Issues of Security Challenge on Library Resources in Federal University of Lafia Library, Nasarawa State

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Abstract: **This study investigate the issues of Security Challenges on Library Resources in the Federal University of Lafia Library in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study tried to identify security challenges in Federal University of Lafia causes of security challenges effects of security challenges on the resources, the collection types that are more prompt to security problems, challenges encountered by library staff in combating the breaches, strategies put in place to tackle and end library security challenge in Federal University of Lafia library. Six (6) objectives backed up with six (6) with research questions to support the study. The work uses survey design method. The studied population is made up of thirty (30) librarians including hundred (100) undergraduate students in Federal University of Lafia, summing up the entire population of the work to one hundred and thirty (130). Data was collected using self designed questionnaire with the caption issues of security challenges on library resources in Federal University of Lafia, library. The techniques adopted for the study was random sampling. Statistical frequencies such as, tables, means, frequencies, and percentages (%) were used to analysed data. It was discovered and reported that, the university is entangle with several issues of security problem in the library like; deliberately mis-shelving of books, non-returning of over-due books, mutilation of library resources, theft etc.**

Recommendations were made that, the security of the university library premises and the general reading room should be beep up by mounting proper surveillance and supervision. Photocopier machines should be made available, good working electronic security gadgets should be installed both inside and outside the library premises and the library should be fenced round.

Keywords: **Library Resources, Security Challenge and University Libraries.**

I. INTRODUCTION

Library is a collection information resources that are similar to each other and made accessible to a defined group of users for consulting information borrowing. It is made available for both physical and digital access to information resources and can be a physical room or house. The library houses books and store other forms of knowledgeable and informative resources to meet different information needs of its patrons. Library collection are widely spread and cut across academic discipline. As such, this exposes the library to all kinds of attacks by its day to day patrons in the university libraries. It's in this regard that it's important to ensure safety and security of the library collections from its vulnerability patrons. Therefore, ensuring good security and safety of the collection is as important as providing effective services in regards to the desired information of the users or clienteles.

The library preserve materials or information resources for all languages, occupations, religions, social, economic and cultural aspect of the community it serves (IFLA/UNESCO, 2011). Libraries act as providers of regular and current information managed by staff with different attitudes and perceptions. The future and sustainability of any library depends more on its librarians than any other factor or component (Blackwell 2000). This is because library staff has full responsibility of protecting the library resources from mutilation and been stolen by its patrons.

University libraries are referred to libraries found in the university (Ogbonna & Okenyi 2014). The university libraries fall under the categories of libraries referred to as academic libraries. These are libraries established, owned, and funded by the parent institution which is the university (Ode & Omokaro, 2017). The university library programs ranges from postgraduate, undergraduate, sub degree to certificate courses whose objectives are gear towards the quality of services it rendered to its patrons. However, this depends on the quality of staff responsible for its effective and efficient service delivery in an academic environment. Library collections in the university are wide and differ from one discipline or the other, as to support the educational objective. The services of a university library can achieved mainly by the provision of many library resources. Anuobi and Okoye (2008) opine that "university libraries are confronted with series of problems in handling information library materials, also faced with the challenged or acquiring good and required skills for good security of the library's stalk or information materials in both print and non-print form. Chaney and MacDougail (2004) view that, university library resources are prompt attack by different individual users and the library management need to be at alert in the head front of the university library. Making sure that the library information materials are effectively utilize, life spam and accessibility of library information resources determine the effectiveness and programme of collection security important.

Security challenges of library collection are as old as the library itself. Antiwi (2009) stated that, security challenges

like stealing of library resources originated when the Persians went to Egypt and somehow draw papyrus from the Library of Ramses II without stopping for any proper checking at the customer's service desk. It was where this unaccepted culture that has continuously fighting the libraries originated.

Security challenge refers to the threat possess to the library resources by its day to day patrons. Collection security is a measure put in place to protect library information resources by un-authorized removing and loss of this resources by library patrons. It is the means of protecting library information resources against intrudes, thieves and disaster (Ajegbomogun, 2004).Library collection security can be reduce and managed by conceptualized means, which is the overall means that the policies of collection security, procedures and programs or the means which deployed to reduce the danger and aid open access. The crime rate of library information resources are in high gear that are frightening in the university libraries. Most challenges faced by library information materials are; defacement, theft vandalization, mutilation, hiding of books, physical and verbal abuse, harassment is also a criminal aspect which pose some of the problems regularly faced by the library information resources and the librarians. It is imperative that university libraries are to strengthen to tackle these problems in a suitable and professional manner that will not displease the library clientele. The process defacement, books hiding, stealing and mutilation of library information materials is coming forth within library users. These ugly actions has generated a lot of harm to the library resource and those also affected.

Statement of the Problem

Library information resources are usually faced with the challenges of theft, mutilation and vandalization by many of its patrons in the university libraries. The effect of these problems differs among university libraries but also seems to be a global problem to all libraries. These named security challenges can negatively affect the way and manner services are render in the university library. Such effects as decreased in the number of a university library collections, deterioration of the materials as a result of manhandling and wrong placement of information materials thereby denying readers access to them among many others.

The importance of library information resources cannot be overemphasized. This emanated because of the benefits to the university libraries as there can be no library without resources. Information resources create awareness in the users, develop them intellectually, and wipes away uncertainties, impact knowledge through research and help researchers in their research work. These resources are in both print and non prints which are all subject to security challenges.

In spite of the importance of library resource in university libraries, it was observed that, librarians in FU Lafia library Nasarawa State seemed not to be aware of security challenges

in their university library. It could be that, these library staff are not aware of what collection security challenges can cause in the university library. If these challenges are not identified and tackled urgently, library resources will suffer heavy casualties.

Although, many researchers have carried out studies on related topic but none of such has been done in Federal University of Lafia Nasarawa State which has created a gap in literature. Hence the need for this work which is designed to findout the effect of security challenges on library resources in Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State.

Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this work is to investigate the issues of security challenges on library resources in Federal university Lafia. Specifically, the study seeks to;

1. identify security challenges encountered in Federal University of Lafia
2. as certain the causes of security challenges in Federal University of Lafia library.
3. determine the effect of security challenges on information resources in Federal University of Lafia Library.
4. As certain the types of library resources which will be more vulnerable to security breaches in Federal University of Lafia library.
5. Identify challenges encountered by library staff in combating security challenges in Federal University of Lafia library.
6. determine strategies to overcome security breaches in Federal University of Lafia library.

Research Questions

1. The kindof security challenges encountered in Federal University of Lafia library.
2. What are the causes of security challenges in Federal University of Lafia library
3. What are the issues of security challenges on library information materials in Federal University of Lafia library.
4. What are the types of library resources that will be more vulnerable to security challenges in the university library under study.
5. What are the challenges encountered by library staff in combating security breaches in Federal University of Lafia library.
6. Strategies adopted to enhance the security of information resources in Federal University of Lafia.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Library security challenges are regarded as crimes committed by users of the libraries against library resources. These crimes could be theft, mutilation, defacement of the collection, arson and mis-shelving. According to Jato (2005) scandalous and mischievous altitude of users as mutilation

and theft, hiding library resources, refusal to return over- due borrowed materials, eating and drinking in the library, defacement and vandalism of library collections, arson, not putting up library policies etc and other human factors and has become a common issues in university libraries and if this problem is not corrected and managed, it would lead to serious drought of information resources in the library.

Many university libraries in under developing nations like Nigeria lack those vital security measures that will help reduce and fight this problems, and this gives the library users the moral to engulf on such acts (Jato, 2005).According to Momodu (2002), university libraries is facing different forms of criminal activities by using the library resources mostly those at their reach. The degree of this challenge differ from individual libraries. In most instance the degree of such problem is so reduce that it looks like it does not existent, while in some others the degree is so common that it calls for urgent concern.

The results of a study conducted by Momodu (2002) on the mode of reading in few in urban libraries in Nigeria, revealed that, almost all libraries has delinquent client problem and that there is no measure between the affected library and the level of the problem. This challenge seems to be a global challenge. Some studies Ajegbomogun, (2004) opine that, most users of libraries in the universities possess those criminal tendencies in the library which can rise security threat to the library.

These problem of collection security breaches is a major concern to the university libraries and library staff. This has created a vast literature on the challenges on the university libraries security challenges. Ugah (2007) sees library security problem to be a formidable challenge to information accessibility and usage. This seems to create serious challenge which may result to users dissatisfaction in the process of using the library. He stated some of the security issues in libraries to be: damages; theft and mutilation; vandalism and disaster; borrowing over resources or delinquent borrowers; and intentionally re-arrangement of library resources. Literature on collection security in the university libraries shows that the security problems is resulted whenever there is crime challenge and security breach in university libraries mostly as the library premises are not protected. Oder (2004) opine that, some critical security measures as patrolling, and surveillance, supervision and surveillance are lacking in libraries and that library keys should be kept very secured, without the reach of users. Momodu (2002) and Ajegbomogun (2004) suggested that criminalities in the library are of different levels of delinquency, while Oder(2004) agreed that inefficiency of security personnel to crime in the library, mostly in the university libraries. Most time users never returned library material borrowed to them and this possess a threat to effective use of library resources which can be avoided by formulating good library policies that will ensure effective use of library resources.

Nigeria libraries are working greatly with the traditional ways of rendering services. A study has just shown that criminality in the library has increase and has affected library resources, also known as information resources, is on high increase in many university libraries in Nigeria. It was noted that, there is no significant relationship observed among security measures utilize and the crime rate. Literature explain that, the rate of budgets reduction and a high running cost of the university make it impossible for university libraries to meet up the information needs of their clientele. For as such, criminality of information resources are formidable obstacle to information access and use, which are not only posing a big challenge that required urgent attention (Ugah, 2007). Ifidon (2000) in his own view opine that theft and mutilation in university libraries is a menace that has lasted for over years, and it is a global challenge, which is affecting the state of the university libraries in Nigeria, seems to have increase drastically. Theft is the process of stealing from the library's resources that has resulted to a challenge in library resources.

More importantly, from the literature reviewed, it was obvious that the issue of library resources and effect of security challenge in the university libraries have been adequately addressed in Nigeria. The review has also shown that all the studies available are on academic libraries of other states in Nigeria and beyond. None of these studies has written in specific terms, library resources and effect of security challenge in Federal University of Lafia library in Nasarawa State. This is the gap the study intends to fill.

III. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted using survey design method. According to Osuala (2005) a survey research uses both large and small populations by studying and selecting samples from the entire population for the selection of the relative relative incidence, distribution and interrelations of sociological and psychological variables. Federal University of Lafia library constitute the research environment of the study. The entire population of study is made up of thirty (30) librarians and hundred (100) undergraduate students in Federal University Lafia randomly sampled, making a sum of one hundred and thirty (130) population used for the study.

Accordingly, questionnaire was used to collect data for the purpose and observation method was also used. University staff and students served as respondents. The questionnaire was shared to generally to students during the opening time of the library while that of the librarians was shared during their working hours in office. Observation was method implied to gather data for the study. Observation method was used to physically check for library information resources as adopted in this study. The responses obtained from the respondents in the university form the data for analysis. The data was treated statistically in accordance with the question generated from the study, and showing mean, percentages and tables used in the analysis.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To determine the issues of security of the study, the respondents were asked to mention areas which can reveal the type or nature of crime observed in the university library. To precisely present the main findings to the study the percentages of option such as Agreed and Disagreed were used in presenting the results for the study.

Table 1: Types of collection Security Breaches

S/N	Breaches of security	Agreed	Percentage	Disagreed	Percentage	Decision
1	Book theft	100	(76.9 %)	30	(23.1%)	Agreed
2	Book mutilation	120	(92.3%)	10	(7.7%)	Agreed
3	Keeping over- due books	90	(69.2%)	40	(30.8%)	Agreed
4	Using fake I.D card to borrow books	60	(46.1%)	70	(53.9%)	Disagreed
5	Mis-shelved books	126	(97.1%)	6	(3.9%)	Agreed
6	Noise making in the library	2	(1.5%)	128	(98.5%	Disagreed
7	Eating in the library	18	(13.8%)	112	(86.2%)	Disagreed

Table 1 shows that among the group items within the types of library security collection breaches in the library are mis-shelving of books with a percentage of 96.1, Book mutilation with 92.3% followed by book theft which scored 76.9%,while keeping over –due books indicated 69.2% by respondents.

Eating in the library, using fake ID cards to borrow books and noise making in the library were rejected by respondents as not security challenges of the collection with a percentage less than fifty.

Table 2: + The cause of Library Crime

S/N	The Causes	Agreed	Percentage	Disagree	Percentage	Decision
1	Insufficient library resources for users	120	(92.3 %)	10	(7.7%)	Agreed
2	Selfish interest of the culprits	125	(96.2%)	5	(3.8%)	Agreed
3	No proper and plan orientation to users on the use of library information resources	75	(57.7%)	55	(42.3%)	Agreed
4	Lack of photocopying services	102	(78.5%)	28	(21.5%)	Agreed
5	Financial constraint of libraries	90	(69.2%)	40	(30.8%)	Agreed
6	Absence of security patrol in the library.	82	(63.1%)	48	(36.9%)	Agreed

In this table 2 above, the items mention under causes of library crime shows that the highest respondents (96.2%) suggest that, it is selfish interest of the culprits that causes security breaches in the library, follow by (93.3%) who mention that less library information resources for clienteles push users to commit crime such as mutilation and stealing of library resources in the library. The non-availability machine (78.5%) while 69.2% shows the financial challenge faced by users to involved in library crime, 63% indicated lack of security patrol in the library and 57.7% were said to have committed library crime for reasons of lack of regular and proper orientation given to users on library resource usage. Summary of response in table 2 above indicate that many of the respondents shows that selfish interest of the users, lack of enough library resources in the library, lack of financial challenge and photocopying machine mostly make users to get involve in crime of several category in the library.

Table 3: Effect of Security Challenges on Information Resources.

S/N	Effects of Security challenge	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	Mean
1	Users are unable to use Information resources because of their defacement.	38	45	25	22	2.76
2	Inability of users to effectively make use of the information resources have as a result of mutilation..	35	55	23	17	2.83
3	Damage of information resources as a result of manhandling by users.	40	57	13	20	2.90
4	Mis-shelving of resources can deny readers access to the materials.	35	40	30	25	2.65
5	Inabilities to return overdue books deny users temporary access to the resources.	35	45	20	30	2.65
6	Decrease of library collection as a result of theft	45	50	20	15	2.96

7	Lack of confidence in the information resource by users	25	58	17	20	2.52

Respondents response on the effects of security challenges on information resources in Federal University of Lafia indicated a mean score of 2.96 indicating that stolen library resources decreases a collection with very high effect. Also manhandling causes damage of library resources scored 2.90, Negative effect on the use of resources as a result of mutilation indicated 2.83, inability of users to make good use of the resources as a result defacement 2.76, while mis shelving and inability to return overdue books resulting to denying access to the resources scored 2.65 each.2.52 of respondents agreed that security breaches of information resources brings about lack of confidence on the information resources by the users. All the items scored 2.5 and above indicating that they have negative effect on the information resources.

Table 4: Collection Types that are Vulnerable to Security Breaches

S/N	Collection types	Agreed	Disagreed	Disagree	Percentage	Decision
1	Textbooks	120	(92.3%)	10	(7.7%)	Agreed
2	Serials/periodical collections	95	(73.1%)	35	(26.9%)	Agreed
3	Reference collections	95	(73.1%)	35	(26.9%)	Agreed
4	Reserve collections	60	(46.2%)	70	(53.4%)	Disagreed
5	Non-print collection	5	(38.5%)	125	(96.2)	Disagreed

Table 4 shows the major respondents of (92.3%) indicating that text books are the most vulnerable to security breaches in the library while 73.1% says that serial collections are the most vulnerable to security breaches. Seventy three point one percent (73.1%) of the respondents stated that reference resources and serial resources respectively are also vulnerable to security breaches, (42.3%) while (53.4%) and (96.2%) each disagreed that reserve and non-print collections are vulnerable to security challenges.

Table 5: Challenge encountered by Library Staff in Combating Security breaches in the FUL Library

S/N	Challenges encountered	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	Mean
1	In adequate staff to man the reader's services Department.	15	30	50	35	2.19
2	Unavailability of photocopying services.	40	50	25	15	2.88
3	Lack of security personnel to patrol the library.	35	55	18	22	2.79
4	Lack of modern electronic security gadgets such as CCTV.	20	64	18	28	2.58
5	Lack of awareness of security challenges by library staff.	15	20	40	55	1.96
6	Lack of library policy on security check.	30	28	40	32	2.43
7	Lack of a functional Bindery unit to repair mutilated information resources.	45	56	22	7	3.07
8	Non training of library staff on security awareness.	30	39	30	31	2.52

Table 5 above shows that lack of a functional bindery unit for the repairs of mutilated books had the highest mean rating of 3.07 indicating the challenge encountered by staff, followed by lack of Photostatting services for the library scoring 2.88, lack of security personnel to patrol the library had a mean rating of 2.79 while lack of modern electronic security gadgets such as CCTV and non training of library staff on security awareness scored 2.58 and 2.52 respectively.

Table 6: Strategies adopted to enhance security measures.

S/N	Strategies.	SA	A	DA	SDA	MEAN
1	There should be a library written security policy to guide staff.	45	55	20	10	3.04
2	Installation of a functional bindery unit in the Library for the repair of damage resources	37	46	20	27	2.72
3	Security guards should be deployed to patrol the library reading room.	40	37	30	23	2.72
4	Introduction of photocopying services in the library.	45	34	30	21	2.79
5	Staff should be trained on the security and protection of library resources.	32	39	25	34	2.53
6	Electronic security system such as CCTV should be introduced in the library..	50	43	20	17	2.97

From table 6 above, it was indicated by respondents that there should be a written security policy to guide staff which had the highest mean score of 3.04, followed by introduction of electronic security system such as CCTV with 2.97 rating. Introduction of photocopying services recorded a mean of 2.79 while deployment of security guards to the library and introducing manual approaches such monitoring library users scored 2.72 each. Establishment of a bindery unit and training of staff on the protection of information materials were rated 2.65 and 2.53 respectively.

Summary of findings

Findings of the study revealed library security challenges as mutilation, theft, mishandling, mis-shelving and refusal of users from returning borrowed resources that are overdue.

It was also revealed from the study that selfish interest of culprits, insufficient library resources, lack of photocopying services, financial constraints and absence of security patrol in the library are major causes of security challenges. It should be that, poor financial challenge in institutions of higher learning inform the respondents to feel that less availability of library resources and lack of photocopying machines are the main issues that result to crime in the FUL library.

Decrease in library collection as a result of theft, damage of information resources as a result of manhandling and inability of users to effectively make use of the resources because of mutilation were discovered to be the negative effect of security challenges on library information resources in the university.

The findings also indicate that, the most vulnerable to security breaches are text books. Also serials and reference materials are vulnerable to security challenges. The non-print materials has the lowers percentage showing that they are not vulnerable to security breaches. It may be as a result of lack of technical knowledge how on the side of the users and also the library has only little online resources that are closely monitor by the librarian and therefore, taking them away from the library will be difficult.

Lack of a functional Bindery unit, unavailability of library photocopying services, lack of manual security to patrol the library and non installation of CCTV were discovered to be factors militating against efforts of library staff in combating security challenges in the library.

Strategies that were discovered to enhanced security of library information resources were, installation of a close circuit television (CCTV) services, introduction of photocopying services, adoption of library security written policy, establishment of a bindery unit, security patrol in the library and training of library staff on security of library resources.

V. CONCLUSION

The study examined the effect of security challenges on library resources in Federal University of Lafia. From the findings, it was observed that print resources are more vulnerable to security challenges and that security breaches of the resources have negative effect on the resources. Ever the time the degree of security and crime challenges in Federal University Lafia library was discovered to be alarming, it is therefore necessary for all library staff to be pro-active to fight this menace by regular patrol of the library and other security measures. This measure will assist to increased and safe information resources in the library for a sustainable period. Therefore, the information resources of the library will not be mutilated, mis-shelved or completely stolen from the library any more. The total removal of this vices will encourage users to effective use of the library resources for educational achievement their and research work.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

These recommendations were made available for this study:

1. Provision of written security policy should be made available in Federal University of Lafia library for library staff and users' benefits and consumption. This will help in creating awareness on the part of staff and consequences for would be culprits.

2. There should be proper shelving and shelve-reading of library resources in Federal University Lafia library to avoid misplacement of information for better accessibility of the resources.
3. There should be reprographic services made available at affordable prices in Federal of University Lafia library. This would discourage deviants from removing pages of books and other information resources.
4. Patrons should be place on thorough searched before and after using the library premises of Federal of University Lafia library.
5. Regular staff training and orientation of users on how to monitor the users perpetuating the act within and outside university library and the consquencies that will follow..
6. Electronic security system like the CCTV cameras should be introduced in Federal University Lafia library.
7. Federal University of Lafia library should introduce automation as a measure in its service, install effective electronic libraries that would not only provide current and varieties of information resources in the libraries but would also check-mate library theft
8. The university building should be fenced to provide more security for both human and material resources.

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