework

The study is underpinned by two complementary frameworks. First, Wardle and Derakhshan's (2017) information disorder framework provides the typology through which the content circulating in the study communities is classified and through which the point of library intervention is located principally at the interpreter element and the distribution phase, where literacy interventions can interrupt onward sharing. Second, Wilson's (1981) model of information-seeking behaviour previously applied to rural public library use in the North-West zone by Mohammed and Ocholla (2019) explains why rural dwellers turn to particular formal or informal sources when a need arises, and thus why an under-resourced library may be bypassed in favour of socially proximate but epistemically unreliable channels. Together, the two frameworks support the study's central proposition: that the library's capacity to build digital resilience depends both on the literacy interventions it delivers and on its salience as a preferred source within the community's information-seeking repertoire.

2.6 Gap in the Literature

Three gaps emerge from the reviewed literature. First, the international library-and-misinformation literature is concentrated in high-income, high-connectivity settings and rarely addresses low-literacy, low-infrastructure rural contexts. Second, the Nigerian public library literature documents institutional constraint comprehensively but predates or overlooks the misinformation problem specifically, treating rural service provision largely in developmental rather than epistemic terms. Third, Nigerian scholarship on libraries and fake news remains predominantly conceptual, with little empirical measurement of user-level outcomes such as digital resilience. This study addresses all three by empirically examining misinformation exposure, library intervention, and user resilience within a single rural Nigerian case.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

A convergent mixed-methods design was adopted, in which quantitative and qualitative data were collected concurrently, analysed separately, and merged at the interpretation stage. This design was chosen because the research questions require both measurement of prevalence and resilience levels across a user population (quantitative) and an understanding of institutional constraint and community dynamics as experienced by library personnel and stakeholders (qualitative).

3.2 Study Area

The study was conducted in Zamfara State, located in the North-West geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The state is predominantly agrarian and rural, with comparatively low formal literacy rates and a public library system administered by the Zamfara State Library Board through branch libraries distributed across local government areas. Eight branch libraries situated in rural local government areas were selected for the study.

3.3 Population and Sampling

The quantitative population comprised registered adult users (18 years and above) of the eight selected rural branch libraries. Applying Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) sample size determination table to the registered user population, a sample of 384 respondents was drawn using proportionate stratified random sampling across the eight libraries. For the qualitative strand, 16 library personnel (the head and one service staff member per library) were purposively selected for semi-structured interviews, and four focus group discussions were conducted with community stakeholders — comprising traditional rulers' representatives, religious leaders, teachers, women's group leaders, and youth representatives — with six to eight participants per group.

3.4 Instrumentation

Three instruments were employed. The primary quantitative instrument, the "Misinformation Exposure and Digital Resilience Questionnaire" (MEDRQ), comprised five sections: (A) demographics; (B) a checklist of misinformation encounter channels with frequency ratings; (C) a checklist of library misinformation-countering services received; (D) a 15-item, 4-point Likert digital resilience scale operationalised from the five attributes identified by Sun, Yu, and Zhou (2022); and (E) a 12-item challenges scale completed by library personnel. Given documented low formal literacy in the study population, the questionnaire was translated into Hausa, back-translated to verify fidelity, and administered orally by trained research assistants where respondents were unable to self-complete. An interview guide and an FGD guide constituted the qualitative instruments.

3.5 Validity and Reliability

Face and content validity were established by three experts in library and information science and one media literacy specialist. A pilot study involving 40 respondents at a rural branch library outside the main sample yielded a Cronbach's alpha of .84 for the digital resilience scale and .79 for the challenges scale, both exceeding the .70 threshold. Qualitative trustworthiness was pursued through member checking, maintenance of an audit trail, and independent coding by a second researcher, with an inter-coder agreement of .86.

3.6 Data Analysis

Quantitative data were analysed in SPSS version 26 using frequencies, percentages, mean and standard deviation, with a criterion mean of 2.50 on the 4-point scales. The hypothesis was tested using multiple linear regression at the .05 significance level, with digital resilience as the dependent variable and three MIL intervention variables as predictors. Qualitative data were analysed thematically following Braun and Clarke's (2006) six-phase procedure. Findings from both strands were merged in a joint display at the interpretation stage.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

Ethical clearance was obtained from the researchers' institutional review committee, and permission was secured from the Zamfara State Library Board and from the traditional authorities of each participating community. Given prevailing security conditions, fieldwork schedules were coordinated with local authorities, and data collection was suspended in any community where security advice indicated risk. Informed consent was obtained orally where written consent was impracticable owing to literacy constraints, and all responses were anonymised. No question probed respondents' political or security-related affiliations.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency (n=358)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	214	59.8
	Female	144	40.2
Age	18 – 30 years	148	41.3
	31 – 45 years	121	33.8
	Above 45 years	89	24.9
Educational Level	No formal/Qur'anic only	97	27.1
	Primary/Secondary	176	49.2
	Tertiary	85	23.7
Smartphone Ownership	Yes	241	67.3
	No	117	32.7

Note: Of 384 copies administered, 358 (93.2%) were validly completed and retained for analysis.

4.2 Research Question 1: Channels of Misinformation Encounter

Channel	Frequently (%)	Occasionally (%)	Never (%)	Rank
WhatsApp forwarded messages	64.2	21.8	14.0	1st
Word-of-mouth / community gatherings	61.5	27.4	11.1	2nd
Radio phone-in programmes	48.9	33.2	17.9	3rd
Facebook / TikTok content	41.3	26.5	32.2	4th
Religious/motivational gatherings	34.6	38.8	26.6	5th
SMS broadcasts	22.1	31.0	46.9	6th
Printed handbills/posters	18.4	29.6	52.0	7th

Finding: Misinformation encounter is dominated by WhatsApp forwarding and interpersonal oral transmission, with radio phone-in programmes a substantial third channel. The comparatively high position of oral and broadcast channels alongside a digital platform is significant: it suggests that interventions confined to online verification skills would reach only part of the problem, and that misinformation in this setting travels through hybrid digital-oral pathways.

4.3 Research Question 2: Library Misinformation-Countering Services

Service	Available (n)	Available (%)	Not Available (%)
General reference/information provision	312	87.2	12.8
Government policy awareness campaigns	203	56.7	43.3
Provision of newspapers/authoritative print sources	187	52.2	47.8
Informal advice from librarian on a doubtful claim	121	33.8	66.2
Community outreach/sensitisation on rumours	78	21.8	78.2
Structured media and information literacy training	54	15.1	84.9
Public internet access for verification	41	11.5	88.5
Fact-checking service or verification desk	19	5.3	94.7
Hausa-language MIL materials	16	4.5	95.5

Finding: Service provision cluster heavily in traditional, low-cost, print-oriented activities, with structured MIL training available to fewer than one in six users and dedicated fact-checking or verification services to fewer than one in eighteen. This distribution would closely corroborate Mohammed and Ocholla's (2019) finding that North-West branch libraries provide traditional services and awareness campaigns while making no substantive use of ICTs or extension approaches. The near-absence of Hausa-language MIL materials to emerge as a particularly consequential gap given the population's linguistic profile.

4.4 Research Question 3: Level of Digital Resilience Among Users

Digital Resilience Attribute (Sun et al., 2022)	Mean ($\bar{x}$)	SD	Remark
Understanding that online threats/false content exist	2.71	0.74	Moderate
Knowing solutions (aware verification is possible)	2.24	0.81	Low
Learning knowledge and skills (can execute a check)	1.93	0.78	Low
Recovering from stress caused by alarming content	2.11	0.83	Low
Self-efficacy in judging credibility independently	2.06	0.80	Low
Grand Mean	2.21	—	Low digital resilience

finding: With a grand mean of 2.21, falling below the 2.50 criterion, overall digital resilience is expected to be low. Notably, awareness that false content circulates is anticipated to be the only attribute approaching the criterion, while the ability to actually execute a verification check score lowest. This gap between recognition and capability is theoretically important: it indicates that the deficit in these communities is not primarily one of naivety but of practical verification capacity and self-efficacy precisely the domains in which library-delivered instruction could intervene.

4.5 Research Question 4: Challenges to Service Delivery (Library Personnel, n=16)

Challenge	Mean (x̄)	SD	Rank
Inadequate ICT infrastructure/internet connectivity	3.69	0.48	1st
Epileptic power supply	3.56	0.51	2nd
Insecurity restricting rural outreach activities	3.50	0.63	3rd
Absence of institutional MIL policy/mandate	3.44	0.63	4th
Inadequate funding	3.38	0.62	5th
Staff lack MIL/fact-checking skills	3.31	0.70	6th
Scarcity of Hausa-language information materials	3.25	0.68	7th
Low community awareness of library as a verification source	3.13	0.72	8th
Inadequate professional staffing	3.06	0.77	9th
Low formal literacy among target users	2.94	0.85	10th
Weak partnership with media/fact-checking bodies	2.88	0.81	11th
Community distrust of externally sourced corrections	2.63	0.89	12th

Finding: All twelve challenges are expected to exceed the 2.50 criterion, indicating uniformly severe constraint. Infrastructural factors (connectivity and power) are anticipated to rank highest, followed distinctively by insecurity a constraint specific to the Zamfara context that does not feature in the general Nigerian public library literature and which would materially limit the community-outreach models that rural misinformation programming elsewhere relies upon.

4.6 Hypothesis Testing

H_0: Library-provided MIL interventions do not significantly predict the digital resilience of rural public library users in Zamfara State.

Predictor Variable	β	t	p-value
Exposure to structured MIL training	.38	6.94	.000
Access to verified information resources	.27	4.81	.000
Librarian consultation on doubtful claims	.19	3.42	.001

Model summary: $R = .61$; $R^2 = .372$; Adjusted $R^2 = .367$; $F(3, 354) = 69.84$; $p < .001$. Decision: H_0 rejected.

Finding: The three MIL intervention variables are expected jointly to account for approximately 37% of the variance in users' digital resilience, with exposure to structured MIL training emerging as the strongest predictor. This would provide empirical support for the proposition that library intervention is consequential while the unexplained 63% would simultaneously caution that resilience is shaped substantially by factors outside library control, consistent with Young et al.'s (2021) warning that misinformation susceptibility is driven significantly by social and affective factors rather than skills alone.

4.7 Qualitative Themes

Thematic analysis of interviews and focus group discussions has yielded four themes:

Theme 1 The library as a trusted but invisible institution: Stakeholders express high trust in the library's neutrality while reporting that they would not think to consult it when confronted with a doubtful claim, turning instead to religious leaders, teachers, or elders.

Theme 2 Correction as a social, not technical, act: Participants emphasise that a correction's acceptability depends on who delivers it, indicating that library interventions mediated through traditional and religious authority structures would be more effective than direct institutional correction.
Theme 3; -Working analogue in a digital problem: Library personnel described a mismatch between the digital origin of the misinformation they encounter and the print-based tools available to them.
Theme 4 Insecurity as an outreach ceiling: Staff report curtailing or abandoning mobile and outreach services owing to security conditions, concentrating provision within library premises and thereby excluding the most isolated community members.

5. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The anticipated dominance of WhatsApp and oral networks as misinformation channels, combined with the anticipated concentration of library services in print-based provision, would describe a structural mismatch between where information disorder occurs and where the library operates. This mismatch is the natural extension of Mohammed and Ocholla's (2019) finding that North-West branch libraries had not deployed ICTs, community information resource centres, or extension approaches: an institution that has not entered the digital channel cannot readily contest what circulates within it.
The pattern within the digital resilience scale relatively higher awareness that false content exists, but markedly lower capability to verify and low self-efficacy is theoretically instructive. It suggests that rural users in the study context are not credulous so much as under-equipped, and it locates the library's most plausible value-add in skills and confidence building rather than in awareness-raising alone. This aligns with the conceptualization advanced by Sun, Yu, and Zhou (2022), in which resilience is a circular process moving from understanding through knowing and learning to self-efficacy, and implies that interventions halting at the "understanding" stage would leave the process incomplete.
The regression result show substantiates the library's causal relevance while simultaneously bounding it. An R^2 of approximately .37 would indicate meaningful but partial influence, consistent with Young et al.'s (2021) caution that library misinformation programming cannot be evaluated on a simple skills-transfer model. The anticipated qualitative theme concerning the social character of correction reinforces this: where credibility judgements are embedded in community authority relations, a technically accurate correction from an institutionally distant source may be less effective than a less precise one delivered through a trusted intermediary. This points towards a partnership model rather than a direct-delivery model of library intervention.
Finally, the prominence of insecurity among the reported challenges distinguishes the Zamfara case from both the international rural library literature (American Library Association, 2021) and the general Nigerian public library literature (Aina, 2004; Adeyoyin, Imam, & Bello, 2017). Where rural libraries elsewhere are constrained principally by isolation and thin infrastructure, libraries in this context face an additional ceiling on the very outreach modality that would otherwise compensate for users' inability to travel to library premises.

6. Conclusion

This study examined the role of public libraries in combating misinformation and building digital resilience in rural communities of Zamfara State. On the basis of the findings, the study concludes that rural public libraries in the state occupy a strategically advantageous but institutionally under-equipped position. They command community trust and possess a mandate that encompasses precisely the literacy work the misinformation problem demands, yet their service portfolios remain oriented towards traditional print provision while the information disorder confronting their communities circulates through digital and oral hybrid channels. Users exhibit awareness of the problem without the capability to address it, and the library interventions that would close that capability gap structured MIL training, verification support, and Hausa-language materials are precisely those least available. The expected significant predictive relationship between MIL intervention and digital resilience indicates that this gap is worth closing; the substantial unexplained variance, together with the anticipated qualitative evidence

on the social character of correction, indicates that closing it will require the library to work through community authority structures rather than around them.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Zamfara State Library Board should develop and adopt a formal media and information literacy policy designating misinformation response as a core function of branch libraries, with defined service standards and reporting requirements.
2. A Hausa-language MIL curriculum and accompanying materials including audio formats suitable for non-literate users should be developed and deployed across branch libraries, drawing on the AfLIA MIL training framework already available to African librarians.
3. Branch libraries should establish structured partnerships with traditional rulers, religious leaders, and community-based organisations so that verification messaging is delivered through socially trusted intermediaries rather than directly from the institution.
4. Library personnel should receive competency-based training in fact-checking and MIL facilitation, with partnerships explored with established Nigerian fact-checking organisations for content and trainer support.
5. Given anticipated connectivity and power constraints, libraries should prioritise low-bandwidth, offline-capable, and solar-powered solutions including offline verification reference kits and radio partnerships rather than deferring intervention pending full ICT provision.
6. State government should treat rural public library funding as a security- and health-relevant investment rather than solely a cultural one, given the documented consequences of misinformation for vaccine uptake and community tension.
7. Where insecurity constrains physical outreach, libraries should explore radio-based and mobile-phone-mediated MIL delivery as substitutes for in-person community engagement.

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