

PRESERVATION AND SECURITY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN ZARIA KADUNA STATE

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Abstract

The study was designed to investigate the preservation and security of information resources in two selected libraries namely Kashim Ibrahim Library and CHELTEC library in Zaria Kaduna State. Two objectives were formulated to guide the study and descriptive survey was adopted to carry out the study. Descriptive statistic of frequency counts, percentage and standard deviation was used to present and analyses research objectives. The data collected were presented in tables and figures. The findings reveal that problems of preservation and security were mutilation, thefts, dust, overdue, untrained security men among other. Based on the research findings, it was recommends that there is need to upgrade and maintain facilities such as binderies, air condition system fire prevention equipment among other, and efforts should be made to enhance the manual methods of safeguarding libraries especially the periodic random checks on users and staff while emphasis should gradually shift to the electronic methods which is gaining very fast recognition in the present technological age.

Keywords: Preservation, Security, Information and Resources

Introduction

Academic libraries refer to those libraries established in tertiary institutions to support and strengthen the academic programmes of such tertiary institutions of learning. These include libraries of universities, colleges of education, polytechnics, and other post-secondary education institutions. Lawal and Opeola (2012) defined an academic library as any library that caters for the needs of those engaged in academic pursuits in higher institutions like the universities, colleges of education, colleges of technologies and polytechnics. The services provided by an academic library depend to a large extent on the quality and quantity of its collections and staff. For effective service delivery, it is necessary to equip the libraries with adequate information resources comprising of print and non-print information resources for the users. Ideally, academic libraries are expected to support their parent institutions in achieving their educational objectives. Thus, the main functions of academic libraries are acquisition, preservation and dissemination of information to users. The development of library services is generally correlated to the development of educational programmes. This view is supported by Krashen (2011) who maintained that it is not out of place to say that the establishment of school or college libraries has a positive correlation with educational quality at school or college levels.

Academic libraries have not only become instruments for national development but are today regarded as centres for academic research. They contain far more information than any person could imagine. The roles of academic libraries cannot be over-emphasized. This is why the quality of education received in any institution of higher learning is measured by the resources in its library and the extent of use of those resources by the students and faculty members. Francis, Lance and Lietzau (2010) stressed that the size of a collection is used as an indicator of academic quality. They further emphasized that it has been empirically demonstrated that there is a strong correlation between the size of university libraries collections and excellence of universities. Information Resources are basically sources through which information can be gotten so as to meet the information needs of users. They are channels through which ideas, opinions, or feelings are stored or preserved. Information resources found in libraries can be classified into print, non-print, electronic and digital

information resources. Print information resources include books, serials, encyclopedia, dictionaries, handbooks, almanacs, and directories. Non print information resources are items such as compact disk, audiovisuals, tapes, slides, microfilms, and microfiche, etc. Thus, academic libraries primarily build their collections to meet the information needs of the users. The users, according to Edegbo (2011), are therefore equipped with intellectual and physical skills that they require to be innovative and self-reliant members of the society.

The collections in academic libraries should include all types of information resources in order to satisfy the information needs of faculty members. And for easy access to users, there is need for proper organization and management of the information resources. For instance, Ekwelem, Ukwoma and Okafor (2011) argued that the university library as an example of academic library is the principal instrument of any university in the conservation of recorded knowledge. The library has to collect materials, published and unpublished, print and non-print, in some depth and in almost all fields of knowledge, not necessarily in those offered in the university. Bessy, Abalaka, Dauda and Okikiri (2014) on the other hand defined preservation as activities which include all the managerial and financial considerations, including storage and accommodation provisions, staffing levels, policies, techniques, and methods involved in preserving library and archival materials and the information contained in them.

Ogunniyi and Adejube, (2014) had indicated that for decades librarians have tended to mix up preservation with conservation and all efforts have concentrated on the curative treatment of single documents. Conservation and restoration are the most central activities of preservation; they are concerned with the physical maintenance and repair of documentary materials. According to Olatokun (2008) conservation is a field of knowledge concerned with the coordination and planning for the practical application of the techniques of binding, restoration, paper chemistry, and other material technology, as well as other knowledge pertinent to the preservation of archival resources. Conservation is also seen as a specific term, referring to the physical treatment of individual items, usually after some damages must have occurred. Olatokun (2008) is of the view that preservation is an umbrella term for many policies and options for conservation treatments. Every institution that has a collection of enduring value should have a preservation plan for it.

Methods of preservation and security of library information resources are age long strategies that can be traced as far back as 539BC in Egypt when the library books were chain-locked to prevent them from theft (Maidabino, 2010). Similarly, Walker (2013) revealed that in the Assyria Babylonian civilization, Assurbanipal's library at Ninevah had used catalogues as part of an internal method of bibliographic control and a form of security while during the Greek civilization papyrus rolls at Alexandria were stamped with the library's ownership stamp as well as copying documents – to enable the libraries retain the originals while they lent out the copies to library patrons. This practice was also adopted by Roman libraries during their own period of civilization, and during the middle ages until between the 9th and 12th centuries (i.e. the Post- Carolingian Age), when monastic libraries demanded real security commitments in the form of deposits from their patrons before books could be lent out. The author also reported that during the medieval period, some cathedral libraries such as Hereford Cathedral and Wimborne Minster in Dorset, England; and university libraries such as Oxford and Cambridge adopted the process of chaining their books alongside the cataloguing of books; whilst copying had declined as a result of the invention of the printing press.

Statement of the Problem

Academic libraries in Kaduna State like those in other parts of the country were established primarily to meet the information needs of their parent institutions through the collection and preservation of information resources to support teaching, research and dissemination of knowledge. For information resources to serve the purposes for which they are collected, they need to be preserved and secured in such a way that their life spans are prolonged so as to sustain their utilization by the academic communities. Preliminary observation of some tertiary institutions' libraries in Kaduna State by the researcher revealed that some of their resources had either been stolen or were mutilated, and were subjected to treatments that could reduce their life spans. The ugly situation of some tertiary institutions' libraries suggested that there might have been some lapses in their preservation and security activities. However, the scope of previous research on this very important subject matter in Kaduna State was limited to few methods and few academic libraries only. For instance, Kashim

Ibrahim Library A.B.U Zaria and CHELTEC Library Zaria. From the foregoing, it is obvious that there existed some information gaps in respect of the status of preservation and security of information resources in majority of the academic libraries in Kaduna State. One wonders what could be the preservation and security situation in those selected libraries looks like, or even the general prevailing methods / systems adopted across the State for preservation of information resources in all the academic libraries? The answer to these questions constitute gap in knowledge which this research attempted to fill, in order to improve on the methods / systems of preservation and security of information resources in the academic libraries in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. What methods of preservation of information resources are adopted in academic libraries in Kaduna State?
2. What methods of security of information resources are adopted in academic libraries in Kaduna State?

Methodology

The qualitative research method using a case study design was adopted for this study. Green and Thorogood (2009) referred to qualitative research as being characterized by its aims, which relate to understanding of social life, and its methods which (in general) generate words, rather than numbers, as data for analysis. This method was found appropriate for the study because the phenomena of preservation and security of information resources within academic libraries formed focus of the study. The population of this study consisted of 40 Library staff, comprising Professional and Para-professional those were directly or indirectly involved in the preservation and security of information resources in the two academic libraries in Kaduna State. The population of 40 library staff is not too large, therefore the total population shall form the simple size. This has also been recommended by Umar (2013) who reported that a researcher can adopt entire population or complete enumeration when the population is manageable. Questionnaires was used to obtain relevant data from the respondents pertaining to the application of ICT in academic libraries and the need for training and development of librarians in Kaduna State. Descriptive statistic of frequency counts, percentage and standard deviation was used to present and analyses research questions. The data collected were presented in tables and figures. A preliminary survey of the libraries found that there were 30 in Kashim Ibrahim Library and 10 in Cheltec libraries as indicated in Table 3.1.

S/N	NAME OF LIBRARY	NUMBER OF STAFF
1	Kashim Ibrahim Library	30
2	Cheltec Library	10
3	TOTAL	40

Results

Research question 1: What are the preservation (methods) put in place by the library?

Table 1: presents data for the preservation measures put in place by the Libraries.

Table 1: Preservation and security measures.

	Very Often		Often		Occasionally		Never		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	f	%	F	%
Lamination	13	36.1	18	50.0	4	11.1	1	2.8	36	100
Binding	16	44.4	14	38.9	5	13.9	1	2.8	36	100
Photocopying	13	36.1	18	50.0	2	5.6	3	8.3	36	100
Microfilming	8	22.2	11	30.6	8	22.2	9	25.0	36	100
Deacidification	5	13.9	12	33.3	12	33.3	7	19.4	36	100
Cleaning & Dusting	17	47.2	11	30.6	5	13.9	3	8.3	36	100
Shelving of information materials to allow free air flow	10	27.8	16	44.4	6	16.7	4	11.1	36	100
Installing air-conditioners	9	25.0	16	44.4	9	25.0	2	5.6	36	100
Use of insecticide and insect repellent for information resources preservation.	10	27.8	12	33.3	13	36.1	1	2.8	36	100
Digitalisation	10	27.8	16	44.4	9	25.0	1	2.8	36	100

Online saving	7	19.4	18	50.0	8	22.2	3	8.3	36	100
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Hint: $f = \text{Frequency}$, $\% = \text{Percentage}$

Table 1 shows the preservation and security measures put in place by the Libraries. The measurement scale which was: very often, often, occasionally and never was combined into two parts with very often and often representing frequent usage of the particular measure for preservation and security while occasionally and never representing infrequent usage of the measure for preservation and security. Based on this analysis, majority of the respondents [31 (86.1%)] indicated that lamination is a measure used frequently while [5 (13.9%)] of the respondents indicated that it is not used frequently. Majority of the respondents [30 (83.3%)] indicated that binding is a measure used frequently while [6 (16.7%)] of the respondent indicated that it is not frequently used. Majority of the respondents [31 (86.1%)] indicated that photocopying is a measure used frequently while [5 (13.9%)] of the respondent indicated that it is not frequently used. Majority of the respondents [19 (52.8)] indicated that microfilming is a measure that is used frequently while [17 (47.2%)] of the respondents indicated that it is not a measure used frequently. Majority of the respondents [19 (52.8%)] indicated that deacidification is not a measure used frequently while [17 (47.2%)] of the respondents indicated that it is frequently used. Majority of the respondents [28 (77.8%)] indicated that cleaning and dusting is a measure used frequently while [8 (22.2%)] of the respondents indicated that it is not frequently used. Majority of the respondents [26 (72.2%)] indicated that shelving of information materials to allow free air flow is a measure used frequently while [10 (27.8%)] of the respondents indicated that it is not frequently used. Majority of the respondents [25 (69.4%)] indicated that installing air-conditioners is a measure used frequently while [11 (30.6%)] of the respondents indicated that it is not frequently used. Majority of the respondents [22 (61.1%)] indicated that use of insecticide and insect repellent for information resources preservation is a measure used frequently while [14 (38.9%)] of the respondent indicated that it is not frequently in use. Majority of the respondents [26 (72.2%)] indicated that digitisation is a measure used frequently while [10 (27.8%)] of the respondents indicated that it is not frequently used. Majority of the respondents [25 (69.4%)] indicated that online saving is a measure used frequently while [11 (30.6%)] of the respondents indicated that it is not frequently used.

Research Question 2: What methods of security of information resources are adopted in academic libraries in Kaduna State?

Table 2: Methods of Security of Information Resources in Academic Libraries in

S/N	Library	Electronic Security Systems	ID Cards Checks	Patrols	Computer Virus Protection	Passwords for Workstations
1	Kashim Ibrahim Library	√	√	√	√	√
2	Cheltec Library	X	√	√	X	X

Table 2 shows that Identity Cards Checks and Patrols were adopted by the two selected libraries for securing their information resources. This means that manual methods of ensuring security of libraries information resources were very popular, as reflected in the adoption of Identity Cards verification at entrances and regular patrols of entire facilities by library staff and institutions security operatives, to reduce incidences of crime.

Discussion of Findings

The result from the first research question show that the common methods for preservation of information resources in the selected libraries included repairs, binding and environmental control, digitisation and migration among other. This findings is in line with findings of Jimada (2015) who reported that digitisation, microfilming, migration, photocopying and lamination are some of methods of preservation information resources in libraries.

Finding in the second research question also revealed that the manual methods of securing libraries' information resources such as periodic random checks on users and staff, scheduled patrols, and checking of users IDs, were all in use by two selected libraries. This findings corroborate Akor (2013) in which he discovered that Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and security personnel moving around in the library are among the measures in use to reduce the act of theft and mutilation in the Benue State University Library. It is

also in line with the findings of the study on collection security issues in Malaysian academic Libraries by Maidabino (2010) in which the use of a combination of measures including electronic security systems such as alarms, surveillance cameras, etc., were identified as capable of addressing security breaches.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this case study, it can be concluded that academic libraries in Kaduna State have good methods for preserving and securing information resources for research and learning. However, they paid more emphasis on printed materials, with less use of digital preservation methods and electronic security systems. It was therefore obvious that the libraries were yet to embrace the opportunities offered by technological advancement for preservation and security of their information resources. Suffice to say that the need to mitigate various threats using current technological innovations such as digitization, migration, and electronic security systems in order to stop any possible loss of materials can never be overemphasized. This will obviously enhance access by users to quality information resources for research and learning in the tertiary institutions of Kaduna State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are were made.

1. There is need to upgrade and maintain facilities such as binderies, air conditioning systems, fire prevention equipment etc., as well as the introduction of digital platforms and electronic equipment for vital preservation and security activities.
2. Efforts should be made to enhance the manual methods of safeguarding libraries' materials, especially the periodic random checks on users and staff, while emphasis should gradually shift to the electronic methods which are gaining very fast recognition in the present technological age.

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