

**LIBRARY RESOURCES AVAILABILITY AND SECURITY CHALLENGES IN
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY, OYE EKITI LIBRARY, EKITI STATE, NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The aim of the study was to examine Library Resources Availability and Security Challenges in Federal University, Oye Ekiti Library, Ekiti State Nigeria. The study made use of survey research design in order to collect data directly from the field on the subject matter. The population of the study consisted of 2,709 students of the Faculty of Education, Federal University Oye Ekiti. A simple random technique was used to select 331 students. A structured questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. Data were analyzed using Simple percentage analysis. The findings of this research revealed that the problem facing the library in the institution were removal of pages of library materials and stealing of library materials. It also observed that the barriers to effective security of library resources in the institution were lack of adequate punishment to serve as deterrent to others and inadequate security personnel to monitor the library. The study revealed that the available library resources in the institution were books and dictionaries and encyclopedias. It was also discovered that the influence of security challenges on library resources as a result of insecurity of FUYOYE library resources have reduced the users of the library, because some of the available materials are defaced in FUYOYE library. The study concluded that unless some urgent measures are taken by the library, university libraries will continue to live with theft and mutilation of library resources, defacement of library books, late return of borrowed material, noise, and other challenges.

Keywords: *Library, book theft, mutilation, vandalism, preservation and conservation, surveillance*

Introduction:

Providing access to resources in academic libraries is a core mandate of libraries all over the world. It is therefore of great interest to information professionals to protect library resources from theft, mutilation and depletion. In the face of increasing number of students gaining admission into higher citadel of learning to pursue various courses at both undergraduate and

graduate levels, academic libraries are expected to have more users coupled with increased security threats posed by some users and staff of the library (Abubakar & Adukar, 2016).

Security challenges facing academic libraries are enormous. These include theft of library materials, mutilation and vandalism of library resources, dealing with deranged and/or destructive patrons and assault on library patrons or staff. Institutions of higher education spend millions of dollars to collect library books and periodicals. Insecurity in academic libraries is not limited to library information materials alone but theft of properties such as notebooks, laptops and handsets are equally common. Depletion of available resources in academic libraries implies a reduction in the library's service and satisfaction of users need for complete and up to date library materials (Afacho, 2013).

According to Oyedum, Sanni, and Udoakang (2014) library services can only be achieved through the availability of library resources. A well-resourced library is a treasure-house of knowledge and an asset to every university community. Therefore, academic libraries have the responsibility to protect their resources from damage and other security threats. For the purposes of this study, library resources refer to physical properties of academic libraries. In other words, informational and non-informational assets of the library

Security of libraries resources is very essential. Academic libraries are mandated to protect library resources from unauthorised use, displacement, defacement, modification and destruction. Ugah (2007) considers library security violation as obstacles to information access and use. Protecting resources of academic libraries is important as the resources itself. Academic

libraries have the responsibility to make sure that resources in their possession are not altered but are kept accurate and complete.

Scholarly libraries ordinarily have wealthy collections of different data materials (diaries, magazines, books, reference works, daily papers, government distributions, reports, theses/dissertations, database, CD ROMS, works of art, photographs, compositions, etc.) covering cluster of subjects to serves its scholastic community, which incorporates speakers, understudies, non-teaching staff and analysts. It plays a vital part within the life of the library users to an expansive level, providing guides to staff and students at the reference work area, guideline library inquiry sessions, and creating library collections (Eruvwe, Akpojotor, and Okonoko, 2015).

Abuse of library resources surface through the activities of human being in library which may be as a result of robbery, mutilation, vandalism, defacement, collapsing of pages, stowing away of books, and so on. The abuse of library materials through theft, mutilation and other forms of abuse has brought tremendous challenges to the library profession (Anyaoobi and Akpoma, 2012).

For the purposes of this endeavor, security challenges connote behaviours that violate library rules and deprive or obstruct accessibility and use of library resources. Even though much work has not been done on security of library resources in Federal University Oye, it can be generally argued that, librarians and library science students have come to the realization that academic libraries are becoming unsafe across the globe. The unsafe environments of some academic libraries have necessitated research by both librarians and information science students

to conduct studies into security challenges facing library resources. According to Jato, (2005) users' excesses in libraries have negative implications on library resources. He therefore, believes that such acts should be given attention and discouraged within the academic library through different security measures and policies. When adequate measures are not taken, both the librarian and supporting staff will be failing in their responsibilities and roles as managers and gatekeepers. In Ekiti State, according to Olayinka and Omolayo (2020) while textbooks, periodicals and reference materials are available, audio-visual materials, E-resources subscription and computer hardwares are unavailable.

Research Questions

This study intends to answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of availability of library resources in FUYOYE library?
2. What is the level of security problems academic library is facing in FUYOYE?
3. What is the influence of security challenges on library resources in FUYOYE?
4. What are the barriers militating against the effective security of library resources in FUYOYE library?

Literature Review

Securing library resources is a determinant of the survival of academic libraries. In spite of contributions made by academic libraries to development over the years, academic libraries, like all other institutions, face challenges. A major challenge of academic libraries is the security of their resources. The main objective of any academic library security system is to focus on providing a safe and secure environment for library collections, employees, and equipment as

well as library users. Academic libraries are paramount when it comes to the acquisition of informational resources. Some of these informational resources are not only rare to come by but are also fragile in nature and expensive. However, some library users have deprived many others from fully achieving their informational needs. Maidabino and Zainab (2011) admitted that balancing access and security in academic libraries is difficult but a necessary task. The manner in which library security policies, programs, procedures and measures are deployed to minimize unacceptable behaviour such as theft and damage to informational and non-informational resources in academic libraries is very important.

Whiteman and Mattord (2005) admitted that, Information security means protecting information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction. The terms information security, computer security and information assurance are frequently used interchangeably. These fields are interrelated and share the common goals of protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information; however, there are some subtle differences between them. These differences lie primarily in the approach to the subject, the methodologies used, and the areas of concentration. Information security is concerned with the confidentiality, integrity and availability of data regardless of the form the data may take: electronic, print, or other forms.

The field of information security has grown and evolved tremendously in recent years. As a career choice, there are many ways of gaining entry into the field. It offers many areas for specialization including Information Systems Auditing, Business Continuity Planning and Digital Forensics Science, to name a few (Whiteman and Mattord, 2005).

According to Nyantakyi-Baah and Afachao (2013), academic library staff need to better understand their users, taking into consideration the users' unique needs and expectations. A library cannot survive without competent staff even if it has excellent equipment, collection and facilities (Warraich & Ameen, 2011). Sinikka, (2015) opined that libraries work efficiently with different stakeholder groups in diverse circumstances. Library staff has the responsibility to prove to the funding agencies that libraries are worth investing in. Academic library staffs are expected to have technological skills to deal with modern day equipment used in deterring, preventing and detecting unacceptable behaviour in the library environment.

According to Holt (2007), the most common forms of unacceptable behaviour in libraries were theft of physical materials and money. Idris, Hassan, and Abdul-Qadir (2013) in a study carried out at Kano University of Science and Technology, reported that most unacceptable behaviours happen towards the end of the semester when students are preparing for examinations. At the Federal University of Technology (F.U.T.) and the College of Education (C.O.E.) libraries in Minna, Nigeria, Oyedumi, Sanni and Udoakang (2014) found that users and some library staff receive phone calls in the library while others are reading or learning. The unacceptable behaviour of receiving phone calls in the library is a major worry for librarians and other users of the library. Concentrating users of the library are disturbed by different ringing tones and conversations deviant library users engage in. Even though resources such as periodical collections, reference collections and reserved collections in academic libraries in Nigeria are vulnerable to security breaches, users mostly engage in noise-making and book

mutilation (Oyedumi, Sanni & Udoakang, 2014). Valuable and irreplaceable materials in academic libraries are usually stored as rare or special collections.

In libraries fungal growth is known as mould or mildew and they appear as brown/black vegetative growth on paper, leather and textiles (Sahoo, 2000). Fungus consume cellulose and also thrive on nutrients in leather, glues, pastes, binding threads etc. they weaken and stain the paper and can cause discoloration. Others are bacteria which decompose cellulose in paper and binding textiles such as insects, silverfish, cockroaches, bookworms or book beetles, booklice termites and rodents.

Methodology

The study made use of case study research design and focused on large population coverage of representatives of undergraduates of Federal University Oye, Ekiti. A total population of 2,709 comprises of fourteen departments that made up of the population. The sampling technique and sample size was determined through a simple random technique that was used to select three departments within the Faculty of Education namely; Library and Information Science, Business Education and English Education to form the sample group for the research work.

The undergraduate students from three levels are 100, 300 and 400 were randomly selected in the entire departments in the faculty. The random selection was done as follows-100 level undergraduates from library and information science, 300 levels from business education and 400 level undergraduates from English Education, thus, forming a total of 331 that formed the size of the study. In addition, structured questionnaire were designed for the research

instruments to collect data. The data collected were analyzed using quantitative methods. Quantitative data gathered, was processed using Simple Percentage Analysis and this was analyzed using frequency counts and percentages with tables and charts.

Results

A total of 331 copies of questionnaire were distributed to the undergraduate students of selected department of Faculty of Education in Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State Nigeria and 300 copies were received and valid for analysis. This gives a response rate of 90.6%.

The research questions analysis for the study were four (4) as narrated below:

Research Question One: What are the available library resources in FUYOYE library?

Table 1: Available Library Resources in FUYOYE

S/N	Library Resources	Mean	SD
1.	Books	2.93	0.250
3.	Dictionaries and Encyclopedias	2.60	0.612
4.	Official Publications	2.27	0.681
2.	Electronics	2.13	0.958
5.	Newspapers	1.93	0.930
6.	Audio Visual Materials (e.g. CDs)	1.90	0.981
Overall/Criterion		2.28	0.735

Table 1 had shown that the available library resources in Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. The criterion/mean is 2.28 and Standard Deviation (SD) is 0.735. The respondents agreed that available library resources in the institution were mainly books, dictionaries and encyclopedias.

Agboola (2011) writing on the accessibility and availability of library resources and services indicated that library resources such as; books, dictionaries, audio visual, maps

encyclopedia are very much available in the library of users use. It is also in consonance with the study by Fashina (2010) who indicated that over 60% of respondents agreed to the fact that textbooks, journals, magazines, serials, dictionaries are accessible and available in the library.

Research Question Two: What are the security problems facing academic libraries in Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria?

Table 2: Security Problems Facing Academic Library in FUOYE

S/N	Items	Mean	SD
1	Removal of pages of library materials a problem facing FUOYE library	3.07	0.855
2	Stealing of library materials is a problem facing FUOYE library	3.00	0.732
3	Some of the students hide library materials at different locations in your school	2.80	1.047
4	Some library users deface library materials in FUOYE	2.73	0.855
5	Do you think that inadequate security is a problem with your library	2.47	0.619
Overall/Criterion		2.81	0.822

Table 2 shows the security problem facing academic library in Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. The criterion/mean is 2.81 and Standard Deviation (SD) is 0.822. The respondents agreed that the major problems facing the library in the institution include removal of pages of library materials (Mean = 3.07, SD = 0.855) and stealing of library materials (Mean = 3.0, SD = 0.732).

The result confirms the findings of Adewale (2007); and Akussah and Bentil (2010) that theft and mutilation of library material are the crimes most reported in libraries. Theft and mutilation can be attributed to factors like lack of education and trainings of library users on library crime. Beyond this, the study also support Mary (2019) studies that revealed the major security problems prevalent in academic libraries are stealing, and vandalism of library

materials, other security risks revealed by the study included fire, mishandling of books and floods. This finding equally supports by Ifidon (2000) in his own opinion stated that mutilation and theft in libraries are menace that have persisted, and it is indeed a global problem.

Research Question Three: What is the influence of security challenges on library resources in FUYOYE?

Table 3: Influence of security challenges on library resources in FUYOYE

S/N	Items	SA	A
1	Insecurity of FUYOYE library resources has reduced the users of the library	3.13	0.619
2	Some available materials are defaced in FUYOYE library because of insecurity of the library resources	3.07	0.773
3	Due to insecurity, few library resources are available in FUYOYE library	3.00	0.818
4	Few available materials are available in incomplete form in FUYOYE library	2.60	0.881
Overall/Criterion		2.95	0.773

Table 3 shows the influence of security challenge on library resources in Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. The criterion/mean is 2.95 and Standard Deviation (SD) is 0.773. The respondents agreed that the major influence of security challenge on library resources in the institution were insecurity of FUYOYE library resources reduced the users of the library (Mean = 3.13, SD = 0.619), some available materials are defaced in FUYOYE library because of insecurity of the library resources (Mean = 3.07, SD = 0.773) and due to insecurity, few library resources are available in FUYOYE library (Mean = 3.00, SD = 0.818).

These findings are in line with Adekunle, Adekunjo and Unuabor (2018) that insecurity in academic libraries reduce the lifespan of the mutilated library materials, as well as reduce the

library users and library stock. Ugah (2007) considered library security threat as formidable obstacles to information access and use. Such acts are serious problems that can result in user dissatisfaction which can cause users reduction.

Research Question Four: What are the barriers militating against the effective security of library resources in FUYOYE library?

Table 4: Barriers Militating Against Effective Security of Library Resources in FUYOYE

S/N	Items	Mean	SD
1	Lack of adequate punishment to serve as deterrent to others	3.07	1.183
2	Inadequate security personnel to monitor the library	3.00	1.097
3	Inadequate funds to upgrade security standard of the library	2.73	0.999
4	Limited resources in the library	2.53	0.958
5	Lack of awareness of library rules and regulations	2.40	0.954
Overall/Criterion		2.75	1.038

Table 4 shows the barriers militating against effective security of library resources in Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. The criterion/mean is 2.75 and Standard Deviation (SD) is 1.038 any individual mean that is equal or greater than the criterion/overall mean had shown the agreement of the respondents on the barriers militating against the effective security of library resources in the university. The respondents agreed that barriers to effective security of library resources in the institution were lack of adequate punishment to serve as deterrent to others (Mean = 3.07, SD = 1.183) and inadequate security personnel to monitor the library (Mean = 3.00, SD = 1.097).

This finding are in lieu with Senyah and Lamptey (2011) found that one of the problems of security in the library were inadequate library security personnel, unskilled personnel and incompetent library security personnel compromise their positions and allow library users to

harass and insult staff. All these disrupted staff from efficiently carrying out their duty in the library. Ineffective security systems as reported in the studies of Adewale (2007) and Adewuyi and Adekanye(2011) also featured prominently that Ineffective security may result from recruitment of security personnel who commonly lack adequate skills or prior training and experience in security issues which causes users to violate rules of the library.

Conclusion

The study has observed the issue of security challenges facing the library in the institution which had been traced to various diverse elements. Such includes removal of pages and stealing of library information resources. It has also been revealed that available library resources in the institution are books, dictionaries and encyclopedia. Library crime and security challenges are phenomena that are recorded by libraries all over the world, crossing all cultural, racial, and geographical divides. The situation is more pronounced in university libraries in Nigeria because of the poor economic conditions that greatly reduced users' purchasing power and are also causes of substantially increased student enrolments. University libraries will continue to face security challenges as they open their doors to users of different backgrounds and orientations. It is therefore, very germane that some urgent measures are taken by the library, university libraries will continue to live with theft and mutilation of library resources, defacement of library books, late return of borrowed material, noise, and other challenges.

Recommendation

Based on the findings from the study the following were recommended:

1. The library should be designed to reflect best practices in the architectural design of their building to allow maximum security.
2. There should be reinforcement of security in the library premises and open floor thorough adequate supervision, this can be done by ensuring constant patrol among the porters and enough fines for anyone violating the rules and regulations of library.
3. The library should ensure to provide more library resource in order to meet the information needs of the institution.
4. Electronic security gadgets should be made available, while other information resource materials should be in electronic format. The library management should be stringent in borrowing of information resources to users in order to avoid reduction of materials in the library by following the rules and regulations put in place.

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