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Preservation and Conservation of Serials Collection in Selected Academic Libraries in Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study investigates the preservation and conservation of serials collection in selected academic libraries in Oyo State, Nigeria. Relevant literature on the concept of serials, importance of serials in academic library, preservation and conservation of serials, methods of preservation and conservation of serials, importance of preservation and conservation of serials, factors affecting the preservation and conservation of serials was reviewed. The descriptive research design of the survey type was adopted for this study. The study population consisted of two hundred and fifteen (215) library personnel's in the three selected academic libraries. The population of the study consists of para-professional and professional librarians. Data were collected using questionnaire. Data collected, were analysed using simple percentages, mean and frequency distribution methods. The study provides answers to seven research questions posed. The result of the study revealed that the three libraries recruited more male staff than their female counterpart. It was revealed that Journal, Magazines and Newspapers among others were the types of serial materials that are available and most frequently consulted; preserved and conserved in the selected academic libraries. The study also revealed that prone to vandalism, lack of knowledge and skills, theft and mutilation were reasons why serial materials are not available for use in the selected academic libraries. The study revealed that conditions for preserving and conserving serials were disallowing bags and coats into the serial section, maintaining vigilance and regular housekeeping among others. Microfilming, Fumigation exercise and Disaster preparedness were the major methods adopted to preserve serials. The study also revealed that the selected academic libraries have preservation and conservation policy and the measures put in place to contain emergency situation were provision of fire alarms and fire extinguisher. It was revealed that lack of preservation and conservation librarians in the library, insufficient fund, lack of interest on the part of staff and inadequacy of equipment were the problems associated with the preservation and conservation of serials. Based on these findings, the following were recommended: Library management should organise a training programmes for their library personnel and send their staff for seminars and workshops on preservation and conservation of serials materials in order to be able to care for the serials collection in the library.

Key Words: Preservation, Conservation, Serials collection, Academic libraries, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Word count: 366

Introduction

Serials are publications in any medium issued in successive parts carrying numerical or chronological designation and intended to be continued indefinitely. Serials constitute an integral part of an academic library's collections and are the pulsing heart of the library. Thus, serials are the bedrock of research activities. According to Ogunrombi (1997) serials publications form the backbone of an academic library because of their current nature of information value. Serials are essential tool of teaching and research in academic endeavour and remain a potent tool for dissemination of knowledge. Hence, serials provide useful and current information for users especially researchers. Serials complement monographs and give library users an alternative to access and obtain current information that is essential for survival and decision making which could be for personal organizational or societal advancement.

However, serials are categorised into periodicals and non periodicals, based on the intended frequency of publication hence, serials and periodicals are synonymous and are sometimes used interchangeably. A periodical is intended to be published regularly and more often than once a year. Periodicals are usually dated or numbered and published either at regular or irregular intervals and are not usually paid for in advance. Thus, non periodicals include annuals, conference proceeding and monographic series. Serials are unique because they are used for teaching, study, learning and research purpose. Akinbode (1998) pointed out that serials can be regarded "as the nerve centre of any academic library because they convey up-to-date information on research and knowledge.

The ALA glossary of library and information science described a magazine as "a periodical for several reading containing articles on various subjects by different authors". It explained further that the distinctive feature of magazines is that they are general towards a specific event and that magazines meet the technical definition of serials. This is when the event is finished the magazines ceases thus meet the "intended to be continued indefinitely criterion". Nisonger (1998) describes newspaper as a serial issued at stated frequent interval usually daily, weekly or semi-weekly containing news, opinions, advertisements and other items of current but often local news. However, a journal is a periodical containing articles and disseminating current information on research and development in a particular subject field. Akinbode (1998) emphasised that journals are serial publications of high academic standards usually written by

experts in the field, therefore they are reliable and the articles are precise and to the point thus, not bulky and cumbersome to read like monographs.

Serials publication represents a most important reference source not only because of their sizes but also because they represent other numerous values which the monograph medium fails to offer. Serials provide the newest and most nearly up-to-date information. They are also a safeguard to researchers for sifting through the maze of irrelevant materials in their search for the relevant ones. And where regency of information is of prime consideration serials have a distinct advantage over the monograph. However, the importance of serials in academic libraries cannot be over-emphasised, they are the conveyor of current ideas investigated by scientific community, hence the need to preserve and conserve their valuable and intellectual content.

Furthermore, preservation is a generic term that is used for all managerial, financial and staffing actions taken in order to prolong the life span of library materials serials inclusive, which involves proactive actions or steps. While conservation is carried out to stabilise the deteriorated library materials in their original formats. Conservation is done by professionals who are trained for that purpose. Conservation focuses on the principle of irreversibility and it is specific. Hence, serials librarians and preservationists have many serials preservation option. Different ideas and innovations such as Google book search, enables academic libraries to make appropriate preservation decisions for its circumstance. Thus, as librarians, make decision about preserving print journals; a number of issues are taken into account such as shelf space, accessibility and the potential for off-site storage.

Bogdanski (2006) opined that despite the growth of electronic journals, print serials remain an important part of an academic library's collection. Driedger and Drews (2006) explained that building is also important to continue in an increasingly electronic world because many materials do not translate well electronically, thereby losing the nuances of the paper such as format and colour. Hence, building journal collections is a way to keep serials collection intact. An of-site print repository is an option for preserving print journals which includes institutional inter-institutional and regional repositories. Thus binding and print repositories dissipate any uncertainty regarding future access of electronic content because the print title is still owned by the library and if a library gains electronic access to journal titles especially those available on JSTOR yet keeps the print counterpart off-site, the library do not only provide access to a journal but also preserve it for the future.

Bogdanski (2006) also mentioned that microfilm is a proven preservation method. She explained that microform will last at least 50 years when kept under ideal conditions. She stated further that microforms are not glamorous but they play an important role in serials preservation because the microform maintains the integrity of the images and format of a journal with the minimal wear and tear and considerable space savings.

Statement of the Problem

Preservation and conservation of serials collection in academic libraries is an important phenomenon that often caught the attention of the Library Management. This is because preservation is a generic term that is used for all managerial, financial and staffing actions taken in order to prolong the life span of library materials, serials inclusive, which involves proactive actions or steps. While conservation is carried out to stabilise the deteriorated library materials in their original formats. Nevertheless, literature has revealed that most libraries all over the world have failed to ensure adequate preservation and conservation of serials collection in most academic libraries which have resulted in the deterioration of these materials. This was as a result of several factors among which are poor storage, environment, lack of trained and qualified personnel in preservation and conservation of serial materials, poor staff vigilance, improper or careless handling and in-built problems of the materials. Despite the significant roles of serials in an academic library, prior to this research, the researchers have discovered that not all serials collection are readily available in the library and those available are insufficiently acquired in the library such that it cannot be made available to many users at a time due to problems associated with the preservation and conservation of serials such as lack of preservation and conservation librarians in the library, insufficient fund, lack of interest on the part of staff and inadequacy of equipment. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to examine preservation and conservation of serials collection in selected academic libraries in Oyo State, Nigeria.

Objective of the study

The objectives of the study are to:

1. find out the types of serial materials that are mostly consulted, preserved and conserved in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State;
2. find out the types of serial materials available for consultation in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State;

3. find out why serials are not available for use in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State;
4. find out the condition for preserving and conserving serials in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State;
5. evaluate the method of serials preservation in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State;
6. find out the security measures provided for serial collections in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State; and
7. find out the inhibitions to serials preservation and conservation in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State.

Research questions

The following research questions were drawn to guide the study

1. What are the types of serial materials that are mostly consulted, preserved and conserved in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?
2. What are the types of serial materials available for consultation in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?
3. Why are serials not available for use in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?
4. What is the condition for preserving and conserving serials in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?
5. What are the methods adopted to preserve serials in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?
6. What are the security measures provided for serial collection in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?
7. What are the problems associated with the preservation and conservation of serials in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?

Significance of the study

The essence of this study is to know how, why and the extent of serials preservation in selected academic libraries in Oyo State. The study will reveal the strength or weakness of serials collection's preservation and will also reveal the methods of serials preservation in the selected academic libraries, the efficiency and effectiveness of these which give first hand information on

how best, serials can be preserved and conserved and also reveal how serials preservation can affect their use.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Concept of Serials

Scholars have given their individual views on serials in literature. The Anglo-American cataloguing Rules (1978), defines serials as a publication in any medium issued in successive parts bearing numerical or chronological designatories and intended to be continued indefinitely. It notes: that serials include periodicals, newspapers, magazines, annual reports, yearbooks, journals, proceedings, transactions and numbered monographic series. Nwalo (2003) cited Osborn (1980) describe serials to include; newspaper, magazines, newsletters, accessions, journals, indexes, abstract, reports proceedings and transactions of societies etc. Out of them all, journals are the most important to researchers because much of articles therein are products of research and it may never appear in any other publications. According to Ogunrombi (1997) serial publications form the backbone of any academic library because of their nature of informational value.

According to librarian glossary as cited by Nisonger (1998) serial is any publication issued in successive parts appearing at intervals, usually regular ones and as a rule, intended to be continued indefinitely. The term includes periodicals, newspapers, annals, numbered monographic series and the proceedings, transactions and memoirs of societies. Osborn (1973) defines serials publication as “any item which lends itself to serial treatment in library”. Kartz (1980) a renowned serial expert as cited by Apotiade (2002) supported Osborn definition. Subsequently, Fayose (1995) noted that serials are the group of library materials, which appear in series at regular interval. Akinyotu (1975) explained that this definition has been challenged as defective because it does not sufficiently delineate the boundaries of serials publications. Defending this point of view, Osborn (1973) pointed out that “on the one hand, there is a whole category of publications known to libraries as un-numbered series, there are numbered series whose first or later volumes lack numbering, there is an increasing number of serial which are republished in single monographic form; and there are serial publications many of which are pseudo-serial whose numerical or chronological arrangement is derived from the edition statement. On the other hand, there are publications called author series (that is succession of works by an author but held together by a serial name and numbering) but most libraries do not

regard it as serials and there are non-periodicals which have the ear marks of serials; their volumes are numbered, they never seem to exhaust their subjects, they have a plurality of author and so on.

Furthermore, Osborn (1973) described serials as a printed work appearing regularly, of unlimited duration and lays attention only to the development in a special field. Lawal (1982) opined that serials could be regarded as the nerve centre of any university library because they contain the most recent information. Adedeji (1984) explained that the term serial is used interchangeably in everyday conversation to mean magazines, journals or any publication of that nature. This is simply because serials contain more current and accurate information and the collections are useful for library. Aboyade (1979) opined that journals contain the latest and up-to-date opinions and development within subject disciplines. Fayose (1995) also agreed that serials are useful because they are the most up-to-date resources in the library and emphasised that the articles in periodicals are often written by experts in the field hence they are reliable, precise, direct to the point and not as cumbersome to read as monographs.

Apotiade (2002) in his own contribution supported Nisonga (1998) view, he opined that periodical is a subset of serial and he identified three categories of serials namely: primary, secondary and tertiary. Apotiade (2002) further highlighted four types of serials which include: Periodicals; examples are magazines, journals etc; Annuals; examples include Almanacs, yearbooks etc; monographic series and government publication. Apotiade (2002) emphasise that serials publication have the following certain characteristics: serials are characterized by a title that is continued from the issue to issue; they are issued in successive parts with or without specific numbers and the intention of the person or group that issues the publication is that it will be continued indefinitely; serials are noted for conveying current and vital information to library users and researchers and that multiple authorship is another key element that defines serials. Akinbode (1998) noted that “the part of serial publication may be published at regular or irregular interval by an academic or research institute, learned society or a professional body”. He noted that some serials are published on subject bases, view are on general topic. It is the sterility that distinguishes serials publications from monographs and it is periodicity that dictates their format and prices.

Importance of Serials in Academic Library

Library is an integral part of any educational institution most especially the tertiary level (Ogunniyi, Akerele, and Afolabi, 2011). Popoola (2006) supported this view; he stated that a

well stocked and organized library is a pride to any educational institution which will definitely help in meeting its teaching, learning and research needs through availability of contemporary serial publications alongside other library resources. To this end, Nwalo (2003) cited Osborn (1980) to describe serials (Journals) as publications issued in successive parts at regular or irregular intervals and intended to be continued.

Thus, the importance of serials in academic libraries cannot be over-emphasised because serial contain the most current information in any field of study and constitute a valuable component of a university repository. Similarly, Blake and Schleper (2004) reported on several different methods libraries can employ to measure serials use. They first suggested comparing a library's collection to a peer or "best in class" institution to compare serials collections. This can demonstrate the quality of a collection and suggest titles that should be acquired or removed. Blake and Schleper (2004) also suggested seeking input from library patrons (faculty and students) when making collection decisions. Attama and Ezema (2002) stated that serials are important in academic library particularly for postgraduate students. They emphasized that serials provide up-to-date information than textbooks. Serials supplies scientific discoveries and results of latest findings and it makes researchers frequent and current in the frontiers of knowledge.

Salaam (2001) gave reasons why university libraries spent more on serial collections than books. One of the major reasons was because serials provide up-to-date information and at the same time it has low subscription cost. Ehikhamor (2003) stated that 77.5% of Nigerian scientists rated serials as "Important" or Very Important" source of getting current information in conducting research. On the other hand, Azubigu and Madu (2001) cited by Omotayo (2010) observed that library users at Imo State University resorted to the use of internet to search for information because the university library lack funds to subscribe to scholarly and research journals. Also, Odlyzko (1995) reported that there has been a growing felling that the traditional printed serial has outlived its historical role and that some kind of digitally based form of scholarly communication will soon replace it.

Preservation and Conservation of Serials

According to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions IFLA (1998), "Preservation is defined to include all the managerial, administrative, financial and staffing considerations necessary to safeguard the welfare of library collections". However,

specialists in the field have given a systematical and comprehensive definition of preservation as the overall approach that takes into account the heritage of institutions (libraries). There are different types of materials. In that way preservation of serials represents one of the most challenging tasks. There are two main reasons for that. Firstly, serials are made of very low quality paper (some reasons for that are their ephemeral character, price, mass production etc). Secondly, they contain important information for users and, as such, the demand for them grows. This dichotomy between low quality material created and potentially valuable information that needs to be preserved and conserved for long-term represents the major challenge and uniqueness of which one must be aware when speaking of serials preservation.

Popoola (2003) agreed that preserving and conserving library materials especially serials is the greatest challenge facing African libraries, Ferris (1996) described three different projects which involved co-operative preservation of serial publications. These are NEWSPLANS, the RLG Art serials preservation programme and the Mellon Microfilming project; she highlighted a few of their achievements in the preservation of serial publications. The NEWSPLANS defined preservation needs quantified them and suggested ways forward. It has brought the poor physical condition of many of serials publications to the attention of the audience. Bogdanski (2006) asserted that libraries collect serials in a variety of formats including print, electronic and microform. She stressed that the need to preserve and conserve serials was because of their uniqueness and as conveyors of up-to-date and valuable information and that serial librarians and preservationist have many options in preserving the intellectual content of serial publications.

Furthermore, Driedger and Drews (2006) as cited by Bogdanski (2006) asserted that despite the growth of electronic journals, print serials remain an important part of library collections, thus a number of issues must be taken into consideration such as shelf space, accessibility and potential for off-size storage. Driedger and Drews (2006) explained that binding is a common way to preserve print serials because it is relatively inexpensive and helps to protect the integrity of a library's serials collection and explained further that binding is important to continue in an increasingly electronic world because many materials do not translate well electronically, thereby losing nuances of the paper such as format and colour. Thus binding serials is a way to keep serials collection intact. Hence, the preservation and conservation of print serials publications are related activities that are significant and relevant in libraries and information centers. It provides access and integrity to efficient and effective information

provisions and services. If the particular medium which records the information has been allowed to decay, deteriorate and disappear, then access to it is impossible.

Methods of Preservation and Conservation of Serials

Serials publication on print format can be preserved and conserved and conserved by using preventive and curative methods of preservation (Sahoo, 2003). He explained that preventive method includes all forms of indirect actions aimed at increasing the life expectancy of undamaged or damaged elements of intellectual property. It comprises all the methods of good house-keeping, care taking, dusting and periodical supervision and prevention of any possibility of damage by physical, chemical, biological and other agents of deterioration. The curative method according to Sahoo (2003) consists of all forms of direct actions aimed at increasing the life span of undamaged or damaged elements of intellectual property. It includes disaster preparedness, reformatting, digitisation, microfilming, binding, reprinting, preservation of serials in original format, deacidification, fumigation and other jobs which are required considering the physical condition of the serial publication. However, preventive conservation plays a vital role and has assumed much importance in Africa because a large number of institutions do not have proper conservation facilities.

- (a) **Disaster preparedness:** Disasters are generally unexpected events with destructive consequences to a collection (Alegbeleye, 2008). Therefore it is vital for any library to take possible precautions to prevent the occurrence of an unavoidable disaster. A disaster planning is an essential element of preventive conservation. It is also necessary to identify both external and internal threats that might cause problems for serials collections and measures to meet those threats.
- (b) **Reformatting:** Adeleke, Aina and Lateef (2013) opined that reformatting is a method of preserving the intellectual content of serials which involves the process of transferring text to media. Thus librarians and archivist adopt this expensive alternative because it is a viable long-term strategy for dealing with brittle paper. However reforming includes digitization and microfilming.
- (c) **Digitisation of serials publication:** Olatokun (2008) asserted that digital technology holds great promise for the world's research libraries. It revolutionise the process of capturing, storing, preserving and accessing information. From the preservation perspective, digital technology offers important reformatting advantages over photocopy

and microfilm including, its capacity to create a higher quality reproduction of a deteriorating original.

- (d) **Microfilming:** Microfilming is a process that involves photographing serials publication/information onto reels of film at high reduction factors, requiring a special reader to user (Nakiganda and Kaka, 2009). Microfilm describes film that is stored by photographic means and at a greatly reduced size, facsimile images of a great number of original items, journals etc. According to Tabb (2004), microfilming while not perfect, has proven to be the effective technology for rescuing brittle paper and for facilitating access to endangered research materials.
- (e) **Binding:** Driedger and Drews (2006) cited by Bogdanski (2006) asserted that binding is a common way to preserve print serials because it is relatively inexpensive and helps to protect the integrity of a library serials collection. Binding is also important to preserve serials from being brittle because many materials do not translate well electronically, therefore conserving the information in the materials could be certain.
- (f) **Reprint of Newspaper:** Nakiganda and Kaka (2009) asserted that some newspapers of the old newspaper achieved in academic libraries can be reprinted as a preservative measure to ensure that the information and integrity of these papers are not lost.
- (g) **Preservation of serials in original format:** Harsenay and Kratalic (2010) opined that the method of preserving serials in original format is aimed at preserving the physical integrity of the material from aging. They explained that aging includes a variety of physical and chemical changes due to which materials loses its primary characteristics and through that its purpose. It is important to know that the process of aging is impossible to stop but it can only be slowed, thereby prolonging the usage of the materials.
- (h) **Deacidification:** Kundrot (2001) asserted that “the post treatment of large number of books and papers to neutralize the acidity is Mass Deacidification”. Serials publications can be preserved and conserved through this method by spraying single pages of serials or submerging in water based alkaline buffer solution. After treatment, the sheet would be held and dried. Bound volumes of serials are unbound and each sheet is treated, dried carefully and rebound for later use. Although, this method is labour intensive but very effective.

- (i) **Fumigation:** Okorafor (1998) pointed out that academic libraries should keep their serial publications in separate rooms and that such rooms should not be used for stores; serial titles should be arranged either by the title whereby all the volumes of each serial publication are chronologically shelved and arranged alphabetically by title. Sahoo (2003) suggested that periodic use of insecticide power of solution like lindane at dark corners, beneath racks is a good preservation recovery measure to prevent insects. He proposed that it is safe to use paradichlorobenzene as it acts as both as an insect repellent and insecticide.

Importance of Preservation and Conservation of Serials

Preservation of serials publications in academic libraries is an integral library operation that can make the serial collections useful. It enhances the materials for access as long as they are wanted. Thus in order to help academic libraries to achieve its primary goal of supporting the teaching, learning and research activities of its parent body, through the provision of current, up-to-date information, preservation must be given adequate attention. Maravilla (1994) states that preservation includes all the managerial and financial considerations including storage and accommodation provisions, staffing levels, policies, techniques and methods involved in preserving library archival materials and the information contained in them. Feuder, cited by Akande (2009) opined that preservation is indeed a central issue in modern librarianship, and one which will continue to be of concern to the end of this century and beyond. Therefore the importance of preserving and conserving serials publications which are conveyors of intellectual heritage cannot be over emphasized. Alagbeleye (2008) pointed out that preservation is necessary to prolong the life span of materials, posterity reduce cost and for historical purpose. Supporting the above statement, Adeleke, Okusaga and Lateef (2011) are of the opinion that preservation of this documentary heritage should know the various causes of deterioration of information materials and the possible methods for their preservation.

The success of any institution rests squarely on the adequacy of the institution's library collections because the library is also seen as an agency for scholarship and research. Edem and feather (1997) asserted that preservation is a cord that runs through the activities of a library. Preservation involves direct and indirect actions aimed at restoring damaged serials publications. Thus, Okegbola (1997) writing on the importance of preservation notes that preservation enhances historical and artistic values print serials.

Factors Affecting the Preservation and Conservation of Serials

The process of preservation and conservation of serials is a central issue for serial librarians. Thus Alegbeleye (1996) pointed out in a study on the practice of conservation of information materials that there was lack of expertise”, librarians were not well informed about preservation and repair of these materials. Thus, for any programme to succeed there is need to have trained manpower. He further stressed that preservation and conservation is a specialised field that required staff that understands the chemical nature of the materials in their custody. Ogunmodede, Thomas, Ebijuwa, and Adefunke (2013) reported that library information resources refer to all those media for storing information such as textbooks, journals, newspapers and magazines, patents and standards, handbooks and manuals, directories, gazetteers, encyclopedias, atlases and maps, calendars and diaries, vertical files, these and dissertations, tapes, videos, films, optical discs, cassettes, magnetic tapes, microforms, etc.

This corroborate the definition by Popoola (2003), he defined library information resources as book materials, microforms and electronic information materials capable of meeting information needs of the users. Popoola (2003) further submitted that until 1980's, preservation and conservation of library information materials was thought to be relevant to rare book materials by librarians and curators of collection of special materials. According to the National Library of Australia (2004), one of the major crises facing libraries throughout the world is the rate of deterioration of their collections. Since library materials are composed primarily of organic materials, they are subject to natural deterioration. Most libraries' collections today are based on this study either in book or sheet form bound volumes, newspapers, serials, manuscripts, maps, watercolors, prints and drawings. According to Adeleke, Okusaga and Lateef (2011) problems of serials preservation and conservation includes inappropriate building, lack of disaster control plan and policy, the economy/political constraints.

- (a) **Inappropriate building:** Adeleke, Okusaga and Lateef (2011) pointed out that the problem of inappropriate building is common in developing countries. A number of librarians adapted premises to house their serials collections and materials and housing of serials collections in such premises are prone to theft, vandalism and deterioration through humidity, light insects five etc.
- (b) **Lack of disaster plan policy:** The absence of disaster plan implies that an information centre would not be able to respond or recover from a disaster occurrence. Alegbeleye

(1996) argues that libraries are prone to disasters which he classified as natural and man-made and they include fire, flood, theft, vandalism volcanic erupts, war, mishandling etc.

(c) **Economical Political Constraints**

The Nigeria economy is not enabling and has affected libraries and its operations hence it is difficult for libraries to be equipped with facilities that will prolong the life span and integrity of these materials. Also in the face of political instability cultural heritage/serials publications becomes target for destruction during war. Ogunmodede and Ebijuwa (2013) cited Popoola (2003) and Olatokun (2008) revealed that prominent inhibitors of effective and efficient preservation of serial publications include the following:

- i. Inadequate finance
 - ii. Inadequacy of equipment
 - iii. Lack of quality paper
 - iv. Lack of competent manpower
- (i) **Inadequate finance:** Inadequate fund allocated to library is a major challenge in preservation and conservation of serials publications. This has caused low priority and lack of desired attention given to the preservation and conservation of print serials (Ogunmodede and Ebijuwa, 2013).
 - (ii) **Inadequacy of equipment:** Lack of adequate and suitable equipment has contributed significantly to the poor status of preservation and conservation of serials.
 - (iii) **Lack of quality papers ink:** The low quality of paper and ink used in the production of information materials especially serials pose serious danger to preservation and conservation of print serials (Popoola, 2003; and Olatokun, 2008).
 - (iv) **Lack of competent manpower:** Alegbeleye (1996) point out the need to have adequate and well trained librarians in the programme or operation of preservation and conservation who understand the physical and chemical nature of the materials and who are specialists in the knowledge and field of preservation and conservation for effective and efficient preservation and conservation exercise. Popoola (2003) advocates the need to expose serial librarians and archivist to conservation and restoration during their training. Thus Akussah (1991) suggests that such programme should include operating environmental control, storage and housing etc.

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study was descriptive research design of the survey type. Survey research design entailed gathering relevant data from the sample to the entire population. The targeted population of this study consisted of 215 professional and para-professional librarians of three selected academic Libraries in Oyo State, Nigeria. The selected academic libraries were University of Ibadan, Ibadan; Ladoke Akintola University Ogbomoso and Ibadan Polytechnic, Ibadan. The total enumeration sampling technique was used due to the small size of the staff in the selected academic libraries. A total of 215 questionnaires were distributed, out of which 200 were returned. There were, however, some missing data points due to few unanswered questions by respondents. The questionnaire was made up of two sections- Section “A” which examines Personal Information (demographic of the respondent) while Section “B” examines the preservation and conservation of serials collection in selected academic libraries. The reliability coefficient for the instruments was tested to be 0.84 using Cronbach-Alpha method. The questionnaire was pre tested on librarians of the Obafemi Awolowo University that was not included in the study. The data collected for this study were analysed using simple percentages, mean and frequency distribution methods and run on the computer, using the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS).

DATA ANALYSIS

Data were analysed as they related to the specific areas of the study using descriptive statistics such as simple percentages, mean and frequency distribution methods.

Demographic Information of the Respondents

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents base on Demographic Information

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ranking
Male	139	69.5	1 st
Female	61	20.5	2 nd
Age group			
18-28 years	13	6.5	4 th
29-39year	93	46.5	1 st
40-50 years	67	33.5	2 nd
51 years and above	27	13.5	3 rd
Staff Positions			
Library Assistants	24	12.0	4 th
Library Officers	30	15.0	1 st
Higher Librarian Officers	38	19.0	3 rd
Librarian I	57	28.5	1 st
Librarian II	16	8.0	5 th
Senior Librarian	14	7.0	6 th

Principal Librarian	9	4.5	7 th
Collection and Acquisition Librarian	8	4.0	8 th
Chief Catalogues Officer	4	2.0	9 th
Educational Qualification			
WAEC/O-Level	19	9.5	4 th
OND/NCE	27	13.5	3 rd
HND/B.Sc	48	24.0	2 nd
Postgraduate/MBA	99	49.5	1 st
Ph.D Levels	7	3.5	5 th

Table 1 provided information on the demographic characteristics of respondents and findings showed that the frequency range of the respondents starting with the gender respondents as follows: male 139(69.5%) was ranked 1st position while female with 61 (30.5%) was ranked 2nd position in the distribution. Age group as indicated, 29-39years 93(46.5%) was ranked 1st position in the distribution; 40-45 years 67(33.5%) was ranked 2nd position; 51 years and above 27(13.5%) was ranked 3rd position; 18-28years 13(6.5%) was ranked 4th position in the distribution;

Staff positions of the respondents are as follows; librarian I 57(28.5%) was ranked 1st position, higher library officer 38(19.0%) was ranked 2nd position respectively, library officer 30(15.0%) was ranked 3rd position, library assistants 24(12.0%) was ranked 4th position respectively, librarian II 16(8.0%) was ranked 5th position, senior librarian 14(7.0%) was ranked 6th position respectively. Principal librarian 9(4.5%) was ranked 7th position, collection and acquisition librarian 8(4.0%) was ranked 8th position and finally, the chief catalogues officer 4(2.0%) was ranked 9th position in the distribution respectively.

Academic qualification of the respondents were ranked and positioned as follows: Postgraduate/MBA 99(49.5%) was ranked 1st position, HND/ B.Sc 48(24.0%) was also ranked 2nd position; OND/NCE 27(13.5%) was ranked 3rd position: WAEC/O-Level 19(9.5%) was ranked 4th position and finally, Ph.D holders 7(3.5%) was ranked 5th position respectively in the study.

Research questions

4.1. Research question 1: What are the types of serial materials that are mostly consulted, preserved and conserved in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?

Table 2: Table showing types of serial materials that are preserved and conserved and mostly consulted in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State

S/N	Types	Frequently	Most Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Mean	St. Dev
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a.	Journal (periodicals)	78(39.0%)	2(1.5%)	3(1.5%)	3(1.5%)	4.07	.766
b.	Magazines	61(30.5%)	104(52%)	32(16.0%)	3(1.5%)	4.05	.980
c.	Newspapers	63(31.5%)	103(51.5%)	32(16.0%)	2(1.0%)	3.97	.736
d.	Annual reports	89(45.0%)	96(48.0%)	13(6.5%)	2(1.0%)	3.92	.987
e.	Yearbooks and proceedings	64(32.0%)	108(54.0%)	26(13.0%)	2(1.0%)	3.90	1.00
f.	Transactions and numbered monographic series	104(52.0%)	96(48.0%)	-	-	3.81	1.17

Table 2 showed the ranking of items based on the types of serial materials that are mostly consulted and preserved and conserved in the selected academic libraries as perceived by the respondents is as follows: Journal (periodicals), (Mean = 4.07) was ranked highest by their mean score followed by Magazines (Mean = 4.05); Newspapers (mean = 3.97); Annual reports (Mean =3.92); Yearbooks and proceedings (Mean=3.90) and lastly, Transactions and numbered monographic series (Mean =3.81) respectively in the distribution.

4.2. Research question 2: What are the types of serial materials available for consultation in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?

Table 3: Table showing the types of serial materials available for consultation in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State

S/N	Types	Highly Available (HA)	Available (A)	Rarely Available (RA)	Not Available (NA)	Mean	St. Dev
a.	Journal (periodicals)	66(33.0%)	105(52.5%)	26(13.0%)	3(1.5%)	4.23	.761
b.	Magazines	65(32.5%)	94(47.0%)	39(19.5%)	2(1.0%)	4.21	.780
c.	Newspapers	49(24.5%)	73(36.5%)	13(6.5%)	-	4.17	.772
d.	Annual reports	114(57.0%)	73(36.5%)	13(6.5%)	-	4.16	.775
e.	Yearbooks and proceedings	54(27.0%)	105(52.5%)	39(19.5%)	2(1.0%)	4.12	.824
f.	Transactions and numbered monographic series	128(64.0%)	72(36.0%)	-	-	4.11	.928

Table 3 showed the ranking of items based on the types of serial materials available for consultation in the selected academic libraries as perceived by the respondents: Journal (periodicals) (Mean = 4.23) was ranked highest by their mean score followed by Magazines (Mean = 4.21); Newspapers (mean = 4.17); Annual reports (Mean =4.16); Yearbooks and

proceedings (Mean=4.12) and lastly, Transactions and numbered monographic series (Mean =4.11) respectively in the distribution.

4.3. Research question 3: Why are serials not available for use in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?

Table 4: Table showing why serials not available for use in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State

S/N	Why serials are not available for use	YES	NO	Mean	St. Dev
a.	Serials materials are prone to vandalism	173(86.5%)	27(13.5%)	4.08	.813
b.	Lack of knowledge on preservation and conservation of serial materials	164(82.0%)	36(18.0%)	3.89	1.05
c.	Theft and mutilation of serial materials	169(84.5%)	31(15.5%)	3.86	.944
d.	High cost of periodical materials	173(86.5%)	27(13.5%)	3.85	.889
e.	Lack of preservation and conservation skills by library staff	175(87.5%)	25(12.5%)	3.81	1.12
f.	Poor staff vigilance	174(87.0%)	26(13.0%)	3.75	1.03

Table 4 showed the ranking of items based on why are serial materials not available for use in the selected academic libraries as perceived by the respondents as follows: Serials materials are prone to vandalism (Mean = 4.08) was ranked highest by their mean score followed by lack of knowledge on preservation and conservation of serial materials (Mean = 3.89); theft and mutilation of serial materials (mean = 3.86); high cost of periodical materials (Mean =3.85); lack of preservation and conservation skills by library staff (Mean=3.81) and lastly, poor staff vigilance (Mean =3.75) respectively in the distribution.

4.4. Research question 4: What are the conditions for preserving and conserving serials in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?

Table 5: Table showing the condition for preserving and conserving serials in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State

Condition for preserving and conserving serials in the selected academic libraries	Maintaining vigilance	Disallowing bags and coats into the serial section	Regular house keeping	Provision of single exit and locked emergency exit	Identification and adherence to laid down land use policies and building lodes	Mean	St.Dev
What are the conditions for preserving and conserving serials in the selected	38 (19.1%)	86 (43.2%)	33 (16.6%)	26 (13.1%)	16 (8.0%)	4.24	1.07

academic libraries in Oyo State?									
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Table 5 showed the ranking of items based on conditions for preserving and conserving serials in the selected academic libraries as perceived by the respondents and was indicated as follows: majority, 86 (43.2%) of the respondents indicated disallowing bags and coats into the serial section; followed by 38 (19.1%) respondents that indicated maintaining vigilance; followed by 33 (16.6%) respondents that indicated regular housekeeping; 26 (13.1%) respondents indicated provision of single exit and locked emergency exit and 16 (8.0%) indicated identification and adherence to laid down land use polices and building lodes and the mean value = 4.24 in the distribution.

4.5. Research question 5: What are the methods adopted to preserve serials in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?

Table 6: Table showing methods adopted to preserve serials in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State

Methods adopted to preserve serials	FE	M	DP	B	R	DSP	D	PSOF	Mean	St.Dev
What are the methods adopted to preserve serials in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?	27 (13.5%)	37 (18.5%)	27 (13.5%)	27 (13.5%)	23 (11.5%)	27 (13.5%)	16 (8%)	12 (6%)	3.08	1.04

FE= Fumigation Exercise; **M**= Microfilming; **DP**= Disaster Preparedness; **B**= Binding; **R**= Reformatting; **DSP**= Digitisation of Serials Publication; **D**= Deacidification and **PSOF**= Preservation of Serials in Original Format.

Table 6 showed the ranking of items based on the methods adopted to preserve serials in the selected academic libraries as perceived by the respondents as follows: majority 37 (18.5%) of the respondents indicated Microfilming; followed by 27 (13.5%) respondents that indicated Fumigation exercise, Disaster preparedness, Binding and Digitisation of Serials Publication respectively; 23(11.5%) indicated Reformatting; 16 (8.0%) indicated Deacidification and 12 (6%) indicated Preservation of serials in original format with the mean value of 3.08 and a standard deviation values of 1.04 in the distribution.

4.6. Research question 6: What is the security measures provided for serials collection in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?

Table 7a: Table showing the security measures provided for serial collection in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State

S/N	Security measures provided for serial collections in the library	Yes	No	Mean	St. Dev
A.	Do you have a preservation and conservation policy in your library?	175 (87.5%)	25 (12.5%)	4.16	.763
B.	Is there any measure in place in case of any emergency situation?	176 (88.0%)	24 (12.0%)	4.13	.850

Table 7a shows that there is security measures provided for serials collection in the selected academic libraries as majority 175(87.5%) of the respondents indicated that they have a preservation and conservation policy in their library with (Mean=4.16); while, only 25(12.5%) respondents indicated NO. Also, majority 176(88.0%) of the respondents indicated that there are measure in place in case of any emergency situation with (Mean=4.13) and only 24(12.0%) indicated NO.

Table 7b: Table showing the security measures provided for serial collection in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State

S/N	Security measures provided for serial collections in the library	Provision of fire extinguisher	Provision of fire alarms	Others	Mean	St.Dev
A	If yes, what measures are in place to contain emergency situation?	36 (18.0%)	137 (68.5%)	27 (13.5%)	3.86	1.46

Table 7b showed the measures put in place to contain emergency situation in the selected academic libraries as majority 137(68.5%) of the respondents indicated provision of fire alarms; followed by 36(18.0%) respondents that indicated provision of fire extinguisher and 27(13.5%) indicated other measures with a mean value of 3.86 and a standard deviation of 1.46.

4.7. Research question 7: What are the problems associated with the preservation and conservation of serials in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State?

Table 8: Table showing the problems associated with the preservation and conservation of serials in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State

S/N	Problems associated with the preservation and conservation of serials	SA	A	U	D	SD	Mean	St.Dev
a.	Lack of interest on the part of staff	61 (30.5%)	100 (50.0%)	34 (17.0%)	5 (2.5%)	-	3.87	.968
b.	Insufficient fund	90	91	19	-	-	3.85	.872

		(45.0%)	(45.0%)	(9.5%)				
c.	Inadequacy of equipment	53 (26.0%)	99 (49.0%)	45 (22.5%)	3 (1.5%)	-	3.73	1.16
d.	Lack of preservation and conservation librarians in the library	108 (54.0%)	79 (39.0%)	13 (6.5%)	-	-	3.63	.853

Table 8 showed the ranking of items based on the problems associated with the preservation and conservation of serials in the selected academic libraries as perceived by the respondents. Majority, 187(93.5%) of the respondents agreed that lack of preservation and conservation librarians in the library with (Mean=3.63); followed by 181(90.5%) respondents that agreed that insufficient fund with (Mean=3.85); followed by 161(80.5%) respondents that agreed that lack of interest on the part of staff with (Mean=3.87) and followed by 152(76.0%) respondents that agreed that inadequacy of equipment with (Mean=3.73) were the problems associated with the preservation and conservation of serials in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State.

Discussion of Findings

The study was designed to examine Preservation and Conservation of Serials collection in selected Academic Libraries in Oyo State. From the study, it could be inferred that the three selected academic libraries under consideration recruits more male staff 139 (69.5%) than the female counterparts and there is also strong indications that the three selected academic libraries employed more people with master's degree than any other certificate. It could also be deduced that in the ranking of staff by position, librarian I was ranked 1st position and majority were within the age of 29-39year. The study revealed that Journal (periodicals), Magazines, Newspapers, Annual reports, Yearbooks and proceedings and; Transactions and numbered monographic series were the types of serial materials that are available and most frequently consulted; preserved and conserved in the selected academic libraries. This assertion is in line with the study of Nwalo (2003) cited Osborn (1980) describes serials to include; newspaper, magazines, newsletters, accessions, journals, indexes, abstract, reports proceedings and transactions of societies etc. Out of them all, journals are the most important to researchers because much of articles therein are products of research and it may never appear in any other publications. According to Ogunrombi (1997) serial publications form the backbone of any academic library because of their nature of informational value.

The study also revealed that serials materials are prone to vandalism, lack of knowledge on preservation and conservation of serial materials, theft and mutilation of serial materials, high cost of periodical materials, lack of preservation and conservation skills by library staff and poor

staff vigilance were reasons why serial materials are not available for use in the selected academic libraries. Against this finding is the findings of Salaam (2001), he gave reasons why university libraries spent more on serial collections than books. One of the major reasons was because serials provide up-to-date information and at the same time it has low subscription cost. Thus, Alegbeleye (1996) pointed out in a study on the practice of conservation of information materials that there was lack of expertise”, librarians were not well informed about preservation and repair of these materials. The study revealed that disallowing bags and coats into the serial section, maintaining vigilance, regular housekeeping, provision of single exit and locked emergency exit; and identification and adherence to laid down land use polices and building lodes were the conditions for preserving and conserving serials in the selected academic libraries.

The study revealed that Microfilming, Fumigation exercise, Disaster preparedness, Binding, Digitisation of Serials Publication, Reformatting, Deacidification and Preservation of serials in original format were the methods adopted to preserve serials in the selected academic libraries. This is in consonance with the study of Sahoo (2003) on methods of preservation and conservation of serials. He explained that serials publication on print format can be preserved and conserved by using preventive and curative methods of preservation. Preventive method includes all forms of indirect actions aimed at increasing the life expectancy of undamaged or damaged elements of intellectual property. It comprises all the methods of good house-keeping, care taking, dusting and periodical supervision and prevention of any possibility of damage by physical, chemical, biological and other agents of deterioration. The curative method according to Sahoo (2003) consists of all forms of direct actions aimed at increasing the life span of undamaged or damaged elements of intellectual property. It includes repairing, mending, fumigation, deacidification, and other jobs which are required considering the physical condition of the serial publication. The study also revealed that the selected academic libraries claimed that there is a security measures provided for serials collection as majority indicated that they have a preservation and conservation policy in their library and that there are measure in place in case of any emergency situation. The measures put in place to contain emergency situation in the selected academic libraries were provision of fire alarms and fire extinguisher respectively.

The study revealed that lack of preservation and conservation librarians in the library, insufficient fund, lack of interest on the part of staff and inadequacy of equipment were the problems associated with the preservation and conservation of serials in the selected academic libraries. This finding corroborated with the findings of Popoola (2003), he agreed that

preserving and conserving library materials especially serials is the greatest challenge facing African libraries. Thus Alegbeleye (1996) pointed out in a study on the practice of conservation of information materials that there was lack of expertise”, librarians were not well informed about preservation and repair of these materials. Ogunmodede and Ebijua (2013) further pointed out that inadequate fund allocated to library is a major challenge in preservation and conservation of serials publications and that this has caused low priority and lack of desired attention given to the preservation and conservation of print serials.

Conclusion

It is evident from the result of this study that preservation and conservation of serials collection is of great importance in any academic library in Nigeria. Serials collections such as Journal (periodicals), Magazines, Newspapers, Annual reports, Yearbooks, proceedings and; Transactions and numbered monographic series among others should be properly preserved and conserved because of the significant roles they play in academic and research and are most often used or consulted by students and the Academic staff. Management practices on preservation and conservation is of paramount for the effective use of serial collections in the academic library this is because it will encourage the acquisition of serials in the library and reasons why serials are not often available in the library such as vandalism, lack of knowledge on preservation and conservation of serial materials, theft and mutilation of serial materials, high cost of periodical materials and poor staff vigilance will be overlooked.

Moreso, it is significant to know that methods such as microfilming, fumigation exercise, disaster preparedness, binding, digitisation of Serials Publication, reformatting, deacidification and preservation of serials in original format were the appropriate methods that should be adopted to preserve serials in an academic library. This study has been able to revealed that the problem of preservation and conservation of serials collection in the selected academic libraries in Oyo State are lack of preservation and conservation librarians in the library, insufficient fund, lack of interest on the part of staff and inadequacy of equipment.

In view of the forgoing, it could be seen that preservation and conservation of serials collection in the three selected academic libraries leave much to be desired. Therefore, the Librarians in the academic libraries must strive to take urgent and concrete steps to check further deterioration of its serials collection.

Recommendation

In view of the conclusion stated or drawn above, the following recommendations are put forward. In order to ensure the effective preservation and conservation of serials collection in the selected academic libraries, the following should be considered:

1. Library management should organise a training programmes for their library personnel and send their staff for seminars and workshops on preservation and conservation of serials materials in order to be able to care for the serials collection in the library.
2. An improvement in the storage environment should be paramount. This involves the storage of information materials in an environment in which the storage temperature and humidly levels are controlled. Air conditioning is perhaps the most efficient method of bringing about this.
3. There should be a fundamental review of the present staff structure in libraries and information centres. In the process of recruitment of staff in the library, conservation and preservation librarians should be position in the serials collection section of the library.
4. There should be effective working preservation and conservation policy in place for the library and should be made available to the staff and library users.
5. An alternative power supply should be provided to check the constant power failure currently being experienced in the selected academic libraries.
6. The library management should embark on more enlightenment campaigns to sensitize staff and users on the need to preserve and conserve serials collection in the library because of the significant roles.
7. Adequate funding should be provided for the selected academic libraries and greater portion channeled towards preservation and conservation of serials collection.
8. A functional photocopy and binding service centre should be established in the selected academic libraries to prevent total deterioration of some serials.

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