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DISASTER CONTROL PRACTICES BY LIBRARIANS FOR ENHANCED PRESERVATION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN BAUCHI STATE, NIGERIA

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Introduction

Libraries, as essential educational resources Centre's, are expected to be proactive in direction control in order to be relevant on effective and efficient service delivery expected of in any institutions of learning. Libraries in general are experiencing unprecedented demands for change both in the way they work and the information and materials they provide. Libraries determine the needs of students and teachers and focus specifically on such needs to meet their interest and for the institution as a whole. Ansaar (2019) viewed libraries as an organized institution that keeps track of the existence of many civilizations. Such civilization spans from the time immemorial where libraries were established in kings and Noble palaces where records of information resources such as speeches, acts, records of meetings and other activities are preserved for use up to the present day modern libraries. Also, library means different thing to different people and institutions. To some it is a place where books and non-book materials are preserved for the purpose of dissemination of information and knowledge and for the benefit of the society it is meant to serve. To others, the library is an institution where books and other information resources are collected, processed, stored, retrieved and disseminated. Libraries support the community, by serving the functions of teaching, learning, and research needs of variety users. It is an established location where an information seeker can connect with a variety of information resources for the purpose of consultation. Libraries are, categorized into: National, Public, Private, School libraries, Special libraries and Academic libraries.

Academic library is one of the potential learning environments that function at the tertiary education level. It is characterized by the abundance of information sources, serves as a storehouse of knowledge and it is concerned with the acquisition of materials for teaching and research, processing of materials for easy retrieval, and the dissemination of information to facilitate the active and effective exploitation of the acquired resources (Kaur, 2009). Hence, the relevance and vitality of academic libraries are at risk. The resources and services of the library which are very expensive to acquire are threatened by disaster occurrence (Adadu and Ianna,2019)

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction [UNISDR] (2011) described disaster as a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, or environmental losses and impacts which exceeds the ability of the affected community to cope using only its own resources. Disaster is a phenomenon which occurs unexpected and usually accompanied with unprecedented destruction of resources, both human and information resources which is beyond human imagination. Eden and Matthews (2016) added that any incident that not only puts human safety at risk, but also damages or threatens to destroy a library's resources, including its collection, equipment, and systems is termed as a disaster. Libraries are not immune to disasters, which can strike at any moment and in any place and therefore, the need to safeguard their information resources from damage, is paramount. Disasters are categorized into natural and human disasters. Natural disasters include; earth quake, volcanoes, windstorm, floods, etc while man-made disaster are disaster created by human being which include; hacking, terrorism, kidnapping, and negligence. The need for the establishment of disaster

control practices in academic libraries in Bauchi state is paramount for the prevention of any unexpected occurrence which may destroy the institutions libraries and its resources. Hence, the need for disaster control practices is essential.

Disaster control practices are measures taken before, during, or after hostile action or natural or manmade disasters to reduce the probability of damage, minimize its effects, and initiate recovery. The World Health Organization (2020) defined disaster control as the state in which normal procedures are interrupted, and immediate measures (management) are taken to prevent it from becoming a disaster. Also, the National Emergency Management Agency (2021) described disaster control as strategic plans taken by the society or organisation through organising awareness forum, stakeholders meeting and simulation exercise to enhance collaborative efforts among the society and organisation including institutions of higher learning. The plan is prepared to minimise the impact of losses caused by disasters. However, academic libraries must provide adequate information resources for control of disaster.

The need for effective information resources in libraries is essential to the development of academic system. Information resources are data and information used by an organization. They are the equipment's and facilities, software and data, which are designed, built, operated and maintained to collect, record, process, store, retrieve, display and transmit information. Umoh (2017) added that university libraries provide collection of information resources in print and non-print format for undergraduate instruction, term papers, and projects, as well as supplementary reading. Therefore, the information resources must be adequately preserved against disaster occurrence.

Librarians are described as a group of professional employees responsible for the operation and management of a library system. They are personnel employed by an organization or institutions of higher learning and are recruited to work in libraries. Emezie (2019) described librarians as personnel employed in libraries whose sole aim are to connect users to their information need through provision of information resources and services. It is therefore, the responsibility of all librarians to ensure that library information resources are adequately protected against any threat. Findings revealed that most academic libraries in Bauchi state have not established disaster control practices and staff are not trained on how to handle equipments for disaster control. Information resources are at risk whenever any phenomena occur.

Statement of the Problem

The need for disaster control practices in academic libraries is very important. Disaster control practices minimises effects of any unknown occurrence and initiate recovery in its aftermath. Most academic libraries in Bauchi state have not established disaster control practices. Librarians are not trained on how to control disaster in an event of any occurrence. There are no firefighting equipments in most libraries and some few ones that have, are obsolete. Absence of disaster control practices will adversely affect the libraries. Many vital information resources will be destroyed. In

an event of fire accident, libraries will be burnt down and many resources will be loss and some library staff will lose their jobs and access to information resources by users for research and reading will be denied.

Objectives of the Study

1. Determine the types of disaster prevalent in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria
2. Find out whether academic libraries in Bauchi state Nigeria, established any disaster control practices.
3. Examine measures adopted for prevention of information resources from damage by disaster in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria.
4. Examine available facilities used for controlling disaster occurrence in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria
5. Identify challenges associated with disaster control practices in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria
6. Determine strategies for facilitating effective control of disaster for enhance preservation of information resources in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. What are the types of disaster prevalent in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria?
2. Does academic libraries in Bauchi state Nigeria established any disaster control practices?
3. What are the measures adopted for prevention of information resources from damage by disaster in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria?
4. What are the available facilities used for controlling disaster occurrence in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria?
5. What are the challenges associated with disaster control practices in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria?
6. What are the strategies for facilitating effective disaster control for enhance preservation of information resources in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria?

Scope of the Study

The study covers disaster control practices by library staff in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria. It covers academic libraries in Bauchi state, which includes; Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University library, Bauchi state university library, Gadau, Muhammadu Wabi library, federal polytechnic Bauchi, Abubakar Tatari Ali polytechnic library, Bauchi, school of Nursing and Midwifery library, Bauchi, college of legal and Islamic studies library, Misau and college of administrative studies library (CABS) Azare, Bauchi state. The study highlighted some disaster control measures in an event of occurrence.

Literature Review

Libraries are essential components to the growth and development of every educational system in the society. They are established for the purpose of the advancement of teaching; learning and research hence reflect the purpose of the community they serve. Feather and Sturges (2017) defined library as a collection of information resources, sources, and services, organized for use, and maintained by a public body, an institution, or a private individual.

Academic libraries

Academic libraries exist in institutions of higher learning such as University, polytechnics, and Colleges of Education. These are largely tertiary educational institutions usually available after secondary education. The need for well-developed libraries is inexorable greater in Nigeria than in advanced countries. There will be no excellent academic programme in any educational institution without the support of a well-equipped library. University, colleges of Education and Polytechnic are not adjuncts to their parent institutions, but integral parts of them. Academic libraries are the heart, if not aorta, of any higher institution.

The British University grants committee stated that, “The character and efficiency of a university may be gauged by its treatment of its central organ which is the library. We regard the fullest provision for library maintenance as the primary and most vital need in the equipment of a university. An adequate library is not only the basis of all teaching and study, it is the essential condition of research, without which additions cannot be made to sum of human”. Chaubey and Manglik (2017) stated posited that the success of any research depends upon the resources, facilities and services available in an academic library. They added that academic libraries are a dynamic instrument of education. It is an axis around which the teaching and research activities revolve. The primary function of an academic library is to satisfy the intellectual thrust of students, lecturers and researchers. The basic function of an academic library is to build up a collection which is dynamic and capable of meeting the changing needs and demands of the present as well as future users. Libraries, right from earliest times to the present have been suffering a lot of threats from disasters such as flood, fire, harmattan, leaking roof, mutilation, insects, fungi and theft. All these have cause great ravages to the library as a result of poor disaster control practice. Therefore, disasters are sudden happenings that often subject lives, property and the entire environment to risks and hazards of different sources and dimensions.

Disasters in Academic libraries

Libraries in higher institutions are vulnerable to the whole range of disasters. No library is entirely free from risks and disorders. Considering the importance of library in society, disaster can be described as, “any incident which threatens human safety and/or damages, or threatens to damage, a library’s buildings, collections (or item(s) therein), equipment and systems”. Disaster occurs due

to several natural or man-made factors like Water (e.g. burst pipes or heavy rains leading to flooding), poor storage and environmental conditions (e.g. dampness leading to mould growth), inadequate security leading to break-in and theft building deficiencies-poorly maintained buildings (Bansal, 2015).

Disaster is any incident which threatens human safety and/or damages, or threatens to damage, a library's building, collection or items, equipment and systems (Kolawole, Udoaku, Daniel and Chima (2015). According to McEntire & Myers (2004), described disaster as "an event, the timing of which is unexpected and the consequences seriously disruptive. In a survey conducted on twenty – one Heads of department of academic institutions in Northern Nigeria, Abareh (2014) stated that none of the academic libraries have disaster control plan. This means that libraries are not safe from destruction which may be caused by any occurrence. There is no library that is totally free from risk, and disaster – whether natural or manmade around the world. Events of disasters over the years have shown that there is no country that does not stand the threat of disasters. Countries like China, Indonesia, Iran and Pakistan are prone to earthquakes. Small Island states in pacific region and countries like Maldives are prone to various types of threat from the sea. Bangladesh and parts of China and India experience floods each year. Recent disaster happenings in and outside Nigeria like earthquake in Haiti in 2009, the fire outbreak in President Kennedy Library of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 2008, flood in Ibadan in 2011, and fire outbreak in Alaafin of Oyo in 2013 show that disasters have come to remain with man. Furthermore, in 2021 there was fire outbreak in faculty of Agriculture departmental library, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi.

Disaster control practices in Academic libraries

Disaster control practices is a continuous process by which individuals, groups and countries manage hazards in an effort to avoid or minimize the impact of disasters resulting from either natural or man-made hazards. It covers planning, risk assessment, training and finance for a successful implementation. Therefore, disaster control practices are mandatory for all including academic libraries, public and organizations. Effective disaster control relies on thorough integration of emergency plans.

Challenges Associated with Disaster control Practices in Academic Libraries.

Disaster control practices in academic libraries are ways libraries are organised to avoid any possible occurrence of calamity from happening (Khalid and Dol, 2015: 1-7). Controlling disaster is the greatest defense. In addition, the preparatory stage is essential to ensure that libraries minimise the effect or eliminate it in its entirety. Academic libraries must be prepared for all types of disasters, whether natural or man- made, that may occur in their libraries, as the effect of not being prepared may lead to loss of materials, loss of life, or, ultimately, the loss of the library building. They must also be able to respond to disaster when it happens, be able to recover from it and be able to prevent those which are preventable by being security conscious.

However, from the earliest times until the present, libraries around the world have experienced a lot of challenges associated with disaster control practices in university libraries. In a study conducted by Ayoung, Boatbil and Baada (2015) on disaster preparedness of libraries: insights from polytechnic librarians in Ghana, findings revealed that lack of security policy, poor physical security presence, poor power supply, lack of fire-fighting apparatus, lack of fire/disaster drills for staff, poor cooperative networks, and lack of funding are all challenges militating proper disaster preparedness in academic libraries in Ghana. The researcher added some factors as lack of emergency exits in some libraries and the very few, have been always closed; there were no available equipment's and facilities for recovering damaged books caused by flood or rainstorm. Fire extinguishers are inadequate and not functioning; insurgency activities (Boko-Haram- western education is forbidden), kidnappings, shortage of budget for disaster control practices and management plan and no staff training to handle disaster situation in libraries. The researcher lamented that lack of these factors are hindrance to effective information resources preservation in libraries

In the same vein, Ilo, Ngwuchukwu, Michael-Onuoha and Segun- Adeniran (2019) found that inadequate disaster facilities and equipment, such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, dehumidifiers, close circuit cameras, sand filled buckets among others, as well as poor funding were the greatest challenges confronting disaster mitigation in federal and state universities in Nigeria.

Strategies for facilitating disaster control practices in academic libraries

Institutions of higher learning should adopt strategies which will prepare them for future disaster occurrence and should focus mainly on measures that academic libraries should take to minimize future disaster risk and how to motivate people to act rapidly.

The possibility of interlibrary co-operation is essential and all academic libraries need to take proactive measures to minimize the risk of disaster and be prepared to react quickly and effectively if a disaster occurs. Also, staff training is an essential requirement of any disaster control programme. Fosu (2005) found that although disasters are not prevalent in Nigerian libraries, serious consideration should therefore be given to contingency planning for disasters. Alegbeleye (1993) emphasizes good disaster control planning in libraries, archives and electronic data processing centres as a prerequisite for any insurance company or broker to undertake insurance coverage of library. Echezoma and Ugwu (2010) provide an insight into insurance coverage for academic libraries. Others measures include; maintaining and updating the appropriate documents to support the implementation of the plan, adequate security of library buildings, provision of adequate funds for employment of security personnel, provision of firefighting equipments, establishing and maintaining links with outside agencies and individuals, collecting and maintaining supplies that will be used as an emergency equipment and arranging for immediate contingency funding as well as identifying and organizing a "recovery" area, drawing up various scenarios for re-establishing basic services to users.

Methodology

The descriptive survey research design was adopted study. The study covers librarians of academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria. Questionnaires were used to elicit data from the respondents. The population of the study comprises all librarians in academic libraries in Bauchi state. The total enumerations of 70 librarians in seven academic libraries in Bauchi state were used for this study. Out of the 70 copies of questionnaire administered, 65 copies was returned and found usable. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to compute the result using descriptive statistics with tables of frequencies and percentages. Data collected in respect of research questions were collated and presented in tables 3-7 respectively. The research questions formed the basis for data analysis.

Data presentation and Results.

Table 1: Questionnaire Response Rate

Number of Questionnaires distributed	Number of Questionnaires retrieved	Percentage (%)
70	65	93%

From Table 1 on the questionnaire response rate above, out of the 70 copies of the questionnaires distributed to the respondents, the researchers were able to retrieve 65 copies. Hence there was 93% response rate.

Table 2: Distribution of the Respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	50	77%
Female	15	23%
Total	65	100%

From Table 2 above, 50(77%) of the respondents were male, while 15(23%) of the respondents were female.

ANALYSIS OF THE KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Research Question one: What are the types of disasters prevalent in academic Libraries in Bauchi state?

Table 3: Types of disasters prevalent in academic libraries

Types of Disasters in Academic libraries.	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Fire outbreak	05	7.70%
Windstorm	25	38.46%
Flooding	02	3.07%
Book mutilation	65	100%
Theft of library materials	65	100%
Negligence of library staff	55	84.6%
Computer hacking	03	4.61%
Rioting	12	15.38%
Computer virus	17	26.15%
Leaking Roofs	65	100%
Poor architectural library design	52	80%
Biological Agents	45	69.23%
Earthquakes	-	-
Kidnapping	-	-
Terrorism	-	-
Sandstorm	02	3.07%
Hot climate	50	76.92%

From Table 3 on types of disasters prevalent in academic libraries, 167(100%) indicated book mutilation, theft of library materials and leaking Roofs, 55(84.6%) indicated negligence of library staff. 52(80%) indicated poor architectural library design, 50(76.92%) indicated high temperature, 25(38.46%) indicated windstorm, 7(26.16%) indicated computer virus, 12(15.38%) indicated

rioting, 12(7%) indicated fire outbreak while 5(7.70%) and 2(3.07%) indicated fire outbreak, flooding and sandstorm respectively.

Research Question Four: Does academic libraries in Bauchi state Nigeria established any disaster control practices?

Table 4: Availability of disaster control practices in academic libraries

Availability of disaster control practices in academic libraries.	Frequency	Percentage (%)
There is an established disaster control practices in my academic library.	05	7.69%
There is no any established disaster control practices in my academic library.	60	92.31%
Total	65	100

Table 4 above indicated responses on availability of disaster control practices in academic libraries by respondents. 5(7.69%) of the respondents indicated that there was an established disaster control practices in their academic libraries while 60(92.31%) indicated that there was no any established disaster control practices in their libraries.

Research question five: What are the measures adopted for prevention of information resources from damage by disaster in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria?

Table 5: Measures adopted for the prevention of information resources from damage by disaster

Measures adopted for prevention of information resources from damage by disaster	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Training of librarians on how to handle disaster equipments	55	84.6%
Training of librarians on disaster control practices	60	92.3%

Regular assessment of hazards	57	87.7%
Backing of information resources in the cloud	63	96.9%
Organising awareness campaign on mitigation of disaster	63	96.9%
Insurance of library equipments	45	69.2%
Insurance of library information resources	40	61.5%
Provision of more funds	64	98.5%
Provision of adequate communication gadgets	62	95.4%

Table 5 above, revealed some measures employed for the prevention of information resources from damage by disaster in academic libraries. The study revealed that 64(98.5%) indicated provision of more funds to academic libraries, 63(96.9%) indicated backing of information resources in the cloud and organizing an awareness campaign on disaster mitigation, 62(95.4%) indicated adequate communication gadgets to be provided in libraries, 60(92.3%) indicated that libraries should organize training for librarians on disaster control practices, while 57(87.7%) indicated that regular assessment of hazards to be conducted. However, 45(69.2%) of the respondents are of the view that insurance of library equipments are to be carried out but 40(61.5%) indicated that insurance of library information resources is paramount.

Research Question six: What are the available facilities used for controlling disaster occurrence in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria?

Table 6: Facilities available for disaster control in academic libraries

Facilities available for disaster control in academic libraries	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Thunder Arrestors	7	10.8%
Fire extinguisher	65	100%

Sand filled bucket	65	100%
Dehumidifier	-	-
Close circuit camera (CCTV)	12	18.5%
Emergency exit doors	42	64.6%
Smoke alarm	54	83.1%
Anti-hacking	2	3.1%
Spyware software	2	3.1%

Table six above, revealed facilities available in academic libraries. The study revealed that 65(100%) of respondents indicated that fire extinguisher and sand filled buckets are facilities mostly available in most libraries. 54(83.1%) indicated smoke alarm, 42(64.6%) indicate existence of emergency exit doors, 12(18.5%) indicated that there is close circuit camera in their libraries. However, 7(10.8%) indicated the existence of thunder breaker while 2(3.1%) indicated anti-hacking and spyware as available facilities in their academic libraries respectively.

Research Question seven: What are the challenges associated with disaster control practices in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria?

Table 7: challenges associated with disaster control practices in libraries

Challenges associated with disaster control practices	Frequency	Percentages %
Negligence of library staff	50	76.9%
Financial constraint	65	100%
Inadequate policy framework	63	96.9%
Inefficient communication channels	62	95.4%
Inadequate support facilities	65	100%
Lack of insurance coverage	56	86.2%
Inadequate power supply	65	100%

Inadequate library security personnel	55	84.6%
Poor architectural design	57	87.7%
Poor management policy	56	86.2%
Inadequate awareness campaign on disaster control practices	60	92.3%

Table seven above indicated challenges associated with disaster control practices in academic libraries. 65(100%) of respondents indicated financial constraints and inadequate power supply, 63(96.9%) indicated inadequate policy framework, 60(92.3%) indicated that there was inadequate awareness campaign on disaster control in their libraries, 57(87.7%) indicated poor architectural design of the library, 56(86.2%) posited that there was poor management policy in the library while 50(76.9%) indicated negligence of library staff.

Research Question eight: What are the strategies for facilitating effective disaster control for enhanced preservation of information resources in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria?

Table eight: strategies for facilitating effective disaster control for enhanced preservation of information resources in academic libraries

Strategies for facilitating effective disaster control for enhanced preservation of information resources	Frequency	Percentage %
Security patrol round the library premises	57	87.7%
Provision of single exit and locked emergency exit	55	84.6%
Disallowing bags and personal belongings into the library	63	96.9%
Regular house keeping	60	92.3%

Security checks at the library exit	65	100%
Conducting regular surveys in and outside the library building to identify defects	62	95.4%
Availability of fire alarm system	56	86.2%
Micro filming of library materials	55	84.6%
Backing up library electronic resources in the cloud	65	100%
Staff and user training on disaster control practices	58	89.2%
Development of disaster control plan	63	96.9%

The table eight above, revealed responses on strategies for facilitating effective disaster control practices for enhanced preservation of information resources in academic libraries. The study revealed that 65(100%) indicated security checks at the library exit door and backing up library electronic resources in the cloud respectively. 63(96.9%) indicated disallowing bags and personal belongings into the library and development of disaster control plans in libraries, 60(92.3%) indicated regular housekeeping, 58(89.2%) indicated staff and user training on disaster control practices, 57(87.7%) indicated security patrol round the library building,56(86.2%) indicated availability of fire alarm system while 55(84.6%) indicated provision of single exit and locked emergency exit and microfilming of library materials.

CONCLUSION

The following conclusions are drawn based on the findings of the study. The study examines disaster control practices of librarians for enhanced effective information resources preservation

in academic libraries in Bauchi state, Nigeria. The study revealed that the most prevalent disaster in academic libraries in Bauchi state are; book mutilation, negligence of library staff, windstorm, biological agents, leaking roofs, fire outbreak, hot climate, among others. Findings revealed that most academic libraries in Bauchi state are prone to disaster due to none established disaster control practices. Some of the facilities available for disaster control are fire extinguisher, smoke alarm, close circuit camera (CCTV), sand filed buckets, thunder arrestors, emergency exit doors and fire alarms. Also, measures for the prevention of information resources from damage by disaster were proffered such as insurance of library information resources, organizing awareness campaign to librarians, regular assessment of hazard and vulnerability assessment among others. The challenges associated with disaster control practices in academic libraries in Bauchi state include, negligence of library staff, financial constraints, inadequate policy framework, inefficient communication channels, inadequate support facilities, inadequate power supply, poor management policy and lack of insurance coverage. The study adopted some strategies for facilitating the control of disaster such as, regular housekeeping, provision of single exit and locked emergency exit, conducting regular survey in and outside the library building, backing up library information resources in the cloud, security patrol around the library premises and disallowing bags and personal belongings into the library among others.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made:

- All academic libraries in Bauchi state should have proper surveillance and adequate library security personnel to reduce theft and book mutilation of library information resources.
- Management of academic libraries in Bauchi state should establish a disaster control plan to safeguard library materials from damage or loss as a result of any occurrences.
- The management of the libraries should organize a training workshop for librarians and abreast them with knowledge on disaster control practices for effective preservation of information resources.
- There should be frequent security check in and around the library buildings to detect any appliances left on after closing hours.
- Librarians should regularly conduct hazards and vulnerability an assessment in their academic libraries.

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