Chapter 25

ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY METHODS AGAINST THEFT AND VANDALISM OF LIBRARY MATERIALS IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN KWARA STATE

FAJONYOMI, O.J
ABDULSALAM, S. A
ADENIRAN, L.A
University Library, University of Ilorin, Ilorin

Introduction

University libraries face some security challenges with their collections (both print and non-print). Library collections constitute the bedrock for services provided to the community and serve as important assets to the library. For libraries to secure and protect their information collections, they will have to provide an effective security to perform their responsibilities effectively to fulfil the mantra for which the university was established (teaching, research and community development). Assessment of security methods implies the need for libraries to provide, maintain and secure their collection to ensure longevity, accessibility and effective provision of services to users. 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 security implementation (Zainab, 2011).

University libraries are the heart of the learning community, where they provide a place, resources and services for clientele who wish to undertake their research and advance their knowledge (Simmonds& Andaleeb', 2001). However, one major challenge that public university libraries have been faced with, is security problems, that is, how to secure their valuable resources collected over time. Akinfolarin (1992) opined that among other serious issues that have bothered librarians from the earliest times to the present is in what way can the library ensure the security of library materials, especially against theft, mutilation, destruction and vandalism. Bello (1998) asserted that not all thefts are committed by patrons. Some library staff takes materials from the library without checking them out, this according to Lorenzen (1996), is one of the hardest to prevent, since library employees know how to defeat the security system. It is important to secure library resources. It is equally important to ensure that the security is performed as seamlessly as possible, without interfering with the library's objective of providing a user-friendly environment (McComb, 2004).

Security measures put in place in libraries, help to control, minimize or avoid library material theft and unethical losses (Rajendran&Rathinasabapathy, 2007). Examples of electronic and non-electronic security systems installed in libraries are electronic surveillance cameras (CCTV), 3M electronic security systems (electronic security gates), radio frequency identification (RFID) system, perimeter alarm system and library portals. These security measures are used to prevent theft and how books are being vandalized and mutilated in libraries. There are many potential problems in

i. What security measures are in place in public university libraries in Kwara state?
ii. How are the library materials destroyed and illegally taken out of public university libraries?
iii. How effective are electronic security systems?
iv. What are the effects of security challenges on public university libraries?
v. What are the most suitable electronic security systems?

Review of Literature

According to Maidabino (2010), the issue of security is a growing concern to university libraries and librarians. As a consequence, there is a vast literature on a range of problems concerning security management in university libraries. Library security management has to do with taking necessary measures to ensure that the materials available for use in the library are kept in a good condition and prevented from being stolen. Security management in libraries can be conceptualized to mean the overall manner in which security policies, programs, procedures, or measures are deployed to mitigate risk and ensure access. Ajegbomogun (2004) stated that security management refers to a process designed to protect library collections against unauthorized removal or loss. This involves protecting resources against disasters as well as thieves or intruders. Libraries must be safe from security threats and vulnerability. University Library collections are broad and varied. University libraries support the educational community through access to the collections. Borrowing privileges are an important means of giving access to library collection for personal, educational, and socio-economic advancement. DaVeiga and Eloff (2007) and DaVeiga and Martins (2014) opined that Information security governance is how information security is deployed. Ameen and Haider (2007) opined that access to the collection is important as this service has supported scholarship in the humanities, sciences and social sciences and remains the key to intellectual freedom. University libraries aim to provide access to information resources in both print and non-print formats. Balancing access and security in libraries is a difficult but necessary task. Holt suggested several methods to deal with staff theft including the installation of high-security lock systems, tightening of collection transportation and movement procedures, marking collections to indicate ownership, good record-keeping, and undertaking periodic inventories. He also highlighted the need for libraries to cultivate professional culture and behaviour concerning safeguarding the library's collection and the need for library management to take the lead in developing an honest culture with reporting responsibility. Security is a way of life.

Security is to ensure the safety of records and archival materials against human and natural agents. Constant vigilance on the part of library staff may help to secure library materials. According Akor, Ekere and Akor, (2019) security refers to a device designed to guard library materials against crime, accident, disasters, fire, and attacks. Aina (2004) added that library materials must be safe; hence security devices need to be provided by the library to ensure that materials are not stolen and mutilated. Abifarin (1997), Allen (1997) and Bello (1998) reported a high rate of book theft, mutilation, and misplacing of books in Nigerian academic libraries. They suggested measures to reduce the problems, which include tightening security at

security that a public university library can face, such problems include theft, mutilation, vandalism, fire, water, dust, pest, etc. As public institutions, public university libraries have encountered many of the problems that exist in today's society. The criminal use of public university libraries' facilities (i.e. drug use, assault), the theft of public university library materials, and obnoxious patron behaviour have all been thoroughly documented in the library literature (Anderson, 1986), (Joyce, 1982), (Gothberg, 1987) and (Lincoln, 1984). Thus, it can be summarised that some of these same problems exist in public university libraries. Many public university libraries are under federal and state control and are required to provide access to the general public. As such, public university libraries are vulnerable to security risks from the public population. Members of the public community, both students and staff, can also pose security problems.

Statement of the problem

University of Ilorin Library and Kwara State University library, as some of the government-owned University libraries in Nigeria, are traditionally built to meet the needs of the students, faculty and the communities through the provision of qualitative and adequate information resources and services. Security management for the prevention of incessant thefts of information resources in university libraries in Nigeria is posing a great problem especially in the area of book theft and mutilation. Poor security measures, cannot cope with incessant pressure on the library by students and faculty who either steal, do not return borrowed books, or mutilate books/journals without regard for laid down library regulations. This leads to the loss of many valuable materials in the libraries leading to a great reduction in the collection of the library. Rebecca A. & Ugbagir N. (2012) opined that the library had to contend with some problems which are found to affect the entire quality of library services, facilities and information resources. These researchers investigated the assessment of security methods against theft and vandalism of library materials in public university libraries in Kwara State (University of Ilorin and Kwara State University).

Objectives of Study

The main objective of this study is to assess the security methods in public university libraries in Kwara State. The specific objectives are to:

i. identify the security measures put in place in the public university libraries in Kwara state;
ii. investigate how materials are destroyed and illegally taken out of the libraries;
iii. ascertain the effectiveness of electronic security systems installed in the university libraries;
iv. find out the effects of security challenges to public university libraries; and
v. identify the most suitable electronic security system for public university libraries.

Research questions

The following questions are designed to guide this study:

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

Vandalism is the act of destroying or removal an essential part of library materials to render them useless. These could be as a result of bending the corner of paper or inserting pencil or biro into pages. Also opening of books back to back, tearing of relevant pages etc. Aliyu (2004) defined theft as the total removals of library materials from the library without the normal procedures, either by the library users, library staff or both of them. Utah (2004) defines mutilation and theft of library materials as deliberate removal or attempted removal of library materials from the library without their being checked out. Also, successful unauthorized removal of library materials from the library, failure to return materials to the library is considered to be theft of library materials. Ifidon (2000) in his own opinion stated. Abifarin (1997) and Akor (2013) examined the problem of securing library materials in Nigeria university libraries in general and the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta Nigeria in particular. Information of the study was drawn from literature records available at the readers' services department of the University of Agriculture's Abeokuta (UNAAB) library and Benue State University library, Nigeria. Amongst important findings, it was found that among the various user groups, students, (96.6%) topped the list of culprits as far as book theft and mutilation were concerned. In a similar study, Aina (2004) investigated the factors responsible for the vandalization of books in Sokoto State of Nigeria. He surveyed five hundred (500) university students using social survey research; the method of collection used was a questionnaire. The finding revealed that only expensive books were stolen or mutilated. James (2005) found that "books were vandalized during examination period". Afolabi (1993) also added that "damages are caused by library users, insects and other animals and also by climatic conditions including hazards, she emphasized that recent studies have indicated that the greatest agent that deface books and cause wear and tear on library materials are human beings which are library users/ patrons". Isaac (2008), investigated the prevalent rate of book theft in academic society especially academic libraries, he evaluated the rate at which book theft and mutilation are plaguing academic libraries in Nigeria and proffer some measures for curbing the menace. In his research, a total of 120 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to professional librarians, library officers and library porters (security staff) in four (4) different academic institutions in Ibadan, Ogbomoso, Oyo state, in Nigeria.

library entrances and exits, the expulsion of students involved in theft and mutilation, provision of multiple copies of the heavily used text, reducing the cost of photocopying, and periodic searching of students' hostels and staff. Aguolu (2000) observed that the best protection that a collection of books and non-book materials can have is a concrete building. Also, Rajendra (2005) opined that the library security should be planned when the library building is constructed wherever possible, through architectural considerations which include the site design and building design. Nwamefor (1974) cited by Nwalo (2003) asserted that the following measures could help to reduce the rate of books theft in the library. Which include the following:

- Constant supervision
- Searching users at the library exit
- Unannounced searching of students hostels
- Posting security personnel of integrity to the library
- Condemnation of theft through mass media
- Vigilant against mutilation by library staff
- Better educated security men to detect stolen books through thorough physical examination of books.
- All library windows should be gauzed to make it very difficult for books to be thrown out.
- Appoint library officers to search users before leaving the library

According to Noah Charney (2009) identify two important issues that collection administrators should address in developing adequate security measures and a strategy for responding to theft and vandalism in public university libraries which are:

- Preventing Library theft
- Reacting to Library Theft

How materials are destroyed and illegally taken out of the libraries

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

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

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

Seventy-eight (78) copies were returned and found useful (a response rate of 65%). He reported that reference materials, periodicals such as journals, newspapers and magazines are mostly affected. The results from the analysis of responses showed that most of the academic libraries investigated agreed that book theft and mutilation are serious problems facing their collections.

Electronic security systems can help control these unethical practices in university libraries. Greenwood and Mckean (1985) reported that after installing an electronic security system at the University of Kentucky Library, book loss rates had been decreased. Some major electronic security systems that can be of immense usefulness to academic libraries include electronic surveillance cameras (Closed Circuit Television-CCTV), 3M library security system (electronic gates), Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system, perimeter alarm system, movement detectors, etc. McComb (2004) stated that video surveillance and closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems serve as a way to monitor and record security, deter crime, and ensure safety. The author suggests that libraries can use CCTV to identify visitors and employees, monitor work areas, deter theft, and ensure the security of the premises and other facilities. The system can also be used to monitor and record evidence on clientele and employee misconduct. In the same vein, Ramana (2010) contributed that "Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) uses in the libraries can enhance the ability to control book thefts and tearing off the pages from the books and magazines". Another device that can be used to detect theft in the library is the RFID. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology is a wireless technology mainly used for automatic identification using radiowaves to detect, track, identify, and thus manage various objects and people that e.g. merchandise (Ayre, 2010) and Kavulya, (2014). It works by transmitting data from a portable device called a tag, to an RFID reader to execute a particular application based on the tag provided identification or location information. Therefore, RFID has been referred to as a non-contact method of using radio frequency electromagnetic waves (with a frequency of up to 2.5GHz) for communication between two remote entities (Narayanan &Somasekharan, n.d). RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) is the latest technology to be used in libraries to ensure security and facilitate innovative services (Kern, 2004). It is an automatic radio-communications (ARC) technology that functions through wireless radio communication to identify people or items. Its basic components include a reader or interrogator, and radio frequency (RF) transponder that transfers data by radiating electromagnetic carriers (Nayaranan, Singh &Somasekharan, n.d). The RFID system can also be used to store data suitable by use of tags (transponders) on which information can be written and updated. This means information stored in RFID chips can be read and updated from remote distances. This data can be retrieved, transferred by use of machine-readable equipment for various application systems.

Public university libraries are the 'heart' of the learning community, providing facilities and a conducive environment required by staff and patrons to educate, learn, carry out research and advance the frontiers of knowledge Simmonds (2001). However, one major challenge is that public university libraries have been faced with security problems, that is, how to secure their collections. The serious issue that has bothered librarians from earliest times to the present is how to ensure the security of library materials, especially against theft and vandalism Akinfolarin (1992).

		(100%)		
3	Use of social media to condemn theft and mutilation in the library	69 (86.3%)	5 (6.3%)	6 (7.4%)
4	Vigilance by staff against mutilation	76 (95%)	4 (5%)	0
5	Educated security personnel to detect stolen information resources via physical examination	69 (86.3%)	11 (13.7%)	0
6	Library windows are well secured	80 (100%)	0	0
7	Installation of functional CCTV in the library	22 (27.5%)	58 (72.5%)	0
8	Installation of RFID	80 (100%)	0	0

From table 1 on the security measures in your university library, it revealed that 75% of the respondents had the view that there is constant supervision by staff. Also, 100% of the respondents agreed that searching of users at the library exists is done as a security measure. The respondents further revealed with a percentage of 86.3% that the libraries make use of social media to condemn theft and mutilation in the library. 95% agreed that vigilance by staff against mutilation was carried out in the libraries. Furthermore, the security personnel are educated to detect stolen information resources via physical examination with a response rate of 86.3%. The libraries have well-secured windows with a response rate of 100%. Also, 72.5% disagreed with the fact that there is no functional installed CCTV camera in the library and lastly, the libraries had installed RFID devices in the library.

Wallace (2008) observed that threats to collection security come in many forms, and range from intentional acts such as book theft, vandalism, or identity theft to dangers that originate from unintentional factors such as flood, fire and the natural deterioration of collections. Another aspect of library security management relates to the preservation of library collections against environmental, chemical and biological agents that can cause deterioration of library collections. Akussah (2006) in a study carried out in Ghana established that the level of deterioration of library collections is frightening with 51.1% of documents surveyed in urgent need of treatment while the rest are at various levels of deterioration.

Public university libraries are prone to various security threats, Salaam and Onifade (2010) observed that vandalism of library materials has been an age-long problem of libraries. Holt (2007) observed that libraries are faced with the problem of physical materials theft, data theft and money theft. Other problems include failure to return overdue information resources, theft of library equipment as well as theft and abuse of personal belongings of staff and users. The threat to intellectual property through theft, mutilation and other forms of abuse has posed tremendous challenges to the library profession worldwide Akussah and Bentil (2010). Ajegbomogun (2004) stated that theft and mutilation of books and nonbooks is a common phenomenon in Nigerian university libraries and if not checked will create a serious threat to library collections and their preservation.

Methodology

The research design adopted for this particular study is the descriptive survey research design. The study examined public university libraries by comparing them, based onthe security methods used in each public university library. The population of this study comprised of professionals, paraprofessionals and non-professionals in the public university libraries in Kwara state. The professionals, paraprofessionals and non-professionals in the whole of the public university main libraries are (80) that is the university of Ilorin library (60) and Kwara state university (22). The total population was used for the sample size. A questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection. The instrument was administered within a time frame of 2weeks with the aid of research assistants. Data were analyzed using simple percentages. Tables and figures were used to present relevant data. The overall treatment of the data, therefore, is intended to provide answers to each

Result Findings and discussions

Table 1: Questions on the security measures in your university's library

s/n	Item	Frequency/percentage		
		Agree	Disagree	undecided
1	Constant supervision by staff	60 (75%)	9 (11.3%)	11 (13.7%)
2	Searching users at the library exit	80	0	0

Table 3: Question on the effectiveness of electronic security installed in your library

s/n	Item	Frequency/percentage			Percentage
		Agree	Disagree	undecided	
1	Proper checking of bags, users and staff going and coming out of the library	78 (97.5%)	2 (2.5%)	0	
2	CCTV Camera	58 (72.5%)	22 (27.5%)	0	
3	Security alarm	72 (90%)	8 (10%)	0	
4	Detecting users with library materials going out of the library	80 (100%)	0	0	

Table 3 on the effectiveness of electronic security installed in your library agreed that proper checking of bags, users and staff going and coming out of the libraries was effective with a response rate of 97.5%. Also, if CCTV cameras are installed in the libraries, it will be effective with an agreed response rate of 72.5%. Effective security alarm will be effective with a response rate of 90%. And flannelly, detecting users with library materials going out of the library was effective with a response of 100%.

Table 2: Questions on how are materials destroyed and illegally taken out

s/n	Item	Frequency/percentage		
		Agree	Disagree	Undecided
1	Concealment of information resources in clothes	80 (100%)		
2	Mutilation of books by reaping out important pages	80 (100%)	0	0
3	Throwing books or mutilated materials through broken windows	69 (86.3%)	0	11 (13.7%)
4	Borrowing a book and using the date-due slip to smuggle out books many times over	39 (48.7%)	41 (51.3%)	0
5	Using a chemical to clean off library ownership stamps in books and removing the date-due slip	47 (58.6%)	33 (41.3%)	0
6	Removing the jacket cover and preliminary pages of books so that those books cannot be identified	74 (92.5%)	6 (7.5%)	

Table 2 which revealed responses of respondents on how are materials destroyed and illegally taken out, firstly revealed that 100% of the respondents opined that it was through concealment of information materials in clothes that materials were destroyed or illegally taken out. Furthermore, 100% of the respondents agreed that important pages of books were being reaped out. Also, 86.3% of the respondents revealed that mutilated materials were thrown out through broken windows. 51.3% of the respondents disagreed with the statement that borrowing a book and using the date-due slip to smuggle other books times over. The use of chemicals to clean off library ownership stamps in books had an agreed response rate of 58.8%. Finally, removing the jacket cover and preliminary pages of books so that they cannot be identified had a response rate of 92.5%.

Table 3: Question o
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s/n	Item
1	Proper checki users and staf coming out o
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Table 5: Questions on a suitable electronic security system for your library

s/n	Item	Frequency/percentage			Percentage
		Agree	Disagree	undecided	
1	Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)	75 (93.8%)	5 (6.2%)	0	
2	Close Circuit Television (CCTV)	79 (98.7%)	1 (1.3%)	0	
3	Electronic magnetic Anti-theft security gate	80 (100%)	0	0	
4	Book metallic strip device	72 (90%)	8 (10%)	0	

Table 5 raised the question on suitable electronic security systems for the library and respondents opined with a response rate of 93.7 that RFID will be a suitable security system to be installed in the library. Also, respondents opined with a 98.6% response agreement that CCTV will be suitable for the library to install. Furthermore, 100% responded and agreed that electronic magnetic anti-theft security gates should be installed in the libraries if not installed. And finally, a book metallic strip device should be inserted in collections of libraries to aid in securing the library resources.

Conclusion

The library is crucial in ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their differences, have access to information. Theft, mutilation, and damage to library resources undermine the library's mission of providing efficient and effective library resources and services to patrons. Information resources are indiscriminately destroyed and illegally removed from libraries for personal and selfish purposes and benefits by users. This research was able to uncover a variety of strategies for destroying and unlawfully removing information resources. The capacity to serve and satisfy the expectations of information users are damaged when accessible supplies are exhausted. Other users will be denied access to the library's information resources and librarians' capacity to deliver effective information services will be harmed as a result of this one act. Librarians have a responsibility to their customers and users to preserve the library's resources. The security strategy used in a public university library to prevent vandalism of library items will have an impact on patronage and the quality of services provided to information users. The research revealed many security concerns and recommended appropriate electronic security methods for libraries to safeguard the safety of people and information resources.

Table 4: Questions on the effects of security challenges to your library

s/n	Item	Frequency/percentage			Percentage
		Agree	Disagree	undecided	
1	Mutilation and stealing of library materials	68 (85%)	12 (15%)	0	
2	Illegally taking out materials from the library	54 (67.5%)	16 (20%)	10 (12.5%)	
3	Unwholesome practice	59 (73.8%)	17 (21.3%)	4 (5%)	
4	Personal belongings and money theft from the library	69 (86.3%)	11 (13.7%)	0	
5	Theft of library equipment	27 (33.8%)	50 (62.5%)	3 (3.7%)	
6	Abuse of personnel belonging of staff and users	35 (43.8%)	42 (52.5%)	3 (3.7%)	

Table 4 identifies questions on the effect of security challenges on your library which indicates that firstly, mutilation and stealing of library materials is a grave challenge to the library with a response rate of 65%. Furthermore, illegally taking out materials from the library is a challenge of security in the library with a response rate of 65.5% agreeing to this statement. Unwholesome practice as a result of security challenges is also an issue to the library with a response rate of 73.7%. As a result of the security challenges, personal belongings and money theft from the library is a challenge of the library with 86.3% of the respondents opining that it's a challenge of the library. 62.5% of the respondents opined that theft of library equipment was not observed in the library. Furthermore, the security challenges of the library do not affect the abuse of personal belongings of staff and users with a response of 52.5% disagreeing.

Table 5: Questions

s/n	Item
1	Radio Freq Identificati
2	Close Circ Television
3	Electronic Anti-theft
4	Book met device

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Conclusion

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Recommendations

The following suggestions were made based on the findings of this study:

1. Librarians in libraries should maintain unfiltered and unbiased supervision with zero tolerance to instill a sense of worth in information consumers.
2. More criticism of information resource theft and vandalism on social media should be promoted.
3. Libraries should repair broken windows that have contributed to the theft of information items.
4. To determine library properties, libraries should guarantee that essential embodiment is done on information materials.
5. Prioritize the installation of security cameras and security alarms in the library.
6. To reduce the loss of information materials, an electronic magnetic anti-theft security gate should be made available.
7. The use of book metallic strips should be inculcated by the libraries
8. The library should have enough librarians and security workers to prevent theft and vandalism.

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