Librarians' Perceptions of the Security of Library Resources in University Libraries in Bayelsa State, Nigeria

Christy B. Endouware
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8084-673X
Federal University Otuoke, Nigeria
endouwarecb@fuotuoke.edu.ng

Emmanuel Okwu
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8335-2903
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Nigeria
emmanuel.okwu@iaue.edu.ng

Abstract

The security of information resources is crucial in university libraries due to their usefulness in supporting and meeting students', lecturers' and researchers' information needs. These individuals all rely on the resources in carrying out their studies. The rationale for securing library resources in the university library is to ensure that easy access, retrieval, and longevity of the resources are not denied to users. Therefore, this article reports on a study that investigated librarians' perceptions of the security of library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The survey research design was adopted for the study. Four research questions and one research hypothesis guided the study. The population of the study consisted of 72 librarians from the four sampled university libraries in Bayelsa State. Data were collected from the same librarians. The findings revealed that librarians' perceptions of the security of library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State varied in the contexts that showed positive attributes. The study further revealed that book mutilation, book miss-shelving, non-return of borrowed books, impersonation, and book theft as the major security challenges encountered by university librarians. Therefore, the study concluded that university librarians should advocate for the use of electronic security systems as this will to a large extent minimise the security threats experienced in university libraries. The study recommends, among other factors, organising training for library staff on security breaches at regular intervals.

Keywords: perceptions; librarians; security; library resources; university libraries; Bayelsa State

Introduction

The security of information resources is a growing concern in the library organisation, especially in the context of Africa. At present several difficulties confront librarians, library management, and parent organisations on how best to safeguard their library materials. The concern arose from the high cost of purchasing security devices that could be used to preserve library materials. The infiltration of various print and electronic formats in library institutions, and librarians' attitudes towards the management of the security of library resources necessitated this study. Without access to library resources, librarians might not be able to perform their jobs appropriately. Libraries would become ineffective if information resources were not properly organised and safeguarded, and this has become essential to both the institutions' operations and the librarians' work. The librarians' responsibilities encompass collecting, processing, storing, preserving and disseminating information resources for effective decision-making. The management and service activities in the library are under the librarians' control. Therefore, librarians will continue to manage all types of library resources as well as any other responsibilities that have been delegated to them.

The researchers believe that a librarian's normal task might involve overseeing collection growth and acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation, and offering a variety of services like reference, information, instruction and training. For librarians to manage information resources very well, security is of top priority. Security describes the actions taken to keep a thing or a location safe. According to Fox and ElSherbiny (2011), security is crucial in libraries as it helps to prevent resources from being damaged or stolen. The effects of such damage would eventually have a significant impact on the libraries, users and service delivery. Since the invention of libraries, the problem of security has been a significant obstacle that libraries and librarians have had to combat (Salaam and Onifade 2010).

The measures taken for safety and security facilities for library employees, library resources, library equipment, and library patrons can be summed up by the phrase "library security". San Nicolas-Rocca and Burkhard (2019) define the security of information resources in libraries as the assurance of safeguarding information assets through policies and guidelines created for information security. It is crucial that these security systems carry out their tasks as effortlessly as they can, without getting in the way of the main goal of any library. Library resource security provides useful services that are simple and easy to use in the library environment. Protection from harm, such as mutilation, theft, physical attack, accident damage, and natural causes, is included in library resource security. It is important to note the protection of employees (both staff and users), collection, equipment, physical facilities, and information is fundamental in any library organisation. Omosekejimi, Ijiekhuamhen and Ojeme (2015) define library security as the process of protecting information, information-bearing items, or infrastructure from illegal access, use, disclosure, disruption, alteration, perusing, inspection, recording or destruction.

In this study, the term librarians' "perceptions" relates to what librarians think or feel about protecting information resources. A library is a collection of books and other written materials with the aim of cataloguing, distributing and preserving knowledge for use now and in the future. The selection, acquisition, organisation, diffusion, preservation and assessment of information resources in print and non-print form are all considered to be the responsibility of the library organisation (Bassey 2015).

Libraries offer consumers a variety of information resources (Bassey 2015), which are available in both print and electronic formats. For the benefit of current and future generations, information resources should be protected due to their value. In addition, it is important to raise awareness of library resources, such as books, journals, indexes, abstracts, newspapers, magazines, reports, computers, CD-ROM databases, internet/e-mail, videotapes/cassettes, diskettes, magnetic discs, and so on (Popoola and Haliso 2009 cited in Idakwo 2019) in the context of modernisation.

One key reason for ensuring the security of information resources is that they support the university library's mission of teaching, learning and research. The efforts of professors, students and researchers in the accomplishment of teaching, learning and research cannot be jeopardised; hence, there is a need to appropriately plan for the security of information resources. The threat of theft, mutilation and defacement of materials is another concern that the library must contend with as this could largely prevent library patrons from getting all the information they need. Enidioka, Bassey and Olalekan (2019) note that theft of other library users' personal belongings, such as handbags, purses, keys and notebooks, is also a typical occurrence in academic libraries. The scope, character and frequency of these crimes differ from one academic library to the next; hence, the issue of security cannot be determined in the library organisation.

Shuman (1999) alludes to security issues that have existed ever since the invention of libraries concerning theft, mutilation and vandalism of information resources (print materials). Akor (2013) avers that an academic library is a complicated institution that requires a lot of materials to suit the needs of the diverse students, lecturers and faculty members. As a result, it is important to safeguard the library materials from threats, such as theft, mutilation and deterioration, including intellectual property theft and other forms of abuse that have presented the library profession with enormous challenges on a global scale.

Statement of the Problem

University libraries are repositories of information resources for academic purposes (Kishan and Chakravarthy 2021). Throughout the history of library development, librarians have put in place different security measures to safeguard information resources meant to meet users' information needs. Kishan and Chakravarthy (2021) allude that many libraries are facing challenges related to security threats and loss of information due to unethical practices, such as theft and mutilation. Besides providing safety and security to the library collections, libraries require responsible librarians to

preserve their resources safely, if possible, for future generations. Studies have shown that library materials are subject to security risks. There are indications that areas of missing and damaged library holdings might be found in the annual stock-taking reports in many university libraries. It is important to note that due to their shortage, stolen and damaged collections seem to become more expensive while being more difficult to find replacements. Despite the security measures put in place in university libraries to secure information resources, the researchers observed that there were still reports of security risks to library resources in university libraries, specifically in the context of Africa and, more precisely, university libraries in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Olabode (2017) observes from interaction with a cross-section of library staff that it appears there is a lack of proper collection policy and procedures formulated to support the security of the library collection and the activities involved in the management of security issues in libraries. Based on this premise, the study investigated librarians' perceptions of the security of library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to investigate the librarians' perceptions of the security of library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The study was guided by the following research questions, namely:

RQ1: What are the librarians' perceptions of the security of library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State?

RQ2: What are the available library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State?

RQ3: What are the security challenges encountered by university libraries in Bayelsa State?

RQ4: What are the security measures put in place to safeguard the library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State?

Hypothesis

$H0_1$: There is no significant relationship between librarians' perceptions and the security of library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State.

Literature Review

Reflecting on the position of the library and librarians, the problem of information resource security presents a significant difficulty. It is shocking how quickly library materials disappear. To fulfil the needs of their respective communities, which are made up of students, professors and researchers, university libraries are charged with the duty of providing information services. University libraries play a critical role in research and scholarship at higher education institutions, according to academics. University libraries are frequently described as the "heart" or "nerve centre" of higher education

institutions, around which all academic activities revolve. According to Bassey and Enidiok (2019), the main goal of university libraries should be to support research and educational activities. Amidu and Umaru (2019) assert that improving the availability, access, utilisation and preservation of information resources requires protecting these resources in university libraries. Sadly, the actions of misbehaving library customers are endangering the efforts undertaken by library managers to ensure the lifespan of the library. It is a fact that while some library users visit the library and largely abide by the policies governing how to handle library resources by refraining from theft and mutilation, deviant users visit the library with the ulterior motive of stealing and mutilating library resources.

Due to the security issues facing university libraries, librarians must take the initiative to safeguard the materials under their care by implementing some preventive security measures. Since these materials are still available for use by potential library users, the problems of theft, mutilation, overdue books and lost books have undoubtedly had a detrimental impact on the easy access to and utilisation of information resources. This has led to the mortality of information resources. To guarantee the availability, accessibility and lifespan of their collections, Maidabino (2012) points out that libraries must offer, manage and secure their holdings. Adekunle, Adekunjo and Unuabor (2018) revealed in their study that the extent of theft and vandalism of information resources was very high in academic libraries in Osun State, Nigeria. Their study further revealed that the materials which were majorly affected were reference materials as well as books containing discs.

In addition, the study found that methods used to perpetrate the act of theft and vandalism of information resources included mutilation of books; walking out with library materials when security is not alert; and so on. The study concluded that theft and vandalism of information resources have affected the academic library in no small measure. It was, therefore, recommended that there should be policy formulation that would guard against every form of theft and vandalism. Atkins and Weible (2003) stress that a successful inventorying procedure helps to detect missing items in the library in order to reduce these acts.

For librarians and their patrons, the security of library materials comes first. The foundation of community services is built on information resources, which are also valuable assets for the library. Consequently, by safeguarding and conserving their collections, libraries can better meet the information demands of the university community (Maidabino and Zainab 2011). Due to factors, such as inadequate funding, which prevents libraries from purchasing multiple copies of books; rising student enrolments, which put more strain on collections; and weak local publishing institutions, which force African libraries to rely on expensive foreign publications due to unfavourable exchange rates of local to foreign currencies, university libraries are vulnerable to security breaches and crime. The purchasing power of students and their parents was negatively impacted by the economic recessions of the 1980s and 1990s as

well as the current financial crisis. Abuse and library crime affect members of all social classes, including faculty, staff, students, clergy, and the oppressed. The efficiency of an academic library depends on how the information resources are available for use in teaching and learning and how the environment is secured to allow library employees to provide services in an efficient manner. It will be challenging for a library to carry out its duty and aid the institution in attaining its aims in a chaotic environment where life and materials are subject to various crimes.

Oyedum, Sanni and Udoakang's (2014) study on security and crime challenges in academic libraries in Nigeria revealed that noise making in the library; miss-shelving of library books; mutilation of library resources; and book theft were high. Also, Agboola and Aduku's (2019) study on strategies for library security in the Federal University Gashua Library, Yobe State, North East of Nigeria, revealed that 3 (15%) of the respondents agreed that book theft in the library was usually low, and 14 (70%) of them indicated that non-return of library materials at the specified period was always observed. Only 8 (40%) of the respondents disclosed that book mutilation usually occurred in the library collection; 2 (10%) of them stated that they agreed with the theft of a mouse; while 14 (70%) of them reported that using someone's account to browse was commonly observed. Also, 6 (30%) of the respondents revealed that changing a friend's password in the library by users was one of the security breaches observed in the library. Abioye and Rasaki's (2013) study revealed that university libraries in South West Nigeria were confronted with various crime and security challenges. Prominent among these challenges were theft, mutilation, defacement of library materials, and the hiding of books to prevent other users from having access to them.

Olalokun (2000) recommends the deployment of porters at the exit points in addition to the use of plainclothes security people in libraries to catch criminals as security measures to protect library resources. More photocopiers, more affordable photocopying services, and user education on the effects of mutilation are some of the techniques recommended by Ajayi and Omotayo (2004) for the efficient handling of mutilation incidents at university libraries. They also propose a campus-wide effort that involves displaying and showcasing damaged books and other library resources. Through staff education and training, it will be possible to develop a security culture that will safeguard the safety of the library collection. Managers of libraries should regularly teach their staff, especially how to spot collection mutilation and other security lapses or incidents. Ugah (2007) attests that information access and use are severely hampered by collection security breaches. He points out that such behaviours pose severe issues and cause user dissatisfaction.

Oder (2004) states that libraries lack security measures like supervision, patrols, and surveillance, and keys are often left unattended or hidden from the view of patrons. University libraries need to make sure that collection access and storage are well planned and kept under surveillance for a quick and simple inspection, according to Brown and Patkus (2007). The efficient use of resources is threatened by late returns of

library items. According to Udoumoh and Okoro (2007), libraries should establish policies to make sure that their resources are utilised efficiently. Dowlin (2004) alludes that academic library buildings must adhere to new standards for the following: seismic mitigation, ventilation, heating, lighting and openness of the building; security of the occupants and collections; and capability of providing a comfortable environment for study, communication, and programmes. There are several different weapons that can be used to keep libraries secure, according to Ramamurthy (2001). These include sign-in sheets; closed-circuit television (CCTV); alarms on exit doors; and radio frequency identification (RFID).

Methodology

The study applied the quantitative research approach using a descriptive survey research design. The population of the study consisted of 72 librarians from the four sampled university libraries in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Due to the small size of the population, the entire population was used as a sample; therefore, the sample size was 72. This could also be attributed to enumerative sampling techniques, which entail using the entire population of the study as the sample size. The research instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was developed in accordance with the research questions used for the study and given to experts in the field of library and information science, especially senior librarians, to help vet it for correctness before it was administered by the researchers to the identified respondents. The purposive sampling technique was employed because the researchers' interests were librarians as their work operation is associated with library security in the library context. The administration of the questionnaire was carried out within two weeks with the aid of a research assistant. The questionnaires were distributed to the respondents during working hours and the researchers had to give the respondents adequate time of one week to complete the questionnaires before going around to collect them. Prior to the collection of the questionnaires, the researchers followed up with a phone call to the respondents to remind them since they were also busy with a lot of activities.

Data collected from the respondents were analysed using percentages and frequency count; while the hypothesis question was analysed with the aid of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The reason was that the researchers could not determine the extent to which librarians' perceptions influenced the security of library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State, using the previously used method of analysing the percentages and frequency counts. The researchers ensured ethical standards were applied by protecting the respondents' privacy and personal information and acknowledging every source used for the study. The findings obtained are presented in the following tables.

Results and Discussion

The results presented and discussed here are in line with the research questions that guided the study. The distribution of the study population is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of the study population

University library	Population	Percentage (%)
Niger Delta University Library (NDUL)	28	39%
Federal University Otuoke Library (FUOL)	23	32%
Bayelsa Medical University Library (BMUL)	12	17%
University of Africa Toru-orua Library (UATL)	9	12%
Total	**72**	**100%**

Source: Field survey (2022)

The results in Table 1 indicate that with 28 librarians, the Niger Delta University Library (NDUL) had the most librarians (39%); the Federal University Otuoke Library (FUOL) had 23 (32%); the Bayelsa Medical University Library (BMUL) had 12 (17%); and the University of Africa Toru-orua Library (UATL) had 9 (12%). It could be deduced that many respondents were from the NDUL, revealing that they were available to attempt the questionnaire when it was distributed, followed by the FUOL.

RQ1: What are the librarians' perceptions of the security of library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State?

In this segment, the respondents were asked to indicate the librarians' perceptions of the security of library resources.

Table 2: Librarians' perceptions of the security of library resources

Security of library resources	Librarians' perceptions				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Mean $\bar{x}$
The use of electronic security systems such as alarms and surveillance cameras will help curb the security threat	54 (75%)	18 (25%)	—	—	3.75
The use of security guards at the entrance of the library will limit the loss of library resources	50 (69.4%)	22 (30.6%)	—	—	3.69

The circulation librarian should make calls or send SMS to library users for overdue books	36 (50%)	24 (33.3%)	7 (9.7%)	5 (6.9%)	3.26
Librarians should embrace the use of cloud-based storage technology to help secure digital resources	49 (68.1%)	23 (31.9%)	_	_	3.68
The use of net and iron protector will help to secure library resources	52 (72.2%)	20 (27.8%)	_	_	3.72
Library security policy serves as a guide in managing security issues	47 (65.3%)	25 (34.7%)	_	_	3.65
Educating library security to detect stolen books through physical examination of the book	48 (66.7%)	24 (33.3%)	_	_	3.67
Bags should be dropped at the entrance of the library	50 (69.4%)	22 (30.6%)	_	_	3.69
Library users should be checked at the exit point	65 (90.3%)	7 (9.7%)	_	_	3.90
Constant supervision of library users	35 (48.6%)	37 (51.4%)	_	_	3.49
Grand mean					**3.65**
Cut off point					**2.5**

Source: Field survey (2022)

The results in Table 2 indicate that a greater number of the librarians strongly agreed that: The use of electronic security systems such as alarms and surveillance cameras

will help to curb security threats ($\bar{x} = 3.75$); The use of security guard at the entrance of the library will limit the loss of library resources ($\bar{x} = 3.69$); The circulation librarian should make calls or send SMS to library users for overdue books ($\bar{x} = 3.26$); Librarians should embrace the use of cloud-based storage technology to help secure digital resources ($\bar{x} = 3.68$); The use of the net and iron protector will help to secure Library resources ($\bar{x} = 3.72$); Library security policy serves as a guide in managing security issues ($\bar{x} = 3.65$); Educating library security to detect stolen books through physical examination of the book ($\bar{x} = 3.67$); and Bags should be dropped at the entrance of the library ($\bar{x} = 3.69$). Many of the respondents agreed to the Constant supervision of library users ($\bar{x} = 3.49$). As shown in the responses, the librarians had a strong perception of the security of library resources. They saw the security of library resources as a collective responsibility. These findings corroborated the assertion by Sahoo (in Pradhan and Bhoi 2015, 75) that

> the security of library resources should not be left in the hand of library security. The past records constitute a natural resource and are indispensable to the present generation as well as to the generations to come. Any loss to such materials is simply irreplaceable. Therefore, securing this intellectual, and cultural heritage becomes not only the academic commitment but also the moral responsibility of the librarians/information scientists.

RQ2: What are the available library resources in university libraries?

In this segment, the respondents were asked to indicate the available resources in university libraries.

Table 3: Available library resources

Available library resource	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Mean ($\bar{x}$)
Textbooks	62 (86.1%)	10 (13.9%)	–	–	3.86
Journals	51 (70.8%)	21 (29.2%)	–	–	3.71
Magazines	55 (76.4%)	17 (23.6%)	–	–	3.76
Newspapers	21 (29.2%)	23 (31.9%)	13 (18.1%)	15 (20.8%)	2.69
Reference materials	52 (72.2%)	20 (27.8%)	–	–	3.72
Cartographic materials	45 (62.5%)	27 (37.5%)	–	–	3.63
Digital / Electronic materials	48 (66.7%)	24 (33.3%)	–	–	3.67
Internet facilities	41 (56.9%)	19 (26.4%)	12 (16.7%)	–	3.26
Students' projects	35 (48.6%)	16 (22.2%)	6 (8.3%)	15 (20.8%)	2.99
Online public access catalogue	19 (26.4%)	18 (25%)	17 (23.6%)	18 (25%)	2.53

Grand mean					**3.38**
Cut off point					**2.5**

Source: Field survey (2022)

The results in Table 3 indicate that a greater number of the librarians strongly agreed with: Textbooks ($\bar{x}$ = 3.86); Magazines ($\bar{x}$ = 3.76); Journals ($\bar{x}$ = 3.71); Reference materials ($\bar{x}$ = 3.72); Digital/Electronic materials ($\bar{x}$ = 3.67); Cartographic materials ($\bar{x}$ = 3.63); Internet facilities ($\bar{x}$ = 3.26); Students' projects ($\bar{x}$ = 2.99); and Online public access catalogue ($\bar{x}$ = 2.53) as being vulnerable to security threats in university libraries. Also, many of the respondents agreed to Newspapers ($\bar{x}$ = 2.69) being vulnerable. A grand mean of 3.38 was arrived at, implying that an average university in Bayelsa State has different library resources vulnerable to security threats. This result infers that Textbooks, Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, Reference materials, Cartographic materials, Digital/Electronic materials, Internet facilities, Students' projects, and online public access catalogues are the major available resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State. This finding was in agreement with Akinola's (2020) study which revealed that all the resources in the library are vulnerable to the security threat, only non-print resources have a low percentage of vulnerability to security and crime problems.

RQ3: What are the security challenges encountered by university libraries in Bayelsa State?

In this segment, the respondents were asked to indicate the security challenges the libraries encounter.

Table 4: Security challenges

Security challenge	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Mean ($\bar{x}$)
Book theft	12 (17%)	26 (36%)	34 (47%)	–	2.69
Book mutilation	56 (78%)	16 (22%)	–	–	3.78
Book misshelving	48 (67%)	24 (33%)	–	–	3.67
Non-return of the borrowed book	38 (53%)	16 (22%)	13 (18%)	5 (7%)	3.21
Impersonation	28 (39%)	36 (50%)	6 (8%)	2 (3%)	3.25
Computer virus attack	5 (7%)	17 (24%)	23 (32%)	27 (38%)	2.0
Database hacking	8 (11%)	6 (8%)	34 (47%)	24 (33%)	1.97
Grand mean					**2.94**
Cut off point					**2.5**

Source: Field survey (2022)

The results in Table 4 indicate that a greater number of the librarians strongly agreed that: Book mutilation ($\bar{x} = 3.78$); Book misshelving ($\bar{x} = 3.67$); and Non-return of the borrowed book ($\bar{x} = 3.21$) were security challenges encountered by university libraries. Many of the respondents agreed that Impersonation ($\bar{x} = 3.25$) was a security challenge encountered by university libraries. A grand mean of 2.94 was arrived at, implying that Book mutilation, Book misshelving, Non-return of the borrowed book, Impersonation, and Book theft were the major security challenges encountered by university libraries in Bayelsa State. This finding is supported by Agboola and Aduku's (2019) study on strategies for library security at the Federal University Gashua Library, Yobe State, North East of Nigeria, which revealed that 3 (15%) of the respondents agreed that book theft in the library was usually low; while 14 (70%) of them indicated that non-return of library resources at the specified period was always observed. Only 8 (40%) of the respondents disclosed that book mutilation usually occurred in the library collection; 2 (10%) of them stated that they agreed with the theft of a mouse; while 14 (70%) of them reported that using someone's account to browse was commonly observed. Also, 6 (30%) of the respondents revealed that changing a friend's password in the library by users was one of the security breaches observed in the library. Shafack (2021) revealed that libraries are faced with threats of similar nature and of different types and different magnitudes. Regarding the nature of the threats faced, the study identified theft and burglary; and insecurity as a result of unauthorised access to buildings, offices and collection areas constituted another serious cause for concern. Mutilation was also identified as a security threat.

RQ4: What are the security measures put in place to safeguard library resources?

In this segment, the respondents were asked to indicate the security measures put in place to safeguard library resources.

Table 5: Security measures

Security measure	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Mean ($\bar{x}$)
Library security policy	45 (62.5%)	27 (37.5%)	–	–	3.63
The use of CCTV	13 (18.1%)	18 (25%)	21 (29.2%)	20(27.8%)	2.33
Organising orientation programmes	48 (66.7%)	24 (33.3%)	–	–	3.67
Library users consultative forum	40 (55.6%)	23 (31.9%)	9 (12.5%)	–	3.43
Staff security meetings	52 (72.2%)	20 (27.8%)	–	–	3.72
Constitution of the library intelligence committee	46 (63.9%)	26 (36.1%)	–	–	3.64

Stocktaking	48 (66.7%)	24 (33.3%)	–	–	3.67
The use of an electronic body scanner	6 (8.3%)	15 (20.8%)	35 (48.6%)	16 (22.2%)	2.15
Library membership card	65 (90.3%)	7 (9.7%)	–	–	3.90
Periodic training and retraining of staff on security measures	14 (19.4%)	10 (13.9%)	26 (36.1%)	22 (30.6%)	2.22
Constant supervision of library staff	48 (66.7%)	24 (33.3%)	–	–	3.67
Photocopy and bindery	35 (48.6%)	16 (22.2%)	15 (20.8%)	6 (8.3%)	3.11
Inter-library security synergy	45 (62.5%)	27 (37.5%)	–	–	3.63
Security public relation	34 (47.2%)	38 (52.8%)	–	–	3.47
Inscribed flyers and handbill "Don't steal/mutilate me"	26 (36.1%)	35 (48.6%)	11 (15.3%)	–	3.21
Grand mean					3.23
Cut off point					2.5

Source: Field survey (2022)

The results in Table 5 reveal the mean distribution of the security measures adopted by the university libraries in Bayelsa State. From the results, a greater number of the librarians strongly agreed that: Library membership card ($\bar{x}$ = 3.90); Staff security meetings ($\bar{x}$ = 3.72); Organising orientation programmes ($\bar{x}$ = 3.67); Library security policy ($\bar{x}$ = 3.63); Library users consultative forum ($\bar{x}$ = 3.43); Constitution of the library intelligence committee ($\bar{x}$ = 3.64); Stocktaking ($\bar{x}$ = 3.67); Constant supervision of library staff ($\bar{x}$ = 3.67); Photocopy and bindery ($\bar{x}$ = 3.11); and Inter-library security synergy ($\bar{x}$ = 3.63) were security measures that had been put in place. Also, many of the respondents agreed that: Security public relations ($\bar{x}$ = 3.47), and Inscribed flyers and handbills "Don't steal/mutilate me" ($\bar{x}$ = 3.47) were security measures adopted by the university libraries. Table 5 also reveals that a greater number of the librarians disagreed that: The use of CCTV ($\bar{x}$ = 2.33); The use of an electronic body scanner ($\bar{x}$ = 2.15); and Periodic training and retraining of staff on security measures ($\bar{x}$ = 2.22) were measures that had been put in place.

A grand mean of 3.23 was arrived at, implying that the Library security policy; Organising orientation programmes; Library users' consultative forum; Staff security meetings; Constitution of the library intelligence committee; Stocktaking; Library membership card; Constant supervision of library staff; Photocopy and bindery; Inter-

library security synergy; Security public relation; Inscribed flyers and handbill "Don't steal/mutilate me" were the major security measures adopted by university libraries in Bayelsa State. The findings revealed that university libraries in Bayelsa State had not adopted the use of ICT in securing their resources. The use of the traditional mode of security was prevalent in the studied libraries.

Thus, the current study has shown that librarians in university libraries need to brace themselves to adopt the use of modern technologies in securing library resources. This finding was not in line with Ekong and Ogunjimi's (2019) study on an overview of security measures in Nigerian university libraries whose findings revealed the use of both traditional and modern measures such as the use of an alarm, and surveillance cameras to address security breaches in Nigeria universities libraries.

Test of Hypothesis

The hypothesis stated in the study was tested using the Pearson product moment correlation. The analysis was done using SPSS version 25 to determine the extent to which librarians' perceptions influenced the security of library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State.

H0$_1$: There is no significant relationship between librarians' perceptions and the security of library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State.

Table 6: Effect of librarians' perceptions of the security of library resources

		Librarians' perceptions	Library security
Librarians' perceptions	Pearson correlation	1	.853**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	72	72
Library security	Pearson correlation	.853**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	72	72

Note: ** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The results in Table 6 show the result of the Pearson product moment correlation of the study. According to the results, librarians' perceptions of the security of library resources had a positive coefficient of .853 which was significant with a *p*-value of 0.000. The *p*-value of 0.000 suggested that there was a positive and significant relationship between librarians' perceptions and the security of library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State at both a 5% and 1% significance level. Since the *p*-value (0.000) had less than a 5% significance level, the null hypothesis was rejected, and the researchers concluded that there was a significant relationship between

librarians' perceptions and the security of library resources in university libraries in Bayelsa State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Training on how to manage security breaches should be organised for all library staff at regular intervals.
2. As part of services rendered in libraries, libraries should make provision for reprographic services at a subsidised rate. This to a large extent will remedy the issue of removing pages of books.
3. Library users should be thoroughly checked when leaving the library
4. University librarians should advocate for the use of electronic security systems, such as the use of CCTV to complement the existing security measures.

Conclusion

The current study has established that the security of library resources is key to the growth of the library organisation. The sustainability of the library organisation depends largely on how much its information resources are secured and managed by the librarians; hence, the library must do its best in ensuring that its longevity is a top priority. Several commonalities and differences arose from the study based on how best to secure information resources. To meet users' diverse information needs, librarians must pay principal attention to the security of information resources. It is a routine that every librarian irrespective of their status must carry out. Mindapa (2022) asserts that security and prevention of crime in libraries – more specifically academic libraries – are necessary library duties for librarians to accomplish. The information resources in university libraries are vital components that must be secured zealously to aid the libraries meet their objectives.

Further, the study revealed that the librarians had a high level of perception of the security of library materials. In a bid to combat security threats in university libraries, the librarians strongly agreed that the use of electronic security systems such as alarms and surveillance cameras will help curb security threats. The study concluded that university librarians should advocate for the use of electronic security systems as this will to a large extent minimise the security threats in university libraries.

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