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Winter 6-26-2017

Preservation and Disaster Management of Frequently-Use Collections in University Libraries: A Case Study of Three University Libraries

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Ishola, Rhoda O., "Preservation and Disaster Management of Frequently-Use Collections in University Libraries: A Case Study of Three University Libraries" (2017). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 1568.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1568>

Preservation and Disaster Management of Frequently-Use Collections in University Libraries: A Case Study of Three University Libraries

Abstract

This work studied Preservation and Disaster Management of Frequently-use Collections in University Libraries. The Survey research method was adopted for the study. The main instrument for collecting data for this study was the questionnaire. The questionnaires were carefully designed for the respondents. Forty –nine (49) copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents by the researcher out of which 41 was retrieved and found usable for analysis. The study found out that there is no written preservation and conservation policy in the libraries studied, in few cases where preservation policy exist though unwritten, they are not adhered to. Majority, 35(85.4%) of the respondents agreed that libraries do not train staff on preservation; hence there was low perception of library staff to preservation of library materials. Further findings reveal that there were problems of preservation and disaster management practice in the academic libraries studied. The study recommended among others that regulatory bodies of Academic institutions (e.g. NUC) should mandate academic libraries to have preservation and disaster management policy and ensure they are adhered to.

Key words: Preservation; Disasters management; Frequently-use collection; Academic libraries

INTRODUCTION

Library building houses library staff, readers, information resources and equipment. Each of these has a distinct need which requires pragmatic approach in prolonging their life span. The building on the other hand is expected to have a useful life span of about one hundred years or more. Collections maintenance is a multifaceted and holistic concept which should be integrated into the library's mission. In academic libraries, comprehensive, coherent, balanced and responsive preservation programmes will not only enable the library to support the teaching and research goals of the parent institutions, but will ensure that core materials are kept in useable conditions for longevity. Pragmatic - approach to preservation allows libraries to address the prospective preservation challenge that is constantly changing in response to the patterns of frequent use. Collection maintenance should be an integral part of the library's mission. Any library that is frequently used must concern itself with the preservation of its collections, if it is to continue to meet the needs of its users. The growing popularity of modular courses is also placing a greater pressure on academic libraries; this is as a result of the rising needs of users and these users needing a particular material at the same time. It brings upon the academic libraries not only the task of meeting the varied needs of users, which includes all sorts of programmes in the university community, but also to ensure that such materials needed to meet the needs of users are by no means threatened with any sort of destruction arising from heavy usage of these materials (Isah and Patience 2003).

Therefore the library holdings must be properly preserved until they are replaced by newer ones or editions. Providing appropriate environment is the single most important factor in a successful preservation process. Provision should be made for the complete monitoring, removal and prevention of pollutants (airborne, gaseous and internally generated) by using pollution monitors. Solid and organized preplanning of an emergency preparedness is the easiest way to survive a disaster. Provisions should also be made for follow-ups in the event of any disaster since recovery is a lengthier process. According to Alebgeleye (2002), the thoughts, ideas and discoveries of great men, the eyewitness account of great events and the prose and poetry of civilization and what has been rightly described as our intellectual capital are priceless treasure that must be passed on from generation to generation. Therefore preserving this intellectual,

cultural heritage becomes not only the academic commitment but also the moral responsibility of the librarians and information scientists who are in charge of these repositories.

Disaster management plan may not seem a pressing concern until disaster strikes. Recent events have shown that even when library collection or service may not be at risk, libraries and archives must have prevention and recovery measures in place. But almost often than not, librarians spend most of their time selecting, purchasing and processing these materials without thinking of how to preserve them. Since librarians complain about limited funds being voted for book acquisition of library materials, the need to preserve cannot be over emphasized, until the older ones can be replaced.

Disaster management programmes are needed in libraries in which the chief measure of success is a high circulation rate. It is now difficult for many libraries to bear the cost of frequent replacement. Disaster management in libraries involves prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. There are however so many causes of disaster which will be discussed in the course of this work. Verzosa's (2009) *Counter Disaster Planning Response and Recovery*, article stated that Libraries must be prepared for all disasters, natural and manmade, that may occur at their institution. The cost of not being prepared may be loss of life, loss of the materials, or, ultimately, the loss of the institution or business. She stressed that ninety five percent (95%) of disasters result in water damage; even fire damage is accompanied by water damage. She concluded by listing two major causes of disaster Natural (earthquake, fire, flood, typhoons, volcanic eruption) and manmade disaster (Biological contamination, chemical spill, civil disturbance, terrorism, construction failure, electrical power failure, electronic computer failure, explosion, bombs ,gas leak, carelessness, nuclear disaster, robbery, sewage overflow, accidental sprinkler vandalism, war and water over flow).

In library parlance, frequently-used library collections are materials whose demands are intense and frequently circulated in order to meet the specific information need of the users. They are made up largely of books, journal and non-book materials covering a broad range of subjects. Frequently-used collections are more likely to include materials that have become valuable over time. Access to frequently-used collection can be borrowed by the library's primary clientele

(university students or staff) and by others through inter library loan. Journals can be used freely within the library but cannot be borrowed. Frequent handling takes their toll on the materials. Merrill-Oldham and Schrock (2000) postulated that ‘the steady growth of Online catalogues, the retrospective conversion of card catalogues to machine-readable form, and the proliferation of electronic reference sources have stimulated greater use of some categories of materials than ever before. When items become damaged due to high usage, the need to repair them quickly can result in treatments that are expedient rather than durable and non-destructive.

Without doubt, with adequate planning like a written disaster preparedness and response plan confirming description of emergency procedure, emergency suppliers list, disaster response outline, conservation experts, list of staff volunteers, list of external contact’s names, addresses home and work telephone numbers of personnel with emergency responsibilities, the afore-listed causes of disaster could be avoided.

Statement of the Problem.

Preservation seems to be a somewhat neglected area in the library, and preservation activity. It is at its lowest ebb, having being limited to binding, book repairs, and general housekeeping, maintenance of the physical plants and security. Disaster also poses a serious threat to library materials if no adequate plan is put in place to prevent this from happening since prevention is better than cure. Materials that would have been of high use to the users are lost due to lack of adequate preservation and disaster management plan, thereby posing a problem to researchers. This study seeks to determine the state of preservation and disaster management in selected academic libraries.

Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate preservation and disaster management in academic libraries. It therefore aims to proffer answers to the questions below:

1. What are the preservation problems of frequently- use collections in academic libraries?
2. What is the perception of library staff to preservation of library material?

3. What are the preservative measures put in place by librarians in academic libraries?
4. What are the problems of preservation and disaster management practice in academic libraries?
5. What is the capability of staff with regard to disaster management?

Literature Review

Preservation and conservation concept of library materials.

Aina, (2007) opined that preservation of library materials means taking care of library materials to avoid deterioration. While the Institute of Museum and Library Services (2009) view preservation as a process that effectively extends the life or useful life of a living or non- living collection, the individual items or entities included in a collection, or structure, building or site by reducing the likelihood or speed of deterioration. International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) Principles for the Care and Handling of Library Material describe preservation to include “all the managerial and financial considerations including storage and accommodation provisions, staffing levels, policies, techniques, and methods involved in preserving library and archival material and the information contained in them.” While conservation is direct physical intervention arresting or slowing down deterioration of library materials, preservation involves both the direct and indirect action. In preservation, consideration is given to every element that promotes the protection of the materials including the housing, storage system and security against such threats as theft, mutilation and poor handling.

Olatokun, (2008) opined that among the essential missions of libraries, two are complementary: preservation and access. Preserving for the sake of preserving is useless and giving access lavishly to all documents without taking into account preservation measures will, sooner or later, lead towards making the documentary heritage inaccessible for future generations. For decades, librarians have tended to mix up preservation with conservation and all efforts have concentrated on the curative treatment of single documents. Conservation and restoration are the most central activities of preservation; they are concerned with the physical maintenance and repair of documentary materials (Varlamoff, 2005). According to the National Library of Australia (2004), one of the major crises facing libraries throughout the world is the rate of deterioration of their collections. Since library materials are composed primarily of organic materials, they are

subject to natural deterioration. Most libraries' collections today are based on paper - either in book or sheet form - bound volumes, newspapers, serials, manuscripts, maps, water colours, prints and drawings. Some libraries have an important collection of oil paintings, a small collection of objects, and a large collection of photographic materials including negatives, prints, glass negatives and photographic albums. The collections of modern materials such as sound tapes and electronically stored information such as CD ROMs and computer disks is growing rapidly and almost all of most libraries' collections are essentially impermanent. Unlike museum items that are rarely handled, library materials are meant to be used. They are vital sources of information which cannot be conserved and stored away in an ideal and secure environment to arrest their decay. This is the dilemma of library preservation - to make information accessible, while still ensuring its ultimate survival. As the IFLA-PAC China Centre (2006) puts it: the core activity on preservation and conservation is to ensure that significant library and archive materials, published and unpublished, in all formats, will be preserved in accessible form for as long as possible.

The term 'Conservation' has been defined in the IFLA Principles for the Care and Handling of Library materials (2010) as "specific practices taken to slow down deterioration and prolong the life span of an object by direct intervening in its physical or chemical make-up. The composition of some of the media of storing information makes deterioration inevitable. Deterioration may set in through the natural ageing process or as a result of other factors such as chemical composition of the media of information, biological agents, environmental factors, physical agents and improper handling. There is, therefore, the need to take certain conservation measure to slow down deterioration to avoid losing these library resources. Conservation involves taking protective measures to prevent decay and consequently, the loss of library resources. It also includes taking preventive measures against agents of deterioration of books and other library resources.

Smith (1986) asserts that "our libraries are the repositories of man's cultural heritage. If the materials in the World libraries (of which African University libraries are a part) are lost, the recorded history of human civilization is lost as well". The problems of conservation of printed materials have a long history. Since the time Gutenberg invented the printing press, there arose

the need for a plentiful supply of cheap paper to feed the printing presses. The increased demand for paper led to changes for the worse in the paper-making processes. About 1,850 paper for document production was made from wood-pulp sized with alum and rosin. Before the invention of wood-pulp paper, Kathalia (1982) says that printing was made on more durable materials like parchment, vellum, palm. leaves and birch bark, clay tablets, stone, copper plates, papyrus and cloth. According to Schellenberg (1972) writing inks before the middle of the 19th century were of three types, namely, the so-called India ink, Nutgall ink, and Sepia ink, all of which were fairly permanent. Modern inks are produced from coal-tar. They carry within themselves the agencies of their own destruction. The materials that are in use in modern time include paper, films, tapes, printouts and punch cards among others. Barker (1981) noted that the international effort at the conservation of printed materials started in 1898 when the Prefect of the Vatican Library held a Congress at St. Gall to examine ways and means of preventing, if not altogether stopping, the deterioration of wood-pulp paper. There are several factors necessitating the conservation of paper right from the earliest time.

Foundation Grants for Preservation in Libraries, Archives and Museums', (2010) stated that the conservation Division (CD) of the library of congress in the United States ensures that the Library's universal collection of knowledge and creativity will still exist for future generations through adequate funding of conservation and preservation of CD activities. In Nigeria, Ajala Adekunle (2007) reported the fire outbreak at the library of the Nigerian Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru; the 1988 rainstorm which destroyed many books in the library of the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, Ibadan; the fire outbreak at the Department of Theatre Arts of the university of Ibadan and its library in 1995; the 1990 fire incident which engulfed the Alafin Oyo Palace library. Similarly, Okpa-Iroha (1971) reported the damages done to the various libraries in the Eastern Nigeria during the Nigeria civil war while Jimoh (2004) highlighted the more recent fire incident at the Federal Polytechnic Idah, which burnt down the institution's library.

Alegbeleye (1999) at a joint IFLA/ICA meeting on the preservation and conservation of Library and Archival Materials in Africa lamented the deplorable states of most libraries and archive, their lack of functioning air-conditioners and apathy to housekeeping tasks such as cleaning,

shelving and dusting. Earlier, Alegbeleye (1990) had conducted a research to assess the state of disaster control planning in university libraries in Nigeria and found, among others, that most of the libraries did not have disaster control plans, although they were willing to incorporate such plans into their overall planning programmes. More, recently, Ajala and Adekanye (2007) investigated the incidence, patterns and preparedness of Nigeria Libraries for disasters in Lagos and Oyo States, Nigeria. The results showed that one third of the libraries investigated had experienced disasters at one time or the other with floods predominating, followed by the fire incidents and vandalism. They concluded that the libraries needed to do more in order to prevent and mitigate disasters and offered some suggestions in this regard. Hence, this study was an attempt made to investigate the state of fourteen libraries in Kwara State, with regard to disaster preparedness.

Alegbeleye (1993) highlighted prominent disasters within the West African region to include the fire at the library of the Nigeria Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, Jos; the 1988 arson by students, which destroyed books in the Nigeria Forestry Research Institute Library and the destruction of documents in the National Library of Nigeria in 1990. Similarly, records indicate that Ghana has experienced a series of floods, earthquake, fire and arson related disasters over the years (Pepra, 1998 and Adinku, 2005). Some of which include the earthquake of 1939, which destroyed the Aglion Library; the 1984 Agricultural Development Bank Head Office fire, which resulted in the loss of valuable records and the fire outbreak at the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation in 1989 which destroyed the films, archives and the library. Conclusively, large or small, natural or man-made disaster or emergencies put an institution's staff and collections in danger.

Methodology

The research was carried out with the use of social survey methods. The main instruments for collecting data for this study were questionnaires. Forty –nine (49) copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents (all the librarians in the selected university libraries) by the researcher out of which 41 was retrieved and found usable for analysis. In analyzing the data, statistical method of data analysis was employed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Questionnaire Administration and Response rate

Out of the 49 copies of questionnaire administered, 41 was retrieved and found usable for analysis

Table 1: Questionnaire Administration and Response rate

Universities	Number of Questionnaires administered	Retrieved Questionnaire	No. valid for analysis
University of Ibadan	34	26	26
Osun State University	12	12	12
Fountain University, Osogbo	3	3	3
Total	49	41	41

Table 2 Show frequency distribution of Gender

Variables		Frequency	Percentage %
Sex	Male	39	95.1
	Female	2	4.9
Total		41	100.0%

Table 2 shows higher percentages of male as 39 (95.1%) while female were 2 (4.9%). It implies that male have higher percentage

Answers to research questions

Research Question one

Which of the types of preservation and conservation techniques do you use in your library?

Table 3 Shows types of preservation and conservation techniques

Statement	Yes	No	Total	\bar{X}	SD
Policy and other preservation issues in university libraries	21(51.2)	20(48.8)	41(100.0%)	1.49	.506
Does your library have a preservation policy	18(43.9)	23(56.1)	41(100.0%)	1.56	.502
Is the preservation policy adhered to in your library	15(36.6)	26(63.4)	41(100.0%)	1.63	.488
Has the policy provided direction to library staff in carrying out their collection management	14(34.1)	27(65.9)	41(100.0%)	1.66	.480
Does the policy provided guidelines no use of library	15(36.6)	26(63.4)	41(100.0%)	1.63	.488
Has the policy impacted	12(29.3)	29(70.7)	41(100.0%)	1.71	.461

positively					
Does your library provide guidelines on security	12(29.3)	29(70.7)	41(100.0%)	1.71	.461

Table 1 shows the types of preservation and conservation practice in use in the libraries. The result shows that majority 23(56.1%) of the respondents disagreed their library have a preservation policy, while 18(43.9%) agreed. Also, 26(63.4%) of the respondents disagreed that the preservation policy was adhered to in their library, while 15(36.6%) agreed with the statement. Majority 27(65.9%) disagreed that the policy provided guidelines on use of library, while 14(34.1%) agreed with the statement, also majority 29(70.7%) disagreed that the policy impacted positively while, 12(29.3%) agreed. Furthermore, majority 29(70.7%) of the respondents disagreed that the policy provided guidelines on security while, 12(29.3%) agreed with the statement, finally, majority 35(85.4%) of the respondents disagreed that their library train staff on preservation while, 6(14.6%) agreed. The results of findings show the types of preservation and conservation practices in use in the understudied university libraries. From results of findings mean and standard deviation of preservation and conservation practice from tertiary institution was in support. This was shown with the total average mean score of ($\bar{X} = 1.65$, $SD = .468$) which was not above the lower item rated mean above.

Research Question two

What is the perception of library staff to preservation of library material?

Table 4. Shows preservation measures put in place

VO=Very Often, O=Occasionally, N=Never, NO=No Response

Statement	NO	N	O	VO	Total	\bar{X}	SD
Shelving a book spine down rather than up to prevent the book text from falling out due to its height	3(7.3%)	35(85.4%)	3(7.3%)	0(0.0%)	41(100.0%)	2.00	.387

Microfilming	2(4.9%)	33(80.5%)	6(14.6%)	0(0.0%)	41(100.0%)	2.10	.436	
Deacidification	3(7.3%)	20(48.8%)	18(43.9%)	0(0.0%)	41(100.0%)	2.37	.623	
Use of insecticide	2(4.9%)	39(95.1%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	41(100.0%)	1.95	.218	
Cleaning and dusting of library materials	9(22.0%)	26(63.4%)	6(14.6%)	0(0.0%)	41(100.0%)	1.93	.608	
Photocopying	3(7.3%)	36(87.8%)	2(4.9%)	0(0.0%)	41(100.0%)	1.98	.353	
Shelving library materials to allow for free flow of air	3(7.3%)	25(61.0%)	13(31.7%)	0(0.0%)	41(100.0%)	2.24	.582	
Total Average means	2.081						0.475	

Table 4 shows the perception of library staff to preservation of library material. The result shows that majority (85.4%) of the respondent said shelving a book spine down rather than up to prevent the text from pulling out of the binding due to its height. Never, while 7.3% said occasionally and 7.3% not response. For the microfilming, 80.5% of the respondent said never, while 14.6% said occasionally, and 4.9% no response, also, on Deacidification, majority 48.8% said never, 43.9% said occasionally, and 7.3% were not responded In addition, on Use of Insecticide, 95.1% said never while 4.9% were not responded. Furthermore, on cleaning and dusting of library materials, 63.4% said never while 22.0% did not responded and 14.6% said occasionally, also, on photocopying, 87.8% of the respondents said never, while 7.3% did not response and 4.9% said occasionally, finally, on shelving library material to allow for free flow of air, majority 61.0% said never while 31.7% said occasionally, and 7.3% did not responded. The results of findings show that there was low perception of library staff to preservation of library material. From results of findings the mean and standard deviation was in supports. This was shown with the total average mean score of (\bar{X} =2.081, SD= 0.475) which was above the lower item rated mean above

Research Question three

What are the impacts of preservation measures put in place by librarians in academic libraries?

Table 5 Shows impact of preservation measures put in place

Statement	Frequency	Percentage
Moderate Influence	6	14.6
Tremendous impact	26	63.4
Helps in elongating the life span	9	22.0
Total	41	100.0%

Table 5 shows the impacts of preservative measure put in place by the librarians in academic libraries. The result shows that majority 26(63.4%) of the respondent said the impacts of preservative measure put in place by the librarians in academic libraries was tremendous, while 9(22.0%) said it helps to elongating the life span of the resources materials in the library, and 6(14.5%) said it has moderate impact. From results of findings majority of the librarians agreed that there was impacts of preservative measure put in place by the librarians in academic libraries

Research Question four

What are the problems of preservation and disaster management practice in academic libraries?

Table 6 Shows level of problems

Statement	Yes	No	Total	\bar{X}	SD
Disasters as a result of wave	10(24.4)	31(75.6)	41(100.0%)	1.76	.435
Vandalism and burglary	30(73.2)	11(26.8)	41(100.0%)	1.27	.449
Flood	29(70.7)	12(29.3)	41(100.0%)	1.29	.461

Natural disaster	26(63.4)	15(36.6)	41(100.0%)	1.37	.488
Caused by the human error	29(70.7)	12(29.3)	41(100.0%)	1.29	.461
Fire	24(58.5)	17(41.5)	41(100.0%)	1.41	.499
Total Average mean				1.39	0.465

Table 6 shows the problems of preservation and disaster management practice in academic libraries. The result shows that majority 31(75.6%) of the respondent disagreed that the problems was disasters as a result of wave, while 10(24.4%) agreed. While 30(73.2%) of the respondents agreed that vandalism and burglary was the problems of preservation and disaster management practice in academic libraries while 11(26.8%) disagreed. Also, 29(70.7%) of the respondents agreed that Flood was the problems of preservation and disaster management practice in academic libraries, while 12(29.3%) disagreed. In addition, 26(63.4%) agreed that natural disasters was the problems of preservation and disaster management practice in academic libraries, while 15(36.6%) disagreed. Also 29(70.7%) agreed that the problems of preservation and disaster management practice in academic libraries, while 12(29.3%) disagreed. Finally, 24(58.5%) agreed that Fire was the problems of preservation and disaster management practice in academic libraries while 17(41.5%) disagreed. The results of findings show that there were problems of preservation and disaster management practice in academic libraries. From results of findings mean and standard deviation was in support. This was shown with the total average mean score of ($\bar{X}=1.39$, $SD= .465$) which was not above the lower item rated mean above.

Research Question five

What is the capability of staff with regards to disaster management?

Table 7 Shows staff capability

Statement	Frequency	Percentage
Positive	3	7.3
Negative	36	87.8
Not sure	2	4.9

Total	41	100.0%
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Table 7 shows the capability of staff with regards to disaster management. The result shows that majority 36(87.8%) of the respondent said capability of staff with regards to disaster management was negative influence the preservation practice, while 3(7.3%) said positive and 2(4.9%) said they were not sure.

Research Question six

What are the obstacles to efficient counter disaster planning of management practice in academic libraries?

Table 8 Shows level of Obstacles

Statement	Yes	No	Total	\bar{X}	SD
Finance	29(70.7)	12(29.3)	41(100.0%)	1.71	.461
Organization	21(51.2)	20(48.8)	41(100.0%)	1.51	.506
Education of Staff	29(70.7)	12(29.3)	41(100.0%)	1.71	.461
Infrastructure	34(82.9)	7(17.1)	41(100.0%)	1.83	.381
Total Average mean				1.69	0.452

Table 8 shows the obstacles to efficient counter disaster planning of management practice in academic libraries. The result shows that majority 29(70.7%) of the respondent agreed that the obstacle was finance, while 12(29.3%) disagreed. While 21(51.2%) of the respondents agreed that organization was the obstacle while 20(48.8%) disagreed. Also, 29(70.7%) of the respondents agreed that education of the staff was the obstacle, while 12(29.3%) disagreed. In addition, 34(82.9%) agreed that infrastructure was the obstacle, while 7(17.1%) disagreed. The results of findings show that there was obstacle to efficient counter disaster planning of management practice in academic libraries. From results of findings mean and standard deviation was in support. This was shown with the total average mean score of ($\bar{X}=1.69$, $SD=.452$) which was not above the lower item rated mean above.

Summary of major Findings

The major findings of the study are as follows:

1. The study reveals that there is no written policy on preservation and conservation in the libraries studied, hence it is impossible to cultivate the culture of preservation and conservation in such libraries, which places information materials, especially frequently used materials at a high risk for extinction. This findings gives credence to the findings of Ovowoh and [Iwhiwhu](#) (2010) and Chapman (1990) citing Alegbeleye (1993) .The findings is also supported by the findings of Popoola (2003) and Olatokun (2010) whose studies revealed that most African countries do not have a national information policy which makes the formulation of preservation and conservation policies in the libraries and information centers out of the question . Similarly, Earlier, Alegbeleye (1990) had conducted a research to assess the state of disaster control planning in university libraries in Nigeria and found, among others, that most of the libraries did not have disaster control plans, although they were willing to incorporate such plans into their overall planning programmes.
2. The study reveal that in few cases were preservation policy exist, though not written, they are not adhere to and the policy does not provide guidelines to use of library. This findings is confirmed by earlier findings of a Ogbodo,(2010).
3. Majority, 35(85.4%) of the respondents disagreed that the under studied library train staff on preservation this finding is in consonance with the findings of Beth (2008) and Akussah (1991).
4. The results of findings on preservative measures put in place, shows that there was low perception of library staff to preservation of library material. This is a sad development, it is a pointer to the fact that majority of the academic libraries (librarian) are not making conscious effort at preserving and conserving their high use collections and by extension all their library and information resources. This findings is not surprising because of the afore- stated findings that these libraries do not have a preservation policy. This finding was confirmed by earlier findings from Olatokun, (2008) who reported that most library managers fail to realize that preservation and conservation of information resources is a component of the issues they have to contend with. In addition, no training is given to

library staff and there is a generally low awareness about preservation issues especially on the corruptible tendencies of information materials and what could be done to prevent their deterioration. He stressed that, In some cases, libraries do not have preservation polices and as a result, there is no preservation plan nor programme to ensure safekeeping of library collections

5. On the impact of the preservative measure put in place by librarians in academic libraries
The result shows that majority 26(63.4%) of the respondent said the impacts of preservative measure put in place by the librarians in academic libraries was tremendous, while 9(22.0%) said it helps to elongating the life span of the resources materials in the library, and 6(14.5%) said it has moderate impact. From results of findings majority of the librarians agreed that there was impacts of preservative measure put in place by the librarians in academic libraries. This finding appears ironical or hypocritical as it does not synchronize with earlier stated findings. But ideally, this is what it should be.
6. On the problems of preservation and disaster management practice in academic libraries.
The results of findings show that there were problems of preservation and disaster management practice in the academic libraries studied. Hence, vandalism 30(73.2%) , burglary 30(73.2%). Flood 29(70.7%), natural disasters 26(63.4%) and human error 29(70.7%) , Fire 24(58.5%) were reported as the problems of preservation and disaster management practice in academic libraries .This findings is supported by the earlier findings of Alegbeleye (1993) who also mentioned two commonly recurring causes of library disasters to include floods and fires. Anderson and McIntyre (1985) however added vandalism, theft, earthquake, insect infection and the effect of light and temperature to the list of causes of disasters in libraries. Ngulube (2005) noted that although humankind tend to associate the term 'disaster' with devastating floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and other catastrophes, risks and hazards to documentary materials, which include insects and rodents, mould and humidity, tornadoes, forest fire, volcanic eruption etc. can occur anytime without notice of library management and need due attention by senior management within the library and the universities.
7. The result shows that majority 36(87.8%) of the respondent said capability of staff with regards to disaster management was negative influence on the preservation practice, while 3(7.3%) said positive and 2(4.9%) said they were not sure. This finding is a

terrifying development and may constitute a treat in its self to future of academic libraries. This finding is confirmed by the earlier findings of Zaid and Abioye (2009), who recommend that various organizations should developed curriculum, created delivery framework and developed training model for staff members, they emphasize that these organizations should be able to create affordable and effective training opportunities, increased local capacity through organizational and professional development. They concluded that notable among these organizations are the professional associations and non-governmental organizations such as UNESCO

8. Finally, on the obstacles to efficient counter disaster planning of management practice in academic libraries. The result shows that majority 29(70.7%) of the respondent agreed that the obstacles was finance, while, 21(51.2%) of the respondents agreed that organization was the obstacles. Also, 29(70.7%) of the respondents agreed that education of the staff was the obstacles, In addition, 34(82.9%) agreed that infrastructure was the obstacles, This findings is confirmed and validated by the findings of survey of literature on preservation and conservation of library materials in Africa embark upon by Popoola (2003) and Olatokun (2010) whose findings further revealed that these obstacles are the prominent inhibitors to effective and efficient preservation of information materials in African libraries, archives and record centres

Conclusion

The study was designed to investigate preservation and disaster management of frquently-use collections in academic libraries. The literature reviewed and research findings give an informative account that there is no written policy on preservation and conservation in academic libraries, as well as inadequate funding, harsh environmental condition, adherence to preservation policies even when in place, lack of qualified conservation librarians, non-committal attitude of staff, and lack of adequate and dependable storage facilities and finally lack of competent manpower. Clearly, all the libraries studied had one or a combination of

maintenance related lapses, which made them predisposed to various forms disasters, particularly fire outbreaks and internal flooding. Besides, none of the libraries had a disasters control plan, which is an important blue print for effective management of disasters including those involving libraries. It is impossible to cultivate the culture of preservation and conservation in such libraries, which places frequently use information resources at jeopardy. Very few librarians are conversant with preservation management, thus militating against any comprehensive preservation programme. It is unfortunate that in the process of aggressively building their collection to support teaching and research, academic libraries may not deem the preservation of their high-circulating collection necessary or they may see it as hopelessly expensive. However, professional appreciation of the value of preservation effort in academic libraries is growing, as one can see in recent libraries literature. A well thought-out preservation policy, designed with the needs and resources of the individual institution in mind, clearly can prolong the useful life of frequently use collection and allow the library to make better use of its resources

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations have been suggested to improve preservation and disaster management of frequently-use collections in academic libraries:

1. Regulatory bodies of Academic institutions (e.g. National University Commission) should mandate it for academic libraries to have preservation and disaster management policy and ensure they are adhere to and provide guide lines to the use and management of libraries.
2. A good policy on short-term to long-term preservation and conservation should be formulated
3. The library should constitute a disaster management team/committee, which will not only serve as disaster monitor within the library but also as a liaison between the library and the agencies concerned with disaster management in the community so as to be in constant touch.
4. Academic library managers should regularly ensure staffs are trained on preservation and disaster management. For new recruited workers in institutions, training to familiarizes

them with the institution's mission, vision, rules and regulations and the working conditions, policies; (disaster and preservation). and for existing workers are trained to refresh and enhance their knowledge about the modern methods in preservation and conservation of library resources; this can be achieved through sponsoring of workers to workshops, conferences symposium, seminars higher academic studies within and without the country

5. As a result of the increased number of the population of their students and external users in academic libraries, it is expedient that at least five copies of a book with the same title must be purchased to avoid users scrambling for the few available copies, and books must not be renewed by users more than twice for a particular title within six months or within a year. This will reduce the incidence of few materials in the libraries becoming easily worn out.
6. Copies of each book in the library must be placed on reserve for frequent consultation to enable users access to them, thus preventing photocopying which weakens the spine of books and making duplicate copy of a person's intellectual right (plagiarism).
7. Good house-keeping practice must be maintained to avoid invasion of pest into the library by clearing the grasses around the library for good aeration.
8. It is important that deteriorated materials are removed from the shelves and reading rooms as soon as they are noticed and taken to the bindery where they can be appropriately repaired, and taken back to the library as soon as they are fixed within one to three weeks.
9. If any updates and amendments take place in technology, training should be given to staff to enable them cope up with those changes. For instance, use of new technology and preservation methods.
10. The libraries should put in place preventive measures to ensure library resources are protected against deteriorating agent.
11. The fire extinguishers should be checked at regular intervals, while the agency staff should be shown where to locate them and demonstrate how to use them.
12. The library should mark, clearly, fire escape routes and exits and also hold regular fire drills to practice emergency procedures.

13. There is the need for the library to install fire detector, water sensing alarm and more fire extinguishers as well as regular maintenance of drainage and plumbing system. There should be a regular building inspection so as to remedy the factors which constitute potential hazards.
14. The library should have comprehensive insurance scheme over the library and its contents so as to reduce and share the possible risk of lose.
15. Take special precautions during usual period of increased risk such as building renovation.
16. Parent institution should provide more funds to the library being an essential component of the community while prudent management of available resources is required from the library authorities in return.
17. Most libraries and archival buildings are not equipped with air conditioners to stabilize the temperature and humidity of the storage areas. Many air conditioners that are present are inadequate and non-functional. Hence, need for library managers to ensure these air conditions are installed in the libraries and where some on ground is faulty, then they should be fixed.
18. There should be an annual budget allocation for preservation and conservation.
19. All Libraries should adopt everyday care methods.
20. A well-equipped bindery section with trained staff should be established.
21. There should be regular orientation on the preservation and conservation of library materials.
22. The possibility of providing the library buildings with smoke detectors, fire alarms and fire pulls should be explored. Where not feasible, some staff should be trained and charged with the responsibility of monitoring and raising alarm in the events of any developing fire disasters.
23. Serious consideration should be given to inexpensive but important measures such as provision of sand buckets to complement fire extinguishers, maintaining up-to-date emergency phones lines, avoiding barricading emergency exits, marking same conspicuously and putting their keys in glass cases near the exist and periodic fumigation.
24. The possibility of backing up and/or providing for off-sites storage of some library materials should be explored, particularly those that are elusive.

25. Greater efforts should be made by the management of the libraries to convince their parent organization about the need for insurance coverage
26. Finally, the National library must at this point play a major role in educating and sensitizing libraries and their university on the preservation and conservation needs, they should also assist libraries to develop and monitor their preservation policy, liaise with the relevant authorities this to ensure that paper manufacturing companies in the country produce acid-free papers (that is alkaline papers) which are durable for production of books and other library materials.

Contribution of the Study to Knowledge

This study has helped to provide factual information to readers and librarians on how to preserve library materials and also expose them to the problems they can encounter in the process of preserving these materials in their libraries, especially, frequently- used materials. It has also improved preservation and disaster management practices in libraries by enlightening librarians and even non librarians on the importance of preserving their materials. Furthermore it will enable librarians make quick decision on the issue of preservation and what to preserve immediately to reduce further deterioration and what can be postponed for future generations. The expected benefit of preservation is the awareness of the need to adequately reduce the rate of deterioration of valuable information resources of the library, thus making the materials available for future use. It has contributed immensely to the growing body of literature in conservation and preservation in Nigeria and Africa

Suggestions for further studies

This research leads to some observations that might be of interest to future researchers, as they represent the seeds from which future research can be developed.

1. This same research can be carried out in other geo- political zone of the nation and other nations so that a broad study of preservation and disaster management of frequently-use collections in academic libraries.
2. Further studies can still be carried out on the impact of preservation and conservation policy on Academic libraries.

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Reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1: The paper now is more readable and interesting except for minor corrections.

Reviewer #2: I applaud the initiative to research preservation and conservation practices in African libraries. This is much needed work and of great value. However, the research design is not good. The writing in this article has many grammatical mistakes--sometimes two or three per paragraph. Some are minor problems but others interfere with meaning and clarity. This research has limited international appeal. Research methods and analysis are not solid enough to stand as good research. For example, **no mention is made of who completed the questionnaire--librarians, staff, how many people from each library, etc. The questionnaire contains "yes" and "no" questions. The answers are not nearly as useful as answers on a scale that measure the degree to which a library does x or offers x. Many of the recommendations are good, but do not correlate with the research results.**

Below are some suggestions

This content would be of great value to libraries in Africa engaged in planning preservation programs. The authors could carve out a case for building preservation programs in Africa and find a national venue for their report and writings.

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