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## AN APPRAISAL OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN METHODS OF SECURITY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES IN CHUKWUEMEKA ODUMEGWU OJUKWU UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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AN APPRAISAL OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN METHODS OF SECURITY OF  
INFORMATION RESOURCES IN CHUKWUEMEKA ODUMEGWU OJUKWU

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This study carried out an appraisal of traditional and modern methods of security of information resources in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Library. The population of the study consists of 51 library staff, and sample size of the study was 44 library staff which was selected randomly using simple random sample techniques. Three research questions were formulated to guide this study. Data was collected using the questionnaire, and was analysed with descriptive statistics such as mean, and simple percentage. The study revealed that the traditional method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library includes: Security Clearance check at entrance/exit door, Library stamp at certain adopted pages of library books, Single Door Entry-Exit for Staff & User, Library cards as access entry authorization, Security Guards Employed to Patrol, Fire Extinguisher & Security Equipment, and Signature of every user. The study revealed that, the Modern method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library include: Air conditioner for Humidity control, CCTV camera, Use of password/ access code, and Digital Data Security Systems (like antivirus). The finding of the study revealed that the challenges facing the traditional and modern method of security of information resources use in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library include: Inadequate fund, Poor power supply, low policy implementation, inadequate professional librarian, and Inadequate library staff. Based on the finding the study recommended as follows: Library management should market library product and services to the users, and take advantage of fee based library services to generate more fund in addition to that coming from the parent institution; and Library management should take adequate measure to acquire big capacity solar energy, and big generator set for library services, to solve the issue of poor power supply.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Security of information resources in the library is very important for safety of the resources. According to Omosekejimi, Ijiekhuamhen, and Ojeme (2015) Information security, sometimes shortened to InfoSec, is the practice of defending information and information bearing materials from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, perusal, inspection, recording or destruction. It is responsibility of librarian as chief custodian of information to protect all information bearing resources in their position. Before 21st century information explosion, librarian use traditional means to secure and preserve method, with arrival of present day information and communication technology, new method are gradually replacing the Old method. Most library combine the old and new method to secure their information resources. This study is an appraisal of old and modern methods of security of information resources in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library.

The Anambra State University Uli, today known as Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, was established on 1st January 2000 by Law NO. 13 of Anambra State University of Science and Technology published as a supplement to the Anambra State of Nigeria Official Gazette NO. 8, vol. 10 of 8th September 2000. Presently, the Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University has four functional Libraries, Uli Campus Library, Igbariam Campus Library, Law Library, Medical Library. University has faculty-based Libraries, which include; Faculty of Agriculture Library, Faculty of Arts Library, Faculty of Education Library, Faculty of Environmental Science Library and, Faculty of Social Science Library, (Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, 2022). This study will carry out an appraisal of old and modern methods of security of information resources in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library. The work started with introduction, and will look at the statement of the problem, the aim and objectives of the study, conceptual review of the related literature, analysis of collected data, conclusion and recommendations.

## **STATEMENTS OF PROBLEMS**

Strength of every academic library depend highly on the level of their collection, most especially the availability of current and relevant information resources. The information need of the user will be attained when they easily and timely have access to their needed information resources.

It is the priority of every academic library to manage and maintain its available resources toward achieving the goal of the institutions, which is users centred. From my personal observation through the previous study, and interaction with some librarians, there exists number of challenges faced by the librarian at course of securing information resources, these include: Theft and Mutilation, Vandalism, Disruptive or criminal behavior, Natural Disasters, Book mis-shelving, Mutilation by Humidity and microbes, Brittle on excessive exposure to sunlight or heat, Non-return of borrowed information resources, Book warm. Therefore, this study is to carried out an appraisal of old and modern methods of security of information resources in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library, to find out the best methods available that will serve as panacea to the observed issues.

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

This study aim is to specifically carry out an appraisal of old and modern methods of security of information resources in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library. While its specific objectives were to:

1. To find out the traditional method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library.
2. To find out the modern method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library.
3. To find out the challenges facing the traditional and modern method of security of information resources use in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library.

### **RESEARCH QUESTION**

1. What is the traditional method of security of information resources use in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library?
2. What is the modern method of security of information resources use in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library?
3. What is the challenge facing the traditional and modern method of security of information resources use in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library?

## **CONCEPTUAL REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE**

### **CONCEPT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Information according to Yourdictionary.com (n.d) is knowledge or facts learned, especially about a certain subject or event. In line with the above Collins dictionary (n.d) defined information as knowledge acquired through experience or study. Therefore, information refers to communicated knowledge, fact or ideas exchanges between the sender and receiver. WanaGopa – NyawakanMiller & Spoolman (2011) Refers resource to all the materials available in our environment which are technologically accessible, economically feasible and culturally sustainable and help us to satisfy our needs and wants.

Texas Government Code (2021) maintain that, Information resources means the procedures, equipment, and software that are employed, designed, built, operated, and maintained to collect, record, process, store, retrieve, display, and transmit information, and associated personnel including consultants and contractors. Information Resources means any equipment including interconnected systems or subsystems of equipment that is used in the automatic acquisition, creation, conversion, duplication, storage, analysis, evaluation, manipulation, management, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission, or reception of data or information by the using agency, (lawinsider.com, n.d)

University of Minnesota (2022) maintain that, Sources of information or evidence are often categorized as primary, secondary, or tertiary material. These classifications are based on the originality of the material and the proximity of the source or origin. This informs the reader whether the author is reporting information that is first hand or is conveying the experiences and opinions of others which is considered second hand. Determining if a source is primary, secondary or tertiary can be tricky.

### **CONCEPT OF SECURITY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Pipkin (2000) maintain that Information Security is the process of protecting the intellectual property of an organisation. In agreement with the above Fink, (2004) opines that Information security's primary focus is the balanced protection of the confidentiality, integrity, and availability

of data, while maintaining a focus on efficient policy implementation, all without hampering organisation productivity. In line with the above, according to ISO/IEC (2009) information security is Preservation of confidentiality, integrity and availability of information. Committee on National Security Systems, (2010) sees information security as the protection of information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction in order to provide confidentiality, integrity, and availability.

Fletcher (2016) maintain that information security typically involves preventing or reducing the probability of unauthorized/inappropriate access to data, or the unlawful use, disclosure, disruption, deletion, corruption, modification, inspection, recording, or devaluation of information. Joshi and Singh (2017) stated that, Information security, sometimes shortened to InfoSec, is the practice of protecting information by mitigating information risks. This mean that information security is use of information policy to secure intellectual and confidentiality information property of an organisation, to minimize risk of unauthorised access to organizational record or information.

Kalu (2021) maintain that Information Security is generally, security involves safeguarding and prevention for safety. It can also be seen as freedom from attack and potential harm from others. Information security has become the process or measure of protecting against an unauthorised access and use of information or data weather in print or electronic format. According to Fruhlinger (2020), stated that information security is a set of practices intended to keep data secured from unauthorised access or alteration, both when it is being stored and when it's being transmitted from one machine or physical location to another. Information security might as well be referred to as data security.

SANS (2006) refers information security as processes and methodologies which are designed and implemented to protect print, electronic, or any other form of confidential, private and sensitive information or data from unauthorized access, use, misuse, disclosure, destruction, modification, or disruption. Computer Security Resource Center (CSRC) (2019), maintain that the term 'information security' means protecting information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction to provide integrity,

confidentiality, and availability. In agreement with the above Kalu (2021) maintain that there are three major principles/requirements of information security process include: Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability.

Pradhan and Bhoi (2015) maintain that: Safety and security of library means ensuring the physical protection of library resources, library staff as well as library. In prevention of risk associated with library resources as a result of certain issues, such as: Dissatisfaction about library staff, Natural disaster, Cost of learning material, Insufficiency of library materials, Indiscipline, Selfish nature, Loss of library card. They stated that: The major issues can be controlled by using the following methods: Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), RFID (Radio Frequency Identification), Biometrics, 3M system, Awareness Creation, Alarm System, Security Guard, Fire Prevention and Detection.

### **CONCEPT OF TRADITIONAL METHODS OF SECURITY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Traditional or Manual and Electronic or Modern Security Systems, Nath and Deka (2020) maintain that: The library has various kinds of security systems from its origin. It has various in traditional-manual and modern-electronic systems. Traditional security systems are based on humans, whereas, Modern security systems are made by technological support. This system can help prevent unauthorized removal of collections and feasible monitoring and detection of the user in general reading and reference rooms, as well as shelves areas.

Nath and Deka (2020) highlight the following which are traditional security system, this includes: Locks & Key system; Installing Grills and Net on Windows; Single Door Entry-Exit for Staff & User; Security Guards Employed to Patrol; Observation by Library Staff; Fire Extinguisher & Security Equipment; ID Cards and Access Authorization; Signature of Every user; Security Clearance procedure. Akor, Ekere, and Solomon (2019) in their study, opines that: Access cards can be integrated as photo ID cards for library employees and can be used as temporary keys for library clientele to have access to restricted area's.

Gupta and Margam (2019) in their study on security of library materials: Challenges and Solutions opines that personnel should be employed to undertake patrol within the library and to implement appropriate library access at the main lobby. Inspection of bags and other belongings of library users while entering and leaving the library, by security/library staff should be



practiced. They maintain that Libraries should not allow the users with notebooks, record notes, etc. and insist depositing such things in the property counters provided exclusively for this purpose. This will avoid unethical loss of library materials to some extent. Therefore, traditional method of security of information resources include, patrol within the library, inspection of bags belonging to the users before entering and when leaving the library.

### **CONCEPT OF MODERN METHODS OF SECURITY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Nath and Deka (2020) pointed out that modern or Electronic Security Systems include: CCTV cameras; Electronic recording; RFID system; 3M exit detection; Alarm systems installed; Moisture sensor; Glass break sensor; Fire /smoke sensor; Biometrics; Smart Card; Air conditioner for Humidity control; Flood Detector; Digital Data Security Systems.

Nath and Deka (2020) study identified Digital Data Security Systems to include:

- Data/Information Security Measures: USB drives; Tapes, CDs; DVDs, Disks; Hard drives; User Identification; Passwords; User Terminal; Use of Address verification systems.
- Computer Security Measures: System Back up; Computer Viruses software; Password; Data Encryption; Offsite storage; Computer Locks.
- Network Security Measures: Antivirus Software; Firewall; Local Area Network; Server Segregation; Wireless Security.
- Software Security Measures: Anti-spyware Security; Cleanup Software; ID Management software; Multi-user Operating systems; User entrance log; Web Filtering
- Hardware & Server Security: Antivirus software; Authentication systems; Library server's operating systems; The server environmental control; Regular backups for the data.

Kudu, Mailadi and Denis (2022) in their work maintains that the first step in securing library assets includes physical (non-electronic) deterrents. And these include architectural considerations, the use of security personnel, and security hardware. According to Crowe & Timothy (2000) site lighting at vehicular and pedestrian entrances and circulation areas should be continuous and sufficient to support a secure atmosphere as well as support appropriate surveillance.

Kudu, Mailadi and Denis (2022) opines that: as part of the security plan, the library security team should evaluate the value and need for security personnel, during both normal working hours and after the library is closed. Security personnel typically patrol within the facility as well as on the grounds. According to Dean (2004), “for extra security, access control can be used in conjunction with video surveillance to control and monitor large collections and equipment’s.”

McCahill and Norris (2002) noted that “libraries can use closed-circuit television (CCTV) to identify visitors and employees, monitor work areas, deter theft, ensure the security and can also use to monitor and record evidence on clientele and staff misconduct in the library. CTV systems is one of the most important and economic security and safety tools available to libraries. They further maintain that the major benefits of using electronic security system in the library are: Maximum security, Prevent theft, Flexibility, Remote monitoring.

#### **THE CHALLENGES FACING THE TRADITIONAL AND MODERN METHOD OF SECURITY OF INFORMATION RESOURCES**

As there are good number of benefit offer by traditional and modern method of information security, there are also number of problem too. Voters (2007), identify the issues of traditional and modern method of information security to include: Inadequate fund, Lack of literate or skilled personnel, Poor power supply, Hardware and software failure. Libraries in remote areas do not have access to telecommunication security system because they cannot afford the money to purchase the devices and cannot adequately cater for them. The poor power supply poses a great challenge. For effective utilization of e-resources there is need for constant power supply.

Nwalo (2003) in his study maintain that: a major problem encountered in library security is that the security department of the parent body of academic and special libraries insists on providing security personnel for the library, and this make security men to be loyal to the security department and instead of library authority’s. Lynn (2001), maintain that the following areas of the library pose threat on the matter related to security issues unless they are appropriately treated in the design, and they include: Exterior entrances; Archive and special collection storage spaces; Special collection reading areas; Children’s library area; Critical building component locations.

Gupta and Margam (2019) in challenges of library material security pointed out the following as challenges: Theft and Mutilation, Vandalism, Disruptive or criminal behavior, Damages and disaster “Disasters can be natural as well as man-made. Book mis-shelving, Mutilation by Humidity and microbes. Therefore, the challenges facing the traditional and modern method of security of information resources include; lack of fund to acquire the needed security gadgets, and hiring of security personal, lack of professional trained librarian to carry out the security measures, poor power supply hinders effective powering of the electronics security gadgets to monitor the activities of the library users, and protection of information resources from vandals.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The study employed the descriptive survey design. The population of the study comprised fifty-one (51) library staff which includes the professional librarian, and para- professional librarian, in Anambra state university library. Simple random sampling was used to select (44) respondents for the study. The researcher used questionnaire as instrument for data collection. The researcher administered the instrument to the respondents and analysis of data was done using descriptive statistics such as frequency count and simple percentage. The results are presented below.

**The research findings are presented in the below table with explanations.**

### **Demographic Characteristics of Respondents:**

Table 1: Age of the Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage %
18-29	23	52
30-49	14	32
50 – above	7	16
Total	44	100

Table 1 shows that 23(52%) of the respondents were within the age of 18- 29 years, 14(32%) were within the age of 30-49 years, and 7(16%) were within the age of 50 years & above. This mean that majority of the library staff were within the age of 18-29 years followed by 30-49 years.

**What is the traditional method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library?**

Table 2: The traditional method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library.

<b>Traditional method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library are:</b>	SA	A	D	SD	X
Library cards as access entry authorization	30	14	-	-	3.68
Single Door Entry-Exit for Staff & User	31	13	-	-	3.70
Library stamp at certain adopted pages of library books	32	12	-	-	3.73
Observation by Library Staff at every library unit	22	21	1	-	3.48
Security Clearance check at entrance/exit door	33	11	-	-	3.75
Fire Extinguisher & Security Equipment	10	34	-	-	3.23
Signature of Every user	-	29	15	-	2.66
Security Guards Employed to Patrol	22	22	-	-	3.50
Grand mean					3.47

**Key: SA = Strongly Agree, A= Agree, D= Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree**

Table 2 shows the responses rate of respondents on the traditional method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library. All the listed items in the table 2 have mean value that are above the criterion mean of 2.5. The grand means stands at 3.47, greater than 2.5 criterion mean. This shows that all the items in the table 2 are among the traditional method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library. Most notable among them include: Security Clearance check at entrance/exit door, Library stamp at certain adopted pages of library books, and Single Door Entry-Exit for Staff & Use, with means value of 3.75, 3.73 and 3.70 respectively.

**What is the modern method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library?**

Table 3: The Modern method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library

<b>Modern method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library are:</b>	SA	A	D	SD	X
CCTV cameras	13	11	10	12	2.66
Air conditioner for Humidity control	22	11	2	9	3.05
Smart Card	-	-	33	11	1.75
Digital Data Security Systems (like antivirus)	-	23	20	3	2.55
Use of password/ access code	-	33	9	2	2.66
Grand mean					2.53

**Key: SA = Strongly Agree, A= Agree, D= Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree**

Table 3 shows the responses rate of respondents on the Modern/Electronic method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library. Four out of five items listed in table 3 have mean values that are above the criterion mean of 2.5, also, the grand mean (2.53) is greater than the criterion mean (2.5), this shows that four out of five items in the table 3 are among the Modern/Electronic method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library. Most notable among the method includes: Air conditioner for Humidity control, CCTV camera, and Use of password/ access code, with mean values of 3.05, 2.66 and 2.66 respectively.

**What is the challenges facing the traditional and modern method of security of information resources use in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library?**

Table 4: The challenges facing the traditional and modern method of security of information resources use in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library.

<b>Challenges facing the traditional and modern method of security of information resources use in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library are:</b>	SA	A	D	SD	X
Inadequate fund	44	-	-	-	4.00
Inadequate professional librarians	23	21	-	-	3.52

Inadequate library staff	19	25	-	-	3.43
Poor power supply	40	4	-	-	3.91
Low policy implementation	25	19	-	-	3.57
Grand mean					3.69

**Key: SA = Strongly Agree, A= Agree, D= Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree**

Table 4 shows the responses rate of respondents on the challenges facing the traditional and modern method of security of information resources use in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library. All the listed items in table 4 have mean values that are above the criterion mean of 2.5, also, the grand mean (3.69) is greater than the criterion mean (2.5), this shows that all the items in the table 4 are the challenges facing the traditional method of security of information resources use in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library. Most notable challenges among others includes: Inadequate fund, Poor power supply, and Low policy implementation, with mean values of 4.00, 3.91 and 3.57 respectively.

## **DISCUSSION**

The study revealed that the traditional method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library includes: Security Clearance check at entrance/exit door, Library stamp at certain adopted pages of library books, Single Door Entry-Exit for Staff & User, Library cards as access entry authorization, Security Guards Employed to Patrol, Fire Extinguisher & Security Equipment, and Signature of every user. This is in line with the findings of Nath and Deka (2020) whose study pointed out that old/Traditional or manual security system include: Locks & Key system; Installing Grills and Net on Windows; Single Door Entry-Exit for Staff & User; Security Guards Employed to Patrol; Observation by Library Staff; Fire Extinguisher & Security Equipment; ID Cards and Access Authorization; Signature of Every user; Security Clearance procedure, it is also in agreement with the study of Fletcher (2016) whose study holds that information security typically involves preventing or reducing the probability of unauthorized/inappropriate access to data, or the unlawful use, disclosure, disruption, deletion, corruption, modification, inspection, recording, or devaluation of information.

The study revealed that, the Modern method of security of information resources used in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library include: Air conditioner for Humidity control, CCTV camera, Use of password/ access code, and Digital Data Security Systems (like antivirus). This is inline with the study of Nath and Deka (2020) whose study stated that Electronic Security Systems include: CCTV cameras; Electronic recording; Air conditioner for Humidity control; Flood Detector; Digital Data Security Systems. It is also in conformity with the study of McCahill and Norris (2002) whose study noted that libraries can use closed-circuit television (CCTV) to identify visitors and employees, monitor work areas, deter theft, ensure the security and can also use to monitor and record evidence on clientele and staff misconduct in the library.

The study revealed that the challenges facing the traditional and modern method of security of information resources use in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library include: Inadequate fund, Poor power supply, low policy implementation, inadequate professional librarian, and Inadequate library staff. This is in relationship with the study of Voters (2007), who in his study identified the problems facing the old/traditional method of security of information resources as, Inadequate fund, Lack of literate or skilled personnel, Poor power supply, Hardware and software failure.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Information refers to communicated knowledge, fact or ideas exchanges between the sender and receiver. Information security is use of information policy to secure intellectual and confidentiality information property of an organization, to minimize risk of unauthorised access to organizational record or information. Study revealed that the challenges facing the traditional and modern method of security of information resources in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University library includes: Inadequate fund, Poor power supply, Low policy implementation, Inadequate professional librarians, and Inadequate library staff. **Based on the finding the study recommended as follows:**

- Library management should market library product and services to the users, and take advantage of fee based library services to generate more fund in addition to that coming from the parent institution.

- Library management should take adequate measure to acquire big capacity solar energy, and big generator set for library services, to solve the issue of poor power supply.
- Management and subordinate library staff should put more effort to make sure that information security policy are carried out, with management playing effective supervisory role.
- Government should employ more professional librarian for the effective policy implementation and for efficient service delivery toward achieving the library goal.
- Library management should employ the service of library students on training, those on industrial attachment (IT) to assist in various activity going on in different library department.



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