

**ICTs
and**

LIBRARIES:

A BASIC TEXT

Edited by

Esharenana E. Adomi

IBADAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

ICTs AND LIBRARIES: A BASIC TEXT

Edited by

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Credence Press Ltd, Effurun, Delta State, Nigeria

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The use of modern technology in controlling criminal activities in academic libraries: The case of Kenneth Dike Library and Obafemi Awolowo University Library

Adenike D. Omoike

Summary

The study investigated the use of modern technology in controlling criminal activities in academic libraries. The study was driven by the desire to determine what precipitated crimes in the academic libraries, the types and nature of criminal activities perpetrated in the library by the patrons, to identify current modern technology used in reducing and addressing criminal activities in the libraries, to identify library materials more vulnerable to crimes and the challenges faced by the academic libraries in curbing crimes. A descriptive survey was utilised and questionnaires methods were the instrument for data collection. The questionnaires were administered to both Academic and Paraprofessional librarians of the University of Ibadan Kenneth Dike Library and Obafemi Awolowo University Library. A simple random technique was adopted. A total of Sixty (60) questionnaires were randomly distributed with each library given thirty (30). Data was presented and analyzed according to the research questions of the study using simple percentage and frequencies. Due to the prevalence of criminal activities in our academic libraries in the recent times, the study unraveled varying consequential modern technology that can be adopted in curbing criminal activities in our institutions. The study finally revealed that despite the efficacy of modern technology in preventing criminal activities in academic libraries, poor funding of the academic libraries as well as insensitivity of the library management towards the issue of crimes were the major challenges in curbing crimes. This might be due to the fact that modern technology in crime prevention is capital intensive and no special fund is provided for that in the budget of the library. Based on these, recommendations were made that library management should give proper attention to security issues; that there should be special funds for security issues in the library and special awareness, enlightenment and proper education should be provided for the users during orientation programme.

Keywords: Modern technology, electronic resources, criminal activities, academic library, crime control.

Introduction

Criminal activities in the library is a topical issue in the context of academic library in Nigeria. Criminal activities are perpetrated by deviant, that is, users exhibiting deviant behaviour in the library in form of theft of library materials, book tearing/mutilation, non-return of library materials, using someone else's library cards among others. Most academic libraries lack modern technologies security measures in controlling these acts which encourages criminal activities in the library, and there is no direct measure between the type of library and the extent of the problem. The problem seems to be universal. Okiy (2014) reiterated that higher institution libraries include those in the universities, polytechnic, college of education and college of technology libraries. In view of the varying use of the materials, these materials are prone to myriads of criminals and security risk from the users and library personnel as well.

A library crimes control is a method invented to protect library resources from unauthorized access, dislodge and abuse. Since university library collections which are of scholarly publication are extensive, an

academic library reserved the right to be safe from all sources of security threats and vulnerability. It is therefore mandatory for academic libraries to protect their information resources in a library, so as to prevent them from being damaged, thereby enhancing their lifespan. Information resources which comprises the traditional printed resources (journal or periodicals, manuscript, books,) as well as electronic resources (electronic journal, CD-ROM databases, etc) have all become so consequential that they need to be kept from security treat and vulnerability at all times. Library which is being conceptualized as custodian of information from time immemorial is usually an institution responsible for educational, cultural, research, recreation and material requirement for their patrons. According to Abubakar (2014), academic library depicts the heart of the university system and the University library has it as a function to provide students (undergraduates, postgraduates), researchers, academic staff with resources, services and facilities for the advancement of their knowledge.

University libraries support the educational community through avenue to library collections for educational, personal and socio-economic development. Oyewusi and Oyeboade (2009) reiterates the usefulness of library collection in enhancing vision of the university. The researchers perceived the significance of library materials as a pointer to the need to secure these collections. According to Anunobi and Okoye (2008) "academic libraries are faced with numerous bottlenecks of managing resources and are challenged to acquire requisite skills". Part of the problem is the issue of using modern technology in academic libraries. This study explores and discusses various modern technologies in vogue in the recent times and which can invariably be adopted by Kenneth Dike Library (KDL) and Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Library to curb criminal breaches.

In a nutshell, it has been observed that not so much extensive research has been done in respect to crime control as a concept in academic libraries in the recent past i.e there has been few studies, if any empirical study exists in recent times to reveal the modern electronic devices adopted in university libraries, hence it constitutes a growing area in the field of research. In addition, this study will majorly reveal modern electronic devices to control criminal breaches in academic library. Hence, checkmating orthodox security measures in numerous academic libraries. However, this study systematically observed types of crimes in academic libraries, causes of crimes in academic library, use of modern technology in controlling criminal activities in academic library, methodology, discussion of findings, conclusion and recommendations.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are to:

- i. Determine the causes of crimes in the libraries;
- ii. Investigate types and nature of crimes perpetuated in the library by users;
- iii. Identify type of library materials more vulnerable to crime;
- iv. Identify current modern technology to reduce and address criminal activities in the libraries;
- v. Determine the challenges faced by the two studied libraries in their effort to curb criminal activities;

Research questions

The following research questions were drawn to guide the study

- i. What are the causes of crimes in the library under study?
- ii. What are the types and nature of crimes perpetrated in the library by users?
- iii. What types of library materials are more vulnerable to crime?
- iv. What are the current modern technologies used to reduce and address criminal activities in the libraries?
- v. What are the challenges faced by the two studied libraries in their effort to curb criminal activities?

Literature review

The existence of crime is as old as man himself (Bamgbose, 2011). As far back as human beings existed and lived together, the issue of crimes has been. The issue of crime is a matter of concern in our academic libraries and there have been attempts to control and reduce it as much as possible. In a general perspective, crime is an act and omission liable to punishment under the law. They are wrong doing which directly threaten the security and well-being of a society. Between the time a crime is committed and the time the suspect is prosecuted and if found liable is punished, there are several processes which include investigation (Bamgbose, 2011). Over the years, rate of crime has increased considerably in our academic libraries and the various crimes are carried out both with more perfection and sophistication. However, because of the threat it poses to the information materials, there are concerted effort to control crimes, hence various methods have been adopted by different academic libraries in combating crimes.

The techniques and technologies adopted in the prevention and detection of crime in academic libraries have improved and changed greatly. Transformation have shifted from crude implement and traditional methods such as using tally system and physical checking of the body to more modern, scientific and sophisticated techniques. Modern technology has become a vital tool in crime control worldwide in academic libraries. The traditional and age long system and practice of preventing, detecting, and investigating crimes have failed

to withstand the existing trend of crimes pattern in academic library. There is a shift to improved technology as an alternative to curbing crime. Modern technology entails set of scientific equipment used in combating criminal activities in an establishment.

Crime control in academic constitute menace to university libraries and librarians. As a result of these, there is a lot of literature on different problems concerning crime control in university libraries. According to Ugar (2007), safety of collection and vandalism of equipment stand as a challenge to information access and use. Hence criminal acts as such are serious problems that can result in user dissatisfaction. He identified major security and criminal anomalies in library to include stolen and destruction of library resources, vandalism, disasters, over use of library materials and delinquent borrowers and intentional displacement of materials. These numerous crimes which are perpetrated by library user have prevented them from actualizing their information needs. Academic libraries usually foster library resources which are of immense values and at an exorbitant rate, but also constitute avenue for criminal acts. The gravity of the security management and control will surely constitute age long or traditional library that will serve the need of the user. Crimes in the library are more peculiar to information resources and properties such as textbooks and bags of the user. The percentage at which these crimes occur vary from one academic library to another. According to Adewuyi and Adekanye (2011), University of Lagos Library has an electronic detector machine that doesn't work due to erratic electricity and therefore physical search of all library patrons to supplement the electronic system. Van Nort (2010) suggested installation of alarm system, video surveillance, patron searching upon exiting, material marking and the use of coloured photocopy paper as possible ways of controlling crimes in an academic library.

Moreover, it has been observed that traditional methods such as banning of bags from entering the library proper as in putting of bag in the cloak room, body checking by the security and porters on duty has not really yielded substantial results. It is high time the librarians woke up to the responsibility through the procurement of modern electronic

devices in combating the menace of criminal activities in their respective libraries. The only way to achieve this greater feat is by adequate and regular funding of the university library by the university management since academic success and achievement of the university is being measured by how well stocked the university library is being the custodian of knowledge and information resources.

Different types of crimes in the academic libraries can be caused by either natural or human agent. Natural ones include disaster. Aziagba and Edet (2008) reiterated disaster as naturally in-built and manmade. Human being normally cannot prevent natural disasters. They range from, earthquake, landslides, storm and hurricane. These environmental breaches have been experienced by universities in different countries. Human agents have to do with crime perpetrated by the library patrons themselves. This category of crime comes also ranges from of theft of book materials, Library vandalism and non – return of borrowed materials. It has been discovered that it is not all theft that is committed by the patron. Majority of the library staff takes materials from the libraries without proper inspection Ogbonyomi (2011).

Bello (1998) justified in his study on theft and mutilation in technological university library in Nigeria, that there is a lack of security in universities libraries. Library users in the library usually resulted to mutilation of materials because demands of the users for library materials have increased considerably. Oder (2004) opines in his work that there is paucity of safety measures such as inspection, surveillance and patrolling in libraries and keys to the libraries are no longer safe from the users. With the recurring experience of all these criminal breaches in our academic libraries, it is of paramount importance for library management to especially those in charge of collection development to have a clear notion of security and safety challenges in the academic library. Contemporary librarians should concern themselves with such practice; if they are to successfully manage an advance and good library. Okogwu and Nnam, (2013) asserted that criminal activities in the library ranges in categories. First is the criminal acts and mutilation against library books. Secondly are rate of criminal breaches against vandalism of

the library structure and buildings. Thirdly, is the criminal operation against patron and staff of the library settings.

There are myriads effect of crimes in the library and they differ from one user to the other. Inadequate fund oftentimes incapacitates most users to acquire personal copies of the books they used for the fact that most users comes from poor background. Most libraries are also complaining of poor funding of the university libraries by the university management. Many researchers such as Ajegbomogun (2004); Agboola (2001) and many others based their arguments on economic depression and security as the main causes of crimes or abuse of library materials. Moreover, user's population is another factor which in most cases are too high compared to the available resources in an academic library. In spite of these facts, some users who are selfish in nature might have torn certain number of pages or chapters in the book. This invariably denied other users the opportunity of making use of such materials as at when due. In addition, the staff strength in most academic libraries is nothing to write home about when it is compared to user's population. Reasons alluded to this is supported by the study of Akussah and Bentil (2012), who mentioned series of factors that contributed to library malpractices; these include inadequate service staff at night and during weekends, lack of multiple copies of library materials in high demand and inadequate photocopying facilities.

Senyah (2004) in a study carried out at the university library of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, identified the scarcity of needed book and selfishness as being the main cause of book theft and mutilation. Chaturvedi cited in Salimatu (2008) stated that among the outrageous means of removing information resources is "the misuse of authority by management staff who takes out books and other library materials for consultation without proper record". For example, poor security is another cause of criminal act in academic libraries. Most libraries are grossly under staff. In the case of Kenneth Dike Library, there are only two porters who runs the various shift. This implies that at any time the library is opened; only one security man with one or two porters is on duty. This is grossly inadequate

within an academic library when compared with the numbers of thousands of users trooping in and out.

Before the advent of modern technology, various methods have been adopted by academic libraries to prevent criminal activities among library patrons. Libraries encapsulate various types of charging out of materials systems as Brown, Newark system etc. Majority of the libraries have computerized their charging system to make their activity faster. This charging system adopted by different individual libraries is one of the means of detecting stolen books for the fact that date is in most cases on the date due slip of a particular book borrowed. Another means of reducing the occurrence of crime in the library is the orthodox method of making use of the padlock in locking the main exit of the library, turnstiles method and library security to slow down the pace of library users going out at the library exit. Libraries in developed countries mostly use electric security system at their exit. Other orthodox method being employed by the library to curb crimes include yearly stock taking intake, revising the borrowing modules, increasing number of security gadget, boosting of security personnel, key utilisation by few staff members etc. All these methods have now been found either inadequate or ineffective, hence they are all obsolete. This is because library patrons have devised other techniques in committing crimes. In contemporary times, new technologies have now evolved in the prevention of crimes in academic libraries. According to McComb (2004), some of these are as discussed as follows:

Contemporary electronic devices are devices that ignite alarm notifications in the library. They entail Door and Window contact, Burglary Protection, Audio discrimination device, Vibrator Device, Electronic Motion Detector, Access control Device, Collection Security Device and Video Surveillance device.

Door and window contact is the devices that ignite an alarm each time door or window want to open. It remains compulsory to fix the device on all door and window of the open space to trigger notification in due course. Omoisejimi, Ijiekhuamhen and Ojeme (2015) mentioned window security to

include locks, guards, grilles, bars, screens, and films. According to Omoisekejimi et al. (2015), window locks should be fitted to all windows that can open and are accessible without the means of a ladder. For best control, these windows should be secured by key-operated locks (not just a simple latch). Cherdantseva and Hilton (2013) argued that securing the window through the use of guards, grilles, or bars is not always architecturally acceptable, although they can be a cost-effective solution in certain circumstances. On the other hand, door protection includes cylindrical locks, deadbolts, mortise locks, and gates. A cylindrical lockset fits into a large hole bored into the door's face with the keyhole in the door knob. The latch assembly is locked and provides the securing of the door, though this type of lock provides the least amount of security in door protection. The addition of a deadbolt provides enhanced protection by increasing the metal support into the jam lock (Omoisekejimi et al., 2015). A mortise lockset fits into a rectangular pocket in the door's edge and usually has a deadbolt that is an integrated part of the locking mechanism. When the key is turned from the outside, it releases both the knob and the deadbolt. Crowe (2000) agreed that normally such security gates should be considered only for high crime environments. Moreso, Lynn (2001) also asserted that "Door and Window Contacts can also be used to trigger an alarm whenever library doors or windows are opened without authorization."

Burglary protection is a kind of device or sensor that discovers an alarm that is intuitive in nature. Hence, it is meant to discover burglary into the rightful places. They are divided into various types such as volumetric or line detection devices, active or passive devices and covert and visible devices. Active devices have to do with the discovery and alteration into the type of received energy by the person perpetrating the crime while passive devices have to do with the discovery and alteration into the type of natural energy by the person perpetrating the crime (Omoisekejimi et al., 2015). In the same vein, Jadhara and Kulkarni (2000) define active sensors as devices that transmit some type of energy and detect a change in the received energy created by the presence of motion of

the intruder. Covert energy or sensor is concealed from view in nature; while visible devices are unhidden from view in nature. Volumetric devices have to do with the discovery of an intrusion space wise while line devices have to do with the discovery of intrusion along the line. According to Omoisekejimi et al., (2015) covert sensors are hidden from view. Volumetric sensors detect intrusion on a volume of space, where line detection sensors detect intrusion across a line.

Audio discrimination devices are a kind of audio installation that detects glass breakage and audible voices. It will work perfectly by installing them on the ceiling of the house.

Electronic vibrator devices have to do with the kind of electronic devices that discover means of intrusion into glass breakage. They discover shock when the intruder wants to come in through shattered glass.

Electronic motion detectors are devices that discover the existence of an intruder in the library. They also provide guarantee protection to the users by igniting an alarm. Examples are Ultrasound and Microwave. Ogbonyomi (2011) mentioned that some libraries use turnstiles and guards to slow down movements of users and check patrons going out at the exit. Libraries in developed countries mostly use electric security systems at their exits. Adopting an electronic exit control system will assist a lot in curbing library crimes (Ogbonyomi, 2011).

Access control devices constitute one of the best methods of managing library buildings. It guarantees original access to some part of the library. In order to guarantee its absolute performance, it can be used together with video surveillance. It protects an avalanche of library materials thereby guaranteeing ready access to the materials. With the use of access control devices according to Omoisekejimi et al., (2015), authorized people are allowed to enter a controlled area by automatically unlocking of the door. Plastic access cards are inexpensive and software can be programmed to restrict access to certain areas while recording the time, date and location of authorized and unauthorized access. Omoisekejimi et al., (2015) further suggested 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 areas.

Collection security device has to do with security chips that are being placed in between books in the library to deter users from taking them away from the library exit. These devices guaranteed that each library manage their materials successfully inspite of low staff intake in the library. Akor (2013) conceptualized collection security management in libraries to mean the overall manner in which collection security policies, programs, procedures, or measures are deployed to mitigate risk and ensure access information materials. Ajegbomogun (2004) stated that "collection security management refers to a process designed to protect library collections against un-authorized removal or loss".

Recording device records various operation in the library that might have gone unattended to by the library management. They include digital recording devices and CCTV. Mohammed (2004) cited in Okpokwasili (2018) comments that, Electronic and computer technology have come in to remove most of the limitations of access and use of information resources and services. Instead of "written word", we now have "electronic word" existing as bits and bytes of computer memory.

Video surveillance device include electronic devices like CCTV and Video Surveillance devices prevent criminal activities within the library and they are economic in nature. They guarantee effective safety and prevent unlawful intrusion into the library. They usually prevent illegal theft, discovers visitors of the library and overall security of the library materials and services. CCTV are meant for easy identification and record observation of the library intruder. Hence, there is need to install video surveillance such as CCTV into the library to guarantee overall security of the library in its entirety. Okpokwasili (2018) suggested things like video tapes if installed in the libraries can

assist in curbing crimes. ICT has introduced a lot of things which prevent people from committing crime. CCTV camera, GPRS system, using database for finding criminals' information are some unique things which cannot be possible without ICT (Okpokwasili, 2018).

Methods

The research design adopted for this study was descriptive survey method with target audience on the professional and Para-professional staff of two university libraries. The number of staff chosen for the study was 31 professional and 20 paraprofessional staff in University of Ibadan, with 22 professional and 18 paraprofessional staff in Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, making the total population of 91. The instrument used in collecting data is a self-reporting questionnaire. A simple random-sampling technique was adopted to select sixty (60) respondents in the two university libraries covered by the study. Out of 60 copies of questionnaire distributed to the Librarians in the two university libraries in Southwest Nigeria, a total of 60 (100%) copies were returned duly completed and found useable for this study. The data collected for the study from the research question was presented and analyzed using descriptive statistics and the findings were presented in tables, showing frequencies of responses and their corresponding percentages. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21 was used for the analysis.

Results

The findings of this study are presented in this section.

Research question one: What are the causes of crimes in the library?

Respondents were asked to specify their level of agreement with the suggested causes of library crimes. The result is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Causes of library crime

Variables	Agree	Disagree
Poverty	18(30%)	42(70%)
Poor funding	38(63.3%)	22(36.7%)
Inadequate copies of text on the shelf	26(45.0%)	34(55.0%)
Poor security	44(73.3%)	16(26.7%)
User population	37(61.7%)	23(38.3%)

Table 1 reveals that 44(73.3%) of the respondents were in consonance with the agreement that poor security in the library is the main cause of library criminal acts while poor funding of the library is the second major cause of library crime as 38 (63.3%) of the

respondents believed that poor funding is responsible for library crime. However, majority of the respondents 41(70%) disagree with the fact that poverty is responsible for library crime. This is further illustrated by figure 1

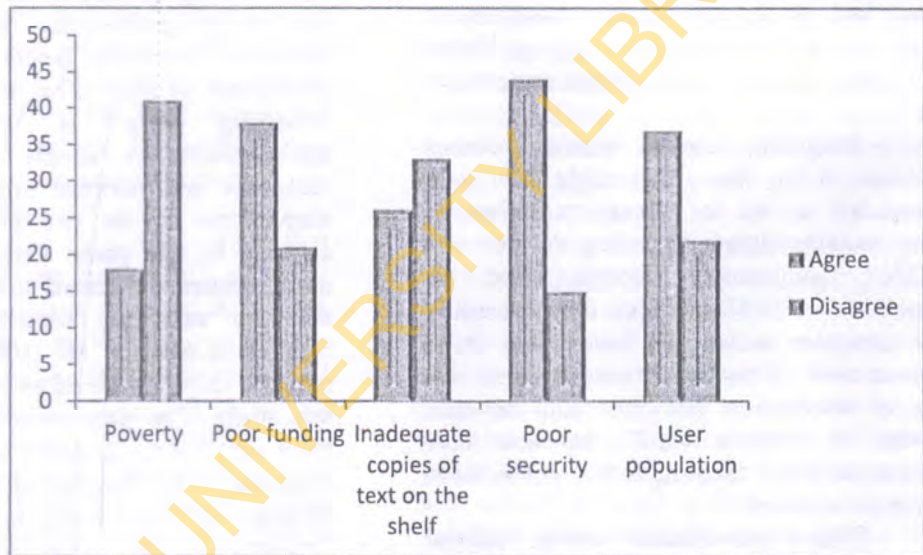


Figure 1: Chart showing causes of library crime

Research question two: What are the types and nature of crimes perpetrated in the library by users?

The respondents were asked to adjudge their level of agreement with level of criminal activities prevalent in the libraries. Table 2 depicts the summary of their responses.

Table 2: Types of criminal activities in the university libraries

Criminal activities	Agree	Disagree
Security breaches	18(28.3%)	42(71.7%)
Book mutilation	45(75%)	15(25%)
Disruptive behavior	33(55%)	27(45%)
Non return of library materials	31(51.7%)	29(48.3%)
Using someone else's library cards	36(60%)	24(40%)
Tearing pages	35(58%)	25(42%)
Hiding of books by users	41(70%)	19(30%)

Table 2 showed that book mutilation by library users was agreed to be the most common of

the criminal activities in the libraries as 45(75%) of the respondents indicated. Also, it

was revealed that hiding of books by users is another prevalent anti library act. This is so as 41(70%) of the respondents agreed that users do hide books or hoard materials in on order to prevent library users from accessing such library holdings. The least among the crime

rate is security breaches in which 18(28.3%) of the respondents agreed while 42(71.7%) disagreed that security breaches is a major crime in the library. This result is also presented in figure 2.

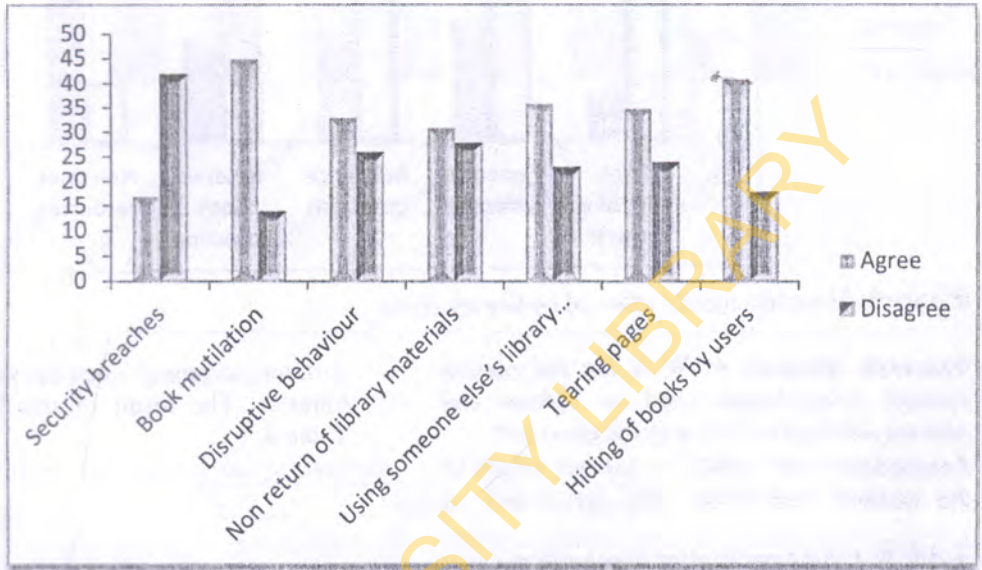


Figure 2: A Chart showing types of crimes in the Library

Research question 3: What are the most vulnerable collections affected by library crime?

Respondents were asked to specify which of the collections in the library are most

vulnerable to crimes. Table 3 depicts a summary of the level of agreement of the respondents on each collection as being vulnerable to crimes perpetrated by users.

Table 3: Vulnerable collections

Vulnerable collections	Agree	Disagree
Print material in general	49(81.7%)	11(18.3%)
Periodical collection	35(58.3%)	24(41.7%)
Reference collection	36(60%)	24(40%)
Reserve book collection	38(63.3%)	22(36.7%)
Non print resources	13(21.7%)	47(78.3%)

Table 3 shows that of the total population of the respondents, 49(81.7%) of the respondents which constitute the majority agreed that print materials are the most vulnerable to library

crime, 38(63.3%) said that reserve book collections are next set of collections affected by crimes in the library. This is further represented by figure 3.

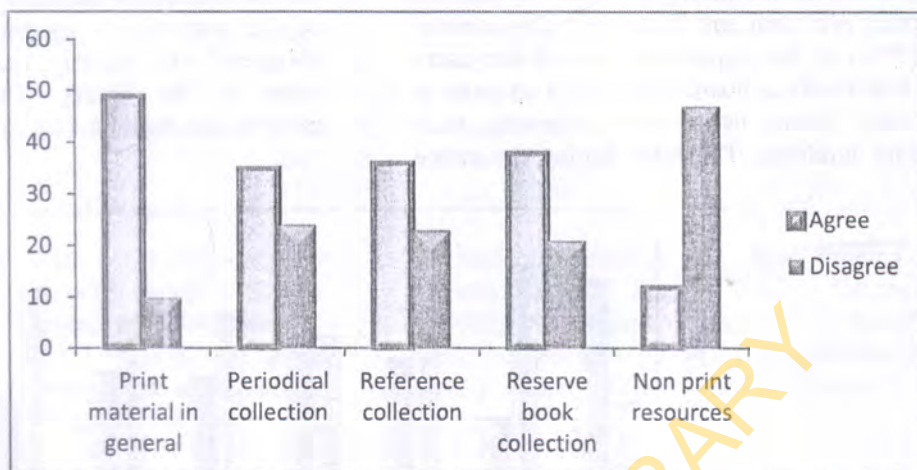


Figure 3: Materials mostly affected by library crime

Research question 4: What are the current modern technologies used to reduce and address criminal activities in the libraries? Respondents were asked to express which of the modern technology will serve well in

curbing criminal activities in academic libraries. The result of this is as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Crime prevention mechanism

Crime prevention mechanism	Agree	Disagree
Burglary protection	27(45%)	33(55%)
Door and window contact	43(71.7%)	17(28.9%)
Vibrator detector	22(36.7%)	38(63.3%)
Audio discriminator	19(31.7%)	41(68.3%)
Alarmed window screen	33(55%)	27(45%)
Motion detector	18(30%)	42(70%)
Video surveillance	48(80%)	12(20%)
Recording equipment	36(60%)	24(40%)

Table 4 shows that 48(80%) of the respondents agreed that video surveillance will go a long way in preventing crime in the library while door and window contact is also believed by the respondents 43(71.7%) to be effective in curbing library crimes. Recording equipment 36(60%) and alarmed window

screen 33(55%) are also favoured by the respondents has been good enough to curb library crime. However, only 18(30%) and 19(31.7%) of the respondents agreed that motion detector and audio detector will respectively curb crimes in the libraries. Figure 4 gives further illustration of the result in the table.

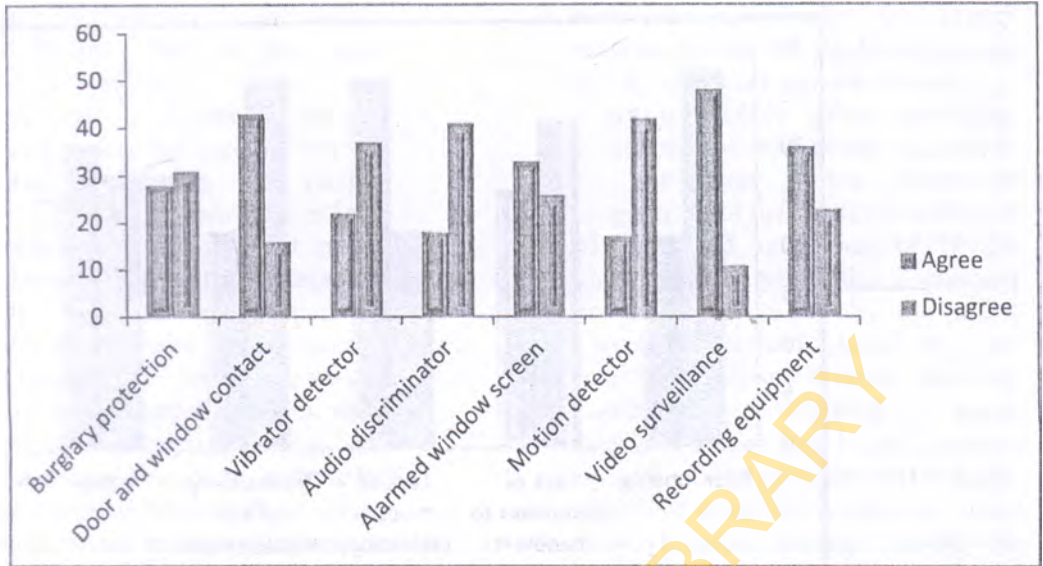


Figure 4: Crime prevention mechanism

Table 5: Challenges of library crime prevention

Challenges	Agree	Disagree
Poor funding	38(63.3%)	22(36.7%)
Lack of manpower to handle it	34(56.7%)	26(43.3%)
Lack of modern technology	22(36.7%)	38(63.3%)
Insensitivity of the management	38(63.3%)	22(36.7%)
Other	29(48.3%)	31(51.7%)

Research question 5: What are they being confronted by the two studied libraries in their effort to curb criminal activities?

Table 5 reveals that poor funding of the university libraries as well as insensitivity of the library management towards the issue of crime are the major challenges in curbing crimes as indicated by 38(63.3%) of the respondents. This might be due to

the fact that modern technology in crime prevention is capital intensive and no special fund is provided for that in the budget of the libraries. Another challenge which the respondents agreed to is lack of manpower to handle the modern technology for crime prevention in the library. This is indicated by 34(56.7%). The result is further illustrated by the figure 5.

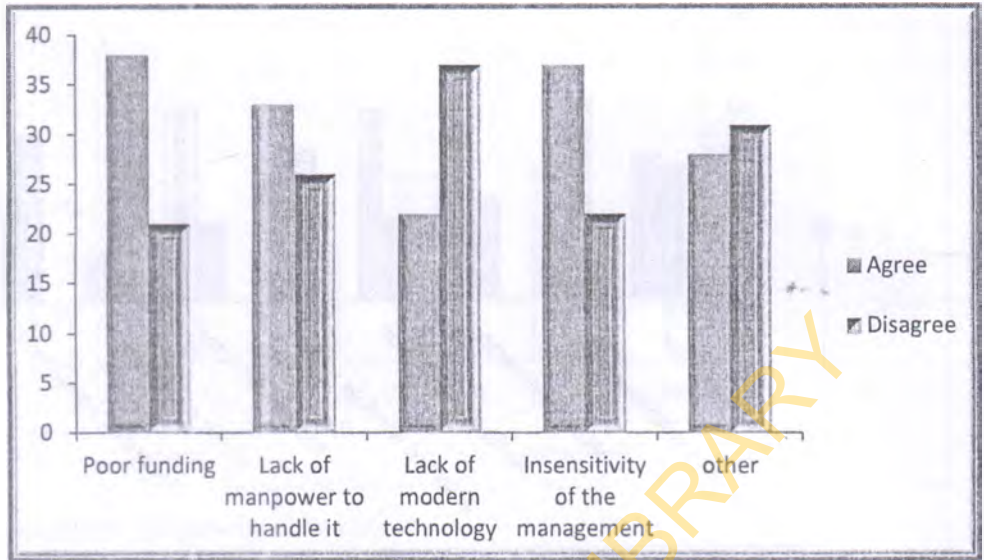


Figure 5: Challenges to crime prevention

Discussion

Research question one revealed that poor funding, user population and poor security outfit are the major issues precipitating library crime rate and vandalism in academic libraries. This could be adduced to the fact that the number of books available may be too small to the number of users expected to make use of a particular book. It therefore gives opportunity to users who are criminally minded to steal, mutilate or hide a book. This is in consonance with Bello (1998) who examined theft and mutilation in technological university libraries in Nigeria, were of the opinion that there is inadequate security in academic libraries. This finding also agrees with the assertions of Oder (2004) in his work that there is paucity of safety measures such as inspection, surveillance and patrolling in libraries and keys to the libraries are no longer safe from the users.

Furthermore, the findings of the study indicated that the prominent of library crime in the selected libraries are book mutilation, hiding of books or materials by users as well as disruptive behavior on the part of users. This is in line with the result of Bello (1998) Library users in the library usually resulted to mutilation of materials because demands of the users for library materials have increased considerably. Book mutilation often poses a great threat to library collections as it is

usually difficult to detect. The books hidden by users are always detected during routine shelving and that is one of the essences of routine shelving in a library.

Poor funding of the university libraries as well as insensitivity of the library management towards the issue of crime are the major challenges in curbing crimes as revealed by result of this finding. This might be due to the fact that modern technology in crime prevention is capital intensive and no special fund is provided for that in the budget of the libraries. Moreover, it was found that modern technology will be effective in the prevention of library crime most especially Video surveillance such as the CCTV followed by door and window contacts. Finally, all these challenges highlighted above hindered the two universities under study in putting in place modern technologies in curbing criminal activities in their libraries.

Conclusion

Libraries, generally, are institutions established for the procurement, organization, presentation, dissemination and utilization of information resources. The readiness of academic libraries to meet the avalanche of information needs of its users depends on ranges of issues among other things, the readily accessibility of varied documentary and non-book materials. The sum total of these

information sources, therefore, constitutes the resources of library. One of the major impediments to effective library and information services is library crime and delinquency and it has not been given the proper attention it deserves. The relative organisation of book and non-book information resources in the required quality and quantity depends on resource management operations as well as preservation of collections of the university library through library crime prevention. Since the various crimes are now being carried out with more perfection and sophistication on daily basis which poses a varied threats to information materials, this study has brought about certain revelation which would enable policy makers in the educational institution that are involved in crime prevention exercise to adopt certain and consequential modern technologies that can be useful in curbing crimes in their institutions. The positive result achieved by putting all these electronic devices in practice would save many libraries from routine and perpetual missing of relevant library materials; hence this will enhance the academic performance, research prowess and information disposition of students.

The following recommendations are considered worthy of mentioning in order to ensure effective crime prevention in academic libraries:

- i. Library management should give proper attention to security issues in their libraries. This is to ensure protection of collections in the library and prevent criminal tendencies of the users.
- ii. Modern technology should be adopted in academic libraries. This could be done by the use of technology such as the closed-circuit television, video surveillance, audio alarm, collection security device that is normally placed on library materials and machine detection device that is typically located at all libraries exits. With this in place, criminal activities will be detected on the spot and dealt with accordingly.
- iii. There should be special funds for security issues in the library. The parent institution should take it as a point of duty to make budgetary

provisions specifically for library security. Part of this fund will be used in crime prevention in the libraries.

- iv. There is need to create awareness, enlightenment and proper education for the users during orientation program about the negative challenges of theft and mutilation of library holdings among other criminal activities perpetuated by the users. Circulation policies should be spelt out, while realistic policies regarding borrowing and returning of books should be formulated and guarded upon. It will be advisable that multiple copies of education books, any other heavily used material should be purchased. The effects and results of theft and mutilation in the library should be well spelt out to library users.

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