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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND SECURITY MANAGEMENT AS FACTORS INFLUENCING ADEQUATE PRESERVATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN OYO TOWN

BY

Vincent B. Uko[1].; Dr. Sophia V. Adeyeye[2]

College Library
Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo[2]
Department of Library, Archival and Information Science
Lead City University, Ibadan[2]

Email: vinnyco2010@gmail.com
Phone: +2348100597551

&Email: vinnyco2010@gmail.com[1]

Email: Adeyeye.sophia@lcu.edu.ng[2]
Phone: +2348100597551[1]
Phone: +2348061127108[2]

Abstract

Purpose: Academic libraries are faced with natural and man-made disasters that can affect service delivery and loss of life to staff and patrons. This study was undertaken to discuss the disaster preparedness and security management practices to be observed and maintained by academic libraries in Oyo town and identifies the enabling factors towards the successful management of the experienced or occurred disasters.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The study was conducted using descriptive research survey method with a population of 75 librarians including Heads of Libraries drawn across four tertiary institutions in Oyo town. Using total enumeration sampling technique due to the small size of the population.

Findings: The findings showed that academic libraries in Oyo town were affected by floods, digital disaster server crash, wind storms, roof damage, roof leakage, no insurance coverage for staff/ resources, pest infestation, vandalism, theft, unkempt library environment, dirty shelves, dust gathering on the books, poor maintenance culture, poor library accommodation, rodents, reptiles, power surge from poor electrical installation, data corruption by virus, software loss, effect of COVID-19 pandemic. The disaster preparedness and security management practices employed includes: risk assessment, emergency response planning, staff training, collection protection, print and digital preservation, backup and recovery, communication and outreach, collaboration and partnerships. While the enabling and disabling factors were funding, awareness, infrastructure, staffing and collaboration.

Originality/Value: The authors recommended that academic libraries in Oyo town should have disaster preparedness plans, collaborate and establish partnerships, invest in technology and infrastructure, train both staff and users on dealing with disasters and insure the library buildings and collections. This helps to secure all assets that constitute the library. The study would inform academic library administrators, policy makers, and disaster management professionals in academic institutions about effective strategies that can be used to deal with disasters.

Keywords: Disaster, preparedness, security, management, preservation, library resources, academic libraries.

Paper type: Empirical Research

Introduction

Disaster preparedness and security management are vital for library materials preservation. They protect books, records and digital files from physical damage, theft and loss. Good plans ensure library materials last for a long time. A disaster is regarded as a sudden accident or a natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss of lives and properties (Tukur, 2022). Disaster, whether natural or man-made, poses a significant threat to institutions worldwide including academic libraries. COVID-19 pandemic is considered a disaster due to its devastating impact on the way information was managed, shared and disseminated during the pandemic period (Ansari *et al*, 2024; Rachman, 2020). Like other disasters, COVID-19 led to the sudden loss of access to information resources because of the closure of academic institutions and their libraries. Academic libraries, as repositories of knowledge and cultural heritage, are vulnerable to a variety of hazards such as earthquakes, floods, fire, and human-induced events (Wardekker *et al*., 2023).

Preserving academic resources and maintaining library services during and after such events are crucial for sustaining educational and research activities. This systemic review aims to synthesize existing literature on disaster preparedness and management practices in academic libraries, providing a comprehensive overview of strategies employed to mitigate risks, protect collections and ensure operational resilience. Academic libraries play the role of supporting their parent institution in actualizing their goals and objectives. Their collections which include books, journals and digital resources are invaluable assets that require safeguarding against potential disasters (Chisawada & Ngulube, 2025).

Academic libraries serve as pivotal centres for learning, research, and knowledge dissemination of information. Academic libraries have a broad collection that span through myriad disciplines. Their collections which are an embodiment of books, journals and digital resources are invaluable assets that require safeguarding against potential disasters (Feather, 2020). Effective disaster preparedness and management practices are essential to minimize damage and ensure a rapid recovery (McEntire, 2022). Despite they recognised the importance of these measures, there is a need for consolidated understanding of the various approaches and best practices implemented across different academic libraries. This review systematically examines the existing body

of research on disaster preparedness and library management in academic libraries, and by analysing studies from diverse geographical and institutional contexts, it seeks to identify common challenges, innovative solutions, and gaps in current practices (Chidera & Iroeze, 2021).

Academic libraries play a unique role in acquiring, preserving and conserving a variety of information resources including books, journals, theses, dissertations and newspapers in both print and electronic formats. They cater for higher education institutions to fulfill the information needs by providing access to these resources (Akinola, 2022). In academic libraries, preserving intellectual assets such as rare manuscripts, research data and digital repositories is paramount, necessitating a robust framework for continuity of access and service during crises period (Abidin *et al.,* 2023). Disaster preparedness in academic libraries involves proactive measures and structured responses aimed at protecting library resources, thereby ensuring service continuity and minimising disruption during crises. This encompasses a strategic and comprehensive approach to safeguarding collections, infrastructure and personnel from potential hazards such as fire, floods, cyber-attacks, and pandemics (Abidin *et al.,* 2024). These practices typically include conducting regular risk assessment to identify potential hazards such as natural disasters, technological failures and human-induced threats, libraries develop and maintain comprehensive disaster management plans that outline preventive actions, emergency procedures and recovery strategies tailored to their institutional needs and the library's unique context.

A disaster is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, materials, economic or environmental losses and impacts which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. Although the categories and causes of disasters may differ, their impacts are common, therefore, a disaster plan should address disaster impacts (Feather, 2022). Disaster preparedness are preparedness is defined as actions that ensure resources necessary to carry out an effective response are available before a disaster, or they can be obtained promptly when needed (Chigwada & Ngulube, 2025).

Disaster preparedness are preparation and adjustments such as storing food and water, preparing a household emergency plan, preparing an emergency kit, and other activities that reduce risk or injury and damage. Actually disaster preparedness is a health protective behaviour, so the

behavioural approaches have taken center stage as a means of it. Even though hundreds of thousands of lives are affected without warning by disaster yearly, most people do not concern themselves by preparing until disaster strikes (Flaherty, 2023). Therefore, it has become obvious that a more broad-based effort of behavioural change is required. Effective interventions to promote disaster preparedness requires a thorough understanding of the factors that influence performance or non-performance of disaster preparedness behaviour.

Statement of the Problem

Academic libraries are saddled with the responsibility of acquiring a broad-based resources that cover a wide range of disciplines. Given the mandate of providing elaborate resources to meet the academic needs of staff and students in various institutions of learning. Going by the foregoing, huge funds is invested in procuring these resources. In order not for the resources to be wasted, adequate security, disaster preparedness should be enforced to safeguard the resources.

It is inevitably contended that disaster preparedness and management should be one of the important aspects of library management but in practical terms, it has been found to be a neglected issue in librarianship. Disaster is crucial and the academic libraries are not exempted from this reality.

It is discovered that most tools provided for disaster management are not always in use as staff show unconnected attitude on disaster preparedness and are not knowledgeable on the use of the materials provided. Most of the time, during accreditation exercise; many of the teams do emphasize on the need for provision of disaster management materials as the time of occurrence of disaster is unknown. Sometime, it is discovered that many of the fire extinguishers available have long expired. Some libraries don't even have enough sand buckets, while in some cases there are no exit doors in case of emergency. Many academic libraries have no disaster preparedness policy or plan on ground. Most times, many library facilities are lost to fire incident during student's riot. It is also observed that academic library managers are not giving proper attention to disaster preparedness management as it supposed to be, by educating every staff on the need to participate in disaster preparedness so as to secure the resources in the library.

It is on this premise that the study intends to critically examine disaster preparedness

and security management as factors influencing adequate preservation of library resources among academic libraries in Oyo town.

Research Questions

The following research questions were stated to guide the study:

1. What are the disaster preparedness and management practices used in your library?
2. What are the disasters experienced by the library in the last five years 2022-2026?
3. What are the factors militating against disaster preparedness and management in library?

Literature Review

Concept of Disaster

Disaster means different things by different authors, Olubiyo (2023) defined disaster as any incident that threatens human safety and damages or threatens to damage a building, collection or items, equipment, systems and services. Abdullahi *et al.* (2022) citing the United Nations, describing disaster as a serious disruption of the functioning of the society, causing widespread human, material or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected society to cope using its own resources.

Disaster can be commonly caused by fire either through arson, electrical faults, and water from burst pipes or flooding as a result of heavy rainfall, poor storage and environmental conditions, inadequate security networks and poorly maintained buildings. In recent times, terrorism has become an issue and a major threat as well to libraries and information centres. As reported by Abdulrahman (2016), many resources including library resources were destroyed as a result of bombing of institutions in the North East. There are times staff of the library forgot to turn off water pumps before leaving their offices and as a result, water from broken drainage or leaked pipes overflow and cause great disaster to the library. Moreover, fire is assumed to be the chief disaster which should be taken serious to avoid. Libraries should therefore provide fire-fighting equipment and keep it on standby to control fire disaster.

Tools for disaster preparedness and management

Ansari *et al.* (2024) defined disaster as a common phenomenon that can and will happen when least expected. They further emphasized that disaster often comes unannounced and uninvited with disastrous consequences. From the above definitions, disaster has become endemic in the society and as a result, institutions are to provide necessary measures required to abet or control disaster.

The consequences of disasters on the academic libraries are great as there will be depletion of library resources, denial of materials to users who are in need of them, frustration and discouragement on the part of users who cannot locate materials they are aware that are in the library as a result of total destruction of materials. Disaster is always sudden without warning (Garnett 2021). Libraries are therefore expected to get prepared to fight disaster by providing facilities necessary for disaster management (Tukur, 2022). In the position of Ilo, *et al* (2020), disaster preparedness and response in University libraries in Nigeria, there should be adequate availability rate of fire extinguisher, sand buckets, emergency exit doors, anti-virus software and thunder arrestors. Disaster control practices is a continuous process by which individuals, groups and countries manage hazards in an effort to avoid or minimize the impact of disasters resulting from either natural or man-made hazards. Libraries as institutions for preservation of cultural heritage should always be on alert on the effect of disaster on information resources and as such make available materials needed to fight disaster when it occurs, (Abdullahi, *et al* 2022). Libraries should be equipped with disaster tools as nobody knows when it will occur.

Disaster Management policies in Academic Libraries

This is the most reason why there should be disaster management policies in academic libraries. Disaster management policies are written procedures to follow in disaster management such as disaster plan which is a set of written procedures prepared in advance to deal with an unexpected occurrence that has the potential to cause injury to personnel or services (Ferrere & Maniscalco 2023). The disaster management policy of library is made up of a compilation of smaller plans that must be crafted with the support of library staff, school management and external stakeholders. It should contain clear, short and precise instructions and readily available to all employees, especially the disaster management team (Flaherty 2023). Disasters are so numerous and they differ from country to country and from library to

library. These disasters can be natural or man-made which include flood, fire, hurricane, earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption, windstorm, wars, water leakage, roof leakage, pest, insects, rodents etc. Natural disasters are natural occurrences in the environment without human influence that can or have caused a lot of financial losses, risks, hazards and suffering to libraries, humanity and the environment at large. Natural disaster are often frightening and difficult to understand because we have no control on when and where they happen but we can only control them through how we are prepared as communities and governments to deal with the dangers that are associated with the disasters. Abdulrahman (2016), lists the types of disasters in libraries as: Malicious vandalism, thefts, negligence, power surges and failure, rodent invasions, fire, mutilation, insect attack, storms, floods, bombing, rioting etc. Irrespective of types of disaster, the destruction and devastation it causes or threatens to cause to the library resources and the provision of library services remains a critical factor in the management of libraries.

Factors Militating against Disaster preparedness and management in Academic Libraries.

In terms of factors militating against disaster preparedness and management in academic libraries, Ilo, *et al* (2022) saw the following as problems militating against disaster management: Lack of planning at all levels, lack of mitigation planning, lack of coordination and networking, delayed in response and lack of trained man power. They further stated that academic libraries in West Africa do not have budget to sufficiently cover disaster control and should reach out for external help. In line with this development, Ansari et al (2024), highlighted lack of adequate facilities, inadequate fund allocated to libraries and lack of interest on the part of some librarians on disaster management as problems encountered in disaster management in academic libraries. In the same vein, they posit that funding to library is dwindling every year and as such do not have enough money to purchase the required reading materials let alone setting money aside for disaster management.

It is observed that most academic libraries in Nigeria lack funds to sustain and prepare for emergencies as a result, find it difficult to prepare for disaster. Ilo et al (2020), found that inadequate disaster facilities and equipment such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, dehumidifiers, close circuits cameras, sand filled buckets among others as well as poor funding were the greatest challenges confronting disaster mitigation in federal and state universities.

Academic libraries must be prepared for all types of disasters, whether natural or man-made, that may occur in their libraries.

As part of strategies adopted in disaster preparedness and management in academic libraries, Rosen *et al.* (2023) posit that training should be conducted for staff at all levels to practice a particular activity such as the removal of items from a disaster area with minimal damage and to familiarize themselves with materials and equipment. This will enable individuals to react more quickly in an emergency and help to give them greater confidence in their ability to cope with disaster. Other strategies according to United Nations (2023), are development of disaster preparedness plan, vulnerability analysis and risk assessment be conducted to evaluate the types of emergencies that might affect library collection, personnel and building, backing up library websites regularly, staff training and raising awareness of the need to protect document from disaster.

Methodology

The study examined disaster preparedness and security management as factors influencing adequate preservation of library resources among academic libraries in Oyo town. The study employed descriptive survey research design method. This research method is quantitative in nature and aimed at eliciting responses from a population that cut across academic libraries in Oyo town. A population of 75 librarians was drawn from Federal College of Education, Special Oyo, Federal School of Surveying, Ajayi Crowther University, and Emmanuel Alayande University of Education, all in Oyo Town, using total enumeration sampling technique due to the small size of the population. Questionnaires were administered directly by the researchers to the respondents. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics, frequency distribution, percentages and standard deviation.

Data Analysis, Result and Discussion of the Findings

Table 1: Response Rate

S/	Name of Institution	Number of	Number of	Percentage

N		questionnaire distributed	questionnaire returned	(%)
1.	Ajayi Crowther University Oyo (ACU)	26	21	28.0%
2.	Emmanuel Alayande University of Education Oyo	10	7	9.3%
3.	Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo (SPED)	43	38	50.7%
4.	Federal School of Surveying	11	9	12.0%
	TOTAL	90	75	100%

Table 2: Demographic distribution of the respondents

S/N	Name of Institution	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Ajayi Crowther University Oyo (ACU)	21	28.0%
2.	Emmanuel Alayande University of Education Oyo	7	9.3%
3.	Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo (SPED)	38	50.7%
4.	Federal School of Surveying Oyo	9	12.0%
	Department		
1.	Readers' Services Division	29	38.7%
2.	Technical Services Division	46	61.3%
	Gender		
1.	Male	32	42.7%
2.	Female	43	47.3%
	Religion		
1.	Christianity	49	65.3%
2.	Islam	26	34.7%
	Age Range		
1.	35-40years	21	28.0%
2.	41-45years	16	21.3%
3.	46-50years	26	34.75
4.	51years and above	12	16.0%

Sources: Field data (2026)

Table 3: Disaster preparedness and Management practices in the libraries under review

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean (x̄)	S.D
1.	Disaster response plan	19(25.3)	45(60.0)	9(12.0)	2(2.7)	3.08	0.69
2.	Library insurance coverage	14(18.7)	35(46.7)	24(32.0)	2(2.7)	2.81	0.77
3.	Library disaster response team	18(24.0)	33(44.0)	22(29.3)	2(2.7)	2.89	0.80
4.	Good housekeeping practices	27(36.0)	39(52.0)	8(10.7)	1(1.3)	3.23	0.69
5.	Educational and training services	29(38.7)	30(40.0)	16(21.3)	-	3.17	0.76
6.	Physical cleaning of computers	24(32.0)	44(58.7)	7(9.3)	-	3.23	0.61
7.	Virtual library services backup	25(33.3)	34(45.3)	13(17.3)	2(2.7)	3.51	3.54
8.	Audible fire alarms	19(25.3)	23(30.7)	27(36.0)	5(6.7)	3.31	4.85
9.	Fire extinguishers	33(44.0)	36(48.0)	5(6.7)	-	3.77	3.47
10.	Sprinkles	15(20.0)	24(32.0)	33(44.0)	3(4.0)	2.68	0.84
11.	Emergency exits	37(49.3)	31(41.3)	6(8.0)	1(1.3)	3.39	0.70
12.	Sand filled buckets	32(42.7)	36(48.0)	6(8.0)	1(1.3)	3.32	0.68
13.	Deployment of CCTV	23(30.7)	35(46.7)	13(17.3)	4(5.3)	3.03	0.84
14.	Fumigation	26(34.7)	41(54.7)	6(8.0)	1(1.3)	3.64	3.50
15.	Security policy	27(36.0)	26(34.7)	21(28.0)	1(1.3)	3.05	0.84
16.	Regular maintenance of electrical circuits	27(36.0)	25(33.3)	22(29.3)	-	3.32	2.33
17.	Fire drills exercises	14(18.7)	29(38.7)	29(38.7)	3(4.0)	2.72	0.81
18.	Water sensing alarms	13(17.3)	21(28.0)	37(49.3)	4(5.3)	2.57	0.84
19.	Smoke detectors	16(21.3)	19(25.3)	35(46.7)	5(6.7)	2.61	0.90
20.	Thunder protector	16(21.3)	28(37.3)	26(34.7)	5(6.7)	2.73	0.88

Source: Field data (2026).
KEY: SA=Strongly Agree, A=Agree, D=Disagree, SD=Strongly Disagree.
X̄ = Mean, SD = Standard Deviation.

From the table above, it was revealed that the following disaster preparedness and management practices were observed in the libraries under review. Fire Extinguishers with the mean score of (X̄ = 3.77) was a common practice in all the libraries under review. Fumigation (X̄ = 3.64), Virtual library services backup (X̄ = 3.51), Emergency exits (X̄ = 3.39), Sand filled buckets (X̄ = 3.32), Audible fire alarms (X̄ = 3.31), Regular maintenance of electrical circuits (X̄ = 3.32), Good housekeeping practices and physical cleaning of computers, with the same mean scores of (X̄ = 3.23). Educational and training services (X̄ = 3.17), Security policy (X̄ = 3.05), Disaster response plan (X̄ = 3.08), Deployment of CCTV (X̄ = 3.03). These

disaster preparedness and management tools are practiced in the libraries under review. Libraries of Federal College of Education Special Oyo, Federal School of Surveying Oyo, Emmanuel Alayande University of Education Oyo and Ajayi Crowther University Oyo. The findings also revealed that not all tools for disaster preparedness and management were available and put into use in these libraries. Some of the disaster preparedness management practices not available include; Library insurance coverage for library materials and staff, sprinklers, Library disaster response team, fire drills exercises, Water sensing alarm, Smoke detectors etc.

Table 4: Disasters experienced by the libraries under study in the last five years 2022-2026

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean($\bar{X}$)	S.D
1.	Digital disasters sever crash	10(13.3)	35(26.7)	25(46.7)	5(6.7)	2.67	0.79
2.	Fire incident	3(4.0)	18(24.0)	35(46.7)	19(25.3)	2.07	0.81
3.	Software loss	4(5.3)	38(50.7)	27(36.0)	6(8.0)	2.53	0.72
4.	Data corrupting by Virus	6(8.0)	41(54.7)	24(32.0)	4(5.3)	2.63	0.71
5.	Wind Storm	12(16.0)	30(40.0)	21(28.0)	12(16.0)	2.56	0.95
6.	Pest infestation	6(8.0)	36(48.0)	24(32.0)	9(12.0)	2.52	0.81
7.	Roof damage	23(30.7)	38(50.7)	13(17.3)	1(1.3)	3.11	0.73
8.	Roof leakage	23(30.7)	39(52.0)	10(13.3)	3(4.0)	3.09	0.77
9.	Rodents/reptiles infestation	5(6.7)	41(54.7)	25(33.3)	4(5.3)	2.63	0.69
10.	Incessant dust settling on materials	11(14.7)	40(53.3)	20(26.7)	4(5.3)	2.77	0.76
11.	Power surge from poor electrical installation	5(6.7)	37(49.3)	25(33.3)	6(8.0)	2.82	2.28
12.	Untidy library environment	8(10.7)	29(38.7)	27(36.0)	11(14.7)	2.45	0.87
13.	Poorly designed library structures	3(4.0)	23(30.7)	36(48.0)	12(16.0)	2.49	2.41
14.	Shelves wreckage	4(5.3)	13(17.3)	49(65.3)	9(12.0)	2.16	0.70
15.	Flooding	2(2.7)	16(21.3)	39(52.0)	18(24.0)	2.03	0.75

Source: Field data (2026)

The table above clearly depicts various forms of disasters experienced by the libraries under review
in the last five years, from 2022-2026. From items 1-13 on the table shows a great deal of the effect of disaster experienced by the libraries under review within the specified duration. Both the mean scores and the overall response rate indicates that roof damage ($\bar{X}$ = 3.11), roof leakage ($\bar{X}$ =

3.09), power surge from poor electrical installation ($\bar{X}$ = 2.82), incessant dust settling on materials ($\bar{X}$ = 2.77), digital disasters server crash ($\bar{X}$ = 2.67), software loss ($\bar{X}$ = 2.53), data corruption by virus ($\bar{X}$ = 2.63), wind storm ($\bar{X}$ = 2.56), pest infestation ($\bar{X}$ = 2.52), rodents/reptiles infestation ($\bar{X}$ = 2.63), poorly designed library structures ($\bar{X}$ = 2.49), untidy library environment ($\bar{X}$ = 2.45). The disasters experienced by the libraries under review are in line with the list of disasters as outlined by Flaherty (2023) and Abdulraman (2016) to include; roof leakage, windstorm, rodents, pest infestation, power surge, software loss, digital server crash etc. These disasters are often frightening and difficult to understand. They can only be controlled through how we are prepared as communities and governments to deal with the dangers that are associated with them.

Table 5: Factors militating against disaster preparedness and Management in the libraries under review

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean(x̄)	S.D
1.	No disaster management policy in place	10(13.3)	27(26.0)	30(40.0)	8(10.7)	2.52	0.86
2.	Inadequate design of library building	6(8.0)	24(32.0)	32(42.7)	13(17.3)	2.31	0.85
3.	Poor budgetary allocation for disaster management	9(12.0)	34(45.3)	24(32.0)	8(10.7)	2.59	0.84
4.	Inadequate fire extinguishers in place	8(10.7)	27(36.0)	27(36.0)	13(17.3)	2.40	0.90
5.	Negative attitude of staff towards disaster management	4(5.3)	23(30.7)	33(44.0)	14(18.7)	2.64	3.65
6.	Pest maintenance culture	6(8.0)	31(41.3)	28(37.3)	10(13.3)	2.44	0.83
7.	Poor emergency response on disaster	3(4.0)	34(45.3)	29(38.7)	9(12.0)	2.41	0.76
8.	Inadequate training on disaster management	5(6.7)	34(45.3)	28(37.3)	8(10.7)	2.48	0.78
9.	No insurance cover for staff and facilities	6(8.0)	31(41.3)	32(42.7)	6(8.0)	2.49	0.76
10.	Poor staff/management relationship	5(6.7)	25(3 3.3)	32(42.7)	13(17.3)	2.29	0.84
11.	Faulty CCTV	13(17.3)	29(38.7)	23(30.7)	10(13.3)	2.60	0.93
12.	No emergency exit or routes	2(2.7)	10(13.3)	40(53.3)	23(30.7)	1.88	0.73

Source: Field data (2026).

Table 5 above, presents results on the factors militating against disaster preparedness and management in academic libraries in Oyo town. These are libraries in Ajayi Crowther University Oyo, Emmanuel Alayande University of Education Oyo, Federal College of Education Special Oyo (SPED) and Federal School of Surveying Oyo. Items 1-11 on table 5 except item 12, indicates clearly that there are emergency exits or routes with a mean score of $\bar{X}$ = 1.88. All other items, respondents affirmed that they are factors militating against disaster preparedness and management in the academic libraries, particularly negative attitude of staff towards disaster management ($\bar{X}$ = 2.64), Faulty CCTV ($\bar{X}$ = 2.60), No disaster management policy in place ($\bar{X}$ = 2.52), Poor budgetary allocation for disaster management ($\bar{X}$ = 2.59), No insurance cover for staff and facilities ($\bar{X}$ = 2.49), Inadequate training on disaster management ($\bar{X}$ = 2.48), Poor maintenance culture ($\bar{X}$ = 2.44), Poor emergency response on disaster ($\bar{X}$ = 2.41), Inadequate fire extinguishers in place ($\bar{X}$ = 2.40). It is imperative to note that all the libraries under review have their peculiarities as regards factors militating against disaster preparedness and management. In line with this development, Ansari *et al* (2024) highlighted lack of adequate facilities,

inadequate funds and poor budgetary allocation to libraries and lack of interest on the part of some librarians on disaster management as problems encountered in disaster management in academic libraries. In the same vein, they posit that funding to library is dwindling every year and as such, do not have enough funds to purchase the required reading materials let alone setting aside funds for disaster management. This is also in line with the findings of Ilo *et al* (2020).

Considering the enormity of damage disaster could cause across academic libraries, therefore, there should be some measures on ground to overcome disasters in academic libraries in Oyo town.

Conclusion

Academic libraries play an important role in the acquisition, organisation and preservation of information resources for teaching, learning and research in the institutions they are situated. Disasters of all kinds cause a major havoc to library development and services, especially when considering the monetary investment in the establishment of libraries and the value placed on academic libraries in supporting the goals and aspiration of the institution they serve. Going by the factors militating against academic libraries in Oyo town, particularly libraries located at Ajayi Crowther University Oyo, Emmanuel Alayande University of Education Oyo, Federal College of Education Special Oyo (SPED) and Federal School of Surveying Oyo. Therefore, it has become very imperative for academic libraries to be involved in disaster preparedness and management so as to guard against threats to the full utilization of the information resources provided. So many factors have been identified in the research as factors militating against disaster preparedness and management in academics. The implication is that if these factors are neglected, academic libraries would be adversely affected.

Academic libraries must be prepared for all types of disasters whether natural or man-made, that may occur in libraries, as the effect of not being prepared may lead to loss of materials, loss of lives or ultimately loss of library building. From the findings, there were indications that these libraries are not fully prepared for disaster management, since most of the needed tools such as policy that will guide in disaster preparedness and insurance coverage for both staff and facilities are lacking. Academic libraries should be proactive in combatting disasters so as to preserve academic resources.

Disaster preparedness therefore is a dynamic process that requires good cooperation and coordination among different types of professionals. Libraries and other relevant institutions need to take steps towards preparing for disasters through the analysis of the peculiarity of their environment and resources with a view to formulating a disaster preparedness plan (Oyeniran, 2023).

Recommendations

1. There should be a comprehensive written disaster management policy,

making provision for setting up of disaster management committee, library disaster response team.

2. Libraries should organise regular training services, workshops and seminars where contents of disaster management can be taught to equipped and intimate staff with the necessary skills to fight disaster effectively.

3. There should be a cordial relationship between staff and management of the institution to foster a good maintenance culture where building, roofs and other damaged facilities can quickly be repaired to avoid roof leakage that rain may not destroy the books and other information materials.

4. There should be durable protective wire coverage on the windows to prevent the infestation of rodents, reptiles, termites and cockroaches in order not to mutilate sensitive materials and cause disaster to the library.

5. There should be adequate budgetary allocation for academic libraries to prepare for disaster when it strikes. This will enable the libraries to acquire the needed tools to fight disaster.

6. CCTV other electronic gadgets should be strategically installed to mount regular surveillance to prevent theft and mutilation of library resources.

7. There should be constant check on fire extinguishers to note their expiration date regularly, not necessarily during the accreditation period alone.

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