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Library security management as a predictor for combating book theft and vandalism among undergraduates in university libraries in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

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**LIBRARY SECURITY MECHANISMS AS A PREDICTOR FOR COMBATING BOOK
THEFT AND VANDALISM AMONG UNDERGRADUATES IN UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES IN IBADAN, OYO STATE, NIGERIA**

BY

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Abstract

The study examined library security mechanisms as a predictor for combating book theft and vandalism among undergraduates in university libraries in Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria. The survey design was adopted in the study, the study population consisted 16,293 undergraduates from the University of Ibadan, Kola Daisi University and Lead City University. The systematic sampling with sampling fraction of 5% was used to select a sample of 353 undergraduates used in the study. The questionnaire was used for data collection and data collected were analysed using frequency counts, item analysis and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation. The study revealed that the security mechanisms mostly adopted by university libraries are security check points at library entrance. ($\bar{x}=3.31$; std dev. $=.759$) and users are restricted entrance to some areas in the library ($\bar{x}=3.20$; std dev. $=.783$). Findings revealed that user education programmes increase users skills and attitude towards library use ($\bar{x}=3.45$; std dev. $=.570$) and it increases users awareness of the rules and regulations of the library ($\bar{x}=3.43$; std dev. $=.705$). Findings revealed that some of the common book theft and vandalism in university libraries were book tearing/mutilation ($\bar{x}=3.09$; std dev. $=.864$); non-return of books ($\bar{x}=3.07$; std dev. $=.830$); and theft of library materials ($\bar{x}=2.91$; std dev. $=.890$). Some of the reasons given for book theft and vandalism among students in university libraries include: lack of anti-deviant act detectors ($\bar{x}=2.99$; std dev. $=.834$); large user population ($\bar{x}=2.92$; std dev. $=.865$); poor library operating system ($\bar{x}=2.91$; std dev. $=.855$); lack of library security ($\bar{x}=2.88$; std dev. $=.944$, $=.873$). It was concluded that the library must put in place security management devices and should adequately inform and educate its users to prevent theft and vandalism of its resources. It is therefore recommended that university libraries should adopt the use of Radio Frequency Devices (RFD) in books and book barcodes and include library use as a course to be studied and passed by undergraduates.

Keywords: University Library, Security Mechanisms, Theft and Vandalism, Undergraduates.

Introduction

Libraries in Nigeria have suffered severely on threats to information resources such as theft of library books and equipments, book mutilation etc. The crimes, which are committed by some undergraduates of university library, have deprived many other users from fully achieving their information needs. One of the five laws of Ranganathan (1963) on librarianship which postulates that “books are for use”, is greatly hampered by vandalism and theft which leads to bad quality and quantity of library services. More so, scandalous behaviour such as theft and mutilation, hiding library materials, refuse to return overdue borrowed materials, drinking and eating in the library, among others have become a common occurrence in university library, if this is not checked, it will lead to serious drought of information materials in the library. Another area where university library can prevent vandalism and theft of their resources is through effective library security system.

Libraries are indispensable institutions where valuable, expensive and relevant materials, in both print and electronic forms, are stored for human use (Okogwu & Nnam, 2013). University library is expected to stand the test of time to ensure continuous provision of information resources to its users which range from students, lecturers and staff of the university. Therefore, it must ensure the preservation and protection of information resources contained in it. The library must put in place security measures to prevent theft and vandalism of its resources. Therefore, for university library to achieve its aim of information dissemination there must be proper security management of library collections against theft and vandalism which are threats to university libraries. Ajegbomogun (2004) cited in Maidabino & Zainab (2011) opined that collection security refers to a process designed to protect library collections against un–authorised removal or loss. This involves protecting resources against disasters as well as thieves or intruders. Information security governance is the manner in which information security is deployed. Collection security management in libraries can be conceptualised to mean the overall manner in which collection security policies, programs, procedures, or measures are deployed to mitigate risk and ensure access. Collection security implies the need for libraries to provide, maintain and secure its collection to ensure longevity, accessibility and effective provision of services to users (Maidabino & Zainab, 2011).

University library can ensure security through the use of electronic security systems. Elprocus (2019) posits that electronic security system refers to any electronic equipment that could perform security operations like surveillance, access control, alarming or an intrusion control to a facility or an area which uses a power from mains and also a power backup like battery. Electronic security therefore, relates to leveraging innovation in defensive holding by anticipating unapproved access to individuals and property and it extensively comprises of alarms, access controls and CCTVs (close-circuit televisions), which are prominently and broadly utilized. Examples of electronic security systems installed in libraries according to Kumar (2014) are electronic surveillance camera (CCTV), 3M Electronic Security Systems (electronic security gates), Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system, and perimeter alarm system.

The importance of information resources to education cannot be over-emphasised as users (undergraduates) depend on library resources for knowledge and new ideas to enhance intellectual development. University Libraries face varying degree of delinquencies in the use of their resources and the extent of these problems varies from one library to another. Among these problems are theft and vandalism. Theft and vandalism have become major security problems and threat that confront and affect library development. The effective use of library materials is hindered by this menace, these problems has resulted into loss of many information resources and other valuable materials in the library. It also affected the quality of research turn out as researchers are denied access to some important and relevant materials needed which must have been catered away by users. Researchers are also psychologically frustrated and disappointed when their visit to the library yields little or no result.

Many reasons may contribute to why information materials in university libraries are being stolen and vandalized by undergraduates. One of these reasons may be lack of library security mechanisms in university library. Most university libraries in Nigeria lack security measures like library supervision, the use of CCTV, RDF and theft detector devices, incompetent library security officers and lack of proactive electronic security devices among others which encourage users to perform such act. Hence, this study investigates library security mechanisms and user

education as predictors for combating book theft and vandalism in university libraries in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the study

The specific objectives are to

- i. identify security mechanisms used to combat vandalism in university libraries in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria;
- ii. find out vandalism and book theft acts common among undergraduates in university libraries in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria;
- iii. examine reasons for vandalism and book theft among undergraduates in university libraries in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria;
- iv. find out the relationship between library security mechanisms and combating vandalism and book theft among undergraduates in the university libraries in Oyo State;

Hypothesis

1. There is no significant relationship between library security mechanisms and combating vandalism and book theft among undergraduates in university libraries Ibadan, in Oyo State, Nigeria.

Methodology

The research design employed for this study was the survey design. The population of this study comprised undergraduates in the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State, Lead City University, Oyo State, and Kola Daisi University, Ibadan, Oyo State. the population can be found in table 1 below:

Table 1: Population of undergraduates in Ibadan

| S/N | Faculties | Undergraduate population |
|------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 | University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State | 14, 223 |
| 2 | Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State | 1841 |
| 3 | Kola Daisi University, Ibadan, Oyo State | 229 |

For the sample size, two stage sampling technique was used in the study. The first stage selected faculties similar to each of the universities, these faculties are: Faculty of Sciences, Arts and Social Sciences. The second stage involved the use of sampling fraction of 20% to select the sample size from each of the selected faculties. This therefore gave a total sampling size of 353. The breakdown for the sample size for the study is presented in the Table 2 below:

Table 2 Sampling size

| S/N | University/Faculties | Undergraduate population | Sampling size |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| University of Ibadan | | | |
| 1 | Sciences | 2163 | 108 |
| 2 | Arts | 1843 | 92 |
| 3 | Social Sciences | 1358 | 68 |
| | Total | 5364 | 268 |
| Lead City University | | | |
| 1 | Sciences | 404 | 20 |
| 2 | Arts | 405 | 20 |
| 3 | Social Sciences | 670 | 34 |
| | Total | 1479 | 74 |
| Kola-Daisi Universty | | | |
| 1 | Sciences | 98 | 5 |
| 2 | Arts | 98 | 5 |
| 3 | Social Sciences/Management | 33 | 1 |
| | Total | 229 | 11 |
| | Grand total | | 353 |

The instrument adopted for the study was a self-designed questionnaire. Data gathered was analysed using the Statistical Product for Services Solution (SPSS). Demography of respondents and research questions were equally analysed with descriptive statistics, using the simple percentages, frequency count, mean and standard deviation. The study also used Pearson's Product Moment Correlation

Results and Discussions

Questionnaire administration and return rate

A total number of 353 copies of the questionnaire were administered to undergraduates of three higher institutions of learning in Oyo State comprising University of Ibadan, Lead City University and Kola Daisi University. This cut across all the available faculties in these institutions. 343 were returned and found useful for analysis giving a response rate of 95.2%. The response rate of the administered questionnaire is as shown in table 4.1.

Table 3 Distribution of questionnaire administration and return rate

| Name of Institution | Distribution | Returns (%) |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| University of Ibadan | 268 | 260 |
| Lead City University | 74 | 72 |
| Kola Daisi University | 11 | 11 |
| Total | 353 | 343(95.2) % |

Table 4 Distribution of respondents by institution, level of study, gender, age and religion

| Items | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Level of study | | |
| 100 | 90 | 26.2% |
| 200 | 58 | 16.9% |
| 300 | 111 | 32.4% |
| 400 | 75 | 21.9% |
| 500 | 9 | 2.6% |
| Gender | | |
| Male | 110 | 32.1% |
| Female | 233 | 67.9% |
| Age range | | |
| 16-20 | 151 | 44.0% |
| 21-25 | 153 | 44.6% |
| 26-30 | 33 | 9.6% |
| 30 and Above | 6 | 1.7% |
| Marital Status | | |
| Single | 276 | 80.5% |
| Married | 67 | 19.5% |

Table 4 describes the distribution of respondents according to their level of study, gender, age and marital status. It was revealed that 90(26.2%) are in 100 level, 58(16.9%) are in 200 level, 111(32.4%) are in 300 level, 75(21.9%) are in 400 level while the remaining 9 (2.6%) are in 500 level. The implication of this is that majority of the participants in the study are in third year of their academics. Also, 110(32.1%) are male while the remaining 233(67.9%) are female; meaning that female participants dominated the study.

Finding by respondents age range shows that, 151(44.0%) fall within the age range of 16-20 years, 153(44.6%) are between 21-25 years of age, 33(9.6%) fall within the age bracket of 26-30 years while the remaining 6(1.7%) are 30 years of age and above. This implies that the study is dominated by undergraduates within the age bracket of 21-25 years. Also, it was indicated that 276(80.4%) of the participants are Single while 67(19.5%) are married; implying that majority of the undergraduates are single.

Answers to research questions

Question 1: What security mechanisms are used to combat vandalism in university libraries in Ibadan, Oyo State?

Table 5: Security mechanisms used to combat vandalism in university libraries

| S/N | Items | SD | D | A | SA | \bar{x} | StdDev |
|-----|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|--------|
| 1. | The library enforces strict compliance to its rules by users | 0 | 15 | 190 | 138 | 3.36 | .564 |
| | | 0.0% | 4.4% | 55.4% | 40.2% | | |
| 2. | The library installs security cameras at strategic corners | 13 | 98 | 148 | 84 | 2.88 | .819 |
| | | 3.8% | 28.6% | 43.1% | 24.5% | | |
| 3. | The library makes provision for more e-resources to print resources | 10 | 68 | 186 | 79 | 2.97 | .739 |
| | | 2.9% | 19.8% | 54.2% | 23.0% | | |
| 4. | Library users are employed by the library as watchdogs | 69 | 126 | 105 | 43 | 2.36 | .941 |
| | | 20.1% | 36.7% | 30.6% | 12.5% | | |
| 5. | There is video surveillance system in the library | 27 | 135 | 121 | 60 | 2.62 | .863 |
| | | 7.9% | 39.4% | 35.3% | 17.5% | | |
| 6. | There are security check points at library entrance. | 9 | 35 | 141 | 158 | 3.31 | .759 |
| | | 2.6% | 10.2% | 41.1% | 46.1% | | |
| 7. | The library does unannounced checking of users | 35 | 116 | 144 | 48 | 2.60 | .852 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| 8. | There are Radio Frequency Devices (RFD) in books | 10.2% | 33.8% | 42.0% | 14.0% | 2.51 | .904 |
| 9. | The library uses book barcodes | 12.5% | 39.4% | 32.4% | 15.7% | 3.00 | .921 |
| 10. | There is constant user education programmes by the library for library users | 7.6% | 19.5% | 38.2% | 34.7% | 2.99 | .851 |
| 11. | Library staff supervise users' activities in the library | 4.7% | 22.7% | 41.7% | 30.9% | 3.19 | .735 |
| 12. | Users are restricted entrance to some areas in the library | 2.0% | 13.1% | 48.7% | 36.2% | 3.20 | .783 |
| 13. | The library monitors users while using library ICT tools | 4.4% | 9.3% | 47.8% | 38.5% | 3.11 | .723 |
| 14. | The library ensures full user identification before entrance into the library | 2.0% | 14.9% | 52.8% | 30.3% | 3.17 | .842 |

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

Table 5 shows the security mechanisms used to combat vandalism in university libraries. The findings revealed that security mechanisms mostly adopted are that: the library enforces strict compliance to its rules by users (\bar{x} =3.36; std dev. =.564); there are security check points at library entrance. (\bar{x} =3.31; std dev. =.759); users are restricted entrance to some areas in the library (\bar{x} =3.20; std dev. =.783); library staff supervise users' activities in the library (\bar{x} =3.19; std dev. =.735); the library ensures full user identification before entrance into the library (\bar{x} =3.17; std dev. =.842); the library monitors users while using library ICT tools (\bar{x} =3.11; std dev. =.723); the library uses book barcodes(\bar{x} =3.00; std dev. =.921); there is constant user education programmes by the library for library users (\bar{x} =2.99; std dev. =.851); the library makes provision for more e-resources to print resources (\bar{x} =2.97; std dev. =.739); the library installs security cameras at strategic corners(\bar{x} =2.88; std dev. =.819). It was also indicated by the respondents that the least adopted security mechanism include: library users are employed by the library as watchdogs (\bar{x} =2.36; std dev. =.941); there are Radio Frequency Devices (RFD) in books (\bar{x} =2.51; std dev. =.904); the library does unannounced checking of users (\bar{x} =2.60; std dev. =.852) and there is video surveillance system in the library (\bar{x} =2.62; std dev. =.863).

Finding from this study showed that some of the mostly adopted security measures put in place to combat vandalism in university libraries are: the library enforces strict compliance to its rules by users, there are security check points at library entrance, users are restricted entrance to some areas in the library, library staff supervise users' activities in the, the library ensures full user identification before entrance into the library, the library monitors users while using library ICT tools, the library uses book barcodes, there is constant user education programmes by the library for library, the library makes provision for more e-resources to print resources, the library installs security cameras at strategic corners among others. This finding is in line with the view of Omosekejimi, Ijiekhuamhen and Ojeme, (2015) which explained that to avoid unauthorised access to library resources, library management and information professionals must devise strategies which will enable them to provide adequate security that can protect the information resources available in the library. Kumar (2014) added that CCTV can be used in university library to monitor student activities and their behaviour in the library. The common mischievous activities in the libraries like tearing of the pages from the books, hiding the books, sitting in corners and gossiping and book theft can be reduced to a great extent.

Question 2: What acts of vandalism and book theft are common among undergraduates in university libraries in Ibadan, Oyo State?

Table 6: Common book theft and vandalism in university libraries

| S/N | Items | SD | D | A | SA | \bar{x} | Std Dev |
|-----|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|
| 1. | Book tearing/mutilation | 20 | 53 | 145 | 125 | 3.09 | .864 |
| | | 5.8% | 15.5% | 42.3% | 36.4% | | |
| 2. | Non-return of books | 20 | 47 | 166 | 110 | 3.07 | .830 |
| | | 5.8% | 13.7% | 48.4% | 32.1% | | |
| 3. | Theft of library materials | 25 | 78 | 144 | 96 | 2.91 | .890 |
| | | 7.3% | 22.7% | 42.0% | 28.0% | | |
| 4. | Deliberate mis-shelving | 23 | 56 | 153 | 111 | 3.03 | .870 |
| | | 6.7% | 16.3% | 44.6% | 32.4% | | |
| 5. | Noise making | 26 | 75 | 158 | 84 | 2.87 | .868 |
| | | 7.6% | 21.9% | 46.1% | 24.5% | | |
| 6. | Eating in the library | 34 | 81 | 128 | 100 | 2.86 | .952 |
| | | 9.9% | 23.6% | 37.3% | 29.2% | | |
| 7. | Throwing library books out of the window | 79 | 140 | 85 | 39 | 2.24 | .936 |
| | | 23.0% | 40.8% | 24.8% | 11.4% | | |
| 8. | Stealing someone else's identity card | 67 | 136 | 94 | 46 | 2.35 | .942 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| 9. | Security breaches | 19.5% | 39.7% | 27.4% | 13.4% | 2.62 | .922 |
| 10. | Writing on library books | 13.7% | 27.7% | 41.7% | 16.9% | 2.86 | .859 |
| 11. | Purposive misbehaviour by users like distracting other library users, listening to music in the library etc. | 8.7% | 18.4% | 50.7% | 22.2% | 2.97 | .919 |

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

Table 6 presents common book theft and vandalism among undergraduates in university libraries. Findings showed that some of the common book theft and vandalism in university libraries include: book tearing/mutilation (\bar{x} =3.09; std dev. =.864); non-return of books (\bar{x} =3.07; std dev. =.830); deliberate mis-shelving (\bar{x} =3.03; std dev. =.870); theft of library materials (\bar{x} =2.91; std dev. =.890); noise making (\bar{x} =2.87; std dev. =.868); writing on library books (\bar{x} =2.86; std dev. =.859); eating in the library (\bar{x} =2.86; std dev. =.952) and security breaches (\bar{x} =2.62; std dev. =.922). It was also indicated that some of the least book theft and vandalism acts perpetrated in the university libraries include: throwing library books out of the window (\bar{x} =2.24; std dev. =.936); stealing someone else's identity card (\bar{x} =2.35; std dev. =.942) among others.

It was shown by the finding of the study that some of the common book theft and vandalism acts perpetrated in the university libraries are: book tearing/mutilation, non-return of books, deliberate mis-shelving, theft of library materials, noise making, writing on library books, eating in the library, security breaches among others. This is in line with the findings of Maidabino (2012) who studied theft and mutilation of print collection in university libraries: a critical review of literature and proposed framework for action. The findings of the study revealed that the major incidence of theft and mutilation in university libraries includes theft by patrons, insider theft, tearing of book pages, writing on the pages of books, marking of book content, etc. In addition to this, Awujoola & Olapade (2015) stated that delinquent library users and staff have devised many ways of illegally removing information materials or resources from the library. Users engage in various delinquent acts through different methods. Among these methods are: deliberate keeping of borrowed books beyond the due date, eating in the library, defacing furniture and books, sleeping, talking and disturbing other library users. Others include, hiding of books for the purpose of monopolising it is also another form of delinquent act among users.

Similarly, in a study by Nweke (2019) on the effects of theft and mutilation on the use of library collections in an academic library in Lagos State that majority of the respondents agreed that the extent of stealing of library materials; tearing or removal of book pages; hiding of materials in indifferent locations; unnecessary holding of overdue borrowed materials; folding of book pages and using pen and maker to underline text in a book are very high in the library.

Question 3: What are the reasons for vandalism and book theft among undergraduates in university libraries in Ibadan, Oyo State?

Table 7: Reasons for vandalism and book theft among undergraduates in university libraries

| S/N | Items | SD | D | A | SA | \bar{x} | Std Dev |
|-----|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|---------|
| 1. | Lack of library security | 35 | 71 | 138 | 99 | 2.88 | .944 |
| | | 10.2% | 20.7% | 40.2% | 28.9% | | |
| 2. | Inadequate resources in the library | 26 | 83 | 152 | 82 | 2.85 | .873 |
| | | 7.6% | 24.2% | 44.3% | 23.9% | | |
| 3. | Porous library security | 24 | 78 | 164 | 77 | 2.86 | .845 |
| | | 7.0% | 22.7% | 47.8% | 22.4% | | |
| 4. | Weak library rules and regulation | 28 | 81 | 159 | 75 | 2.82 | .867 |
| | | 8.2% | 23.6% | 46.4% | 21.9% | | |
| 5. | Weak library punishment system | 35 | 69 | 152 | 87 | 2.85 | .918 |
| | | 10.2% | 20.1% | 44.3% | 25.4% | | |
| 6. | No supervision of students while in the library | 22 | 82 | 149 | 90 | 2.90 | .866 |
| | | 6.4% | 23.9% | 43.4% | 26.2% | | |
| 7. | Users believe they won't be caught | 24 | 46 | 179 | 94 | 3.00 | .831 |
| | | 7.0% | 13.4% | 52.2% | 27.4% | | |
| 8. | Lack of anti-deviant act detectors | 16 | 72 | 153 | 102 | 2.99 | .834 |
| | | 4.7% | 21.0% | 44.6% | 29.7% | | |
| 9. | Some librarian aids the act | 45 | 141 | 104 | 53 | 2.48 | .907 |
| | | 13.1% | 41.1% | 30.3% | 15.5% | | |
| 10. | Library rules are so strict, no one can keep it | 54 | 152 | 90 | 47 | 2.38 | .909 |
| | | 15.7% | 44.3% | 26.2% | 13.7% | | |
| 11. | Inadequate service staff at night/weekends. | 24 | 88 | 149 | 82 | 2.84 | .868 |
| | | 7.0% | 25.7% | 43.4% | 23.9% | | |
| 12. | Poor library operating system | 21 | 79 | 153 | 90 | 2.91 | .855 |
| | | 6.1% | 23.0% | 44.6% | 26.2% | | |
| 13. | Inadequate copies of library materials | 24 | 82 | 146 | 91 | 2.89 | .880 |
| | | 7.0% | 23.9% | 42.6% | 26.5% | | |
| 14. | Large user population | 25 | 67 | 160 | 91 | 2.92 | .865 |
| | | 7.3% | 19.5% | 46.6% | 26.5% | | |

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

Table 7 describes some reasons for vandalism and book theft among undergraduate in university libraries. The findings showed that some of the given reasons by undergraduates for engaging in book theft and vandalism in university libraries are that: users believe they would not be caught (\bar{x} =3.00; std dev. =.831); lack of anti-deviant act detectors (\bar{x} =2.99; std dev. =.834); large user population(\bar{x} =2.92; std dev. =.865); poor library operating system (\bar{x} =2.91; std dev. =.855); no supervision of students while in the library (\bar{x} =2.90; std dev. =.866); inadequate copies of library materials (\bar{x} =2.89; std dev. =.880); lack of library security (\bar{x} =2.88; std dev. =.944);porous library security (\bar{x} =2.86; std dev. =.845);inadequate resources in the library (\bar{x} =2.85; std dev. =.873) and weak library punishment system(\bar{x} =2.85; std dev. =.918). However, undergraduates do not engage in book theft and vandalism as the library rules are so strict, no one can keep it (\bar{x} =2.38; std dev. =.909) and that librarian do not aid in the act (\bar{x} =2.48; std dev. =.907) among others.

Finding from this study revealed that some of the reasons for vandalism and book theft among undergraduate in university libraries are: users believe they won't be caught, lack of anti-deviant act detectors, large user population, poor library operating system, no supervision of students while in the library, inadequate copies of library materials, lack of library security, porous library security, inadequate resources in the library, weak library punishment system among others. Akor (2013) is of the opinion that undergraduates are relatively unconcerned about mutilation, they assume it is relatively trivial and easily repaired and in general they are unaware of the great costs and efforts put in by libraries to remedy this problem. In addition to this, Awujoola & Olapade (2015) in their study on curbing deviant behaviour among library users revealed that majority of the antisocial acts carried out by undergraduates were as a result of the weakness observed in the security and information resources protection activates in the library.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between library security mechanisms and vandalism and book theft among undergraduates in university libraries Ibadan, in Oyo State?

Table 8 Relationship between vandalism and book theft and library security mechanisms in university libraries.

| Variables | N | Mean | St.Dev | Df | r | P | Sig |
|----------------------------|-----|-------|--------|-----|-------|------|-----|
| Book thefts and vandalism | 343 | 30.87 | 6.953 | | | | |
| Library security mechanism | 343 | 41.28 | 5.887 | 342 | -.162 | .003 | S |

The result of hypothesis one as shown in Table 8 showed that book thefts and vandalism ($r = -.162$; $p < 0.05$) has significant negative relationship with library security mechanism in university libraries. This implies that there is negative linear association between book thefts and vandalism and library security mechanism in university libraries such that with effective and efficient security mechanism in the library, the menace of book thefts and vandalism will be drastically reduced. This finding corroborates that of Maidabino (2012) who observed that in this period of technological advancement, the regular use of electronic security devices will undoubtedly increase the efficiency and effectiveness of collection protection in university library. This also aligns with the findings of Akor, Justina and Akor (2019) who conducted a research on the use of ICT for security and theft prevention in two university libraries in Nigeria.

Summary of the Major Findings

Based on the research conducted, below is the summary of findings:

1. Some of the mostly adopted security measures put in place to combat vandalism in university libraries are: enforcement of strict compliance to its rules by users, there are security check points at library entrance, users are restricted entrance to some areas in the library, library staff supervision, full user identification before entrance among others.
2. Book tearing/mutilation, non-return of books, deliberate mis-shelving, theft of library materials, noise making, writing on library books, eating in the library, security breaches among others are some of the common book theft and vandalism acts perpetrated by undergraduates in the university libraries.
3. Some of the reasons for vandalism and book theft among undergraduate in university libraries are: lack of anti-deviant act detectors, large user population, poor library operating system, no supervision of students while in the library, inadequate copies of

library materials, lack of library security, porous library security, inadequate resources in the library and weak library punishment system among others.

4. There is significant negative relationship between book thefts and vandalism and library security mechanism in university libraries.

Conclusion

The need for improved security mechanisms is critical to combating theft and vandalism in university libraries so as to achieve the teaching, learning and research goals and objectives of the university libraries. As such, without adequate security mechanisms, university libraries would find it very difficult to meet the information needs of users (undergraduates).

Recommendations

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

1. In order to sustain the high level of security measures put in place to combat vandalism in university libraries, university libraries should adopt the use of Radio Frequency Devices (RFD) in books and book barcodes.
2. To ensure abundance of information materials, management of the university libraries should try as much as possible to provide enough information materials both in print and non-print format that would allow users have access to as many information materials as possible. Efforts should also be put in place to increase library operating hours.
3. The common book theft and vandalism acts perpetrated in the university libraries can be addressed if librarians engage in regular shelf reading and shelving of books and frequent library supervision during library operating hours.

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