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SECURITY MANAGEMENT FOR PREVENTION OF BOOK THEFTS IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES. A CASE STUDY OF BENUE STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, NIGERIA

BY

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the security management for prevention of book thefts in University libraries with Benue State University Library, Makurdi. Benue State. Nigeria serving as a case study. The aim of the study was to identify the causes of book thefts and mutilation in University libraries and how to curb and preserve the continuous use of this information resources in the library. The survey research method was employed. Questionnaire are the main instrument for data collection. Frequency, tables, percentages is the main statistical tools used for data analysis. Results of the analysis showed that the university library books are stolen and mutilated due to inadequate library materials, financial constraint and selfishness on the part of library users. It was also discovered that various methods were adopted for stealing and mutilating of the library books which include: tearing of book page(s) off, removing of the book jacket cover, hiding of books under their clothes and their pockets. Some recommendations were proffered to eradicate theft and mutilation in university libraries. Some of these recommendations are: that University libraries should provide photocopying services to enable the library users photocopy books that are few in the library. The study also recommends that university management should provide adequate library materials to meet the information needs of their users.

INTRODUCTION

In medicine, prevention is better than cure, and also in libraries good preventive measures particularly of storage and security should be on alert so as to prevent damages and missing of books. The art of prevention is as old as human civilization. Since the innovation of writing, mankind has been faced with the problem of prevention. Documents have been existed in one form or the other and it is natural for man to attempt to securing, managing and preventing them from deterioration. Edoka (2000), say that “library emerged when the need arose to safeguard, exploit and utilize records of civilization”.

Libraries have been seen as one of the pillars of civilization. No nation can function effectively without the use of a library. The term “library” means a collection of educational materials organized for use. The word is derived from the Latin word “Liber” which means a book. This is a good reason to believe that the root concept of Library is deeply embedded in our ways of thinking about the world and coping with its constraints. In its primary role as guardian of the social memory, there are many parallels with the ways in which the human memory orders, stores and retrieves the information necessary for survival. Broadhead (2002) asserted that the “study of library history and its related disciplines bear witness that the instinct to preserve, the zeal to collect and the desire to manage have been dominant influences in the genesis and growth of the library idea in the history of civilization”.

Alokun (2003) affirm that “libraries are essentially established to cater for the information needs of different categories of users which covers different aspects of life, such as political, economical, social and cultural aspects”. In order to achieve its purposes libraries have to put their best in securing, managing and preventing libraries collections from theft and mutilation to meet the demand of its heterogeneous clientele. Aina (2004), opines that a “library is concerned with the collection, processing, storage and dissemination of recorded information for the purpose of reading, study and consultation”. Library services can only be achieved through the availability of library collections. This implies that inadequate library collections will bring about inaccurate library services.

Udensi and Sadiku (2005) define academic libraries as “library attached to institution of higher learning or tertiary institution such as universities, colleges of education, polytechnics and colleges of technologies”. An academic library, being a complex institution must have large quantities of materials to meet the demands of the numerous students, lecturers and faculty officers; therefore, there is the need to protect the materials in the library from factors such as theft, mutilation, and deterioration. The threat to intellectual property through theft, mutilation and other forms of abuse has been posed tremendous challenge to the library profession worldwide. According to Jackson (1991) “incidents of theft, non-return of materials and mutilation of

library stock are on the increase. These unwanted acts need a serious tackle in academic libraries in order to protect library resources”.

Anunobi and Okoye (2008) contributed that, “academic libraries are faced with crossbreed challenges in order to acquire the necessary skills”. One challenge is the issue of security management for prevention of theft of print and non-print resources in the academic libraries. There is a need for academic libraries to ensure accessibility and effective use to make an effective program of collection security necessary. This programme must include assessment of collection security management for prevention of incessant book thefts and the measures use in curbing security infringement.

Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2009) discussed the importance of access to collections in supporting the mission of the university. The researchers view the importance of good collections as a pointer to the need for safety and security for those collections. SCONUL’s 2003 ‘New guidelines to safeguard collections in UK museums, archives and libraries’ recognise that ‘there is an established market for the stolen items, and they usually retain their value’. Book theft is identified as the most common crime in libraries, one which has been on the increase for many years. Theft and malicious damage against books are difficult to combat because the risk of getting caught is very low, while the likelihood of success is high. Criminal activities in academic libraries are not limited to library information materials alone but theft of

properties such as handbags, purses, calculators and notebooks are equally common. The extent, nature and rate at which these crimes occur vary from one academic library to another.

The crimes, which are committed by some users of the academic libraries, have deprived many others from fully achieving their information needs. Vandalism, mutilation, defacement, theft, etc are problems regularly encountered by the materials of these libraries. The commodity the libraries promote: books and other information materials are valuable and expensive but are likely targets for criminal activities. The expected roles of the academic library tend to lead it to criminal activities. The more the control, safeguard and security levels there are, the less it resembles a library that is traditionally expected to serve users.

The goal of the security system in the libraries should be to provide a safe and secure capability for library employees, library resources and equipment, and library patrons. At the same time, the security system must perform these functions as seamlessly as possible, without interfering with the library's objective of easily and simply providing patron services. This study explores security management for prevention of book thefts in academic library and measure used or adopted by the Federal University of Technology Library, Minna to curb security infringement and is limited to the protection of the library and its collections from theft and mutilation.

As information professional, we have a responsibility to mankind: to explore the possibilities of finding methods of securing, managing and preventing library and information materials and to ensure their continued availability for as long as possible, remembering that prevention is better than cure.

Statement of the Problem

Benue State University library, as one of the University libraries is traditionally built to meet the needs of the students, lecturers and the university communities through the provision of qualitative and adequate information resources and services. Security management for prevention of incessant thefts of information resources in university libraries in Nigeria is posing a great problem especially in the area of book theft and mutilation. Poor security cannot cope with incessant pressure on the library by students who either steal or mutilate books/journals without regard for laid down library regulations. This leads to the loss of many valuable materials in the libraries.

Rebecca (2009) says though “the library had to contend with some problems which are found to affect the entire quality of library services, facilities and information resources”. These are some of the issues that constitute the problem the researcher intends to investigate on the course of this project with the view of finding and making suggestion for improvement.

- i. Lack of appropriate security management measures
- ii. Lack of preventing method
- iii. Lack of conducive environment for users

Objectives of the Study

The main objective is to determine possible ways or solutions to the problems of security management for prevention of incessant book thefts in the Benue State library. Specifically the study is designed to:

1. Identify causes of book theft and mutilation of library materials
2. Find out the means through which library materials are being stolen
3. Identify the methods library adopt to prevent its information resources from the theft and mutilation?
4. Identify the security measures that can help to prevent theft and mutilation?

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What is the causes of book theft and mutilation of library materials?
2. What are the means through which library materials are being stolen?

3. What method does the library adopt to prevent its information resources from the theft and mutilation?
4. What security management measures can help to prevent theft and mutilation?

Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is based on the need to improve the security management for prevention of book thefts of the Benue State University library, especially as it relates to the research as well as to re-examine the roles of the university library so as to achieve the stated objectives. Hence, the study becomes valuable as its findings if used will help to rendering solutions to the problems of security management for prevention of incessant book thefts. University libraries are not always safe and secure places and they are facing a wide variety of security concerns which includes the theft and mutilation of library materials, the results of a number of library studies reported that most libraries across the globe are having problems with security management for prevention of library information resources. (It is a worldwide phenomenon).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature is reviewed under the following sub-headings:

- * Collection Security Management Problems in Academic Libraries
- * Nature of Book Thefts and Mutilation in Academic Libraries
- * Causes of Book Theft and Mutilation of Library Materials
- * Devices for Book Theft and Mutilation in the Libraries
- * Security Measures to Curb Theft and Mutilation of Library Materials
- * Preservation of Library Information Resources

Collection Security Management Problems in Academic Libraries

According to Maidabino (2010) the “issue of collection security is of growing concern to university libraries and librarians. As a consequence, there is a vast literature on a range of problems concerning collection security in university libraries”. Library security management has to do with taking necessary measures to ensure that the materials available for use in the library are kept in a good condition and prevented from being stolen. Collection security management in libraries can be conceptualized to mean the overall manner in which collection security policies, programs, procedures, or measures are deployed to mitigate risk and ensure access.

Ajebomogun (2004) stated that “collection security management refers to a process designed to protect library collections against un-authorized removal or loss”. This involves protecting resources against disasters as well as thieves or intruders. Libraries must be safe from security threats and vulnerability. University library collections are broad and varied. University libraries support the educational community through access to the collections. Borrowing privileges is an important means of giving access to library collection for personal, educational, and socio-economic advancement.

Da Veiga and Eloff (2007) also contributed that “Information security governance is the manner in which information security is deployed”. Ameen and Haider (2007) opined that “access to collection is important as this service has supported scholarship in the humanities, sciences and social sciences and remains the key to intellectual freedom”. Ugah (2007) also considers “collection security breaches as formidable obstacles to information access and use. Such acts are serious problems that can result in user dissatisfaction”. He identifies major security issues in libraries to include: theft and mutilation; vandalism; damages and disaster; over borrowing or delinquent borrowers; and purposefully displacing arrangement of materials.

Disruptive behavior is another security issue in libraries. As a number of studies reviews (Lorenzen, 1996; Momodu, 2002; Ajebomogun, 2004) acknowledge that “disruptive or criminal behavior can cause security

problems in the library. Difficult patrons include those who are intoxicated or using drugs, mentally disturbed, and some juvenile users”. Momodu (2002) asserts that “libraries have faced varying degrees of delinquency in the use of their resources. The extent of this problem varies from one library to another, but seems to be universal”.

The literature on collection security shows that security breaches often happen when the library premises are left unsecured. Oder (2004) maintains that “security measures such as supervision, patrolling, and surveillance are lacking in libraries and keys are kept unsecured, if not in plain sight of the users”. Thomas (2000) notes that “the major challenge for new or renovated space is to incorporate flexibility while providing a safe and secure library environment” Atkins and Weible (2003) believe that “successful inventorying process helps identify missing items; however it may be dependent on the size of the library’s collection”. They proposed using interlibrary loan (ILL) data failure cases to identify materials missing from a library’s collection instead. Brown and Patkus (2007) stressed that “university libraries must ensure that access and storage areas for collection are arranged and monitored for quick and easy inspection. Non-return of library materials is a threat to the effective use of resources”. Udoumoh and Okoro (2007) suggest that “libraries create policies to ensure library resources are used effectively”.

Disasters are a security issue that threatens library collections. Aziagba and Edet (2008) identify “disasters as natural and man-made. We have little or no control over natural disasters, which come usually as a result of flood, landslides, earthquake, storm, cyclone, or hurricane”. All of these have been experienced by universities in different countries. Flood and water damage are particularly threatening to library collections. Shuman (1999) describes “flooding as abnormally high water flow, and it is generally conceded to be the most destructive and costly natural disaster libraries can experience”. According to Evans, et al. (1998), “disasters can destroy thousands of volumes within a short time. Insect infestation, environmental factors, and human causes constitute a serious security threat and may have devastating consequences”. There is a need for constant security measures, such as vigilant staff and user education, to handle security threats cause by this type of disaster. Brown (2007) suggests “coordinated policies to address all these threats”.

Nkiki and Yusuf (2008) observe that “information is an essential part of a nation's resources and access to it a basic human right”. Thanuskodi (2009) asserted that ‘information is not only a national resource but also a medium for social communication. With declining budgets and higher subscription cost, it is becoming difficult to meet the demands of library users’. Libraries should therefore ensure the security and safety of their collections. Maidabino (2010)

contributed that, “these problems indicate the need to determine the current state of collection security management in academic libraries”. Library and information managers must have a clear vision and focus on the contemporary reality of security breaches in university libraries, especially those targeting the collections. This is one of the many things librarians should concern themselves with; if they are to successfully manage a flourishing and efficient library.

Nature of Book Thefts and Mutilation in Academic Libraries

Mutilation is the act of destroying or removal of an essential part of library materials as to render it useless. These could be as a result of bending of corner of paper or inserting pencil or biro into pages. Also opening of books back to back, tearing of relevant pages etc. Aliyu (2004) defined theft “as the total removals of library materials from the library without the normal procedures, either by the library users, library staff or both of them”.

Utah (2004) defines mutilation and theft of library materials as “deliberate removal or attempted removal of library materials from the library without their being checked out”. Also, successful unauthorized removal of library materials from the library, failure to return materials to the library is also considered to be theft of library materials. Ifidon (2000) in his own opinion stated, “Mutilation and theft in libraries is a menace that has persisted,

and it is indeed a global problem, the worsening state of libraries in Nigeria appears to have aggravated its intensity and the consequent negative impact”.

Hendrik (2004) stated that most academic libraries, however, suffer from a debilitating disease (sick). The quiet but insidious mutilation of their periodical collections not only drains badly needed financial resources but also frustrates and frequently infuriates their patrons. Thus the magnitude of the problem is such that any insight leading to a reduced rate of mutilation would lead to substantial monetary loss, not to mention reduced frustration and anger on part of library staff and innocent patrons. Students do not consider mutilation as a severe offence. The great majorities, who are unconcerned about getting caught, feel mutilation is either not a crime or a minor misdemeanor and stated that a fine paid to the library should serve as a penalty. This assessment of students perception yield an image of students as relatively unconcerned about mutilation; they assume it is relatively trivial and easily repaired and in general they are unaware of the great costs and efforts involved in this problem.

Abifarin (1997) examined the problem of securing library materials in Nigeria university libraries in general and the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta Nigeria in particular. Information of the study was drawn from literature records available at the readers’ services department of university of agriculture Abeokuta (UNAAB) library. Amongst important findings, it was

found that among the various users groups, students, (96.6%) topped the list of culprits as far as book theft and mutilation concerned.

In a similar study, Aina (2004) investigated the factors responsible for the vandalization of books in sokoto state of Nigeria. He surveyed five hundred (500) university students using social survey research; the method of collection in used was a questionnaire. The finding revealed that only expensive books were stolen or mutilated. James (2005) found that “books were vandalized during examination period”.

Afolabi (1993) also added that “damages are caused by library users, insects and other animals and also by climatic conditions including hazards, she emphasized that recent studies have indicated that the greatest agent that deface books and cause wear and tear on library materials are human beings which are library users/ patrons”.

Isaac (2008), carried out an investigation on the prevalent rate of book theft in academic society especially academic libraries, he evaluated the rate at which book theft and mutilation are plaguing academic libraries in Nigeria and to proffer some measures for curbing the menace. In his research, a total of 120 copies of questionnaire were distributed to professional librarians, library officers and library porters (security staff) in four (4) different academic institutions in Ibadan, Ogbomoso and Oyo state, in Nigeria. Seventy eight (78)

copies were returned and found useful (a response rate of 65%). He reported that reference materials, periodicals such as journals, newspapers and magazines are mostly affected. The results from the analysis of responses showed that most of the academic libraries investigated agreed that book theft and mutilation are serious problems facing their collection.

Causes of Book Theft and Mutilation of Library Materials

Various writers have expressed their view on what contributes to the cause of different forms of abuse in the library. However, many researchers base their argument on economics depress and insecurity as the main cause of abuse of library materials. These include Ajegbomogun (2004), Agboola (2001), and Bello (1997) among others.

Bello (1998) conducted a study on theft and mutilation in technological university libraries in Nigeria, revealing that there is a lack of security in university libraries. Users resorted to delinquent behavior because demand outstripped the supply of library materials. This result in competition for resources, which invariably tempts users to steal, mutilates, or engages in illegal borrowing.

Lorenzen (1996) also observes that “collection mutilation takes many forms, ranging from underlining and highlighting text, tearing and or

removing pages, and tampering with the content. Lorenzen identifies several causes for mutilation, including:

- Students' dissatisfaction or unfamiliarity with library services
- A lack of knowledge of replacement costs and time
- A lack of concern for the needs of others
- Few students think of library mutilation and theft as a crime”.

Abifarin (1997) contributed that “students steal or mutilate library materials because of the following reasons:

- Scarcity of library materials
- Selfishness on the part of some students
- Financial constraint
- High cost of learning materials”

Nwalo (2003) also asserted that, “a major problem encountered in library security is that the security department of the parent body (in the case of academic and special libraries) insists on providing security personnel for the library. These security men are loyal to the security department and not to the library authority. This situation makes it difficult for the librarian to control security matters in his library as his orders may be flouted”

Moreover, the security personnel posted to the library are often not literate enough to identify library materials and prevent them from being

stolen. They are always gullible as library users often play on their intelligence. Library security will definitely be enhanced by the deployment of trained library personnel at the security posts.

Devices for Book Theft and Mutilation in the Libraries

According to Nwamefor (1974), quoted by Nwalo (2003) outlined the following as book theft devices in the libraries:

- Concealment of books in clothes; library thieves could conceal book in their clothes before wading through the security post
- Mutilation of books by tearing off important pages
- Throwing books out through the window
- Borrowing a book and using the date-due slip to smuggle out books many times over
- Walking out with library books when security is not alert
- Volunteering to be searched so that he or she will be thought to be innocent and so be allowed to go away unsearched with a concealed library materials
- Collusion with library security personnel who may be unduly influenced.

Afolabi (1993) and Tefera (1996) stated that the following factors constitute user delinquent in the library:

- Using chemicals to clean off library ownership stamps in books and removing date due slips.
- Removing the jacket cover and preliminary pages of books so that those books cannot be identified.
- Stealing other registered library user borrower's tickets and using them to borrow books.
- Users conniving with some library staff such that a user can be issued with more tickets than allowed by the library.
- User borrows a book legally, goes out of the library, removes the date slip, comes back to the library, removes the date slip of the book intended to be stolen, uses a gum to affix the date due slip to create the impression that it is a legally borrowed book and takes the stolen book out of the library. Several library materials could be stolen this way until it is a time to return the book that was legally borrowed.

Security Measures to Curb Theft and Mutilation of Library Materials

Security is a way of life. Security is to ensure the safety of records and archival materials against human and natural agent. Constant vigilance on the part of library staff may help to secure library materials. According to Encyclopedia (1981), quoted by Adamu (2006), "security refers to device designed to guard library materials against crime, accident, disasters, fire and

attacks”. Aina (2004) added that, “library materials must be safe; hence security devices need to be provided by library to ensure that materials are not stolen or mutilated”.

Abifarin (1997), Allen (1997) and Bello (1998) reported high rate of book theft, mutilation and misplacing of books in Nigerian academic libraries. They suggested measures to reduce the problems, which include tightening security at library entrances and exits, expulsion of students involved in theft and mutilation, provision of multiple copies of heavily used text, reducing the cost of photocopying, and periodic searching of students’ hostels and staff. Aguolu (2000) “observed that the best protection that a collection of books and non-book materials can have is a concrete building”. Also Rajendra (2005) opined that the “library security should be planned when the library building is constructed wherever possible, through architectural considerations which include the site design and building design”.

Nwamefor (1974) cited by Nwalo (2003) asserted that, the following measures could help to reduce the rate of books theft in the library. Which include the following:

- Constant supervision
- Searching users at the library exit
- Unannounced searching of students hostels
- Posting security personnel of integrity to the library

- Condemnation of theft through mass media
- Vigilant against mutilation by library staff
- Better educated security men to detect stolen books through thorough physical examination of books.
 - All library windows should be gauzed to make it very difficult for books to be thrown out.

McComb (2004) stated that video surveillance and closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems serve as a way to monitor and record security, deter crime, and ensure safety. The author suggest that, libraries can use CCTV to identify visitors and employees, monitor work areas, deter theft, and ensure the security of the premises and other facilities. The system can also be used to monitor and record evidence on clientele and employee misconduct. In the same vein Ramana (2010) contributed that “Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) uses in the libraries can enhance the ability to control the book thefts and tearing off the pages from the books and magazines”.

Preservation of Library Information Resources

Since library has been employing different kind of security systems to save library resources from theft and mutilation; there is also a need to secure or preserve these information materials in other to prolong their life span and meet the need of the clientele.

Preservation is a word, which is as old as the materials you want to preserve. This term implies proper storage of physical object kept in good order and arrangement. According to Madu and Adeniran (2005), “preservation refers to everything which contributes to the physical well being of the collection; this includes the protection, maintenance and restoration of library resources”. IFLA (2000), also defined preservation entirely to include managerial and financial considerations including storage and accommodation provisions, staffing levels, policies, techniques and methods involved in preserving library and archival materials and information contained in them.

Aina (2004) asserted that “preservation is the maintenance of library materials so that they can be close to the original condition as much as possible”. There is no doubt that library materials are very expensive, hence there is a need to ensure that they are always in good condition.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Survey research method was used to carry out this study with target audience on the professional and Para-professional staff of the university library. The number of staff chosen for the study was 20 professional and 28 Para-professional staff, making the total population of 48.

Procedure

The researcher administered the instrument with the assistance of some librarians in the university library. A total of 48 copies of questionnaire were

administered to the professional and Para-professional staff. From the 48 questionnaires distributed 30 (62.5%) were filled and returned. Completed questionnaire were analyzed using frequency counts and percentages.

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The analysis is carried out in accordance with the objectives of the study.

Table 1: Response Rate

Staff	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Professional	10	33.33
Paraprofessional	20	66.67
Total	30	100

A questionnaire consisting of (15) questions was prepared and a total of (48) copies of questionnaire were administered to the professional and para-professional staff at the Benue State University Library. From the 48 questionnaires distributed 30 (62.5%) were filled and returned.

Analysis and Interpretation of Questionnaire SECTION A

Table 2: Sex of Respondents

Option	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
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Male	20	66.7%
Female	10	33.3%
Total	30	100%

The observation was made to know the sex of respondents, most respondents of 66.7% (20 respondents) indicate the number of male while 33.3% (10 respondents) indicates the number of female from the above table data, the number of male is greater than the number of female respondents.

Table 3: Qualification of the Respondents

Option	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
ND/NCE	20	66.7%
HND	-	-
BLS	9	30%
MLS	1	3.3%
Ph.D	-	-
TOTAL	30	100%

From the table 3, 66.7% (20 respondents) acquired national diploma and national certificate of education which they are Para-professional in the field, 30% (9 respondents) acquired BLS qualifications which they are professional in the field, 3.3% (1 respondent) acquired master in the field of librarianship, while nobody has obtained Ph.d in the field among the respondents

SECTION B

Causes of Book Theft and Mutilation of Library Materials

Table 4: Why Library Books are Mutilated/Stolen?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Financial constraint	7	18.42%
Selfishness on the part of students	21	55.26%
Scarcity of library materials	9	23.68%
Any other reasons	-	-
Poor building	1	2.63%
Total	38	100%

In an attempt to find out the main causes of theft and mutilation of library materials in the library the above option in the table 3 shows that 7 respondents representing (18.42%) of the respondents agree that the reason is financial constraint, 55.26% (21 respondents) agree that it is selfishness on the part of students, 23.68% (9 respondents) see the cause as scarcity of library materials, 3.3% (1 respondent) think that it is as a result of poor of library building.

Table 5: Clienteles are those involved in Theft/Mutilation of Library Materials?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
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Yes	27	90%
No	-	-
Other people		
Staff	-	-
Users & staff	3	10%
Total	30	100%

From table 5, it can be seen that library clientele are mostly responsible for theft and mutilation in university libraries as represented by 90% (27 respondents), only 10% (3 respondents) agree that the staff are also involved in this act.

Table 6: Does the Library Keep Records of Mutilated or Stolen Materials?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Yes	26	86.7%
No	4	13.3%
Total	30	100%

Table 6 shows that the library takes record of stolen and mutilated materials because 26 respondents representing (86.7%) respond that the library keep records of mutilated and stolen materials, while 4 respondents representing (13.3%) of the total percentage respond negatively.

Table 7: What is the Rate/Degree of Stolen Materials in Percentage?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
0-10%	14	46.7%
11-20%	8	26.7%
21-30%	2	6.7%
31-40%	4	13.3%
No idea	2	6.7%
Total	30	100%

The table 7 shows that 46.7% (14 respondents) of the respondents say that 0-10% is the rate of stolen materials, 26.7% (8 respondents) say is 11-20%, 6.7% (2 respondents) say is 21-30%, 4 respondents representing (13.3%) agree that is 31-40% and 6.7% (2 respondents) respondents did not have any idea on the rate/degree of stolen in the library.

Table 8: What is the Rate/Degree of Mutilated Materials in Percentage?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
0-10%	9	30%
11-20%	8	26.7%
21-30%	5	16.7%
31-40%	4	13.3%
41% and above	4	13.3%
Total	30	100%

The table 8 shows that 30% (9 respondents) of the respondents say that 0-10% is the rate of mutilated materials, 26.7% (8 respondents) say is 11-20%, 16.7% (5 respondents) say is 21-30%, 4 respondents representing (13.3%) agree that is 31-40% and 13.3% (4 respondents) agree that the rate/degree of mutilated materials are 41% and above.

Table 9: What are the Methods of Theft/Mutilation being Devised by Culprits?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Hiding under cloth and inside pocket	17	56.7%
Tearing of page(s) off	9	30%

Removing the jacket cover	4	13.3%
Total	30	100%

The table 9 reveals the most common method of book theft and mutilation in the Benue State University Library is by hiding under the cloth and inside the pocket, this is represented by 56.7% (17 respondents), 30% (9 respondents) agree that books are stolen and mutilated through tearing of relevant page(s) off, 13% (4 respondents) agree that it is done through removing the jacket cover of library materials.

Table 10: Penalty of Culprits for Materials Mutilated/Stolen

Options	Frequency	Percentage
Expulsion	7	23.3%
Replacement of 5copies by culprit	11	36.7%
Suspension of culprit	7	23.3%
Stopping using library	5	16.7%
Total	30	100%

The table 10 shows the penalty for mutilation and stolen of library materials, 7 respondents representing (23.3%) respond that is expulsion, 36.7% (11 respondents) responded that the culprit will buy five (5) copies of the same book to the library, 23.3% (7 respondents) respond that the culprit will be suspended from the institution, 16.7% (5 respondents) respond that the culprit will be stopped from using the library.

SECTION C

What Method does the Library adopt to prevent its Information Resources?

Table 11 (a) - Measures Already in Place to Reduce the Act

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
CCTV and security personnel	18	60%
Dropping bags at entrance	4	13.3%
Personnel moving around in the library.	8	26.7%
Total	30	100%

According to the table 11(a), 60% (18 respondents) of respondents respond that closed circuit television (CCTV) and security personnel are the measure in use to reduce the act of theft and mutilation in the library, 13.3% (4 respondents) respond that dropping of bags at the library entrance is the measure in use, 26.7% (8 respondents) respond that the security personnel moving around in the library is the measure in use to reduce theft and mutilation in the library.

Table 11 (b): How do these Measures Prevent Theft and Mutilation in the Library?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
High	11	36.7%
Average	13	43.3%
Low	6	20%
Total	30	100%

From the table 11 (b), 36.7% (11 respondents) respond that the measure in use prevent theft and mutilation high, 43.3% (13 respondents) respond that the measure prevent rate is average, 20% (6 respondents) respond that the measure is low in preventing the act.

Table 12: Does Library have Photocopy Facilities?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Yes	10	33.3%
No	20	66.7%
Total	30	100%

Theft and mutilation in university libraries is encouraged by the lack of functioning photocopying machines in the libraries. The above table shows that 33.3% (10 respondents) reply that library have photocopy facility while 66.7% (20 respondents) which is the large percentage respond that library does not have a photocopying machine.

Table 13: Does your Library have Security Personnel?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Yes	30	100%
No	-	-
Total	30	100%

From table 13, 100% (30 respondents) which is the all respondents respond that library has security personnel that man the entrance gate to check library users ID card before entering the library and also searching the users before going out of the library.

Table 14: Has the Library ever enlightened its Users in Handling of the Library Collection?

Options	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Once in a year	17	56.7%
Occasionally	4	13.3%
Frequently	9	30%
Total	30	100%

Table 14 reveals the frequency of enlightened the users on how to handle library materials. 56.7% (17 respondents) respond that library give orientation to its users at the beginning of every session through teaching the use of the library in the class (GST 100), 13.3% (4 respondents) also respond that library enlightened its users occasionally, while 30% (9 respondents) reply that library enlightened it's users frequently on how to make use of library materials.

Table 15: Does Library have an Electronic Security System?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
CCTV	26	86.7%
No idea	4	13.3%
Total	30	100%

Table 15 reveals that 86.7% (26 respondents) respond that library have closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras for monitoring its users in the library, 13.3% (4 respondents) respond that no idea either library have electronic security system or not.

SECTION D

What Measure can curb Theft and Mutilation in the Library?

Table 16: What Security Measure can help to Prevent Theft and Mutilation in the Library?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Proper checking of bags and staff going round.	3	10%
CCTV cameras	9	30%
Provision of electronic systems	8	26.7%
Security men to man the entrance	3	10%
Security alarm	7	23.3%
Total	30	100%

Table 16 presents respondents opinion on security measure to prevent theft and mutilation in the library, 10% (3 respondents) affirm that proper checking user bags at entrance and staff going round the library is the preventive measure, 30% (9 respondents) agree on installation of CCTV cameras, 26.7% (8 respondents) agree on more provision of electronic systems, 10% (3 respondents) also respond that security men to man the entrance gate is

the solution to the act, while 23.3% (7 respondents) respond that introduction of security alarm into the library is the measure to be adopted.

Table 17: What are the Suggestions toward Curbing Theft and Mutilation in Academic Libraries?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
More multiple copies of textbook	11	36.7%
More electronic security systems	9	30%
Photocopy machine	7	23.3%
Security guard	3	10%
Total	30	100%

The respondents were asked to state suggestions toward curbing theft and mutilation. As table 17 depicts, provision of multiple copies of textbook was the most popular option with 36.7% (11 respondents), followed by provision of more electronic security system 30% (9 respondents), while 23.3% (7 respondents) of respondents agree to the use of photocopy machine, it is also interesting to find that only 10% (3 respondents) of the respondents agreed on introduction of security guards.

Table 18: How can these Measures be Improved Upon?

Options	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
More fund to library management	13	43.3%
More orientation	7	23.3%
Professional staff	5	16.7%
Improved staff welfare	5	16.7%
Total	30	100%

The respondents were asked to provide suggestion on how measure to prevent theft and mutilation can be improved upon in their library. As table 18 depicts, provision of more fund to the library management was the most accepted option with 43.3% (13 respondents), followed by more orientation to the users 23.3% (7 respondents), while 16.7% (5 respondents) of respondents agree that library need to employ professional staff in the field, it is also interesting to find that 16.7% (5 respondents) of the respondents agreed on improved staff welfare as the suggestion towards improved the measures.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS, SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Discussion of Findings

From the result of this research, it was discovered that the major causes of theft and mutilation of the University library materials are usually caused by many factors and it was discovered from the study that financial constraint, scarcity of library materials and selfishness on the part of students contribute to theft and mutilation and according to this research; selfishness on the part of students is the major cause of theft and mutilation, this represented by 60% of the respondents. The students should therefore be taught to have other student's interest at heart and not think about their own good alone. This research also reveals that a large percentage of 56.7% respondents observe hiding the library materials under cloth and inside pocket as the common method being devised by the culprits to steal library materials. Lack of photocopying machines in the library also contributed to theft and mutilation of library materials; if photocopying machines are available it would reduce the rate at which books are being stolen and mutilated. In table 10 above, the research shows that larger respondents of 66.7% respond that there is no functioning photocopying machine in the library.

Furthermore, this research also reveals that a large percentage of respondents observe buying multiple copies of textbook as a solution to the problem of security in academic libraries, this is represented by 36.7% of the respondents, 30% agree on buying more electronic security systems as the solution to the theft and mutilation of library materials, 23.3% also agree on using photocopy machine in the library, while 10% of respondents suggested security guard as solution to the act of theft and mutilation.

Summary

Theft and mutilation of books are certainly not new developments of our time. Such acts can be traced as far back as 539BC in Egypt when the Persian conquerors removed rolls of papyri from the Library of Ramses II around 41BC. During the middle ages, Library books were chained locked to prevent them from theft. From the earliest time to the present, Librarians are bothered on how to ensure the protection of Library materials from theft and damages. As custodians of library materials and resources, Librarians owe an obligation to their patrons and users to preserve the library's stocks. A depletion of available materials means a reduction on how they can serve and satisfy the needs of the patrons. Besides, non-availability of library materials might connote inefficiency on the part of librarians and other information managers who keep such materials.

This project takes a look at the ways Benue State University Library, Makurdi Nigeria handled the problem of security management for prevention of book thefts in its library. A questionnaire was administered to library staff of the university. It was discovered that the institution was aware of this problem and are making certain efforts to ensure the security of library materials but the efforts are not good enough as the problem is not close to being well tackled.

Conclusion

Important of information resources cannot be over-emphasized, man depends on library resources for knowledge and new ideas are projected through the use of library resources. The data collected in this research revealed the various security lapses and ways library loses its materials through theft and mutilation. It was discovered that security system applied in university libraries have not been really effective, there is still much to be done in ensuring a well secured library and an opportunity for the future generation to share in the knowledge of today. It was further discovered that other contributing factors observed include limited number of copies of library materials, high cost of books and non-book materials and absence of photocopy machine in the libraries. In this Gojeh (1999) corroborated this finding when he said that “loss of library materials reduces the efficiency of libraries”. Aguolu (2002) also stated that “high incidence of book-theft and mutilation gradually depletes information resources and reduces the librarian

effectiveness”. Therefore, there is need to preserve and maintain library information materials at all cost.

Recommendations

1. Provisions of photocopying services in the library to enable library users make quick photocopies for their need of library materials.
2. The university library should provide adequate library materials to meet the information needs of users.
3. The library should provide stable and uninterrupted power supply in order to maintain the electronic security network and other ICT equipment.
4. Stiff penalties should be well spelt out for dishonest users associated with theft, mutilation, illegal removal of library materials or vandalism
5. Orientation on how to effectively use library services should be organised regularly for all library users.
6. Using electronics books in the library, especially for high-demand, latest-edition texts: book theft will be reduced by transferring a ‘high risk’ physical item into an electronic version that cannot be illegally removed from the premises.
7. The library security personnel should be placed in strategic position in the library so that strict compliance to the library rules and regulations would be ensured among the library users.

8. Male and female security personnel should be employed to ensure that a thorough search takes place for both male and female students at the exit of the library.
9. Departmental libraries should be established in the university to reduce the pressure on the main library; more books will be made available for the users in the process.
10. More closed circuit television (CCTV) system should be increased so as to minimize the menace of book theft and mutilation.

Suggestions For Further Studies

The researcher feels that similar studies should be undertaken in other countries in West Africa.

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