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SOURCES OF SECURITY BREACHES AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF NORTH WESTERN NIGERIA

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Abstract
The purpose of this study is to examine the Sources of Security Breaches and Mitigation Strategies in Public Libraries of North Western Nigeria. ***Cross-sectional survey design of quantitative research was employed for the study.*** *The sample of study consists of 145 library staff of the reader services departments of these libraries. Simple random sampling technique was used to select all the library staff. A self-developed questionnaire was used to collect data. In all, 145, copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the research population, out of which 112 copies were returned and usable for analysis. The study serves as a reference for any attempt to restructure or improve upon the Mitigation Strategies in public libraries of the North-Western Nigeria. The study revealed that--the major sources of security breaches include scarcity of the library materials, poor environmental condition, poor arrangement of information--resources, poor management commitment towards security issues, lack of trained security personnel, disasters and lack of modern security gadgets among others. The study recommends that provision of trained security personnel to checkmate security issues, provision of modern security gadgets, and provision of multiple copies of library materials among others.*

Keywords: Public library, Sources of Security Breaches, Mitigation Strategies, North-Western Nigeria.

Introduction

Public library is established to provide materials, which communicate experience and ideas from one person to another and make them easily and freely available to all people. The Public library is a local centre of information that makes all kinds of knowledge and information readily available to its users. It is available

for all members of the community regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, disability, employment status and educational attainment (Michael 2015).

Public libraries as institutions set up to cater for the educational, cultural, research, recreational and information needs of their users, have the main objectives of being entrusted with the selection, acquisition, organisation, storage and dissemination of information to their patrons. As a result of this diverse use of the materials, these libraries stand to be vulnerable to all forms of crime and security breaches. Richard (2018) stated that, the sporadic security breaches in different segments of the society have not exempted libraries, where a great amount of national wealth is stocked. Information resources of public libraries are critical assets to libraries, therefore security of those resources may be considered as any action, written or unwritten, taken by a library in order to ensure the long lasting of the library collection for present and future used. Therefore, for a Public library to be worth its name, it has to provide information resources and strategically keep them well secured and mitigated for its users. Hence, mitigation strategies of the collections of Public library help greatly in providing effective services and protection of the library information resources from any source of breach as well as protection of cultural heritage of the community that the library serves.

Statement of the Problem

Public libraries have remained the incontrovertible seats of wisdom, and the basis for cultural continuity and knowledge dissemination,(Adekola, 2021). Public libraries play fundamental roles in the development of individuals in every society, because they are agents of educational, social, cultural and economic development. Public libraries in the world are doing their best possible action to protect their information resources from all sources of breaches, but the scenario still increases considering the number of security problems in many libraries. The extent of this problem varies from one library to another, but it seems to be a universal phenomenon. Brashear& Jaringe (2006), (Schlub 2019) stated that, Problem patrons as one source of security breach in libraries covers a wide range of behaviours, including vandalism, failure to return library materials, discipline problems with children or young adults, disturbance or threat to the comfort or physical well-being of others, harmless and nuisances persons etc.

In Nigeria, especially in the North-Western part of the country, the situation is even worse because in spite of lofty goals and laudable aspirations of Public library system, these libraries still suffer most neglect due to lack of good strategic

security mitigation, lack of recognition, inadequate funding and qualified personnel, all of which have adversely impacted on their service provision.

The present study focuses on finding out the sources of security breaches in Public libraries of North-Western Nigeria, and to determine the mitigation strategies used to protect the information resources of these libraries

Review of Related Literature

Sources of Security Breaches in Libraries

Many scholars define security breaches from different angles which includes that, "security breaches refers to any event that directly or indirectly affects the smooth administration of a library by disrupting its normal services to its users (McComb, 2004). Ajegbomogun (2004) as cited by Maidabino (2011), identified the types of security breaches in University libraries, which included theft and book mutilation, and reasoned the cause to security lapses, insufficient or limited number of essential materials, and users' financial constraints. Adekola (2021) reported in his study of collection security issues in academic libraries in Nigeria that, the major source of collection security issues in academic libraries is the lack of security personnel. The security personnel are not directly under the library department. He stated that "the security men are loyal to the security department rather than the library authority". This situation makes it difficult for the librarians to control security matters in their library as their orders may be flouted.

Moreover, lack of awareness among library users is another source of library security breach, awareness in libraries involves creating the right atmosphere for greater security awareness amongst library users on how to carefully handle the library materials. In line with this, Abdullahi (2018) reported that, both users and staff of the libraries were often involved in the source of library security breach and this may be due of their unawareness of the graveness of the security issue. He added that, awareness in libraries involves creating the right atmosphere for greater security awareness amongst library users on how to carefully handle the library materials.

Furthermore, Biological agents like insects, fungi and rodents are considered as source of security breaches that cause damages to books and other library printed and non-printed materials particularly in tropical Africa. There are over seventy varieties of insects that have been identified as enemies and also a great source of breach to library information materials. The most common of these pests are cockroaches, silverfish, termites and moths. Termites feed on grass, humus, wood work of buildings, library books, files, catalogue cards and photographs. Similarly, Drucker (2016) observed that, the common rodent in libraries was the house mouse. Mice cause damages by destroying materials for nesting purposes

and by urinating and defecating on library materials. Rodents chew insulation of electrical wires causing them to short circuit, and this could cause fire outbreak in the library.

From the review above, we can deduce that security breach in libraries takes many forms, ranging from theft, vandalism, mutilation, difficult patrons, unsecured environment, environmental conditions, biological agents, disasters, financial constraints, scarcity of materials and faulty security system.

Mitigation Strategies used to Protect Information Resources in Libraries

Mitigation Strategies in libraries are widespread and effective system in deterring and controlling destruction of library information resources. Library security and protection strategies are complex but important issues, the safety of library staff, patrons, and the library collections and property are all at stake. Security of library information materials is necessary since information materials are the library's core business and information materials require consistent monitoring and maintenance in order to avoid possible intrusion.

Adekola (2021) stated that, libraries need to create an environment where collections are respected, handled carefully, and returned intact to the collection so that they might be studied again in the future. These include architectural considerations and the use of security personnel to checkmate security issues like searching of patrons at the entrance and exits. Conceptually, library security strategies means the overall manner in which policies, programmes, procedures or measures are deployed to mitigate risk and ensure access to a particular resource feared to disappear.

Ladoke (2017) identified the aim of a modern university library as largely to provide access to both print and non-print collections and this makes it necessary to develop a balance between ownership and access to information or knowledge. This can be achieved by proper planning strategy including the planning for access control in line with the security requirement and the present and future mission or goals of the parent institutions. There is need for librarians to device a very concrete physical means of securing the materials available in the library and to have telecommunication or electronic security systems which will help to provide a safe and secure facility for library resources and equipment (Agbor & Akin 2016).

In conclusion, the primary task of the library is to provide a good mitigation strategy aimed to protect the library collection against any security issues. In this period of technological advancement, the use of electronic security devices will undoubtedly increase the efficiency and effectiveness of collection protection in university libraries.

Research Methodology

In the present study, the methodology adopted was the quantitative research approach of data collection using questionnaire in which one hundred and forty five (145) library staff were simple randomly selected from a population of two hundred and thirty four (234) staff of the libraries readers' services departments of the seven public libraries headquarters in the North-Western states. This was in accordance with Krejcy and Mogan's sample scale calculation which states; if the population size is 234, 145 suffices.

The data collected from the survey (questionnaire) were sorted, scrutinized, edited and analysed using the statistical packed for social sciences (SPSS) version 16.0.Quantitative data were coded and entered into the SPSS computer package for analysis.

Data Analyses

Respondents Profile

A total of 145 copies of questionnaire were administered but only 112 copies were returned. See table 1.

Table 1: ***Response Rate***

Response Rate	Frequency	Percentages
Administered	145	100%
Returned	112	77.2%
Not Returned	33	22.8 %

Table1 reveals that a total of 145 copies of questionnaires were distributed to the respondents, out of which majority 112 (77.2%) copies of the questionnaire were duly completed, returned and found usable, while 33(22.8 %) copies were not returned. This shows that there was a high return of 112 (77.2%) which is significant enough for analysis in this study. This corroborates the saying of Osuala (2005), that the higher the number of response rate, the more credible the findings of the study.

In this segment, the respondents profile namely gender and educational qualification are presented below:

Table 2: *Gender of respondents*

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	88	78.6
Female	23	20.5
No response	1	.9
Total	**112**	**100.0**

Based on the findings, out of the hundred and twelve (112) respondents, 88 (78.6%) were males, while the females constituted 23 (20.5%) of the total respondents, and 1(0.9%) decline to respond whether he is a male or female. This result shows that more males are involved in library security breaches and mitigation strategies than Females counterparts.

Table 3: *Educational Qualification*

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
Diploma	55	49.1
HND	14	12.5
NCE	7	6.2
Bachelor Degree	21	18.8
PGD	7	6.2
Masters	4	3.6
No Response	4	3.6
Total	**112**	**100.0**

The result in Table 3 reveals the educational qualification of the respondents, which shows that majority of the respondents 55 (49.1%) were diploma holders. This is followed by 21(18.8%) of the respondents who had BACHELOR DEGREE as their educational qualification. About 14(12.5%) of the respondents had HND

as their educational qualification. While 7(6.2%) of the respondents had NCE and other 7(6.2%) of the respondents had PGD as their educational qualification. It was only 4(3.6%) of the respondents who had Masters as their educational qualification. Other 4(3.6%) of the respondents did not respond to this question.

Table 4: Sources of Security Breaches in Libraries

S/N	Sources of Security Breaches in Libraries	SA	A	D	SD
a.	Lack of security personnel	86(76.8%)	16(14.3%)	7(6.2%)	1(0.9%)
b.	Poor arrangement of library materials	49(43.8%)	38(33.9%)	17(15.2%)	5(4.5%)
c.	Juvenile users	37(33.0%)	37(33.0%)	24(21.4%)	6(5.4%)
d.	Biological agents	46(41.1%)	35(31.2%)	15(13.4%)	13(11.6%)
e.	Unsecured environment	36(32.1%)	54(48.2%)	10(8.9%)	8(7.1%)
f.	Lack of awareness among library users	46(41.1%)	38(33.9%)	13(11.6%)	12(10.7%)
g.	Food consumption	25(22.3%)	43(38.4%)	22(19.6%)	19(17.0%)
h.	Disasters	29(25.9%)	40(35.7%)	18(16.1%)	13(11.6%)
i.	Selfishness on the part of some users	30(26.8%)	42(37.5%)	28(25.0%)	10(8.9%)
j.	Scarcity of library materials	27(24.1%)	33(29.5%)	30(26.8%)	15(13.4%)
k.	Lack of electronic security gadgets	31(27.7%)	35(31.2%)	28(25.0%)	11(9.8%)
l.	Lack of management commitment toward security issue	24(21.4%)	37(33.0%)	29(25.9%)	17(15.2%)
m.	Poor environmental condition	26(23.2%)	37(33.0%)	27(24.1%)	19(17.0%)

Based on the findings on table 4 the result reveals that 86(76.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Lack of security personnel is a Source of security breach in libraries. This is followed by 16(14.3%) who agreed that Lack of security

personnel is a Source of security breach in libraries. About 7(6.2%) were found disagreed with the notion. It was only 1(0.9%) of the respondents who strongly disagreed with this statement. Also as indicated in the table 4,49(43.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Poor arrangement of library materials is a Source of security breach in libraries. About 38(33.9%) agreed that Poor arrangement of library materials is a Source of security breach in libraries.

Moreover, Table 4 indicates that, 46(41.1%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Biological agents are sources of security breach in libraries. Also 35(31.2%) agreed Biological agents are source of security breach in libraries. While 15(13.4%) disagreed Biological agents are Source of security breach in libraries and 13(11.6%) of the respondents strongly disagreed with this statement.

The table also shows that majority 54(48.2%) of the respondents agreed that Unsecured environment is a source of security breach in libraries. Also 36(32.1%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Unsecured environment is a Source of security breach in libraries. About 10(8.9%) of the respondents disagreed that Unsecured environment is a Source of security breach in libraries and 8(7.1%) strongly disagreed with the notion.

It also indicates that majority 46(41.1%) of the respondents strongly agreed Lack of awareness among library users is a Source of security breach in libraries. This is followed by 38(33.9%) respondents who agreed that Lack of awareness among library users is a Source of security breach in libraries. About 13(11.6%) disagreed and other 12(10.7%) of the respondents strongly disagreed with the notion that Lack of awareness among library users is a Source of security breach in libraries.

Furthermore, 43(38.4%) of the respondents agreed that Food consumption is a Source of security breach in libraries. Then 25(22.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Food consumption is a Source of security breach in libraries. This is followed by 22(19.6%) who disagreed with the statement. It was only 19(17.0%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that Food consumption is a Source of security breach in libraries.

The result on Table 4 also reveals that 40(35.7%) of the respondents agreed that Disasters are Sources of security breach in libraries. This is followed by 29(25.9%) of the respondents who strongly agreed that Disasters are Sources of security breach in libraries. About 18(16.1%) disagreed with this statement. Also, 13(11.6%) of the respondents strongly disagreed with the notion.

As indicated in the table 4 42(37.5%) of the respondents agreed that Selfishness on the part of some users is a Source of security breach in libraries. About 30(26.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Selfishness on the part of

some users is a Source of security breach in libraries. Then 28(25.0%) were found disagreed that Selfishness on the part of some users is a Source of security breach in libraries and 10(8.9%) of the respondents strongly disagreed with the statement.

Moreover, table 4 indicates that, many 35(31.2%) of the respondents agreed that Lack of electronic security gadgets is a Sources of security breach in libraries. Also 31(27.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Lack of electronic security gadgets is a Sources of security breach in libraries. While 28(25.0%) of the respondents disagreed that Lack of electronic security gadgets is a Sources of security breach in libraries. About 11(9.8%) of the respondents were found strongly disagreed with the notion.

It is reveals that 37(33.0%) of the respondents agreed that Poor environmental condition is a Sources of security breach in libraries, About 26(23.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement. Then, 27(24.1%) of the respondents disagreed that Poor environmental condition is a Sources of security breach in libraries, while 19(17.0%) strongly disagreed with this statement.

Table 5. Mitigation Strategies Used in Libraries

Measures	Yes	No	No response	Total
Use of security personnel to checkmate security issues	96(85.7%)	16(14.3%)	-	112(100%)
Provision of multiple copies of heavily used items	74(66.1%)	38(33.9%)	-	112(100%)
Periodic searching of staff offices	97(86.6%)	14(12.5%)	1(0.9%)	112(100%)
Reducing the cost of photocopying service	81(72.3%)	30(26.8%)	1(0.9%)	112(100%)
Searching of patrons at the entrance and exits	97(86.6%)	15(13.4%)		112(100%)
Provision of loan services to users	82(73.2%)	28(25.0%)	2(1.8%)	112(100%)
Provision of modern security gadgets (i.e cctv, Rfid, E-gates etc)	63(56.2%)	49(43.8%)	-	112(100%)
Training of staff on information security	68(60.7%)	44(39.3%)	-	112(100%)
User education on information security	87(77.7%)	25(22.3%)	-	112(100%)
Others	76(67.9%)	36(40.2%)	-	112(100%)

As indicated on table 5 Respondents were asked to please suggest what measures could be employed to overcome the security breach in their library and majority 96(85.7%) of the respondents suggested Use of security personnel to checkmate security issues in their library, while 16(14.3%) of the respondents did not suggest for use of security personnel to checkmate security issues as measures could be employed to overcome the security breach in their library.

Majority 74(66.1%) of the respondents suggested Provision of multiple copies of heavily used items as measures could be employed to overcome the security breach in their library, while 38(33.9%) of the respondents did not suggest for Provision of multiple copies of heavily used items as measures could be

employed to overcome the security breach in their library.

About 97(86.6%) of the respondents suggested Periodic searching of staff offices as measures could be employed to overcome the security breach in their library, while 14(12.5%) of the respondents did not suggest Periodic searching of staff offices as measures could be employed to overcome the security breach in their library, Also 1(0.9%) of the respondents decline to respond to the question.

Majority 97(86.6%) of the respondents suggested Searching of patrons at the entrance and exits as measures could be employed to overcome the security breach in their library, while 15(13.4%) of the respondents did not suggest Searching of patrons at the entrance and exits as measures could be employed to overcome the security breach in their library.

About 82(73.2%) of the respondents suggested Provision of loan services to users as measures could be employed to overcome the security breach in their library, while 28(25.0%) of the respondents did not suggest Provision of loan services to users as measures could be employed to overcome the security breach in their library, also 2(1.8%) of the respondents decline to respond to the question.

Also majority 63(56.2%) of the respondents suggested Provision of modern security gadgets (i.e CCTV, RFID, E-Gates etc) as measures could be employed to overcome the security breach in their library, while 49(43.8%) of the respondents did not suggest Provision of modern security gadgets (i.e CCTV, RFID, E-Gates etc) as measures could be employed to overcome the security breach in their library.

Majority 68(60.7%) of the respondents suggested Training of staff on information security in their library, while 44(39.3%) of the respondents did not suggest Training of staff on information security as measures could be employed to overcome the security breach in their library.

Discussion of Findings

As observed by the researcher and also with different literatures that has been reviewed, it was noted that, there is increase in the wave of security breaches in libraries, Public libraries inclusive. This is evidently crippling the development of information resources in Public libraries in Nigeria, as such, the study sought to investigate the sources of security breaches and mitigation strategies *in Public libraries of north-western Nigeria. The resultant findings are discussed hereunder:*

The finding of the study revealed that lack of trained security personnel is a great source of security breach in Public libraries of north-western Nigeria. This is in line with the work of Adenujo (2018) which he reported lack of security personnel in libraries as the major security issue in Nigerian academic libraries.

It is noteworthy that the study showed the main causes of security breaches *in Public libraries of north-western Nigeria like* scarcity of library materials, poor arrangement of library materials, biological agents, unsecured environment, lack of awareness among library users, disasters, poor environmental condition, selfishness on the part of some users and juvenile users. All these corroborates the findings of Krill (2015), and Abdullahi (2018)whose reported several forms of *security breaches in libraries including* financial constraint, selfishness on the part of some students, carelessness of staff, user abuse, theft, sabotage, vandalism natural disaster and malicious acts, physical intrusions, lack of security plans, poor security points (exits, loading areas, windows, special collections) and scarcity of library materials.

Lastly, the respondents suggested many ways that would be adopted in deterring and controlling any source of security breach to library information resources in public libraries of north-western Nigeria. This finding resonates with the effort made by Maidabino (2010) that identified measures to reduce the security problems in Nigerian academic libraries include tightening security personnel 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 offices.

Conclusion

This paper x-rays the sources of security breaches and mitigation strategies in public libraries of north-western states of Nigeria. Although the scope is limited to public libraries of north-western Nigeria only yet the study captures some sources of security breach in libraries and gave insight into the level of mitigation strategies in protecting the library information resources. The result revealed that the primary task of public library is to protect the library against any security breach and ensure effective services. It is evident from this study that, in order to effectively achieve the provision of effective services in response to the teaching, learning and research needs of the different users, it is important for the libraries to protect their collections against vulnerability because without it, this effort should be at stake.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings:

1. Library management should provide lasting solution towards the security challenges by providing permanent library security personnel to aid for protection of library information resources from any source of security breach.

2. The study recommends that, there should be conducive library environment, serious consideration should also be given to fumigation of Public library materials, provision of vacuum thermal freezers, dehumidifiers, and back up for resources, Proper arrangement of library materials, Provision of multiple copies of heavily used materials and user education on careful handling of library information resources.
3. For effective security and protection measures in the libraries, the study recommends the use of adequate and trained security personnel to checkmate security issues, and Provision of modern security gadgets (i.e CCTV, RFID, E-Gates etc).
4. The study recommends the provision of adequate mitigation materials of both digital and manual materials used for securing information resources.
5. Finally, the study recommends that, funding is a very important measure for tackling security breaches in Public libraries.

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