



Security Measures and its Challenges in Tackling Theft and Mutilation of Library Materials: A Case Study of College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library in Plateau State, Nigeria.

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Abstract

This study examines the Security measures and its challenges in tackling theft and mutilation of library materials: A case study of College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library in Plateau State, Nigeria. Two (2) research objectives were formulate to guide the study, which are: to identify the Security Measures that can help to prevent Theft and Mutilation, and to identify the challenges associated with efforts in curbing Theft and Mutilation. The population of the study was 20, which includes 7 library staff, 5 security staff and 8 temporary staff. The researcher used the entire population as sample for the study. The instrument used for the collection of data for the study was Questionnaire. Data collected were analysed using frequency counts and percentages. The findings indicated that the security and management measures that can help to prevent theft and mutilation in College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library, includes: proper checking of bags in the Library, mounting of CCTV camera, unannounced searching of students hostels, among others. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that since some of the causes of Theft and Mutilation of Library Materials are as a result of poor facilities and poor vigilance by library staff, the management should improve Library facilities especially security equipments, and Library staff should be properly trained so as to prevent theft and mutilation. Photocopying

services for scarce Library materials should also be made available for Library users.

Keywords: *Theft, Security Measures, Mutilation, Library materials, College of Health Technology, Pankshin*

Introduction

Academic library, which is the heart of any learning institution, is the library attached to post-secondary institutions such as the universities, colleges of education, polytechnics, etc. Library therefore, is the academic heart of university systems and its basic purpose is to provide the university staff, students and researchers with materials assistance and an enabling environment that would facilitate teaching, learning, research and advance the frontiers of knowledge. The institutions advance the knowledge of the citizenry through their libraries with the help of the collections that are the bedrock for the services provided to the users. This explains why Idris, Hassan & Abdul-Qadir (2013) referred to the academic libraries as multipurpose institutions set up by the academic institute where it is situated to cater for the educational and in some cases, cultural, recreational and informational needs of the students and staff of the institution. Udensi & Sadiku (2005) define academic

libraries as library attached to institution of higher learning or tertiary institution such as universities, colleges of education, polytechnics and colleges of technologies. Ultimately the objectives of libraries are to acquire academic materials, preserve them from deterioration (and lost) and to make these collections readily available to library patrons (Ekwelem, Okafor & Ukwoma, 2011). Security is a way of life. Security is to ensure the safety of records and archival materials against human and natural agent. Constant vigilance on the part of library staff may help to secure library materials. According to Encyclopedia (1981), quoted by Adamu (2006), "security refers to 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 library to ensure that materials are not stolen or mutilated".

Abifarin (1997), Allen (1997) and Bello (1998) reported 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 library entrances and exits, expulsion of students involved in theft and mutilation, provision of multiple copies of heavily used text, reducing the cost of photocopying, and periodic searching of students' hostels and staff. Aguolu & Aguolu (2002) "observed that the best protection that a collection of books and non-book materials can have is a concrete building". Also Rajendran & Rathinasabapathy (2007) 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 followings:

1. Constant supervision
2. Searching users at the library exit
3. Unannounced searching of students hostels
4. Posting security personnel of integrity to the library
5. Condemnation of theft through mass media
6. Vigilant against mutilation by library staff
7. Better educated security men to detect stolen books through thorough physical examination of books.
8. All library windows should be gauzed to make it very difficult for books to be thrown out.

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 suggest 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 the book thefts and tearing off the pages from the books and magazines. Since library has been employing different kind of security systems to save library resources from theft and

mutilation; there is also a need to secure or preserve these information materials in order to prolong their life span and meet the need of the clientele.

Afolabi (1993) argument originates from lack of modern security system in our libraries. Hence, one can conclude that manually controlled security in academic libraries allows perfunctory searching of library users at the library exit and insecurity of the entire library building. According to Timothy (1997), implementation of practical security at a little or no cost is important because it concerns library staff at all levels. It mostly involves intensifying surveillance in and around the library building for possible detection and prevention of library malpractices. Material security in libraries vested on the hand of library workers whose work qualities that include patience and imagination lead to successful security programmes.

Dwindling funding to institutions and consequently to libraries has also been cited as obstacles to implementation of security policies (Kelley, 2012 and Ajegbomogun, 2004). The implementation of some policies such as electronic monitoring and surveillance systems are expensive. Some libraries therefore have no choice but to shelve such ambitions for cheaper options which have often proven to be ineffective at detecting and preventing breaches (Thanuskodi, 2009). Some also identified system failure or downtime, lack of technical support and the lack of awareness of the cost implication or effect of collection security breaches by users of the library (Maidabino, 2010).

Plateau State College of Health Technology, Pankshin was known as School of Health Technology, Pankshin and the first to be established in the country in the Year 1976, by the then Plateau State Military Administration under the leadership of Late Joseph D. Gomwalk. That was in compliance with the directive by the former Head of State, Gen. Yakubu Gowon that each State of the Federation should establish a School of Health Technology to meet up with 3rd National Development Action Plan for the then Basic Health Services Scheme, now popularly called “Primary Health Care”.

The establishment of the institution emanated from the desire to render certain vital primary health care services with a view to facilitating greater development and progress. With the increasing challenges in the delivery of primary health care therefore, the school was upgraded to a college in 2003 and backed by law in the year 2005. The number of the courses being run by the college has also increased from the initial three to more than ten at the moment. There is still

room to introduce more courses in order to meet the increasing demand for Primary Health Care Services.

Plateau State College of Health Technology is located in Pankshin Local Government Area of Plateau State. It is cited in the heart of Pankshin Town and at its temporary site which was the Pankshin General Hospital before it was moved to its present location along Pankshin Jos Road. Its programme is being regulated by the various Supervisory/Regulatory Boards which are also responsible for certification in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the manuals of the Boards/Councils. The College runs Diploma and Certificate programmes to train the various cadres of health personnel. Remedial and Computer programmes are also run by the institution. It is worth mentioning that the nature of the weather of Pankshin provides a conducive academic environment and the central location of the institution in the State makes it suitable and attractive to the teeming applicants within and outside the state (The Student's Handbook of the Plateau State College of Health Technology, Pankshin, 2016).

The College Library was established at the same time with the College with only two staff and it is situated at the premises of the College. Presently, the Library has seven staff including the Librarian of the College. The College Library has five (5) sections which include, Circulation, Technical/Cataloguing, Document, Reference and Binding section. The college library uses Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) because they have small collection. The Library has a seating capacity of about 105 readers with 2,667 volumes of library materials and ICT Unit with computers inside and good internet facilities (The Student's Handbook of the Plateau State College of Health Technology, Pankshin, 2016).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In their bid to protect, preserve and to grant access to collections, librarians are faced with a myriad of challenges. Collections security management is not an easy task. To be able to win the fight against culprits, there must be absolute support from all stakeholders especially from institutional management who must support the efforts of the librarian. In some cases libraries do not get the support of management in their attempt at enforcing security management protocols. College of Health Technology Pankshin Library in Plateau State is a

College Library traditionally built to meet the needs of the students, lecturers and the College communities through the provision of qualitative and adequate information resources and services. Security management for prevention of incessant thefts of information resources in tertiary institution's libraries in Nigeria is posing a great problem especially in the area of book theft and mutilation. Poor security arrangement cannot cope with incessant pressure on the library by students who either steal or mutilate books/journals without regard for laid down library regulations. It is in the light of this that this research investigated security and management library and information resource against theft and mutilation in College of Health Technology Pankshin Library in Plateau State.

Preliminary observations and investigation reveals that users of the Plateau State College of Technology Pankshin Library have devised various means of stealing from the library either by throwing books through windows or borrowing a book legally and using the date due slip to remove another book illegally while others stock their clothes with books out of the library. Typically, this library loose between 5% and 10% of their collections annually to theft and mutilation. Hence, this research work intends to identify the security measures that can help to prevent theft and mutilation in College of Health Technology Pankshin, Library and to identify challenges associated with College Health Technology, Pankshin Library's efforts in curbing theft and mutilation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study is to identify ways for improving Security and Management of library and information resources against theft and mutilation in College of Health Technology Pankshin in Plateau State. Specifically, the study intends to:

1. Identify the Security Measures that can help to prevent Theft and Mutilation in College of Health Technology Pankshin Library.
2. Identify the challenges associated with College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library's efforts in curbing Theft and Mutilation.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions are ensured in the study:

1. What are security measures that can help to prevent Theft and Mutilation in College of Health Technology Pankshin library?

2. What are the Challenges associated with College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library's efforts in curbing Theft and Mutilation?

Method and procedure

The design adopted for this research was survey. This is because the research focuses mainly on people and their opinions, attitudes, motivations and behavior. This was in line with the assertion of Kerlinger (1975) who opined that survey research focuses mainly on people and their opinions, attitudes, motivations and behaviors.

The target population of the study includes the staff of the Library which includes Library staff, security staff and temporary staff of College of Health Technology, Pankshin, Library Plateau State. In all, there are twenty (20) staff in College of Health Technology Pankshin, library. These comprises seven (7) library staff, (5) security staff and (8) temporary staff, therefore the entire population for the study was twenty (20). Since the population of the study is not much the researcher decided to use the entire population as sample.

Table 1 POPULATION AND SAMPLE TABLE

<i>Category</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Sample size</i>
<i>Library Staff</i>	7	7
<i>Temporary Staff</i>	8	8
<i>Security Staff</i>	5	5
<i>Total</i>	20	20

Simple random sampling technique was used to determine the members of the sample population. According to Alvi (2016), simple random sampling allows members of the population have equal chance of being selected.

The researcher adopted questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. Babbie (2007) defines a questionnaire as a document containing questions and other types of items designed to solicit information appropriate for analysis. The basic objectives of a questionnaire are to obtain facts and opinions about a phenomenon from people who are informed on a particular issue. The researcher adopted frequency counts and percentages to analyze each item in the questionnaire for the purpose of answering the research questions.

DATA PRESENTATION, RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Response Rate

the Response rate of 100% was recorded for this Study. Out of 20 questionnaires administered, 20 were filled, returned and found usable. This gave a response rate of 100%.

Table 2: RESPONSE RATE

<i>Number Questionnaire Administered</i>	<i>of Number Questionnaire Retrieved</i>	<i>of Percentage Retrieval (%)</i>
20	20	100%

table 2, above shows the response rate of the study. Out of the 20 questionnaires administered, 20 representing 100% were filled, returned and found usable. Hence, a response rate of 100% was recorded for the study.

RESPONDENTS DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Table 3: Distribution of respondents by sex

<i>Response</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
<i>Male</i>	17	85
<i>Female</i>	3	15
<i>Total</i>	20	100%

Table 3, above shows the distribution of respondents by sex. It revealed that majority 17 (85%) of the respondents were male while 3 (15%) of the response were female.

Table 4: Category of respondents

<i>category</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
<i>Library staff</i>	7	35
<i>Security staff</i>	5	25
<i>Temporary staff</i>	8	40
<i>Total</i>	20	100%

Table 4, shows the category of respondents that participated in this research. This revealed that 7 (35%) of the respondents were library staff, 5 (25%) of them were security staff, while 8 (40%) of the respondents were temporary staff.

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents by Age

<i>S/No</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
1	Below 20 years	5	25
2	21-30 years	10	50
3	31-40 years	3	15
4	41-50 years	2	10
5	Above 50 years	-	-
	Total	20	100%

Table 5 above shows the age distribution of respondents. This revealed that majority 10 (50%) of the respondents were within the age bracket of 21-30 years, while 5 (25%) of the respondents were below 20 years, 3 (15%) respondents were within the ages of 31-40 years and 2 (10%) of them were within the ages of 41-50 years.

Table 6: Respondent's years of working experience

<i>S/No</i>	<i>Years of working experience</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
1	1-5 years	10	50
2	6-10 years	5	25
3	11-20 years	5	25
4	20 years and above	-	-
	Total	20	100%

Table 6, above shows the distribution of the respondents by years of working experience. The study revealed that majority 10 (50%) of the respondents have worked for 1-5 years, while 5 (25%) of the respondents served for 6-10 years and 11-20 years respectively.

Table 7: Respondent's years of working experience in College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library.

<i>S/No</i>	<i>Years of working experience</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
1	1-5 years	12	60
2	6-10 years	6	30
3	11-20 years	2	10
4	20 years and above	-	-

Total	20	100%
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Table 7, above shows the distribution of the respondents by years of service with the College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library. The study revealed that majority 12 (60%) of the respondents have served for 1-5 years, while 6 (30%) and 2 (10%) of the respondents served for 6-10 years and 11- 20 years respectively. None of the respondents served for 20 years and above.

Table 8: Marital Status of the Respondents

<i>marital status</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
<i>Single</i>	13	65
<i>Married</i>	5	25
<i>Divorced</i>	-	-
<i>Widowed</i>	2	10
Total	20	100%

Table 8, above shows the marital status of the respondents. This indicates that majority 13 (65%) of the respondents were single, 5 (25%) were married and 2 (10%) were widowed. None of the respondent is divorced.

Table 9: Respondents' Highest Academic Qualifications

<i>S/No</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
1	Ph.D.	-	-
2	M. Sc.	-	-
3	HND/B. Sc.	5	25
4	NCE	5	25
5	OND	10	50
	Total	20	100%

Table 9, which is on the respondents' Academic qualification shows that the highest number of respondents which is 10 (50%) of the respondents were OND holders, while 5 (25%) were NCE and HND/ B. Sc. holders respectively. None of the respondents has M.Sc. or Ph.D.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Research Question 1: What are the security measures that can help to prevent Theft and Mutilation in College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library?

Table 10: Security Measures that can prevent theft and mutilation of library materials in College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library

<i>S/N</i>	<i>Items</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
1	Proper checking of bags in the library	18	90	2	10	-	-	-	-	20	100
2	Mounting of CCTV camera	20	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	100
3	Unannounced searching of students hostels	18	90	2	10	-	-	-	-	20	100
4	Vigilant against mutilation by library staff	13	65	6	30	1	5	-	-	20	100
5	Searching users at the library exit	18	90	2	10	-	-	-	-	20	100
6	Posting security personnel of integrity to the library	20	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	100
7	All library windows should be gauzed to make it difficult for books to be thrown out through the window.	13	65	6	30	1	5	-	-	20	100
8	Personnel moving around in the library	18	90	2	10	-	-	-	-	20	100
9	Thorough checking of students when going out	20	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	100

Table 10, above shows the security measures that can prevent theft and mutilation of library materials in College of Health Technology, Pankshin

Library. All the respondents indicated that the security measures that can prevent theft and mutilation of library materials in College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library includes: Mounting of CCTV camera, posting security personnel of integrity to the library, Thorough checking of students when going out. Similarly, 90% of the respondents indicated proper checking of bags in the library, Unannounced searching of students' hostels, Searching users at the library exit, and Personnel moving around in the library.

Research question 2: What are the Challenges associated with College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library's efforts in curbing Theft and Mutilation?

Table 11: Challenges Associated with effort in curbing Theft and Mutilation in College Health Technology, Pankshin Library

<i>S/No</i>	<i>Items</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
1	Electronic surveillance system are very expensive	18	90	2	10	-	-	-	-	20	100
2	Absence of detective barcode machine	13	65	6	30	1	5	-	-	20	100
3	Lack of technical support	12	60	6	30	2	10	-	-	20	100
4	Effect of collection security breaches by users of the library	13	65	6	30	1	5	-	-	20	100
5	Lack of experienced man power	18	90	2	10	-	-	-	-	20	100
6	Absence of efficient photocopying machine	14	70	4	20	2	10	-	-	20	100
7	Library users are more sophisticated and smarter than the library staff	18	90	2	10	-	-	-	-	20	100

Table 4.12 above shows the challenges associated with efforts in curbing theft and mutilation in College of Health Technology, Pankshin library. It was revealed that the highest number of respondents which is 18 (90%) respondents indicated that Electronic surveillance system are very expensive, Lack of experienced man-power, and Library users are more sophisticated and smarter than the library staff, among others are some of the challenges associated with efforts in curbing theft and mutilation in College of Health Technology, Pankshin library.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Below is the summary of the research findings:

- 1) The security management measures that can help to prevent theft and mutilation in College of Health Technology Pankshin Library in Plateau State are: proper checking of bags in the library, mounting of CCTV camera, unannounced searching of students hostels, vigilant against mutilation by library staff, searching users at the library exit, Posting security personnel of integrity to the library, all library windows should be gauzed to make it difficult for books to be thrown out, personnel moving around in the library, thorough checking of students when going out.
- 2) The challenges associated with College of Health Pankshin library effort in curbing theft and mutilation include: Electronic Surveillance system are very expensive, absence of detective barcode machine, lack of technical support, Effect of collection security breaches by users of the library, lack of experienced man power, absence of efficient photocopying machine, library users are more sophisticated and smatter than the library staff.

DISCUSSION

The Research was conducted on the Security measures and its challenges in tackling theft and mutilation of library materials with College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library in Plateau State, Nigeria as case study. To

achieve this, the study was further sub-divided into three (2) objectives. The specific objectives are to identify the Security Measures that can help to prevent Theft and Mutilation in College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library and to identify the challenges associated with College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library's efforts in curbing theft and mutilation.

Based on the findings, the research revealed the security measures that can prevent theft and mutilation of library materials in College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library which are proper checking of bags in the library, mounting of CCTV camera, unannounced searching of students hostel, thorough checking of students when going out, personnel moving around in the library, posting security personnel of integrity to the library, all library windows should be gauzed to make it difficult for books to be thrown out. Of all this measures, some of them were completely agreed to; they had a 100% agreement rate in responses, such as mounting of CCTV cameras, thorough checking of students when going out and posting security personnel of integrity. These above mentioned measures could prove to be very efficient in checking theft of libraries resources.

The finding was in agreement with Ramana (2010) who contributed that Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) uses in the libraries can enhance the ability to control the book thefts and tearing off the pages from the books and magazines. Since library has been employing different kind of security systems to save library resources from theft and mutilation; there is also a need to secure or preserve these information materials in other to prolong their life span and meet the need of the clientele.

The research also examined the challenges associated with effort in curbing theft and mutilation in libraries, it was found out from the responses that electronically surveillance system are very expensive, lack of experienced manpower, lack of technical support, absence of efficient photocopying machine, effect of collection security breaches by users of the library are some of the challenges associated with curbing theft and mutilation in libraries. This was in agreement with Maidabino (2010), who identified system failure or downtime, lack of technical support and the lack of awareness of the cost

implication or effect of collection security breaches by users of the library. It was also in agreement with Kelly (2012) whose study revealed that if the challenges are associated with curbing security challenges are tackled and taken care of to compliment the use of security measures, the issue of theft and mutilation can be reduced and or addressed in the library. It was also in agreement with Ajegbomogun (2004) who asserted that the implementation of some policies such as electronic monitoring and surveillance systems are expensive. Some libraries therefore have no choice but to shelve such ambitions for cheaper options which have often proven to be ineffective at detecting and preventing breaches.

CONCLUSION

Having done thorough investigation beyond any reasonable doubt, then it can be concluded that the security management measures that can help to prevent theft and mutilation in College of Health Technology Pankshin library in Plateau State are proper checking of bags in the Library, mounting of CCTV camera, unannounced searching of students hostels, vigilant against mutilation by library staff, searching users at the Library exit, posting security personnel of integrity to the library, all library windows should be gauzed to make it difficult for books to be thrown out, personnel moving around in the library and thorough checking of students when going out. The management of College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library acknowledged some of these measures to be effective in curbing theft and mutilations in the library but some of these measures are not currently implemented.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. Security Measures that can help to prevent Theft and Mutilation in College of Health Technology Pankshin Library should be adopted. This should include proper checking of bags and mounting of CCTV cameras. CCTV cameras and other security gadgets should be acquired by the

College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library so as to aid the work of the security personnel in curbing theft and mutilation in the library.

2. The prominent challenges associated with College of Health Technology, Pankshin Library's efforts in curbing Theft and Mutilation includes due to the huge cost of a surveillance system, and lack of experienced manpower. Therefore, the researcher recommends that management should invest more finance into surveillance equipments and training of personnel.

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