

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Winter 12-1-2021

Level of Disaster Management Preparedness by Library Staff in Academic Libraries: The Experience of Academic Libraries in South Eastern States, Nigeria

Pauline Iroeze
paulinechinasa1980@gmail.com

Pauline Chinasa Iroeze Dr.
Federal University of Technology Owerri

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Iroeze, Pauline and Iroeze, Pauline Chinasa Dr., "Level of Disaster Management Preparedness by Library Staff in Academic Libraries: The Experience of Academic Libraries in South Eastern States, Nigeria" (2021). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 6689.
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/6689>

**Level of Disaster Management Preparedness by Library Staff in
Academic Libraries: The Experience of Academic Libraries in
South Eastern States, Nigeria**

Pauline Chinasa Iroeze

University Library, Federal University of Technology Owerri,

Email: pauline.iroeze@futo.edu.ng

Abstract

Academic libraries in South-eastern Nigeria are still not prepared for disaster. This study sets out to assess the current status of preparedness in disaster management among academic libraries in the South east geopolitical zone of Nigeria. To obtain a base level of knowledge on disaster preparedness of current practices, a questionnaire was distributed to 380 librarians at 5 academic libraries, 356 responses were received and after sorting 337 were found to be usable. The study revolved around the current status of preparedness, on various issues including major threats that could possibly cause disaster, existence of disaster preparedness plan among academic libraries in south east, disaster preparedness measures, and availability of emergency response team (ERT). Frequency and percentage tables were used in the analysis of the data collected. Flood and fire were identified as major threats to disaster in most academic libraries in South east. Most of the academic libraries do not have a written disaster preparedness plan. Disaster preparedness measures and staff involvement in disaster preparedness by these libraries were found to be generally inadequate. It was recommended that academic libraries in south east should make available written disaster preparedness plan to the librarians, disaster preparedness measures like mounting of water sprinklers, break glass alarm, smoke detectors etc should be mounted, and also the library staff should be involved in the disaster management of the library.

Level of disaster management preparedness by library staff in academic libraries: The experience of Academic libraries in South Eastern State, Nigeria.

Key words: Academic Libraries; Library Staff; Disaster Management; Preparedness Plans

Introduction

The academic library have become an indispensable organization in every tertiary institution with principal aim of providing information to library users. Everyday, the number of library users who pay visit to the library to search for information for research keeps increasing. It is therefore vital for the management of a library to ensure that the building and library premises

where several collections of information resources are domiciled are safe and also safe for the users to come and for the staff to work and provide services. Disaster happens without notice. It is therefore imperative for libraries to be proactive against any unexpected event and always be prepared to respond to any disaster or emergency. Preparation for emergency is vital in order to curtail the destruction of building or human life.

When the librarian accepts holdings into his/her repository, it means accepting the responsibility to keep them safe in their custody. All this may be jeopardized, if the library is damaged or lost as a result of a disaster. According to Abdulwahab et al, (2012) who viewed from the angle of the library, a disaster can be anything or unexpected event which directly or indirectly disrupts the normal administration of the library i.e. the disruption of services to library users on either a short-time or a long-time basis.

Library disasters have the exclusive quality of being both unforeseen and unavoidable, this is because, disasters can be caused by nature or man, natural disasters which includes things like floods, earthquakes, tornadoes etc. Disasters caused by man include civil unrest, arson, vandalism etc.

While we mostly think of disasters as large scale unexpected events, most disasters are smaller in scope, much less interesting such as termite activities, roof leakages, but yet just as destructive too.

In the words of Hasenay and Krtalic (2010), another type of disaster is the technology-dependent disaster which has introduced new possible disasters. This could be in the form of using computers to hack into secure library automated databases to distort or wipe out valuable information.

According to Trishanjit (2009), disasters have rendered many libraries powerless in delivering services to patrons in the past, and their impacts have been severe due to the unprepared nature of libraries.

To avoid damage or loss of library collections, it is important that the library management gets prepared for the unexpected by way of being proactive. Disaster preparedness is a very crucial matter that academic libraries should not take for granted, least they will be caught unawares in an event of a disaster. Disaster preparedness is the near answer to any form of disaster either on small or wide scale, since the level of preparedness will determine to a large extent, the ability of a library to prevent or reduce its consequences on its staff, resources, equipment or facilities.

This study therefore tries to assess the level of disaster management preparedness by library staff in academic libraries with its searchlight beaming mainly in the south eastern zone of Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to determine the level of disaster preparedness by academic libraries in the South-Eastern Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks

to:

1. Identify factors considered as major threats or that will possibly cause disaster in the library.
2. Availability structured disaster plan for its staff on disaster preparedness.
3. Disaster Preparedness Measures adopted by the academic libraries.
4. Availability of Emergency Response Team(ERT) for the library.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What factors would you consider as major threats or will possibly cause disaster in your library?
2. Does your library have any structured disaster plan for its staff on disaster preparedness?
3. What Disaster Preparedness Measures are adopted by the academic libraries.
4. Does your library have any Emergency Response Team(ERT)

Literature review

The library and information centres serve as a service centre and being at helm of affairs in providing information on all vital aspects for the growth and development of the society, therefore this treasure of the society needs

to be protected from unexpected damages.

Disasters have been defined by different authors variously. Eden, Graham and Feather (1996), define disasters as ‘any incidents which threatens human safety and /or damages, or threatens to damage a library’s buildings, collections (or items) therein, equipment and systems’. According to Charlotte (2003), a disaster is defined as ‘an event that is beyond the powers of the first responder to prevent or control, and that results in serious damage and prolonged service destruction at several sites and possibly a number of casualties’. Baumwoll (2008) sees disaster as the occurrence of a hazard or event that may cause harm, and the inability of a society to manage the consequences of the event. He gave a mathematical equation as follows: Events (hazard) + Inability to manage = Disaster.

While the International Federation of Library Association (2006) defines a disaster, whether natural or man-made as “an event whose timing is unexpected and whose consequences are seriously destructive”, Federal Emergency Management Agency (1990) describes disaster as “an occurrence that has resulted in property

damage, deaths, and/or injuries to a community”. The United Nations (1992) describe disaster as “ a serious disruption of the functioning of society, causing widespread human, material or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected society to cope using its own resources”.

Looking at the above definitions and descriptions, what can be deduced is that, disaster is a sudden unfortunate happening that causes not only damage to property but brings calamities such as great sufferings, injuries and even deaths to human beings.

Effect of disasters

In libraries, archives and museums there is a likely-hood of fire as the collections or information resources are mostly flammable and organic in nature . The moment fire starts, it is difficult to save those materials which caught fire. Collections not directly covered in flames can be charred by soot and smoke. Heat from fire causes bindings to shrink and warp and plastic base materials to melt. And if water is used for the fighting fire, it can cause massive damage on the materials. Aside fire, other destructive elements like floods, cyclones, high winds, earth quakes are also agents of deterioration for the library collections. These will cause documents to absorb water, warp, swell and become extremely susceptible to physical damage. Ink and dyes may bleed and book pages glue together. Leather bindings badly warp and change form. Effects of disasters on library resources are too obvious to comprehend.

Possible threats to library and its resources

The most threats to the collected works are considered to be from water and fire. Physical damage is measured to be less likely. However a worst-case situation could involve all three hazards occurring concurrently. Library staff should be watchful of any signs of problems arising in these areas.

Fire

Fire could start off from either external or internal sources. External sources comprise the risk of bush fire and lightning strikes. Internal risks of fire which are always around us with our extensive reliance on the use of

electrical appliances, such as heaters, desk lamps, computers, power boards and other facilities within the library buildings. Other possible sources of fire may include chemical spills.

Water

Water hazards could also come from either external or internal sources. External sources comprise storms that might cause water drip in the building or external flooding that seeps into the building. Storms could also cause structural or physical damage to the building that might provide an entry point for water. The most likely external sources of water damage from external sources are considered to be from the roof when gutters are clogged with litter debris, when structural damage has occurred or flooding in the basement area, when excessive run-off cannot be handled by the outside storm water drains. This area needs to be scrutinized in periods of heavy rain. Internal sources of water damage include drains or accidental discharge from internal plumbing such as from the internal sprinklers, fire hoses, burst water pipes and overflowing sinks.

Physical Damage

Physical damage to the collection or information resources could arise from damage to the library building (e.g. structural failure or damage by the storm damage) leading to damage to the collection, or from unauthorized entry resulting to theft or vandalism of Collection materials. Maintenance arrangements for all large trees in proximity to the buildings will reduce the chance of damage to the building from a tree falling on it during a storm. Security arrangements at both sites minimize the risk of the unauthorized access. Nevertheless it should be noted that security arrangements are not foolproof, systems failure is always a likelihood and people should be cautious of unauthorized people. There also is the potential for the security system to fail if it is impaired in some way associated with the disaster.

Disaster management plan

Disaster management plan is a must be incorporated in initial planning of establishing a library and information centre. Several smaller pointers for a

comprehensive disaster management plan, which are independent of each other but are interlinked, as parts of whole plan are set forth. The disaster and its control mechanism normally go through three stages – before, during and after. All these three stages are to be kept in mind while planning to minimise the impact and recover out of potential emergencies. Each disaster plan must cover whole of the library and information centre including staff, readers, sources of information, equipment and infrastructure and it must be a team effort.

Disaster Preparedness

According to International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC, 2021) disaster preparedness refers to measures taken to prepare for and reduce the effects of disasters. That is, to predict and, where possible, prevent disasters, mitigate their impact on vulnerable populations, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences.

Disaster preparedness provides a platform to design effective, realistic and coordinated planning, reduces duplication of efforts and increase the overall effectiveness of library members disaster preparedness and response efforts. Disaster preparedness activities embedded with risk reduction measures can prevent disaster situations and also result in saving maximum lives and livelihoods during any disaster situation, enabling the affected population to get back to normalcy within a short time period.

Disaster preparedness is a continuous and integrated process resulting from a wide range of risk reduction activities and resources rather than from a distinct sectoral activity by itself. It requires the contributions of many different areas—ranging from training and logistics, to health care, recovery, livelihood to institutional development.

The natural disaster is liable to occur anytime and may not be prevented; but measures could be taken to eliminate or lessen the likelihood in spite of the many forms that a disaster may take. The actual damage that usually happen to collections is most often caused by fire or water. Even when they are not

the initial factors, fires and floods almost invariably occur as secondary causes of disasters in libraries, as fire may emanate from electrical power supplies and water from leaking pipes. Karen (2009) stated that though an urgent situation does not have to become a full-fledged disaster, many library staff often learn the merit of emergency preparedness through hard experience as most staff are not proactive. He further highlighted that disaster can often be alleviated or circumvented altogether by a broad, systematic, emergency preparedness plan; which provides an avenue for recognizing and preventing risks and for reacting efficiently to emergencies. Morgan and Smith (1997) noted that library resources are invaluable either for the information they contain or for their physical beauty.

The collections are sources of knowledge, pleasure and assistance for generations to come. The libraries house and preserve collections, which are very susceptible to disasters; as national assets in information resources easily lost in a disaster. A nation stands to lose greatly if there are no plans to prevent or mitigate the consequence of disaster. The disaster problem is further underlined by Mathew (2005) who affirmed that surveys have shown that disasters in libraries are almost inevitable. Ngulube (2005) confirmed that disaster preparedness and security are critical to the conservation and protection of records and library. According to him, disaster planning helps facilitate efficient and quick response to an emergency and security protects materials against theft or deliberate or not deliberately damage and destruction. Lyall (1993) stated that disaster plan is a document, describing the procedures devised to prevent and prepare for disasters and those proposed to respond to and recover from disasters when they occur. England and Evans (2007) affirmed that disasters strike too many libraries, finding them unprepared for action.

Aina (2004) stated that it is essential for the library to have in place plans that would help diminish the effects of a disaster. For example, in case of fire disaster, there should be an abundance of fire extinguishers at appropriate places in the library and staff should be trained on how to handle them in putting out the fire. He opined that it might also be imperative for a library to insure its holdings against such risks as fire, flood and earthquake. Beth (2008) noted that an increasing number of professionals know

that small-scale emergencies could be contained if staff members are prepared to react quickly; even as damage can be limited even in the face of a large-scale disaster.

Preparedness of Library against Disasters

According to Newey, Lepschi & Croft (2008) Preparedness involves:

1. Identification of a disaster response team;
2. Training of an emergency action team;
3. Identification of recovery work areas; and
4. Ensuring supply of equipment and materials.

When suitable, libraries security staff should take steps to limit potential damage while waiting for emergency personnel (public safety or physical plant) to arrive. Such steps include making sure that patron and staff are not in danger. Security of human beings comes before protection of library materials. Libraries' security staff themselves should not take unnecessary risks to save library materials. Eliminating the source of the problem is also a vital step to take in an emergency. Libraries security staff should be trained to use fire extinguishers to put out the fire and on other disaster preparedness measures. In the event of water damage, libraries' security staff should attempt to cut off the water supply to the affected area. The next step is to get materials out of danger.

Perhaps, the greatest threats to library collections are considered to be from fire and water, as physical damages such as earthquake, hurricane and tornado are not as common. However a worst -case scenario could involve all three hazards occurring simultaneously. It is therefore important that library staff should be vigilant and mindful of any signs of problems arising in these areas.

Equipment needed in the library to fight disaster

Equipment like fire extinguishers, Audible alarm fire, smoke detectors, Break glass alarm, fire sprinklers, first aid kits, Water Detector, “You are here “ Map should be made available

Fire Extinguishers: Fire extinguishers are extremely important as they are the most commonly used for fire protection. In many cases they are a first line of defense and often contain or extinguish a fire, preventing costly damage.

Audible Fire Alarms: Loud sirens are a requisite part of any fire alarm system. The noise ensures that visually impaired people and those with limited hearing can still detect the need to evacuate.

Smoke detectors: Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms are considered to be one of the best and least expensive means of providing an early warning of a potentially deadly fire and could reduce by almost half the risk of dying from a fire in workplaces and homes.

Break glass alarm :The emergency break glass alarm activates the EWIS to initiate an evacuation of the building. In some situations you may not need to contact the Fire Brigade but do need to evacuate the building. This is where the emergency break glass alarm can help.

fire sprinklers: A sprinkler system is designed to control or extinguish fires in the early stages. This makes it easier and safer for building occupants to exit the building, and for firefighters to extinguish any fire that remains. Sprinklers reduce the loss due to fire.

First aid kits: First-aid kits help you handle the medical emergencies as quickly as possible. In an emergency, a delay of just a single minute can cause irreconcilable damage. These kits offer basic and instant care for common medical injuries like injuries, burns, cuts etc.

Water Detector: A water detector is an electronic device that is designed to detect the presence of water for purposes such as to provide an alert in time to allow the prevention of water leakage. Water leak detection is an expression more commonly used for larger, integrated systems installed in modern buildings or those containing valuable artifacts, materials or other

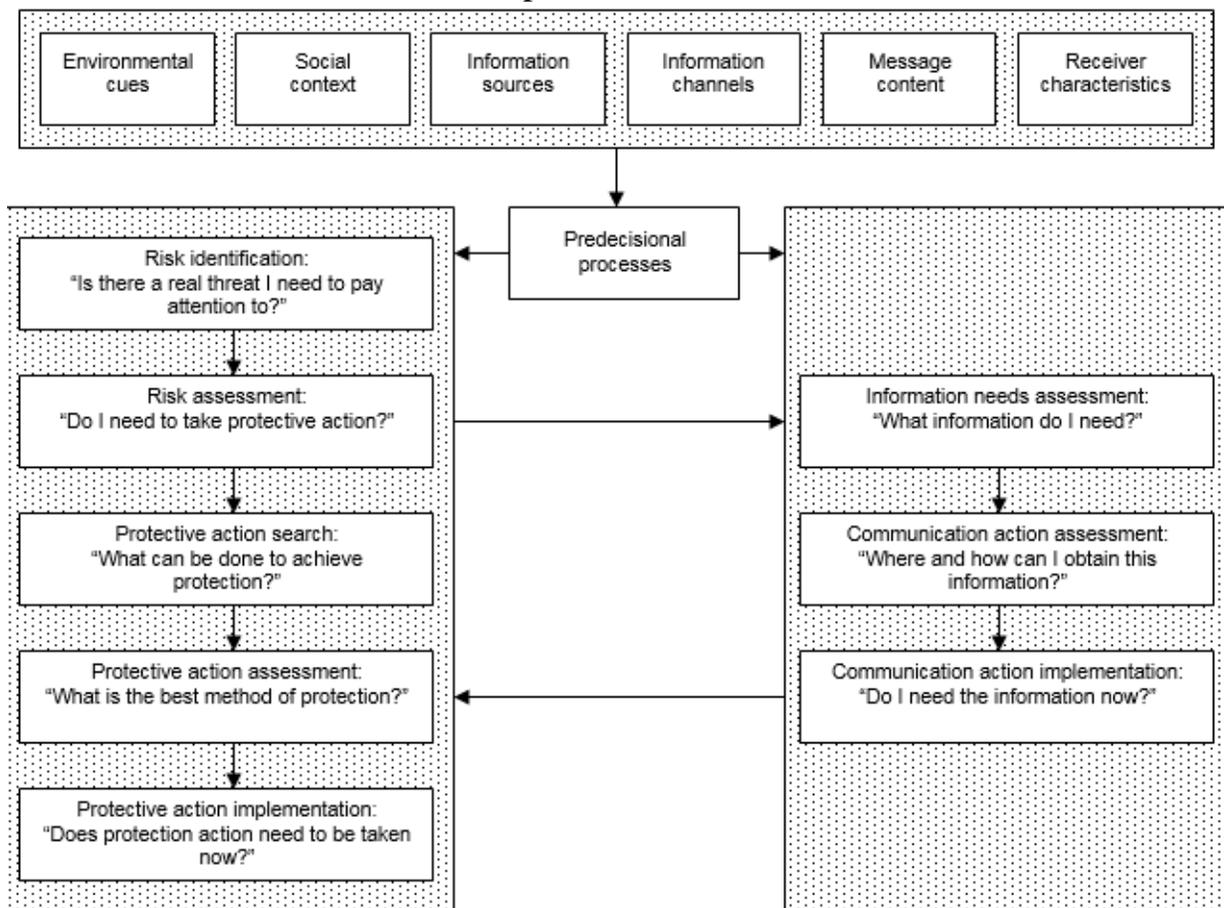
critical assets where early notification of a potentially damaging leak would be beneficial. In particular, water leak detection has become a necessity in data centers, trading floors, banks, archives and other mission-critical infrastructure.

“You Are Here” Map: One of the most important purpose and spatial task is to guide people to the nearest exits in the case of evacuation. In the case of emergency situation spatial awareness of all involved people is really critical. Therefore, You-Are-Here maps could help people to locate themselves in the place and finding the way to the nearest exit.

Theoretical Framework

Protection motivation theory is a theory that was originally created to help clarify fear appeals. The protection motivation theory proposes that people protect themselves based on four factors: the perceived severity of a threatening event, the perceived probability of the occurrence, or vulnerability, the efficacy of the recommended preventive behavior, and the perceived self efficacy (Raju, 2014). Protection motivation stems from both the threat appraisal and the coping appraisal. The threat appraisal assesses the severity of the situation and examines how serious the situation is. The coping appraisal is how one responds to the situation. The coping appraisal consists of both efficacy and self-efficacy. Efficacy is the individual's expectancy that carrying out recommendations can remove the threat. Self-efficacy is the belief in one's ability to execute the recommended courses of action successfully (Rogers,1983). PMT is one model that explains why people engage in unhealthy practices and offers suggestions for changing those behaviors. It is educational and motivational. Primary prevention: taking measures to combat the risk of developing a health problem (Pechmann, Goldberg, Reibling,2003) (e.g., controlling weight to prevent high blood pressure). Secondary prevention: taking steps to prevent a condition from becoming worse. (e.g., remembering to take daily medication to control blood pressure).

The theory behind both models suggests that for a protective response to occur, an individual must both perceive a threat and feel they can do. Depending upon the perceived characteristics of the threat, those at risk will either resume normal activities, seek additional information, pursue problem focused actions to protect persons and property, or engage in emotion focused actions to reduce their immediate psychological distress. Which way an individual chooses to respond to the threat depends upon evaluations of both the threat and the available protective actions.



Source: Lindell & Perry (2004).

Emperical Framework

In a study by Henry(2014) he assessed the state of disaster preparedness by twenty-one heads of academic libraries in North-Eastern Nigeria. The study adopted survey research design using questionnaire as an instrument for data collection of which the data were analyzed using frequency count and

percentages. He found that the level of staff sensitization and awareness on disaster preparedness was at their lowest level, as 71.4% were not sensitized in any way. The activities of insects, termites, rodents and roof leakages were identified as the major threats to the safety of library resources, and all the libraries surveyed did not have insurance policy for their resources among many others.

In a study by Siti & Norazlina (2015), he set out to assess the current status of preparedness in disaster management among Malaysian academic libraries in the State of Selangor and the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur. The study found that some of the academic libraries under Study were said to have experienced one form of disaster or the other. Most of the academic libraries do not have a written disaster preparedness plan.

Also, in a study by Abdulwahab et.al.(2012) on disaster preparedness at state public library, kwara state, the findings of the study revealed that disaster preparedness plans are essentially non-existing in the Kwara State Library which is undesirable, calling for urgent attention by all its stakeholders.

Methodology

The survey research was adopted in conducting the study. The population comprised of all the academic libraries of tertiary institutions in South-Eastern Nigeria, which is made of five states namely: Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo. Primary data were collected with the aid of a four point likert scale questionnaire. Questionnaires were administered to academic librarians of the study area. To guarantee the reliability of the instrument, it was administered on thirty(30)participants out of the envisaged population of the study. A test-retest reliability method of two weeks interval was conducted, response obtained were subjected to Pearson Product Moment Correlation method and a reliability co-efficient of 0.78 was obtained. To analyze data on the research questions of the study the researcher used descriptive statistical mean. The hypothesis was tested using the independent samples t-test which is statistical tool to test hypothesis about the group difference between means of groups. It was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Result

What factors would you consider as major threats or will possibly cause disaster in your library?

Table 1: Type of disaster that is most likely to occur in the Library (Librarians Total=337).

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
Fire	281	17.2%	83.3%
Flood	337	20.7%	100.0%
Heat	281	17.2%	83.3%
Hacking	112	6.9%	33.3%
Landslide	112	6.9%	33.3%
Insect	169	10.3%	50.0%
Leakage	225	13.8%	66.7%
System	112	6.9%	33.3%
Total	1629	100.0%	483.3%

a. Dichotomy group tabulated at value 1.

Source: SPSS Output.

Table shows the multiple responses analyses of the type of disaster that is most likely to occur in the Library, the table revealed that 281(17.2%) of the total respondents which formed 83.3% of the total responses indicated that disaster caused by fire is most likely to occur in their respective libraries. 337(20.7%) of the total responses which formed 100% of the total responses indicated that disaster caused by flood is most likely to occur in their respective libraries. 281(17.2%) of the total respondents which formed 83.3% of the total responses indicated that disaster caused by heat is most likely to occur in their respective libraries. 112(6.9%) of the total respondents which formed 33.3% of the total

responses indicated that disaster caused by hacking is most likely to occur in their respective libraries. 112(6.9%) of the total respondents which formed 33.3 % of the total responses indicated that disaster caused by landslide is most likely to occur in their respective libraries. 169(10.3%) of the total respondents which formed 50% of the total responses indicated that disaster caused by insects is most likely to occur in their respective libraries. 225(13.8%) of the total respondents which formed 66.7% of the total responses indicated that disaster caused by leakage is most likely to occur in their respective libraries while 112(6.9%) of the total respondents which formed 33.3% of the total responses indicated that disaster caused by computer systems is most likely to occur in their respective libraries.

Does your library have any structured disaster plan for its staff on disaster preparedness?

Table 2: Availability of a structured Disaster Plan (Librarians Total=337).

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	47	13.9
No	246	73.0
Don't Know	44	13.1
Total	337	100

Source: Field data (2021)

Respondents were also asked availability of a structured disaster plan in their libraries. From the findings, 13.9% (47) answered “Yes” and 73.0% (246) answered “No”, that they don’t have a structured disaster plan. The rest, 44 (13.1%) academic librarians answered “Don’t Know”.

Disaster Preparedness Measures adopted by the academic libraries.

Table 3: Disaster Preparedness Measures (Librarians Total=337).

Item	Respondents' Answer						Total
	Yes		NO		Don't Know		
Fire Extinguisher	316	93.8	19	5.6	2	0.6	337
Audible Alarms	9	2.7	324	96.1	4	1.2	337
Smoke Detectors	9	2.7	323	95.8	5	1.5	337
Pull Style or Break Glass Alarm	36	10.7	298	88.4	3	0.9	337
Fire Sprinklers	72	21.4	260	77.2	5	1.5	337
First Aid Kits	108	32.0	227	67.4	2	0.6	337
Water moisture Alarm	2	0.6	321	95.3	14	4.2	337
Utilities Maintenance	45	13.4	289	85.8	3	0.9	337
“You Are Here” Map	0	0.0	337	100.0	0	0.0	337

Source: Field data (2021)

Table 3 shows the disaster preparedness measures adopted by the libraries, more than half 93.8%(316) of the respondents indicated that they use fire extinguishers as one of their disaster preparedness measures, 5.6%(19) said “No” they don’t make use of it, while 0.6%(2) said they don’t know. 2.7%(9) of the respondents indicated that they use Audible alarms as one of their disaster preparedness measures, 96.1%(324) said “No” they don’t make use of it, while 1.2%(4) said they don’t know. 2.7%(9) of the respondents indicated that they use smoke detectors as one of their disaster preparedness measures, 95.8%(323) said “No” they don’t make use of it, while 1.5%(5) said they don’t know. 10.7%(36) of the respondents indicated that they use pull style or break glass alarm as one of their disaster preparedness measures, 88.4%(298) said “No” they don’t make use of it, while 0.9%(3) said they don’t know. 21.4%(72) of the respondents indicated that they use fire sprinklers as one of their disaster preparedness measures, 77.2%(260) said “No” they don’t make use of it, while 1.5%(5) said they don’t know. 32.0%(108) of the respondents indicated that they use first aid kits as one of their disaster preparedness measures, 67.4%(227) said “No” they don’t make use of it, while 0.6%(2) said they don’t know. 0.6%(2) of the respondents indicated that they use water moisture alarm as one of their disaster preparedness measures, 95.3%(321) said “No” they don’t make use of it, while 4.2%(14) said they don’t know. 13.4%(45) of the respondents indicated that they conduct utilities maintenance as one of their disaster preparedness measures, 85.8%(289) said “No”

they don't make use of it, while 0.9%(3) said they don't know. 0.0%(0) of the respondents indicated that they use "You Are Here" Map as one of their disaster preparedness measures, 100%(337) said "No" they don't make use of it, while 0.0%(0) said they don't know.

Does your library have any Emergency Response Team(ERT)

Table 4: Availability of a Disaster Response Team (Librarians Total=337).

	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Yes	33	9.8
No	248	73.6
Don't Know	56	16.6
Total	337	100

Source: Field data (2021)

Respondents were also asked availability of a disaster response team in their libraries. From the findings, 9.8% (33) answered "Yes" and 73.6% (248) answered "No", that they don't have a disaster response team. The rest, 56 (16.6%) academic librarians answered "Don't Know".

Discussion

The study focused on the current status of disaster preparedness in academic libraries South-Eastern Nigeria. There are three constructs in determining the status, of disaster preparedness. The first construct is related to the identification of possible disaster threat in the libraries studied. The second construct is related to the existence of written disaster plan within each academic library The third construct is the risk assessment activities that have been conducted by the libraries. The assessment involved existence of fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, audible alarms, pull-style or break glass-style alarm, automatic fire sprinklers, emergency kits, water/moisture alarm, regular building maintenance and “You are here” maps. The fourth construct is based on staff involvement in Emergency Response Team (ERT). Four research questions were developed based on four research objectives to guide the study.

A. Existence of major disaster threat

Majority of the respondents indicated that there is high possibility of occurrence of disasters like fire(83.3%) flood(100.0%).Heat(83.3%), Insect (50.0%), and Leakage (66.7%), while few indicated that disasters caused by Hacking(33.3%), Landslide (33.3%) and system(33.3%) is likely to occur.

B. Existence of Written Disaster Plan

The findings in this study showed that less than half of the respondents 13.9% indicated that their respective libraries do not have the library disaster plan. This indicates that disaster preparedness level is very low among academic libraries in the south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria. In addition, 13.1% of the librarians do not even know about the plan. This finding implicates that most academic libraries in the south east will not be able to manage disasters efficiently in case it happens. This is supported by Yi and Green(2007) which mentioned that a readily available disaster manual is important so that libraries can immediately refer to the plan and make

effective and timely decisions during disaster response.

C. Existence of Risk Assessment Activities

The study proves that all the disaster preparedness measures smoke detectors (2.7%), audible alarm (2.7%), pull style or break glass-style alarms (10.7%), automatic fire sprinklers (21.4%), emergency kits with first aid kits and flashlights (32.0%), regular building maintenance (13.4%), water/moisture alarms (0.6%) “You are here” map 0.0%) were all less than 50% and therefore inadequate. Looking at the respondents’ rates above, it is conspicuous that academic libraries in south east have insufficient response materials for rapid disaster response in their libraries. Except for fire extinguishers (93.8%), which is more than half (50.0%) of the academic libraries under study do not have enough response material. Most of the disasters in libraries were caused by water (Lyall, 1995) Therefore it is crucial that libraries are equipped with water/moisture alarms to alert staff of any leakage which may affect library collections and equipment. This implies that academic libraries in South east are prepared for fire hazards but not for water.

The findings also show that selected academic libraries have not done all the risk assessment listed by the researcher which shows that the libraries are not prepared as most of them have not even heard of some of them for example the “You Are Here” Map.

D. Existence of Staff Responsible to Emergency Preparedness

Disaster or emergency planning is incomplete without the participation of staff. Training is seen as a critical component of disaster planning (Corrall & Brewerton, 2018). Study suggested that staff with sufficient training can manage and even prevent disaster effectively. Unfortunately in this study, the survey finds that more than half of the respondents (73.6%) indicated that their library do not have Disaster Response Team in house. This implies that in case of emergency, there is no person in charge that can be contacted.

Conclusion

Based on the findings the researcher makes the following conclusions

1. There is high possibility of occurrence of disasters like fire(83.3%) flood(100.0%).Heat(83.3%), Insect (50.0%), and Leakage (66.7%) in academic libraries in south east
2. Most academic libraries in south east do not have the library disaster plan. This indicates that disaster preparedness level is very low among academic libraries in the south east geopolitical zone of Nigeria.
3. The findings also show that selected academic libraries have not done all the risk assessment listed by the researcher which shows that the libraries are not prepared as most of them have not even heard of some of them for example the “You Are Here” Map.
4. Academic libraries in south east do not have Disaster Response Team in house. This implies that in case of emergency, there is no person in charge that can be contacted.

Recommendation

Reference

- Aina, L.O. (2004). *Library and information science text for Africa*. Ibadan: Third World Pp. 1,273 and 299
- Baumwoll, J. (2008). *The value of indigenous knowledge for disaster risk reduction: a unique assessment tool for reducing community vulnerability to natural disasters*, London, Oxford University Press.
- Beth, L. P. (2008). Disaster planning. In Ogden, S. (Ed.) *Preservation of library and archival materials*, 3rd ed., rev. and expanded. Andover, MA: Northeast Document Conservation Center.
- Charlotte, H. J.(2003). *A primer for disaster recovery planning in IT environment*, London, Idea Group Publishing.
- Corrall, S., & Brewerton, A. (2018). *The new professional's handbook: Your guide to information services management*. London: Library Association Publishing.
- Eden, P., and Graham, M. (1996) "Disaster Management in libraries" *Library Management*, (17) 3, pp.5-12.
- England, C., & Evans, K. (2007). *Disaster planning and preparedness: An outline disaster control plan*. Boston Spa: British Library.
- Hasenay, D., and Kritalic, M.(2010). "Disaster and after: What have Croatian libraries learned about preservation and disaster management after the war experience?," *Proceedings of the World Library and Information Congress, 76 IFLA General Conference and Assembly, Gothenburg, Sweden*, p.9.
- Henry, M.A. (2014) Survey of Disaster Preparedness by Heads of Academic Libraries in North-Eastern Nigeria, *Global Journal of Academic Librarianship. Volume 3, Number 1*. pp. 45-57
- IFLA (2010), "About the Preservation and Conservation Core Activity", IFLA, available at: www.ifla.org/en/about-pac (accessed 28 February 2021)
- Karen, L. L. (2009). Management Strategies for Disaster Preparedness. *The ALA Yearbook of Library and Information Science* 14 (1). Chicago: ALA: 1-6.
- Lindell, M., Prater, C. and Perry, R. (2007), *Introduction to Emergency Management*, Wiley, Hoboken, NJ.
- Lyall, J. (1995). *Disaster planning for libraries and archives: Understanding the essential issues*. National Library of Australia Staff Papers. Retrieved February 20, 2021
<http://www.nla.gov.au/openpublish/index.php/nlasp/article/view/979/1249>.
- Matthews, G. (2005), "Disaster management and libraries; planning into reaction: the institutional perspective", *Preparing for the Worst, Planning for the Best: Protecting Our Cultural Heritage from Disaster: Preconference to the 69th IFLA General Conference and Council Proceedings in Berlin, Germany, 2003*, K.G. Saur, Munchen, pp. 61-74.

- Morgan, C., & Smith, I. T. (1997). *Disaster planning and preparedness: an outline disaster control plan*. British Library Information Guide 5. London: The British Library Board.
- Newey, A., Lepschi B., & Croft, J. (2008). A disaster recovery plan for the Australian National Herbarium Canberra. Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research
- Ngulube, P. (2005). Disaster and security management in public archival institution in ESARBIA Region. *African Journal of Library, Archives, and Information Science*. 15 (1): 15-20.
- Raju J (2014) Knowledge and skills for the digital era academic library. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* 40(2): 163–170.
- Siti, J.M., Norazlina, D.(2015) Disaster Preparedness for Academic Libraries in Malaysia: An Exploratory Study. *International Journal of Social, Behavioral, Educational, Economic and Management Engineering* Vol:9, No:10
- Trishanjit K (2009) Disaster planning in university libraries in India: A neglected area. *New Library World* 110(3/4): 175–187.
- Yi, L. W., & Green, R. (2007). Disaster planning in libraries. *Journal of Access Services*, 4(3-4), 71-82.