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The Journal is a collaborative endeavor of Library and Information Sensitization Forum, Nigeria (LISFN) and Department of Library and Information Science, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. The Publications aim at driving forward research in the field of Library and Information Science, Computer Science, Information Science, Mass Communication, Library Education, Records and Archives Management, Information Technology, Management of Information System, Informatics and Media Studies. The journal, endeavoring to create influence on the academic as well as corporate thinkers to provide opportunities for discussion and exchange of ideas across a wide spectrum of scholarly opinions to promote theoretical, empirical, and comparative research on problems confronting the future life.

The broad goals are set as follows:

- Enhance communication among librarians, Information Scientists, and the public;
- Promote and defend the integrity of Information Science and Librarianship;
- Strengthen support for Information Science related enterprise;
- Provide a voice for Librarianship and Information Science on societal issues;
- Strengthen and diversify the Library and Information Science workforce;
- Advance international cooperation in Information science.

Our Mission

Our mission is to efficiently and promptly publish rigorous, accessible, and research base information that will help Researchers and Information Scientists in their daily work, lifelong learning, and career development. Be at forefront among the world's most influential and widely read information science journal.

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Users' Perception on the Use of Electronic Security Systems in First Generation Universities' Libraries In South West, Nigeria

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Abstract

Several research works have been conducted and the findings have shown that, the menace of book theft, mutilation and vandalism remain both a national and global concern which has led to several debates among the key players in the universities. It has been resolved that the manual control measures of safeguarding library materials are no longer adequate in academic libraries. The study therefore is designed to examine library officers' perception of use of electronic security systems (ESSs) in first generation Universities in South-West Nigeria. The study adopted survey design. The population comprised 115 (librarians-33, para-professional library staff-80 and (information technology (IT) Personnel-2) in two first generation universities in South-West, Nigeria. Simple random sampling technique was used to sample University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos and University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Total enumeration method was used to sample all library staff in each university used for the study which totaled 115 respondents. Questionnaire was the main instrument used for data collection. The reliability of the instrument was established using Cronbach alpha to obtain 0.79. The study employed descriptive statistics of mean and standard

deviation to analysis data obtained from the respondents. The finding of the study revealed that users' perception on the use of ESSs in academic libraries in South-West, Nigeria is good. The result also showed that electronic security systems were used occasionally in first generation universities in South-West, Nigeria when considering the grand mean of the response. Effort should be made by University management to use all electronic security systems regularly so as to curb the issue of theft, mutilation and vandalism in Nigerian first generation universities in South-West, Nigeria.

Keywords: Users' perception, electronic security systems, first generation Universities, academic libraries, theft and mutilation.

Introduction

A well-stocked library is a benefit to the academic institution and the environment where it is established. The expectation of the library is to have books on various disciplines which is organized or processed and disseminated accordingly. Academic libraries are established to solve the information problems of the scholars, researchers and students both within and outside the institution. They are expected to encourage the poor students who cannot buy academic text books that are recommended and needed in their areas of discipline. Academic libraries all over the world are expected to provide multi-dimensional information and services with the incredible application of the latest technologies. The libraries are set up, especially in Nigerian universities to meet the teaching, learning and research needs of its students, academic staff and other users outside the institutions (Oyekisu, Buraimono, Olusanya, 2011).

A library is the "life wire" of the intellectual community, providing a platform for learners and academic staff to seek for knowledge and carry out their research (Maidabino, 2012). However, one of the main obstacles facing academic libraries is security challenges. That is, how to protect their valued collections from the unethical activities such as theft, mutilation and vandalism. It is very crucial to have adequate security control and monitoring of the information resources in the library. Edem (2010) sees security as assurance of the future wellbeing and liberty from threat. Security, therefore, is described as a process aimed to safeguard library information resources against theft, mutilation and anti-social vices (Ajegbomogun, 2004).

In actual fact, the role of academic staff cannot take place in the institutions where library resources are insufficient. Osayande (2011) observed that, many manual security control procedures like stop and search, leaving bags with the library

staff, and using security men to secure library information resources have been adopted to minimize the stealing of information resources. However, the rate of taking away resources illegally from the library is still disturbing. Some of the library clientele end up being upset due to the manual control measures employed in first generation university libraries. This mostly happens when security personnel check users before leaving the library, some of these security personnel end up spoiling users' personal belongings. This is against the objective and ethics of the library. The goal of a security system is to safe and secure library resources, facilities and equipment (McComb, 2004). All these aforementioned seem to be defeated as some of security personnel work against the objectives of library which can jeopardize the overall goal of the university community.

Extant studies have always focused on the use of traditional/manual methods in curbing the excesses of library patrons which include thefts, mutilation and vandalism of library materials. Nonetheless, the use of modern technologies has proven to be the solution to curbing the issues of security in academic libraries. In the developed countries, modern technologies, and electronic security systems have been installed in academic libraries to help secure library collections and monitor the activities of patrons and even library employees. Kumar (2014) showed that there was reduction in the loss of library materials through theft and mutilation due the deployment of electronic security systems (ESSs) by the library, compared to when electronic security systems were not implemented. Regularity of usage of ESSs can discourage the unethical practices in libraries. Song, Yusuf and Mairiga (2018) describe electronic security systems as "technological devices used with the aid of electrical gadgets, terminals and circuits to protect and secure library collections from incidence of theft and mutilation and the sudden disappearance of library resources." Some of electronic security systems installed in libraries include but not limited to: electronic surveillance camera, 3M, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), electronic security gates, perimeter alarm system, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, smoke detection system, and movement detectors. All these electronic security systems make the work of librarians' easier and save users' time. Kumbhar and Veer (2016) state that ESSs "provides rapid check out/in, increases the circulation of materials, minimizes the expenditure incurred on staff, high reliability, increases high speed record and automated material handling".

This study suggests that ESSs could serve as a corrective measure to control theft of library materials and mismanagement of the same. Festus and Cordelia (2019)

affirm that there was high level of roles of modern information and communication technologies in curbing academic libraries crimes. Song, Yusuf and Mairiga (2018) observe that some universities adopt and implemented ESSs in form of CCTV, network and server security system, RFID Transponder and reader system to address the issues associated with theft and mutilation of library materials.

Previous studies (Festus and Cordelia, 2019, Nath, 2021 and Opele, Osunrinde and Awwa, 2021) conducted on modern information and communication technologies in curbing crimes in academic libraries, without paying attention to the perception of ESSs users in Nigerian universities. Likewise, several other works have shown that ESSs have been found effective in curbing theft, mutilation and vandalism of library materials in the developed world (Maidabino, 2012; Makori, 2013; Kumar 2014; Randall and Newell, 2014). It is against this background that the study is designed to fill the gap by examining the perception of the users of ESSs in academic libraries in Nigerian Universities.

Statement of the Problem

Generally, academic libraries are established in the university to make available information materials that can be used for learning, teaching and research. In Nigeria, studies have shown that the criminal activities of book mutilation, vandalism and theft are a national concern that has attracted debates among decision-makers in many universities due to the manual security control measures.

Empirical studies carried out on modern technologies in curbing crimes in academic libraries focused only on the manual or traditional methods without paying attention to the perception of the users of electronic security systems in Nigerian universities. Likewise, many of the existing studies focused on the use of traditional/manual methods in curbing the excesses of library clientele which include thefts, mutilation and vandalism of library materials. It is against this background that the study suggests the perception of users of electronic security systems in Nigerian Universities.

Purpose of the study

Generally, the study aimed to examine the perception of electronic security systems users among academic libraries in first generation universities in South

West, Nigeria. Specifically, the study found out that the users' perception about the ESSs was of utmost importance.

Research Questions

In order to achieve the purpose of this study, two research questions were raised and answered as follows.

1. What are the users' perception on the use of ESSs in first generation universities' libraries in South-West Nigeria?
2. How often are ESSs used in first generation universities' libraries in South West Nigeria?

Methodology

Survey research design was employed to carry out the study on users' perception of ESSs among academic libraries. The population comprised 117 (Heads of Libraries-2, Librarians-33, Para-professional library staff-80 and IT Personnel-2) in two first generation universities in South-West Nigeria. Simple random sampling technique was used to sample the University of Lagos library, Akoka, Lagos State and University of Ibadan library, Ibadan, Oyo State. Total enumeration method was used to sample all personnel in each university under study, totaling 117 respondents. Questionnaire was the main instrument for data collection. The reliability of the instrument was found to be 0.79 using Cronbach alpha statistical method. This indicates that there is great consistency of the items in the questionnaire. The study employed descriptive statistics to analyse data obtained from the respondents.

Result Presentation and Discussion of Findings

1. What are the users' perception of the electronic security systems in academic libraries in first generation universities in South West Nigeria?

Table 1: Users' Perception of the Electronic Security Systems

S/N	Statements	MEAN(\bar{x})	Std. D	Decision
1	Curb the menaces of theft, mutilation and vandalism of library materials	4.30	0.09	Great Extent
2	Library activities could be seen at a glance from workstations by officers in charge	4.00	1.00	Great Extent
3	Ease job of library staff on constant routine checks/movements	4.30	0.80	Great Extent
4	Promote efficiency and effectiveness in securing library materials	4.10	0.90	Great Extent
5	Using the electronic security systems is not frustrating	3.90	1.10	Great Extent
6	Use of electronic security systems make monitoring of library patrons/activities very easy.	3.80	1.10	Great Extent
7	Theft and mutilation of library materials decrease significantly	2.32	0.47	Low extent
8	Patrons are conscious how they use library resources because they are being monitored	2.50	0.82	Low extent
Grand Mean		3.65		

Note: Great Extent-3.00-5.00, Low Extent-below 3.00

Table 1 reveals the mean scores and grand mean of responses on library officers' perception of the electronic security systems in academic library in Nigerian Universities. Data in the table showed that the responses to items 1 to 6 indicated great extent of the on users' perception of ESSs, while the responses to items 7 and 8 indicated low extent of users' perception of the electronic security systems. However, the grand mean of 3.65 shows that users' perception of the electronic security systems was great extent. This implies that users' perception of the ESSs in academic libraries in South-West, Nigeria is good. The findings of this study is consistent with the submission of Festus and Cordelia (2019) who found that there was high level of roles of modern information and communication technologies in curbing academic libraries crimes. The result of this study also agrees with observation made by Song, Yusuf and Mairiga (2018) that some universities adopt and implement electronic security systems such as CCTV cameras, Network and Server Security System, RFID Transponder and Reader System to address the issues associated with theft and mutilation.

Similarly, the finding of this study is in line with the study of Opele, Osunrinde and Awwa (2021) who worked on undergraduates' perception of the influence of book mutilation and defacing on library use in the FUOYE library. The finding also showed that the undergraduates had high-level of awareness of the influence of book mutilation and defacing. Likewise, the result corroborates the submission of Yusuf, Omopupa, Sulaiman and Maito (2022) who employed mixed methods approach to investigate the utilization of electronic surveillance systems in curbing theft and mutilation in the library of the Kwara State University, Malete, Nigeria. The study revealed that that electronic surveillance systems have been very effective in curbing theft and mutilation of information resources in the library as perceived by the majority of the librarians. The finding of the study also revealed that electronic surveillance systems reduced theft, the consciousness of being monitored in the library, among others.

2. How often are ESSs used in first generation universities in South West Nigeria?

Table 2: Mean (x) scores of the Responses of Users in First Generation Universities on ESSs

S/N	Items	MEAN (\bar{x})	Decision
1	Close Circuit Television Cameras	2.82	Often
2	Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) System	1.27	Never
3	Door Intrusion Alarms	1.20	Never
4	Surveillance Camera	3.17	Often
5	Magnetic tackle tape	3.21	Often
6	Smoke detector	3.26	Often
7	Electronic gates	1.87	Occasionally
8	Fire alarm	3.00	Often
9	Antivirus software	1.40	Occasionally
10	Mental detector	1.61	Occasionally
	Grand mean	2.28	Occasionally

Note: below 1.5= Never; 1.5-2.4= Occasionally; 2.5-3.4=Often; 3.5-4.0= Very Often

The grand mean response of 2.28 in table 2 reveals that users are of the opinion that first generation universities use electronic security systems occasionally. Considering the items in the table, it indicates that three out of the ten ESSs identified, five were used often, namely close circuit television cameras (mean= 2.82), surveillance cameras (mean= 3.17), magnetic tackle tape (mean= 3.21),

smoke detector (mean= 3.26) and fire alarm (mean = 3.00). Three of them were used occasionally and these are electronic gates (mean = 1.87), antivirus software (mean = 1.40) and Metal detector (mean = 1.61) while two of the electronic security devices was never used in first generation universities. These devices are; Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) System (mean= 1.27) and door intrusion alarms (mean= 1.20). The result shows that ESSs used occasionally in libraries in first generation universities in South West Nigeria when considering the grand mean of the response.

The finding of this study is similar to the finding of Ezeabasili and Obiora (2018) who adopted descriptive survey research design to examine ESSs in the security of information resources in Federal University libraries in Southern Nigeria. The result of the finding indicated that the available ESSs in the sampled Federal universities libraries were not in regular use. The finding also found that RFID was not in use in any of the Federal universities. Likewise, the result of the study aligns with the finding of Randall and Newell (2014) who revealed that the deployment of electronic security systems (ESSs) reduced theft and mutilation of library information resources in those institutions because the closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras had the competence to video record the activities that take place at the different sections of the university libraries.

Conclusion

The study concluded that users of ESSs had a great perception about the adoption and implementation of the ESSs. This shows that users have good perception about the electronic security systems in academic libraries. The study also concluded that users of ESSs across the two selected universities are of the view that some of electronic security devices were used occasionally and majority of electronic security systems were used often while two of the electronic security devices were never used in first generation universities.

Recommendations

1. The study, according to the users' perception on the use of ESSs is good, therefore, it is recommended that ESSs use should be encouraged in all academic libraries in South West and in other regions on Nigeria.
2. It is recommended that there should be regular use of ESSs in all university libraries in Nigeria, in order to safeguard their collections from incessant theft, mutilation and vandalism.

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