

SECURITY AND PRESERVATION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN KATSINA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examined security of information resources in academic libraries for enhancement of service delivery in Katsina State, Nigeria. The study was guided by two research questions and aimed to: (1) identify the types of security threats in academic libraries in Katsina State, and (2) examine the security measures implemented in these libraries. The study adopted a quantitative research approach using a cross-sectional survey research design. A simple random sampling technique was used to select eight academic libraries in Katsina State. Using stratified proportionate sampling techniques, the total number of security and library personnel sampled as the subject of the study were 211 out of a total population of 939, while structured and closed ended questionnaire was adopted. Two hundred and eleven 211(100%) copies of questionnaire were distributed to sampled respondents, one hundred and sixty-two 162 which approximately represent (77%) were duly filled, returned and found useable for the study with 49(23%) mortality rate. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze and present the data using tables, frequency, percentages and mean. The study discovered that the types of security threats that exist in libraries studied were dust, theft, illegal removal of library items, abuses and harassment, book worm, rat and rodents among others. The findings also revealed that the security measures provided in the respective libraries were majorly done manually and not according to the needs of the library. The study recommended among others that there is need to embrace modern security technological devices like biometric system, security devices that curbs digital crimes and early warning detectors, lightening protectors and seismic surveillances to secure the library resources and environment.

Keywords: Academic Libraries, Information Resources, Preservation, Security, Service Delivery

Introduction

Generally, the fortification of organizational resources, as well as ensuring safety of users and staff, are vital for operative service delivery. Precisely, service provision in any organization such as the library, under normal universal ethics should consider the running of

safe services to its parent establishments (infrastructure and human resources inclusive) as part of its workflow (Moustapha 2022; Lawal-Solarin, 2021 & Shafack, 2021). On daily basis, library and information resources are being transformed with the application and use of technology, whose evolution seems no bounds. This trend is not only changing the role of the library and information professionals to ensure the security of access to library resources platform but also rebranding operational library security and care services (Ravat, 2021 & Lawal-Solarin, 2021). Thus, it is not only worthwhile to collect, organize and make accessible information resources but it is equally important to provide services that will enable library operations to last long and prevent unethical access to library resources.

The expenditure on the procurement of library resources and establishment of library services is enormous; the disbursement is justified by the central and all imperative roles of the library in the overall operation and vision of academia. The protection of this resources is thus, paramount to library authorities. Library resources are prone to abuses by threat from humans' aside the tendency of natural hazard. The degree of this human factors on the safety of library collections varies from one library to another, however, it is a universal issue, besides clear focus of these security problem is necessary so as to successfully manage and deliver library services effective.

Libraries are conventionally established to meet the needs of library users and provide community services through the provision of qualitative and adequate library and information resources. Unegbu, Adekanye, Ekanem and Madukoma (2018) stressed that the statutory roles bestowed on libraries are enormous because the library remains the soul of educational institutions; provide basics resources and services to ensure that the aims and objectives of the curriculum is achieved and to support faculty and students research and information needs. Libraries are priceless heritage of mankind because they statutorily preserve facts, ideas and evidence of human engagement in multifarious areas span by ages and discourses. Libraries are foundation for community services and are valuable assets to their parent organizations. Library is a 'temple of learning', an information hub around which scholarship revolves; it executes an important role in overall growth and development of societies. In fulfilling this objective, Aslam, Khalid, Battol and Farid (2019) were of the opinion that library preserves valuable records of culture that can be passed down to succeeding generations that makes libraries serve as essential link that facilitates communication among the past, present and future specifically academic library.

Academic libraries are established to meet the educational, cultural, research, recreational and informational needs of humanity which is central to effective service delivery. Academic libraries have long history that is entwined with the growth of higher education. In Nigeria, academic libraries have evolved into institutions that acquire, process, organize and disseminate information in diverse formats. Academic libraries also preserve, conserve as well as secure printed and non-printed information resources for their users as a

statutory expectation. Ayoun, Boatbil and Banbil (2014) described academic libraries as so essential that, made them to be recognized as fundamental criterion and compulsory benchmark for accreditation of tertiary institutions of learning the world over. In tertiary institutions where academic libraries are found, libraries are centers of academic activities, providing a space for their users to conduct research and advance in their knowledge. These are libraries in Universities, Colleges of education, College of technologies, Cooperative colleges, Polytechnics and mono-technics. Supporting this notion, Abubakar, Abdullahi, Dewa, and Barkindo (2020) distinguished the roles of academic libraries to include effectively supporting the institutions to attain the key functions of teaching, learning, research and community services. Other responsibilities comprise of supporting the institutional curriculum through collection of current, adequate and relevant information resources in different formats; to ensure information resources are in good condition for users to have access to them in a timely manner. Hence, the roles and expectations from academic libraries globally, is that personnel who consist of professional, para-professionals and supporting staff must prioritized security and maintenance of the library and information resources from any unethical practices, threats as a collective responsibility. The responsibility can be achieved when the library holds sanctity, decorum, discipline and beauty in addition to limited threat scenarios and adequate and effective security and maintenance of acquired resources.

Statement of the Problem

Globally, there exists several factors that lead to security challenges in our society. This has extended to libraries as a social institution. Academic libraries have suffered from diverse security challenges which have continued to pose a great problem to the library sustainable development especially in Nigerian academic libraries. The academic libraries are not foolproof of difficulties and hazards such that emerge and needing security of information resources. Studies like those of Mindapa (2022) and Ravat (2021) agreed that security threats are increasing at a spectacular rate in libraries and in different pattern affecting every type of library and their resources. Likewise, reports have shown increase in poor handling of library resources which has led to increase deterioration and loss of library and information resources, thus, there are lapses in the security activities of academic libraries in developing countries like Nigeria. Amoah (2016) estimated loss rate of 2.6% of library resources which were annually destroyed, missing or stolen were recorded. Sad is that about 75% of stealing in library are “inside jobs” which was described by scholars as “Library Epidemic”.

Despite the fact that library and information managers have continuously put several measures in place to curtail this menace, and salvage library and information resources from destructions, threats and insecurity in academic libraries, the challenge remains high and still persist. This study therefore sought to assess the state of security of library and information resources in academic libraries in Katsina State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

This study sought to answer the following research questions:

1. What types of security threats exist in academic libraries in Katsina State?
2. What types of security measures are provided for securing library and information resources in academic libraries in Katsina State?

Methodology

The study adopted a quantitative research approach using cross-sectional survey research design. Simple random sampling technique involving lottery method was used in the selection of eight (8) academic libraries in Katsina State. Using stratified proportionate sampling techniques, the total number of security and library personnel sampled as the subject of the study were 211 out of a total population of 939, while structured and closed ended questionnaire was adopted. Two hundred and eleven 211(100%) copies of questionnaire were distributed to sampled respondents, one hundred and sixty-two 162 which approximately represent (77%) were duly filled, returned and found useable for the study with 49(23%) mortality rate. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze and present the data using tables, frequency, percentages and mean. Software Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23 was used to analyze the collected data.

Results and Discussion of Findings

The result was presented on the table below and the discussion was made on the result

RQ1: What type of security threats exist in academic libraries in Katsina State?

Table 1: Security Threats Existing in Academic Libraries in Katsina State

S/ N	Types of Security Threats in Academic Libraries in Katsina State	INSTITUTION								TOTAL		Mean
		FUDMA	FCE KTN	IKCO EDMA	UMYU	FED POL YDA U	HUK POL	INST. OF COM KTN	SCH OF NUR.	F	%	
1	Theft	58(36.0)	13(8.0)	5(3.1)	7(4.3)	3(1.9)	3(1.9)	11(6.8)	7(4.3)	107	66.0	1.784
2	Pilfering	45(27.8)	1(0.6)	3(1.9)	4(2.5)	1(0.6)	1(0.6)	15(9.3)	1(0.6)	71	43.8	1.265
3	Illegal removing of library items	58(36.0)	5(3.1)	5(3.1)	8(4.9)	2(1.2)	2(1.2)	17(10.5)	5(3.1)	102	62.9	1.637
4	Vandalism	22(13.5)	0(0.0)	1(0.6)	3(1.9)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	4(2.5)	2(1.2)	32	19.8	1.167
5	Mutilation	41(25.3)	0(0.0)	2(1.2)	6(3.7)	1(0.6)	0(0.0)	8(4.9)	4(2.5)	62	38.3	1.290
6	Abuses and harassment	53(32.7)	13(8.0)	3(1.9)	9(5.6)	1(0.6)	1(0.6)	11(6.8)	1(0.6)	92	56.8	1.525
7	Attitudes of library staff toward work	0(0.0)	2(1.2)	4(2.5)	12(7.4)	2(1.2)	0(0.0)	11(6.8)	5(3.1)	36	22.2	1.272
8	Impersonation	49(30.2)	0(0.0)	3(1.9)	6(3.7)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	7(4.3)	1(0.6)	66	40.7	1.160
9	Use of fake identities	34(21.1)	14(8.6)	1(0.6)	2(1.2)	0(0.0)	6(3.7)	2(1.2)	1(0.6)	60	37.0	1.401

10	Arson	14(8.6)	0(0.0)	2(1.2)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	1(0.6)	0(0.0)	1(0.6)	18	11.1	1.025
11	Insects and termites	42(25.9)	0(0.0)	2(1.2)	5(3.1)	4(2.5)	0(0.0)	7(4.3)	2(1.2)	62	38.3	1.198
12	Book worm, rat and rodents	58(36.0)	0(0.0)	2(1.2)	4(2.5)	3(1.9)	1(0.6)	6(3.7)	1(0.6)	75	46.3	1.562
13	Moisture and relative humidity	19(11.7)	0(0.0)	2(1.2)	3(1.9)	1(0.6)	0(0.0)	1(0.6)	1(0.6)	27	16.7	1.105
14	Dust	74 (45.7)	13(8.0)	5 (3.1)	13 (8.0)	4(2.5)	3(1.9)	6 (3.7)	4 (2.5)	122	75.3	1.858
15	Excessive heat, light air	28 (17.3)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	3 (1.9)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	33	20.4	1.074
16	Fire	42 (25.9)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	17 (10.5)	1 (0.6)	61	37.7	1.025
17	Great storms and flood	42 (25.9)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.2)	45	27.8	1.000
18	Earthquakes	7(4.3)	0(0.0)	1(0.6)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	2(1.2)	10	6.2	1.025
19	War	22 (13.6)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0(0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	24	15.0	1.062
20	Fungi acid	11 (6.8)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.9)	2 (1.2)	0(0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	17	10.5	1.019
21	Aridity	21 (13.0)	0(0.0)	1(0.6)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	1(0.6)	23	14.2	1.019
22	Ultra violet ray	15 (9.3)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.2)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	19	11.7	1.012
Cumulative mean											1.250	

Decision mean = 1.500

Table 1 shows the types of security threats faced in Academic Libraries in Katsina State. There are different types of threat available to the academic libraries studied but the picture drawn from Table 1 shows that dust forms the highest type of threat with respondents of 122 (75.3%), this as noted by the researcher was as a result of the type of weather condition that the libraries were exposed to in the Northern parts of Nigeria where they are situated. There is also theft with respondents of 107(66%), illegal removal of library items 102(62.9%), Abuses and harassment 92 (58%) and book worm, rat and rodents 75 (46.3%) etc. Hence, this study found out that the location of these libraries studied is characterized by dusty environment which is difficult to control and has posed a threat to the resources in their respective libraries. In line with the finding of this study is that of Lawal- Solarin (2021) and Singh and Margham (2018) who noted that dusty environment is a threat to library resources. Their study categorized security threats into those caused by natural agent and that of human agent. Dust is a threat by natural factor hence, librarians should implement procedures to control dust in the library. However, in AFIT library the researcher noticed that staff attitude is a major threat to users, as the attitude of one of the librarians on duty as at the time of the study was not encouraging, as this situation would make users to feel unsecured and threatened thereby resulting in low patronage. Statistically, security threats faced are generally low and manageable because the cumulative mean of 1.250 is less than the decision mean of 1.500. In summary, the existing threats to libraries studied were Dust (1.858), theft

(1.784), illegal removal of items (1.637), abuses and harassment (1.525) and book worm, rats and rodents (1.562) respectively.

RQ2: What types of security measures are provided for securing library and information resources in academic libraries in Katsina State?

The type of security measures provided in academic libraries is of importance for the daily service delivery, hence, the second research question. Data on types of security measures provided in academic libraries in Katsina State were collected and analyzed. The summary of the discussion is found in Table 2.

Table 2: Types of Security Measures Provided in Academic Libraries in Katsina State

S / N	Security Measures Provided In Academic Libraries	INSTITUTIONS								TOTAL F (%)	Mean
		FUDMA	FCE KTN	IKCO EDMA	UMYU	FED POLY DAU	HUK POL	INST. OF COM KTN	SCH OF NUR.		
A	Physical(Manual) and Maintenance Measures	27 (16.8)	15(9.3)	3 (1.9)	3(1.9)	4 (2.5)	8 (4.9)	8 (4.9)	3 (1.9)	71(43.8)	1.4382
B	Organizational Preventive Measures	28 (17.4)	10(6.2)	2(1.2)	2(1.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.9)	1 (0.6)	46(28.5)	1.2839
C	Technological Control Measures	1 (0.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	6(3.7)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	6 (3.7)	0 (0.0)	15(9.3)	1.0925
D	Combination of a, b and c above	43 (26.7)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.2)	9(5.6)	2 (1.2)	2 (1.2)	9 (5.6)	6 (3.7)	73(45.1)	1.4506
Cumulative Mean										1.324	

Decision mean = 1.500

Table 2 shows the types of security measures provided in Academic Libraries in Katsina State. The picture drawn from Table 4.5 reveals that, combination of different measures has the highest percentage of 73(45.1 %), with mean value of 1.4506. This is followed by the manual and physical measures 71(43.8%) with mean value of 1.4382, while the least is the Technological Control measures. Statistically, the study shows that the cumulative mean of (1.324) is lower than the decision mean of 1.500 which implies that the general security measures provided in the academic libraries studied is below the accepted standard. It can easily be deduced that most academic libraries provides manual measures than the organizational and technological measures. However, the researcher noted that, most

of the libraries studied provide majorly manual measures. For instance, FCE did not provide a single technological measure. This could be because of the cost implication of the application of technological devices and its maintenance for securing the library.

This is in line with Singh and Margham (2018) who opined that most libraries are performing a great portion of their activities traditionally; they stated that there is no significant relationship found between the security measures provided and the rate of insecurity in the libraries. The implication of this is that as library security and maintenance needs are changing, it will become difficult to curb 21st century library security challenges. Although, Wayne and Timothy (2010) and Abubakar and Aduku (2016) posited that though security management policy should address the manual and physical security, such as building and perimeter security; security access for example, access by staff and users to storage areas, security during lending and transport, there is also need to provide sufficient organizational and technological measures to curb 21st century insecurity challenges as library is now beyond the physical wall of a library.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that security challenges are worldwide phenomenon, and achieving absolute security in the library is a mammoth task. *Unfortunately*, the efforts of library managers in ensuring the longevity of the library resources are being threatened by different factors and deviant activities of library users. Also, the need to maintain library environment and its resources is essential though a difficult task. *Library* administrators have adopted various methods of securing their libraries as well as the resources. Currently, all the libraries studied have experienced one form of threat or the other, based on their operations, attitude of the library managers and where the libraries are situated.

Recommendations

- Since dust is the common threat affecting all the libraries studied, there is the need to plant trees and flowers around the library environment to control the dust. This is in addition to regular cleaning and dusting of the library interior using modern devices. Also, there should be constant fumigation in the libraries to control rodents. Librarians and library security should improve on their attitude to library users for effective service delivery.
- There is the need to formulate a policy and adopt standard methods to curtail the various security threats confronting the libraries, for improved efficiency of library service delivery.

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