Abstract

This study was carried out to investigate information resource security threat in university libraries in Katsina State. The objectives of the paper were to identify the types of information resources threat available and the measures taken to solve the issue of information resource security threat in university libraries in Katsina state. The paper employed a qualitative methodological approach using a narrative-based design. The population of the study comprises nine (9) participants selected from the libraries under study. A narrative-based analysis was adopted to analyze the data collected. The study established that theft of library collections, mutilations of the library collection, disruptive patrons’ behavior, natural disaster and artificial disaster, poorly secured premises, library staff attitude and ignorance of security issues were types of information resources threat in the university libraries in Katsina State. The study also established that windows and doors protection, a mark of ownership, checking in and checking out, recruitment of more library staff and security personnel, and use of telecommunication system e.g., electronic access control, CCTV, RFID were the measures taken to solve the issue of information resources threat in the university libraries in Katsina State. Based on the findings of the study, the paper therefore recommends that university libraries should have a written collection development policy that covers security measures that will help other new staff and the academic community to know what is on the ground for them to follow strictly. The study further concludes that, the libraries should provide a perimeter alarm system, electromagnetic control system, firewall installation, radio frequency identification system, and electronic access control in the university libraries, and security entrance of every university library should be managed by well-trained and qualified professionals to save resources from any act of mismanagement or security threat of information resources.

Keywords: Information resources, Information security threat, Academic libraries, Katsina State.

1. Introduction

Academic libraries must be safe from security threats and vulnerabilities. Library collections are broad and varied and they support the educational community in satisfying their information needs. Borrowing privilege is an important means of giving access to library collections for personal, educational, and socio-economic advancement. One of the reasons for encouraging the accessibility of library resources to users is to make effort towards minimizing or avoiding library theft.

Academic campuses are not always safe and secure places. Violence and crime can occur. Academic libraries are no exception and they are subject to a wide variety of security concerns. There are many potential problems of insecurity that an academic library faces: Theft of library materials is a problem dating from ancient times.

The researchers observed that developing countries Nigeria inclusive over the years are faced with numerous information resources security threats in university libraries. This could be attributed to theft, mutilation, hiding of books, overdue and occasionally equipment failure, disruptive acts, bad attitudes towards library collections, lack of information resources security policy, and lack of proper security protection measures in place among others. Many academic libraries fail to recognize the vulnerability and security of their collections to loss. Collections can be threatened not just by theft.
and vandalism, but also by disasters (e.g., fire or flood) and damage from careless handling or poor environmental conditions. The issue of information resource security is of growing concern to all types of libraries and librarians. All these factors are great obstacles to the smooth running of libraries, especially in the institutions of higher learning, universities in particular. This is supported by Poul, (2016); Akor, (2013); and Abioye and Adeowu, (2014). It is on this basis that the study becomes necessary to investigate information resource security threat in university libraries in Katsina State.

2. Literature Review

The library collection has changed with time as most of academic libraries are connected to the internet, because of instruction or tempering, electronic resources are difficult to protect. Also, the loss of materials when taken into consideration costs more on placing a new order, so to avoid inconvenience in searching for lost items, we must first know the security issues and then measures to improve the security of library resources management Akor (2011). There are many library security issues incurred in the library and of great concern. Information resources security breaches are a difficult obstacle for information access and use. The result of such acts is serious problems which cause user dissatisfaction. The major security issues in academic libraries are theft, mutilation damage disaster, vandalism, delinquent borrowers, and purposefully displacing arrangement of materials.

Maidabino (2010) identified library crimes to include, disaster, theft, mutilation, disruptive patrons' behavior and poorly secured premises. The researcher indicates that not all theft of library collections is perpetrated by patrons; some library staff takes material from the library without properly circulating it. According to the researchers, this kind of theft is one of the hardest thefts to prevent. Berlin (2015) highlighted theft of library collection by staff as a real problem that should be addressed and not ignored because of the risk of bad publicity.

Adetunji (2013) also identified library security issues to include mutilation theft, varying digresses of delinquency and reasoned the causative agent for security lapses, a limited number of essential materials and users' financial predicaments. Thomas (2015) posited that crimes in an academic library are a result of security personnel in efficiency demand out strips supply which is also a big avenue to library crimes.

Most academic libraries do not have photocopying facilities for users in case of need. In some cases, when available, inadequate power supply does not give room to make copies of urgently needed materials. This among others tempts the users to engage in such destructive acts. Academic libraries have been faced with varying degrees of criminal behavior in the use of their resources, especially printed materials, and to some extent manpower. The extent of this problem varies from one library to another library. Momodu (2016) observed that stealing library materials has been an age-long problem of academic libraries therefore, there is a need to examine the academic library security management to provide quality services for users making use of the collections.

Furthermore, Aina (2015) investigated the factors responsible for the vandalization of books in Sokoto State Nigeria. Some 500 hundred university students were surveyed using social survey research, a questionnaire was used for data collection. The findings of the study showed that only expansive and rare books were mutilated. Security issues in academic libraries can lead to negative perceptions towards the library environment and frustration among library patrons, the effect of which can result in devastating psychological and educational consequences in terms of the effectiveness of the library and the library information resource.

Ijiekhuamhen and Ojeme (2015) carried out works on library and information resources, security, and traditional and electronic security measures. As knowledge expands, the need to organize it and provide adequate security becomes more pressing. This study describes how the information-bearing materials of the library can be secured using traditional and electronic methods. Literature was reviewed on the concept of information resources security, features of good security measures of securing the library resources traditionally, securing the library using telecommunication, benefits of securing the library resources, problems associated with the use of electronic security systems in the library and ways of solving problems with the use of electronic security system in the country.

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Special Issue on Computing & Advances in Information Technology

272
However, collection insecurity implies the need to provide, maintain and secure the library collection to ensure longevity, accessibility and effective provision of services to users. In most instances, the security of stock is not viewed as a major issue until librarians conduct an audit of stock and realize that a significant number of collections cannot be accounted for. The rate at which library materials disappear in academic libraries cannot be over-emphasized.

Buraimo and Olusanya (2012) submitted that scandalous behavior such as theft and mutilation, hiding library materials, refusal to return overdue borrowed materials, drinking and eating in the library, among others have become a common occurrence in academic libraries. If this is not checked, it will lead to a serious drought of information materials in the library. Oyesiku (2012) stated that academic libraries in developing nations including Nigeria lack security measures which encourage users to perform such immoral acts of removing information resources in illegal ways. A side from this, library materials is not available in large quantity in most of our academic libraries.

Furthermore, most academic libraries do not have photocopying facilities for users in case of need. In some cases, when available, incessant change in power supply does not give room to make copies of urgently needed materials. This among others tempts the users to engage in such destructive acts. Academic libraries have been faced with varying degrees of criminal behavior in the use of their resources, especially printed materials, and to some extent manpower. The extent of this problem varies from one library to another library.

Abraham (2013), described library security management to be "simply too bad a state of affairs. Destructive, habits of some users who are often prevented from having access to library collections. Arising from these wholesome practices, the library staff also experience difficulties providing quality services while the library management run into a financial mess of replacing lost or damaged collections. Akussah (2010) stated that theft and mutilation of books and non-books is a common phenomenon in Nigerian university libraries, and if not checked will create a serious threat to the library's collections and their preservation.

Alokun (2010) identified disruptive behavior as the deliberate use of the library for inappropriate purposes, loud talking or laughing, which could disturb other patrons, smoking, chewing, eating or drinking in the library, and inappropriate dressing. Any behavior deemed inappropriate by the staff. When there is an incident of inappropriate or disrespectful behavior in the library as judged by any library staff member, the patron will be warned verbally to stop the behavior.

Aziagba and Edet, (2015) described the land terrain in West Africa as not dangerously unreliable but it has the problem of being directly flooded as a result of heavy downpour. This could have devastating flooding effects on the libraries in general and collections in particular. Flood and water damage as a form of natural disaster may have damaging effects on library information-bearing materials. Flooding is generally considered to be the most destructive and costly natural disaster libraries can experience. Flash floods result from torrential rain and may cause water damage in libraries, but most are accompanied by related problems like mud and debris, snake, and later damaged materials if prompt and effective measures are not taken to minimize loss.

2.1 Research Objectives
The objectives of this paper are;

1. To identify the types of information resources threats available in university libraries in Katsina state.
2. To identify the measures taken to solve the issue of information resources threat in university libraries in Katsina state.

3. Methodology

In an attempt to achieve the objective of this paper, the study adopted qualitative methodology using narrative based research design. The nature and number of participants dictate that narrative-based qualitative research is the most suitable design for the conduct of this research work in the course of the interview. The population of the study comprises of nine (9) participants; university librarians, heads of reader services departments, as well as automation librarians of
Federal University Dutsinma, Umaru Musa Yar’adua University and Al-Qalam University Katsina. The researcher employed total enumeration (census) in determining sample size where the entire population served as a sample hence the population of the study participant is manageable by the researcher. The study adopted a qualitative research approach using the interview as a data collection tool to generate detailed results for the study. Purposive sampling technique was adopted through face-to-face interview with three (3) university librarians, three (3) heads of reader services departments; as well as three (3) automation librarians. The face-to-face encounter between the interviewer and the interviewee greatly allowed the researchers to clarify ambiguous answers and seek to follow up where necessary. The narrative analysis technique was employed in analyzing the interview text of the participants. This technique is one of the most common forms of analysis in qualitative research.

4. Data Analysis and Presentation of Findings

4.1 Types of Information Resources Security Threat

The question sought to find out the types of information resource threat in the university libraries under study. Their responses are presented in Figure 1.

![Diagram](image)

Figure 1: Types of Information Resources Security Threat in the University Libraries

Figure 1 shows the participants’ responses on the types of information resources security threats in their libraries/sections. P1 mentioned that “theft of library collection, Mutilations of a library collection, natural disaster and artificial disaster, library staff attitude and ignorance of security issues are the types of security issues in the library”. P2 stated that “mutilation of library materials, natural and artificial disaster, disruptive patron behavior”. P3 revealed that “theft of library collection, disruptive users’ behavior, natural and artificial disaster”. P4 mentioned that “disruptive patrons’
behavior, library staff attitude and ignorance of security issues natural and artificial disaster theft and mutilation of library holdings”.

P5 revealed that “poorly secured premises, natural and artificial disaster, theft of library collection”. P6 stated that “disruptive user’s behavior, theft of library books, and poorly secured premises”. P7 mentioned that “natural and artificial disasters, poorly secured premises, mutilation of library resources, library staff attitude and ignorance of security issues were the types of security issues in the library”. P8 stated that “vandalization of library materials, poorly secured premises and theft of library books”. And P9 mentioned that “natural and artificial disaster, theft of library books, and mutilation of library materials”.

From the above presentation, it can be seen that participants P1, P3, P5, P6, P8 and P9 revealed that theft of library collection is a security threat in their libraries. Participants P1, P2, P7, P8, and P9 stated that vandalism or mutilation of library collection was a security threat. Participants P2, P3, P4, and P6 mentioned that disruptive patron behavior was a security threat. The participants that mentioned natural and artificial disasters were P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P7 and P9. Participants P5, P6, P7 and P8 mentioned that poorly secure premises were the security issues faced. Library staff attitude and ignorance of security threats were also issues as revealed by P1, P4 and P7.

4.2 Measures Taken to Solve the Issues of Information Resources Threat

The question sought to find out the measures taken to solve the issues of information resources threat in the university libraries under study. Their responses are presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2 shows the participants’ responses on the measures taken to solve the issues of information resources threat in their libraries/ sections. P1: mentioned that “windows and doors protection, a mark of ownership, checking in and checking out, and use of telecommunication system e.g., electronic access control, CCTV, RFID are the protection measures put in place by the library management”.

P2: revealed that “windows and doors protection, a mark of ownership, checking in and checking out, recruitment of more library staff and security personals, use of telecommunication system e.g. electronic access control, CCTV, RFID were the protection measures”. P3 stated that “windows and doors protection, a mark of ownership, recruitment of more
library staff and security personals, use of telecommunication system e.g. electronic access control, CCTV, RFID were the protection measures in the section”. P4: mentioned that “windows and doors protection, a mark of ownership, checking in and checking out, recruitment of more library staff and security personals, use of telecommunication system e.g., electronic access control, CCTV, RFID were the protection measures in the library”.

P5: revealed that “a mark of ownership, recruitment of more library staff and security personals, use of telecommunication system e.g., electronic access control, CCTV, RFID are the information resources security measures in the library were the protection measures”. P6: stated that “windows and doors protection, checking in and checking out, use of telecommunication system e.g., electronic access control, CCTV, RFID were the protection measures in the section”. P7: mentioned that “windows and doors protection, mark of ownership, checking in and checking out, recruitment of more library staff and security personals, use of telecommunication system e.g., electronic access control, CCTV, and RFID were the protection measures in placed by the library management”. P8: revealed that “windows and doors protection, a mark of ownership, checking in and checking out were the security protection measures”. P9: stated that “windows and doors protection, inventory control, recruitment of more library staff and security personals, and use of telecommunication system e.g., electronic access control, CCTV, RFID are the protection measures for securing the library collection”.

This is an indication that windows and doors protection, a mark of ownership, checking in and checking out, recruitment of more library staff and security personnel, and use of telecommunication system e.g., electronic access control, CCTV, RFID were the measures taken to solve the issue of information resources threat in the university libraries in Katsina State.

5. Discussion of Findings

The study established that theft of library collections, mutilations of the library collection, disruptive patrons’ behavior, natural disaster and artificial disaster, poorly secured premises, library staff attitude and ignorance of security issues were types of information resources threat in the university libraries in Katsina State. The finding of this study corroborates the saying of Maidabino (2010) that there are many library security issues incurred in libraries and of great concern. Information resources security breaches are a difficult obstacle for information access and use. The researcher identified library crimes to include, disaster, theft, mutilation, disruptive patrons' behavior and poorly secured premises. The researcher further indicates that not all theft of library collections is perpetrated by patrons; some library staff takes material from the library without properly circulating it.

The study established the measures taken to solve the issue of information resources threat in the university libraries in Katsina State. The study found out that windows and doors protection, a mark of ownership, checking in and checking out, recruitment of more library staff and security personnel, and use of telecommunication system e.g., electronic access control, CCTV, RFID were the measures taken to solve the issue of information resources threat in the university libraries in Katsina State.

This study corroborates with Crowe and Timothy (2013) who asserted that site lighting at vehicular and pedestrian entrances and circulation areas should be continuous and sufficient to support a secure atmosphere as well as support appropriate surveillance. Appropriate and clear signage should be provided, including off-site signage that should include directions, country and parking signs for employees, visitors, service, vehicles and pedestrians. A sign should generally not be provided to identify sensitive areas. Landscaping elements should enhance security by deterring unwanted entry while not allowing criminals to conceal those shelves from security personnel and CCTV systems. Vehicle control is important a specified distance from the library buildings to unscreened vehicles and parking should be appropriately set. Various types of buffers and barriers should be evaluated to enhance the landscape design while still providing the appropriate protection. These buffering features could include walls, fence trenches, trees, static barriers, sculptures, and street furniture. Vehicular entrances should be designed to prevent high-speed approaches.

The findings of this study agree with the submission of Lynn (2014); and Patkus (2013) that magnetic theft detection devices are placed at this location to sound an alarm if unchecked library materials when taken through this
point of control. Occasionally, however, it may be desirable for external planning reasons to allow patrons to approach and enter the library from opposite directions resulting in two points of entry to the building. It is important in these situations to continue to maintain a single point of the library.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Securing the available information resources in the library especially those attached to the institutions of higher learning, universities in particular, helps greatly to achieve the provision of effective services in response to the teaching, learning, and research needs of academic communities. This study was aimed at investigating information resource threat in academic libraries in Katsina State. The study established that theft of library collections, mutilations of the library collection, disruptive patrons’ behavior, natural disaster and artificial disaster, poorly secured premises, library staff attitude and ignorance of security issues were types of information resources threat in the university libraries in Katsina State. The study also established that windows and doors protection, a mark of ownership, checking in and checking out, recruitment of more library staff and security personnel, and use of telecommunication system e.g., electronic access control, CCTV, RFID were the measures taken to solve the issue of information resources threat in the university libraries in Katsina State.

The paper recommends that, University libraries in Katsina State should have a written collection development policy that covers security measures that will help other new staff and the academic community to know what is on the ground for them to follow strictly. There should be the adoption of a perimeter alarm system, electro-magnetic control system, firewall installation, radio frequency identification system, and electronic access control in the university libraries in Katsina State. Security entrance of every university library should be managed by well-trained and qualified professionals to save resources from any act of mismanagement of information resources.

References