Library Collections and Security Challenges In University Libraries: The Case of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Library

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Abstract
This study assessed library collections and security challenges in university libraries. It sought to analyze the security challenges facing library collections, examine the factors responsible for the security challenges and determine the extent the library collections have been affected by security challenges. A descriptive survey design was used for the study with a population of 119 library staff. Complete census was adopted as the entire population was used for the study. The instrument for data collection was structured questionnaires. In analyzing the data, descriptive statistics such as percentages, mean and frequency tables were used. The findings revealed the kinds of security challenges that are prevalent in MOUAU library to include Mutilation of Library, Theft, Disasters, Insect attacks, Vandalism and Lackadaisical Attitude of staff. The finding of the study also shows that High cost of book, Lack of photocopy machine, Insufficient copies of books, incessant power outage, Users expectations and behavior, Selfishness amongst students and porous security system as the causes of security challenges. It is also evidenced from the findings that all the collections have been affected to great extent by the security challenges in the libraries which ranges from books/monographs, reference materials, serials/periodicals, government documents/special collections, cartographic materials, graphic materials and religious materials. It was recommended that formulation and implementation of security policies, education/orientation of library users, provision of photocopying services and funding among others are ways of ameliorating the identified challenges.
Key Words: Libraries, Collections, Security

1.1 Introduction

Libraries are usually established and stocked with necessary information resources for better service delivery to its user community of which university libraries are not exception. Adequate security for the collections of the university libraries is a prerequisite for effective service delivery of information to users in the library. Ogbonyomi (2018) defined Security as the condition of being protected physically, emotionally, psychologically as well as from other harm, attack or terror which could be considered as non-desirable. On the other

hand, Abioye (2016) defined security as assurance of the future wellbeing and freedom from threat. In library context, security could imply the practice of defending information and information bearing materials from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, perusal, inspection, recording or destruction (Maidabino, 2020). Maintaining library security is paramount as it helps secure the library collection, ensure its longevity, accessibility and effective provision of services to users as long as the resources are needed. Aba and Dooms (2014) observed that to achieve this noble objective however, libraries need an effective strategy to assess the degree of security breaches they are facing and establish an acceptable level of collection security implementation.

Maharana & Panda cited in Abioye (2016) observed that security weaknesses in libraries, coupled with attacks or other types of failures, can lead to confidential information being inappropriately accessed, loss of integrity of the information resources or dearth of the information material which in turn can have a damaging effect to the library and embarrassment to the information user. Therefore, based on this background, the researcher tends to assess the library collections and security challenges in university libraries having in mind its effect on effective information services to the library clienteles.

1.2 Research questions

The following research questions were developed to guide the study:
1. What are the security challenges facing library collections in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture library?
2. What are the factors responsible for the security challenges in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture library?
3. To what extent has library collections been affected by security challenges in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture library?

1.3 Scope of the Study

This work is delimited to library collections and security challenges in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, library focusing on the security challenges facing library collections, the factors responsible for the security challenges and the extent to which the collections are affected by the security challenges. Umudike is the area of the study while the population of the study is comprised of the entire library staff.

2.1 Literature Review

Libraries are indispensable institutions where valuable, expensive and relevant materials in both print and electronic forms are stored for human use (Ekong&Ogunjimi, 2019). This definition underscores the fact that the library as a storehouse of valuable information is prone to security challenges just as witnessed in every segment of society. Rejendran and Rathinasabapth (2017) stated that Mutilation, burglary, arson, stealing and theft are all common forms of crime committed in the library. The library as repository of knowledge is seen as a focal point where users of diverse age groups, political and socio-economic backgrounds and cultural affiliations converge to source for information and as a result stands to be vulnerable to all forms of crime and security risks (Jama'a, as cited in Ogbonyomi, 2018). The university libraries face a number of security challenges with their collections which ranges from threats which could either be man-made or natural like fire outbreak, flood, earthquake, tsunami amongst others to mismanagement, use and abuse of information materials like mutilation, careless handling, excessive photocopying, miss-shelving and flicking document over (Oyedum&Sanni, 2014).

A more recent work by Maidabino (2020) examined the security problems to the collection of Benue State University, Makurdi and revealed that stealing and mutilating of

library books, tearing of book pages, removing of the book jacket cover, hiding of books under their clothes and their pockets are prominent vices carried out in the library. This was further buttressed by the study carried out by Enidiok et al (2019) which revealed that the major security problems prevalent in university libraries are stealing, vandalism of library materials, fire outbreak, mishandling of books and floods.

Ekong & Ogunjimi (2019) also noted other security breaches to include borrowing books for friends and family members; staining of book pages; tearing and yellowing of books; and insects or worms attacks on books. He also stated that writing on or in books and purposely miss-shelving by users constitutes another form of collection security breach.

A number of studies have shown that several factors influence security challenges and unacceptable behaviour in academic libraries. For instance, Okogwu (2013) is of the view that lack of student orientation on how to use the library makes them to behave negatively towards the library resources. Similarly, Aba and Doom (2014) also reported that users of academic libraries engage in unacceptable behaviour

because they are not given adequate orientation concerning the use of the library prior to their admission. Furthermore, Aba and Doom (2014) opines that university libraries are troubled with limited funding and are therefore likely to reduce cost by exploring other means of giving library orientation other than printed brochures.

Ogbonyomi (2018) suggested that the crime of theft and malicious damage of books in libraries could be difficult to combat if the risk of getting caught is low while the likelihood of success is high. This observation is supported by the underlying principles of rational choice theory which stresses that criminals of all kinds, including library criminals are calculative, rational, intelligent, sane and normal Rejendran and Rathinasabapth (2017).

3.1. Research Methodology

A descriptive survey design was used for the study with a population of 119 library staff. Complete census was adopted as the entire population was used for the study. The instrument for data collection was structured questionnaires. In analyzing the data, descriptive statistics such as percentages, mean and frequency tables were used.

4.1 Data Analysis

Table1: Distribution and Return Rate of questionnaire

S/N	Population	No of Questionnaires Distributed	No Returned	% Returned
1	MOUAU LIBRARY	119	103	81

Table 1 above shows the distribution and return rate of questionnaire. Out of 119 questionnaires distributed, 103 which represent 81% was returned and found useful for the study as it was above the 50% bench mark chosen for the study.

Table 2: Mean response on security challenges facing the library collections

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1	Mutilation of Library	67	30	1	3	3.61	.600	A
2	Theft	47	46	2	7	3.35	.699	A
3	Disasters	42	49	4	7	3.26	.757	A
4	Insect attacks	44	49	3	6	3.31	.717	A
5	Vandalism	50	40	3	8	3.36	.756	A
6	Lackadaisical Attitude of staff	39	57	1	5	3.31	.613	A
7	Fire Outbreak	49	34	11	8	3.19	.982	A
Grand Mean						3.34		

Keys: SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, D= Disagree, SD= Strongly Disagree

Data presented in table 2 indicated that the following reasons were strongly agreed by the respondents as kinds of security challenges that are prevalent in MOUAU library. They include Mutilation of Library (3.61), Theft (3.35), Disasters (3.69), Insect attacks (3.31), Vandalism (3.31), Lackadaisical Attitude of staff (3.31) and Fire Outbreak (3.19).

Table 3: Mean response on factors responsible for the challenges facing library collections in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Library

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1	High cost of book	49	38	5	11	3.27	.842	A
2	Lack of photocopy machine	40	47	4	12	3.19	.793	A
3	Insufficient copies of books	49	46	1	7	3.39	.660	A
4	Incessant power outage	43	51	4	5	3.29	.736	A
5	Users expectations and behavior	47	49	0	6	3.40	.601	A
6	Selfishness amongst students	44	51	3	5	3.32	.703	A
7	Porous security system	50	39	2	10	3.36	.743	A
Grand Mean						**3.33**		

Keys: SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree , D= Disagree, SD= Strongly Disagree

Data presented in table 3 indicated that the following reasons were strongly agreed by the respondents as factors responsible for the challenges facing library collections in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Library. They include High cost of book (3.27), Lack of photocopy machine (3.19), Insufficient copies of books (3.39), Incessant power outage (3.29), Users expectations and behavior (3.29), Library staff (3.40), Selfishness amongst students (3.35)and Porous security systems (3.36).

Table 4: Mean response on the extent the library collections have been affected by security challenges

S/No	Items	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1	Books/monographs	58	41	2	2	3.50	.640	A
2	Reference materials	51	48	1	3	3.45	.606	A
3	Serials/periodicals	38	54	1	3	3.25	.667	A
4	Government documents/special collections	45	49	3	5	3.33	.708	A
5	Cartographic materials	49	46	5	3	3.35	.763	A
6	Graphic materials	42	49	6	5	3.25	.801	A
7	Religious materials	59	34	3	7	3.45	.751	A
Grand Mean						**3.35**		

Keys: VHE=Very High Extent, HE=High Extent, LE=Low Extent, VLE=Very Low Extent.

Data presented in table 4 indicated the extent the library collections have been affected by security challenges in the library. Books/monographs had a mean score of (3.50), Reference materials (3.45), Serials/periodicals (3.35), Government documents/special collections (3.33), Cartographic materials (3.35), Graphic materials (3.25) and Religious materials (3.45).

5.1 Discussion of Findings

Findings of the study revealed the kinds of security challenges that are prevalent in MOUAU library to include Mutilation of Library, Theft, Disasters, Insect attacks, Vandalism and Lackadaisical Attitude of staff. This is in agreement with Ogbonyomi, (2018) who listed that Mutilation, burglary, arson, stealing and theft are also common forms of security challenges in the library. The finding of the study also shows that High cost of book, Lack of photocopy machine, Insufficient copies of books, incessant power outage, Users expectations and behavior, Selfishness amongst students and porous security system as the causes of security challenges in MOUAU library. This is in line with Enidiok et al (2019) which revealed that poverty, poor security system, poor attitude towards public property and criminal nature of individuals were the various factors responsible for security challenges in the libraries. This finding also agrees with Ekong and Ogunjimi (2019) which stated that the reasons for theft of library materials include poverty, culprit having the tendency to develop his/her own library collections, the brutish nature of preventing other users from benefiting from such materials and that some users are criminally minded.

The findings further revealed that all the collections have been affected to great extent by the security challenges in the libraries. Such library collections range from books/monographs, reference materials, serials/periodicals, government documents/special collections, cartographic materials, graphic materials and religious materials. This corroborates with Onyedum and Sannni (2014) which indicated that print materials like books, serial and reference collections have been greatly affected by security challenges.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The activities of the university libraries are guided by rules and regulations to ensure that libraries discharge their duties in a manner that allows equal access to its resources and also guides the library staff to be professional in the discharge of their duties. However, libraries have recorded non-compliance of the library rules which has given them a gloomy picture on discharge of duties effectively and invariably leads to reduction in library resources and dissatisfaction of library users.

Based on the findings of the study, the following are recommended:

· Formulation and implementation of security policies and continuous security patrol by security officers
· Education/orientation of library users.
· Provision of photocopying services to enable the library user photocopy pages of books or journals to reduce theft and mutilation of Library materials
· Improved funding of the libraries,
· Employment of more competent staff in the library;

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