

**PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION AND SECURITY OF INFORMATION
RESOURCES IN NIGER DELTA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, WILBERFORCE ISLAND,
BAYELSA STATE**

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Abstract

This study focused on Preservation, Conservation and Security of Information Resources in Niger Delta University Library, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. Structured questionnaire was used in gathering data from professional, paraprofessional and non-professionals in Niger Delta university library. The study population was 96 library staff of the University library. Using census sampling technique, the sample size was the entire population. The data gathered were analysed using frequency count, tables and simple percentages. The study revealed that physical cleaning and dusting, fumigation, binding and photocopying were the major methods of preserving and conserving of the information resources found in the library. Poor funding, lack of preservation policy, book theft, mutilation of library resources especially print resources and inadequate qualified staff and trained personnel were identified as the major challenges of preservation, conservation and security of these information resources. Based on these findings, recommendations were made such as: Library management should take preservation and conservation very seriously, and applying modern ways of surveillance such as surveillance camera, electronic detective and alarm.

Keywords: Preservation, Conservation, Security, Information Resources, Niger Delta University, Library, Bayelsa State.

Introduction

The library today is seen as a system responsible for the selection, acquisition, organization, dissemination, preservation and evaluation of information resources both in print and non-print forms. Bassey (2015) maintained that libraries provide information resources of various kinds to users. These information resources come in two forms: book and non-book. There is need to preserve these information resources for the present and future generations. The library resources ought to be protected, and it is far the duty of the library workforce to preserve

those library assets in correct circumstance in order that they may be made to be available for users in any respect times. Ntui & Ottong (2009) hold that a library is a repository of the information of exquisite thinkers of the beyond and present. Therefore, a library ought to make certain that its assets, in all formats, are preserved in an on-hand shape for as long as feasible. Hence, preservation, conservation and security of those assets are necessary.

Preservation is the act of retaining something in its original form or near perfection for future use. In this content, it is regarding library and information materials (print and non-books, serial publication, dissertation, reference substances, etc.). Preservation of information resources is all about the safety or decreasing the human, organic and environmental factors (rodents, insects, lengthy publicity to daylight ray, temperature, humidity, etc.) that causes deterioration of information resources. The emphasis on maintenance is to save information resources from decay or worn out. Preservation is the movement taken to lessen or save you harm so that it will amplify the existence expectancy of the collections.

Oyeniya (2015) described preservation as all efforts and moves taken to lengthen the lifespan of information resources. In numerous instances conservation is interchanged with preservation. Conservation refers back to the remedy and restoration of information materials from gradual decay or repair them to a usable state. Libraries gather substances to fulfill the informational or leisure wishes in their clientele. When the information material in one`s care is permitted to emerge as broken in any way, it could be hard or unavailable for use. It is the duty of the library workforce to preserve those substances in the correct physical circumstances in order that they may be available for users in any respect times. Some examples of conservation are the restoration of broken books, binding or the de-acidification of paper.

Conservation therefore, is the remedy of library substances to stabilize their physical shape so that it will preserve their survival so long as feasible of their unique format (Alegbele, 2002). Therefore, the means of preservation and conservation differ. Preservation is the preventive measures taken to lessen deterioration while conservation is the repairing of already deteriorated substances.

According to Aina (2004), library assets or substances ought to be secured; as a result, safety gadgets ought to be provided in libraries to make certain that the assets are not stolen or mutilated. In spite of these efforts, library substances are nonetheless now no longer secure. Therefore, there is need for librarians to tool a totally concrete physical approach of securing the substances in the library and to have telecommunication or digital safety structures so that it will assist to offer a secure and secured facility for library assets and equipment. To offer good enough safety the use of telecommunication, digital structures which includes constructing alarm structures, get admission to manage structures, video surveillance, tele surveillance etc. may be followed within the library.

The Niger Delta University Library was established in 2000, by an Act of Parliament, by the Bayelsa State Government. The library was actually opened to her user community in March 2005. Presently the Niger Delta University Library is housed in a state-of-the-art building and has the capacity to seat two thousand (2,000) students. The library collections stand at ninety-seven thousand five hundred and fifty (97,550.00). In addition to the main Library, the University has College of Health Sciences library, the Faculty of Law library, as full fledged library handling most of their activities individually, and nine (9) other faculty libraries. The NDU Library provides free Internet services to all its community members. The Internet Service

can be accessed from within the Library complex. The focus of this study therefore is to examine the preservation, conservation and security of information resources in Niger Delta University Library.

Research Questions

1. What are the methods of preservation and conservation of information resources in the library?
2. What are the challenges associated with preserving, conserving and securing the information resource in the library?
3. What are the strategies for enhancing preservation, conservation and security of library and information resources in the library?

Review of Related Literature

One of the most complex issues facing libraries today is how best to preserve the materials that comprise their collections. Since all library materials are not of equal value, decisions must be made concerning what should be preserved. This process also involves setting priorities and determining of appropriate preservation methods and techniques that will be adopted to prolong the life span of library materials (Akande, 2009). Akporhonor (2011) identified the need to adopt preventive measures in preservation, conservation and security of library materials and records. These include proper housing of documents, protection against heat, humidity, light, air pollution, dust, insects, fungi, water and mishandling. The author suggests inclusion of conservation and preservation in library education and training. There are

different methods and techniques librarians and archivists can employ to prolong the life span of materials in their custody. They include: Care and Handling; Inventory control; Control of Environmental Factors; Marks of ownership; Taking precautions against theft; Reformatting; Guarding against mutilation and vandalism; and Controlling entrances and exits.

Anasi (2010) maintained that the practice of good housekeeping is probably the simplest and expensive method of preventive conservation for any type of information material. There are two aspects to housekeeping. These are, cleaning the building and cleaning the library materials which include the use of vacuuming and dusting. Materials should be prohibited from eating, drinking and smoking in the library. One of the most important factors affecting the longevity of library materials is the environment in which these materials stored, used and displayed.

In reasoning with the above, Mohammed (2006) stated that conducive environment has a profound positive effect on the longevity of every item in the library. In the same vein, Chaudhary (2012) attests that after collection protection, environmental control is the most cost-effective investment in building design to extend service life of the collection. The benefits of extended service life and reduced collection maintenance costs, in addition to considerations of human comfort, often can justify environmental control throughout the library.

Ogunmodede and Ebijuwa (2013) remarked that a survey of literature on preservation and conservation of library materials in Africa as stated by Popoola (2003) and Olatokun (2010) revealed that the prominent inhibitors to effective and efficient preservation of information materials in African libraries, archives and record centres include: Inadequate Finance; Inadequacy of Equipments/Materials; Tropical climate; Manpower and other infrastructure; Lack

of Preservation and Conservation Policy; Quality of paper and ink; Maintenance culture; and Administrative problem.

On the solutions to challenges of preservation and conservation of information resources, Adeleke, Okusaga & Lateef (2010) postulated that, if any organization will meet its objectives in the performance of its obligations it must take further steps to conserve and preserve information materials for posterity. Consequently, they proffered some feasible recommendations as: there should be training programmes for information handlers/users such as librarians, archivist, and information technicians on preservation and conservation management. Such training programmes should include environmental control, storage, housing, and handling of information materials. Also, an improvement in the storage environment should be paramount.

Methodology

Survey research design was employed in this study. The sample population of the study was 96 library staff of the Niger Delta University Library, comprising of twenty-one (21) librarians, thirty-three (33) Para professionals and forty-two (42) nonprofessional staff. The major instrument used to gather data for this study was a structured questionnaire. Out of the 96 copies of questionnaire distributed, 70(72.9%) of the questionnaires were returned and used for the study. Data collected were analyzed using frequency counts and simple percentages.

Results and Discussion

This section is concerned with data presentation, analysis, and discussion of findings. The results are presented in tables and analyzed based on the research questions raised for the study.

Research Question 1. What are the methods of preservation and conservation of information resources in the library?

Table 1 Preservation, Conservation and Security Methods

S/N	Methods	Frequency	Percentage
1	Binding	55	78.6
2	Laminating	25	35.7
3	Jacketing	5	7.1
4	Digitalization	35	50.0
5	Cleaning and Dusting	70	100
6	De-acidification	1	1.4
7	Photocopying	55	78.6
8	Fumigation	45	64.3
9	Marks of ownership	70	100
10	Controlling entrances and exits	70	100
11	Inventory control	70	100
12	Care and Handling	55	78.6

Table 1 shows the percentage responses of the respondents (Librarians) on methods of preserving, conserving and security of information resources in Niger Delta University library under study. The following was observed: cleaning and dusting, Marks of ownership, Controlling entrances and exits and Inventory control were found to have a frequency of 70(100%). A frequency of 55(78.6%) was recorded by care and handling, binding, and photocopying respectively while fumigation had a frequency of 45(64.3%).

This finding is in agreement with the findings by Abdulrazaq (2015) which recognized the techniques used for conservation and maintenance of statistics assets as reformatting, digitization, cleansing and dusting, managing of surroundings with the aid of using set up enthusiasts and air conditions, lamination and binding.

Research Question 2: What are the challenges associated with preserving, conserving and securing the information resource in the library?

Table 2 Challenges Associated with Preservation, Conservation and Security of Information Resources

S/N	Challenges	Frequency	Percentage
1	Lack of Digital qualified staff and trained personnel	67	95.7
2	Lack of complete infrastructure	70	100
3	Lack of Preservation and Conservation Policy	70	100
4	Lack of finance	70	100
5	Lack Quality of paper and ink	45	64.3
6	Severe environment conditions	70	100
7	Mutilation of library resources	70	100
8	Book theft	70	100
9	Damage by insects	40	57.1
10	Frequency and Varied Virus attack on Digital Resources	20	28.6

Table 2 shows the percentage responses of the Librarians on problems of preservation, conservation and security of information resources in the library under study. From the table the following challenges was identified: Lack of complete infrastructure, Lack of preservation and conservation policy, Lack of Finance, Severe environment conditions, Book theft and Mutilation of library resources were found to have frequency of 70 each.

This finding is in line with that of Ogunmodede and Ebijuwa (2013) that many African libraries, files and records facilities do now no longer allocate good enough finances of their annual price range for the protection and conservation of records substances of their holdings. This has honestly precipitated the low precedence or loss of preferred interest given to the protection and conservation of records sources via way of means of the control of such libraries and files.

Research Question 3: What are the strategies for enhancing preservation, conservation and security of library and information resources in the library?

Table 3 Strategies for enhancing the Preservation, Conservation, and security of Information Resources

S/N	Items	Frequency	Percentage
1	Adequate Digital qualified staff and trained personnel	70	100
2	Complete infrastructure	70	100
3	Enacting and implementing preservation and conservation policy	70	100
4	Adequate funding of Library materials	70	100
5	Quality of paper and ink	70	100
6	Adequate Environment Control, and Dusting of library Materials	70	100
8	Detective camera and Alarm	70	100
8	Regular fumigation	70	100
9	Installation of strong anti-virus	70	100

Table 3 shows the responses of librarians on the possible solutions to preservation, conservation and security of information resources in Niger Delta University. From the table, it was observed that all items listed in the table (Adequate Digital qualified staff and trained personnel, Complete infrastructure, enacting and implementing preservation and conservation policy, Adequate funding of Library materials, Quality of paper and ink, Adequate Environment Control, and Dusting of library Materials, Detective camera and Alarm regular fumigation, installation of strong anti-virus) were agreed by the respondents to be the possible solution to preservation, conservation and security of information resources.

This finding is in line with Adeleke, Okusaga, & Lateef (2010) which postulated that, if any corporation will meet its goals withinside the overall performance of its duties it should take similarly steps to preserve and maintain records substances for posterity. Consequently, they proffered a few possible hints as: there must be schooling programmes for records handlers/customers which includes librarians, archivist, and records technicians on upkeep and conservation management. Air conditioning is possibly the maximum green approach of bringing

approximately this. Also endorsed is that there must be an essential evaluation of the prevailing personnel shape in libraries and records centres. It is set time that positions of conservators exist.

Recommendations

Based on the study findings and conclusion drawn, the following recommendations were made:

1. Library management should take preservation and conservation very seriously, especially modern way of surveillance such as surveillance camera, electronic detective and alarm in addition to other sample such as bar code on print resources.
2. Institutional libraries especially the one studied, should impress it upon its parent institution management to provide adequate funds for the library, especially for the purpose of preservation and conservation of information resources. The management should also ensure the judicious use of the allocation funds by the library administration.
3. Strong anti-virus software should be installed in the computer systems especially those containing downloaded and copied e-resources. This will prevent the e-resources from being destroyed by virus. This is a way of preserving and conserving the available e-resources for present and future use.

Conclusion

Conserving and Securing of library e-assets have been recognized because of the most important demanding situations of protection, conservation and security of those library assets. All over the sector these days humans have become aware about the functions performed through

records assets and the cost of those assets. Consequently, they want to maintain them for posterity. Preservation and conservation of records assets in any organization could be very critical with a view to deal with the offerings rendered to customers. It consequently is a duty that library management makes sure that those assets are protected from destruction. This could result in the continuing get right of entry to knowledge, convey relevance to customers and meet organizational objective. All these would enhance effective and efficient library services to users in Niger Delta University library.

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