



# Health and Biosciences Libraries

*@ Lecture Hall of the Library of Health Sciences, M Assias & 1 Dilou St., Goudi, Athens.*

## Data Librarianship:

Open Data Awareness, Perceptions and Services in Medical Libraries in Nigeria.

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# Background: Open Movements

- ⦿ Initiatives that advocate free and unrestricted public access to research reports, data and academic literature.
- ⦿ Include open science, open research, open educational resources and many others.

# Background: Data



<https://www.digitaltveurope.com>

- ⦿ Numbers, alphabets, figures, derived from observations or measurements suitable for interpretation by humans or automatic means.
- ⦿ The raw material for actionable information and knowledge creation.

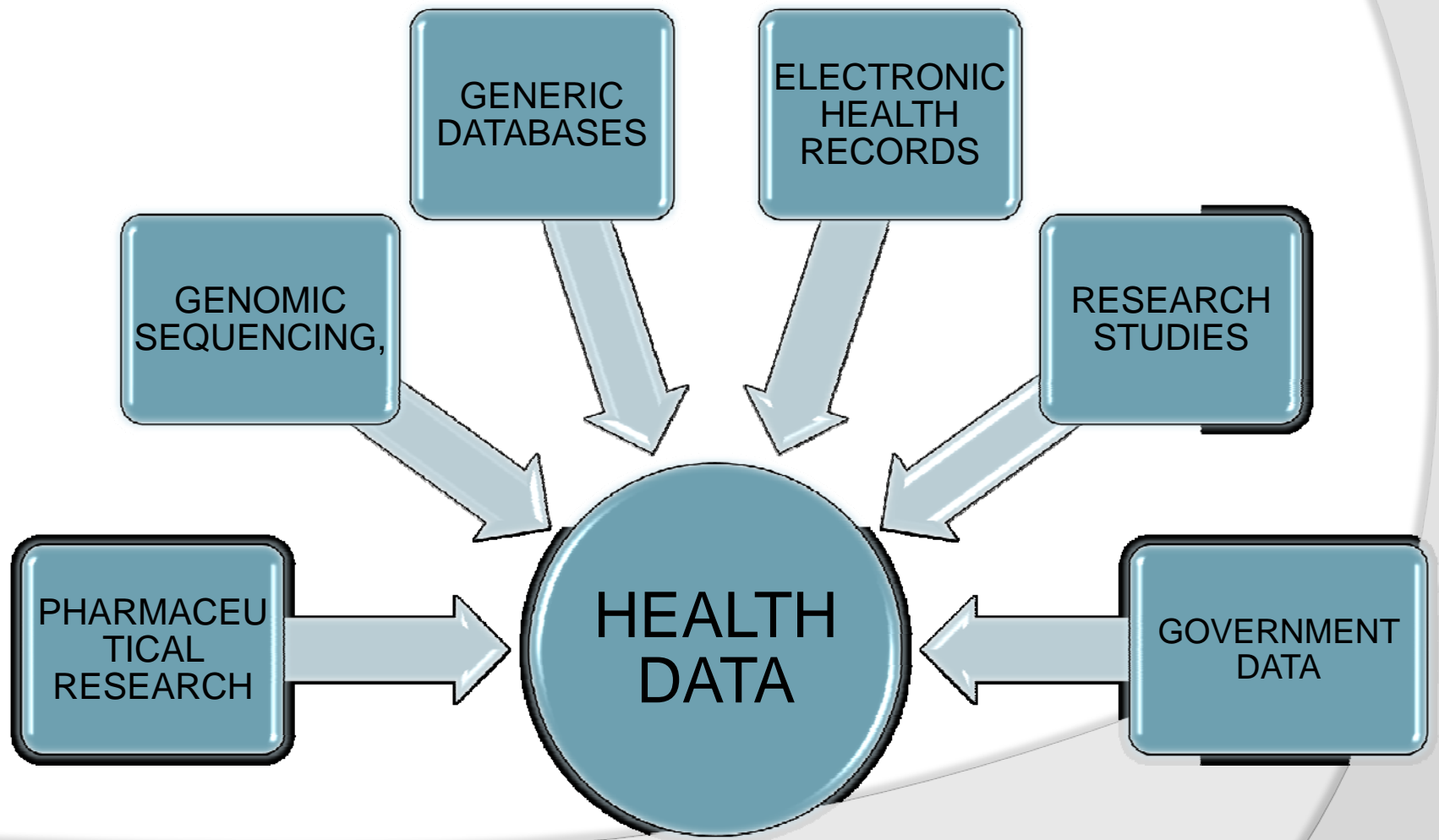
# Background: Health Data



Health data is any data "related to health conditions, reproductive outcomes, causes of death, and quality of life" for an individual or population. (Wikipedia).

Photo by nevarpp/Getty Images <https://www.rand.org/>

# Sources of Health Data



# Open Data

- ⦿ Datasets can be copyright protected with licensing and access restrictions
- ⦿ However, Open Data reside in the public domain or have open license
- ⦿ Free to use: No-cost access and licensing restrictions.

**Citizens**

Empowerment for  
better health decisions

**Patients**

Informed treatment  
choices

**Health Care  
Providers**

Improved treatment outcomes

**Healthcare  
System**

Spur Economic growth through  
innovation, new discoveries

## Benefits of Open Health Data

## Data Management Services

- An administrative process that includes acquiring validating, storing, and processing required data for accessibility Galetto (2016)

Data management and access is a very new service for libraries requiring development of new skills through training.



# Data Management Services in Medical Libraries

## *Librarians roles include:*

- ⦿ Providing infrastructures such as repositories to preserve and share data
- ⦿ Advocating for data services and sharing
- ⦿ Raising awareness on the importance of open data
- ⦿ Offering training to inculcate data literacy that will empower researchers to deposit, access and use open data.

## Rational for the study

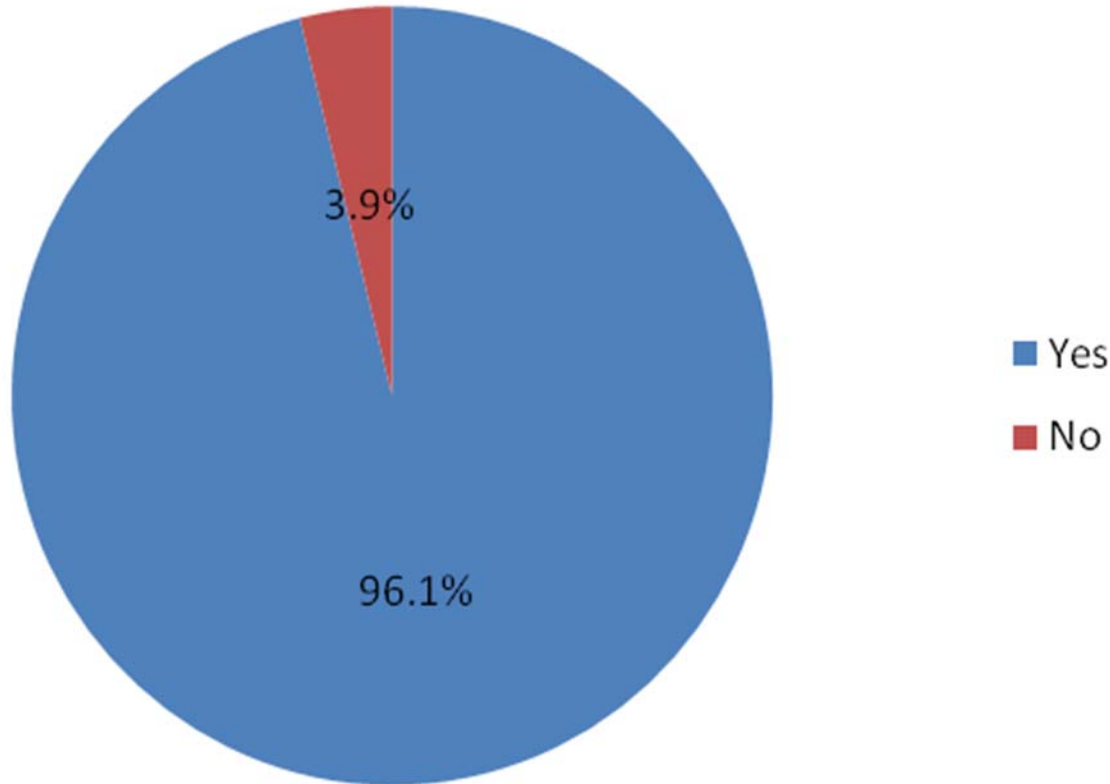
- ◉ Data librarianship is an emerging field.
- ◉ Recently, many librarians are involved in collection, curation and creating access to datasets.
- ◉ Medical librarians in Nigeria can be advocates of open data for the public good.
- ◉ Hence, the study ascertained, awareness perceptions and data management services.

# Methods

- ⦿ The research surveyed medical librarians in Nigeria.
- ⦿ Questionnaire was used for data collection.
- ⦿ The questionnaire was created in *SurveyMonkey tool*
- ⦿ Distribution: Medical Library Association of Nigeria email list and WhatsApp group platform
- ⦿ Fifty – one medical librarians responded to the survey

# *Results*

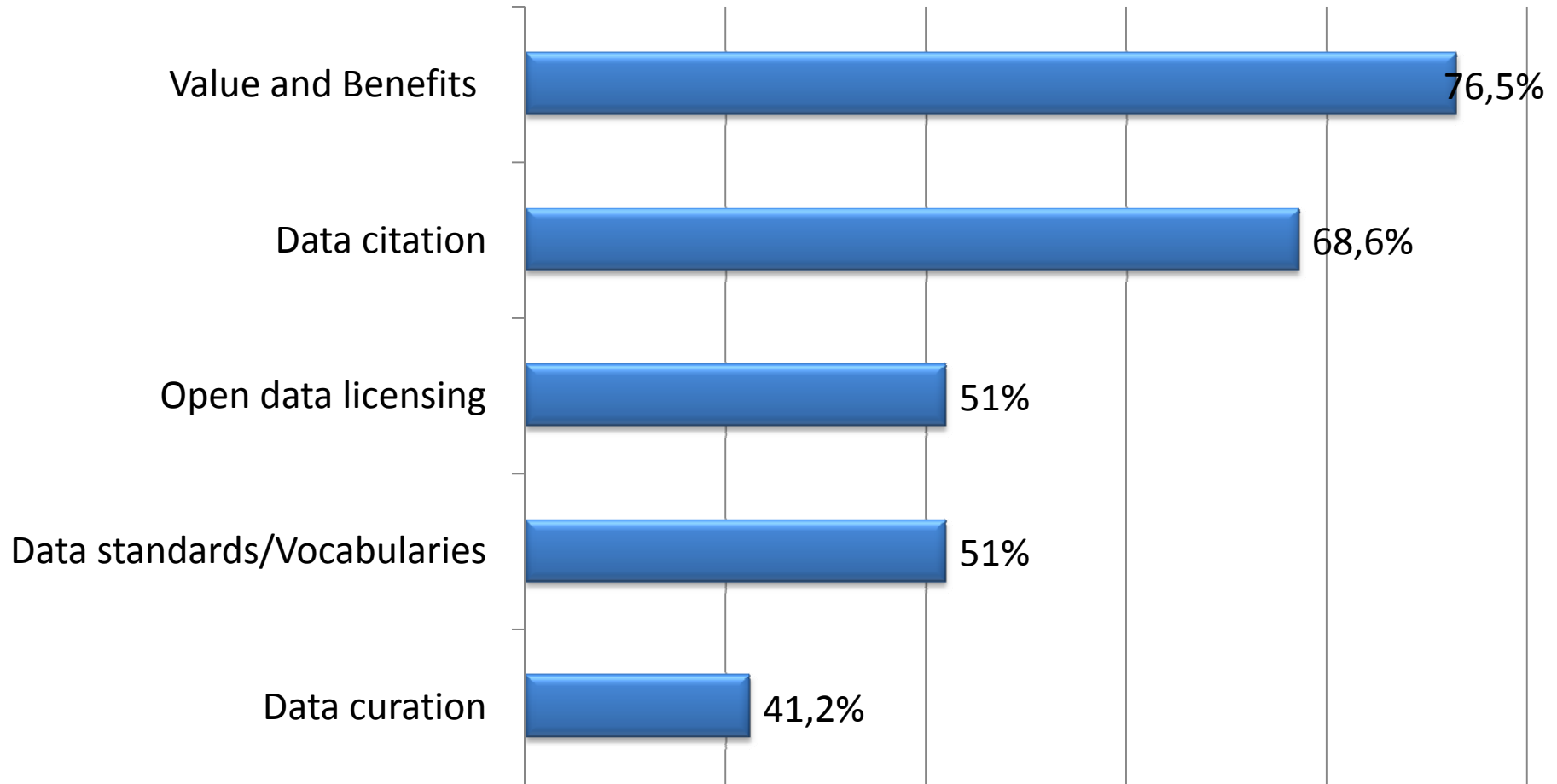
# Medical Librarians Awareness of Open Data Initiative



- ⦿ Almost all respondents 49 (96.1%) claim awareness
- ⦿ Only 2 (3.9%) indicated no awareness.

# Medical Librarians Awareness and Understanding of Open Data Concepts

N=51



■ % of Respondents with some understanding

## Data Services in the Medical Libraries.

- ◉ 14 libraries have institutional repository
- ◉ No respondent indicated depositing datasets or researchers' data in the repositories
- ◉ No advocacy for data management and sharing
- ◉ No training on data management

# Services Medical Librarians can Perform to Support Open Data Initiatives

Data management services	Frequency	%
Locating datasets for patrons	25	50
Identifying and preparing datasets for deposit into the repository	9	18
Creating metadata for datasets.	8	16
Participating with researchers on a research and data management project	18	36



- Librarians Attitude was largely supportive of data sharing and data management services.
- ⦿ A large number, 42 (85.7%) agreed to make their data openly available.
- ⦿ Almost all respondents 48(98%) are willing to locate datasets for users as part of their duties
- ⦿ Most (77.6%) disagreed that data management was too technical, or beyond the librarians understanding.
- ⦿ Most (89.8%) wants Institutions to mandate researchers to store their research data in library repositories.

## Discussion

- Results showed good awareness of open data concepts, resources, and positive attitude to data management services.
- Despite the awareness of open data, the medical librarians are yet to commence data services in their various libraries.

# Discussion

- ◎ The findings maybe an indication that these librarians if provided with enabling policies and resources can join their counterparts in developing data services.

# Recommendations

- Medical librarians should -
  - ◎ Innovatively advocate for open data services in their libraries.
  - ◎ Promote use of open data resources through information literacy programmes.
  - ◎ integrate open data resources into their collection development policy

# Conclusion

- ◎ The future and prospects for open data management in libraries in Nigeria depend on a well-developed data librarianship training programme.



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THANK YOU

*23<sup>rd</sup> August*

*2019*

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