

**JOURNAL OF LIBRARY, EDUCATIONAL MEDIA
AND INFORMATION STUDIES
(JOLEMIS)**

Volume 5 (1) June, 2013

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(JOLEMIS)

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*Published by the Medium Publishing Company and Educational Consult
in Collaboration with Options Books Ibadan, Nigeria.*

Marketed and Distributed by:

OPTIONS BOOK & INFORMATION SERVICES LTD.

Options Book House,

No 142, Oyo Road, Olororo Bus Stop,

Opposite NISER, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

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THE NEED FOR ELECTRONIC SECURITY DEVICES INSTALLATION IN KENNETH DIKE LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

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Abstract

This paper examines the need for electronic devices in handling unhealthy library related issues in academic libraries with a particular reference to Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. It discussed, among other things problems, justification for the installation of Electronic Security Devices (ESDs) and its implications for the university and library managements. The paper stressed the urgent need for the deployment of ESDs in Kenneth Dike Library as a result of perceived enormous advantages that can be derived from it. Finally, the implications and recommendations for effective implementation of electronic security devices in the Kenneth Dike Library, University of Ibadan, Nigeria are proposed.

Key words: *Library resources, Security issues, Electronic Security Gadgets, Academic libraries, Nigeria*

Introduction

Library is a place where users virtually or physically access library facilities and information resources to acquire knowledge. In both developed and developing countries, users physically visit the library to get their needed information. Some users however obtain their information through online facilities in both developed and developing country, most users physically visit the library to seek information, use study areas, consult information resources, loan materials, among others. In order to effectively and efficiently serve the community clients, be it academic, special, public, research or school libraries, there must be good security system put in place to check and control the activities of users. (These users include such as students, lecturers, scholars, non-teaching staff and external users in an academic environment.) There is need to protect the library resources and personal belongings of library staff and client, especially at the entrance and exit of the library.

There is need therefore to ensure safety of persons and properties. The University of Ibadan, a premier university in Nigeria, established in 1948 and the first university to embark on a twenty-four-hour library services in the country in the year 2011. It is pertinent to provide adequate security measure to ensure safety of library's materials and properties of staff and clients.

Historical Background of KDL

Kenneth Dike Library (KDL) formally called Ibadan University Library was established in 1948 to support the vision and mission of the University of Ibadan. KDL like other university libraries around the world is considered as the heart of the institution. The library supports the teaching, learning and research (TLR) initiative of the University of Ibadan through collection management and information dissemination. The collection of KDL started with Yaba Higher College materials (Henry Carr's Private Library), and Fredrick Montague Dyke materials (Leads Clergy's Collections), among others. The library continued acquiring materials through purchase and subscription to print, electronic and other formats useful to

TLR. In addition, the library received donations from individuals, organisations among others. Again, the National Library of Nigeria sends copies of legal deposit of publications received to KDL for wider accessibility and utilisation of Nigerian publications. Overtime, the volume of KDL's collection increased due to the approval of more programmes for the institution through accreditation and increase in students' population especially postgraduate students. The advent of Information Communication Technology has positively influenced the patronage of products and services rendered at KDL. It becomes imperative that lives and properties be well protected with modern security technology in order to maintain the position of the university as the first in Nigeria.

Eligibility to Kenneth Dike Library

Library need to put measures in place to protect library materials, staff, and clientele. Bonafide users are expected to present themselves to the porters at the entrance to the library with documents like, library permit card, or school identity card, before access to the library can be granted. External users are expected to come with letters of introduction from their institutions or departments which must be approved by the readers services librarian. Such clients will be issued with temporary card permit before they could be allowed to use the library. Library card permits are produced and issued to different categories of clientele accordingly. These cards are presented to the porters at the entrances to the library each time they visit the library. This helps to manage users and staff activities within the library and its environment. Student population of the academic community increased astronomically over time resulting in heavy demands on the library facilities. Inadequate security staff to check the in and out of library users is a major challenge. This ugly situation is more pronounced during students examination periods, lunch hours, and departmental official closing times. There is therefore the resultant effect of inefficiency and ineffectiveness in checking of library users at KDL. It is worthwhile to note that the library has been empowered with two (2) two hundred and fifty (250) KVA generating sets by the university management. However, irregular supply of diesel for its usage is at times a challenge. As a result of the enumerated issues facing the library, KDL has been losing most of their collection through stealing (Fabunmi, 2010).

Other issues that need monitoring are: unethical behaviours exhibited by the users, such as: using expired library cards or other people's identity cards, bringing in food items, stealing, mutilation, hiding of library materials. Furthermore, individual's laptops and personal belongings are more rampant stolen and these have become a serious challenge on the part of the library management. Again, the library has been structured into four floors, with both underground and extension to include serials and the research library area. Management of library and users properties have become difficult during overnight duties when the library has four staff: one librarian and one library officer, one porter and one security staff on duty. Different physical measures put in place to control the situation have not yielded any results. There is therefore the need for installation of an enhanced and robust safety mechanism, such as electronic gate, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), electromagnetic (EM) security systems, et cetera that will reduce these problems to the barest minimum. This paper emerged based on the above mentioned problems.

Justification for Electronic Security Devices Installation in KDL

Libraries worldwide, particularly, academic are faced with the challenges of crimes, theft, mutilation of materials and assaults in various forms and degrees [Fabunmi (2010), Mansfield (2009), Ajegbomogun (2004), Hakli (2002)]. Library management in the developed countries, to some extent, have placed substantial measures in place to curb and minimise crimes in libraries. In the developing countries, libraries have made various moves to reduce crimes but without appreciable success. However, concerted efforts are still needed to be put in place in order to fight library crimes and unhealthy activities of the library users in Nigerian universities. KDL cannot afford to lose the library collections due to her huge and uncommon resources being held as a result of her sixty four years of existence. Igbeka and Ola (2010) assert that the library collection, especially precious ones such as Africana, special collections among others must be jealously protected from all sorts of attacks due to their usefulness to TLR. They also stressed the need for digitization of these resources. Failure to embrace these can lead to denial of users in terms of library resources and since they will not be available which eventually can result to empty shelves and decline in research output.

Security Issues in Academic Libraries

University library management is responsible for the safety of lives and properties within their jurisdiction to ensure free and fair study, learning and research environment. Necessary precautions are to be put in place for the smooth running of the library. Academic libraries exist in order to provide adequate support for teaching, learning and research. In order to achieve this, the libraries acquire resources in both print and non print formats, such as books, reference materials, rare collections, to mention a few. These materials are expensive and need to be jealously protected in order to avoid theft, mutilation, and criminal activities among others.

Security is a global phenomenon in which libraries are not excluded. Longman Advanced Dictionary of Contemporary English (2009) defined security as measures put in place to keep a person, building or country safe from danger or crime. Libraries as the hub to information and knowledge services are responsible for protecting its valuable collections, equipment, users, staff and belongings from attack, which could be physical, natural or artificial. Brawner and Nelson (1983), in their paper on improving security and safety for libraries admit that library security and safety are all rounder, which involves protection of users, staff and resources. Library staff and users need to have positive attitudes and values towards security consciousness of their environment. This correlates the submission of Gabriel (2010) whose study was on assessing the effects of pilferage, mutilation and theft of library resources in institutes of agricultural research libraries. He stated that, it is essential for librarians to work mutually with patrons in sensitising them to be responsible and handle library resources with care. Unfortunately, many libraries in Nigeria have no adequate security systems. Libraries in Nigeria, therefore, face the challenges of unhealthy activities in form of crimes, pilferage, mutilation and theft, among others. Studies have acknowledged challenges of unhealthy activities in libraries [Oyesiku, Buraimo, and Olusanya (2012), Osayande (2011), Ogbonyomi (2011), Fabunmi (2010), Mansfield (2009), Rathinasabapathy, Sundari, and Rajendran (2008), Ajegbomogun (2004), Bregman and American Library Association Security Committee (2004), Ajayi (2003), Hakli (2002), Bello (1998)]. Unhealthy activities in libraries have been noted to be practised by both library users and library staff [Ogbonyomi (2011), Bregman (2004), Bello (1998)]. Fabunmi (2010), revealed that crime exists in Kenneth Dike Library (KDL). She mentioned that security checks at entrance and exit of the library were

only operational implying that security checks at the entrance and exit of the library are not enough measure to minimise unhealthy activities in the library. The study further revealed that the highest rated reason for library crime acts were poverty and indiscipline among others. This concurs with Ogbonyomi (2011) and Weiss (1981). This shows that social economic factors could be regarded as the major reason for criminal acts in our libraries. KDL, provides services to postgraduates, undergraduates, distance learners, teaching and non teaching staff, scholars around the world coupled with the present of twenty four hours library service, would need to require the need to upgrade the security system of the library with better and versatile electronic security devices (ESDs) such as electronic gate, surveillance camera, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and so on. These devices should be put in place to augment security measures already in existence. These ESDs will check both users and staff unhealthy activities of within and around the library environment.

University libraries in the developed countries are already making use of ESDs. Examples of such libraries are Middlesex University Learning Centre, London School of Economics Library, University of East London Library, University of Hertfordshire Library to mention a few. Some of the advantages of ESDs are: prevention of illegal library users from entry or access, enhancement close activity monitoring of library patrons and staff in the library environment. Bregel (2007) emphasised advantageous effect of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to transform products and services in libraries. However, he argued that finding solution to security problem, coupled with dwindling funding faced by libraries put them in a state of dilemma which requires options. Such options are doing nothing, use of an electromagnetic (EM) security system and installation of RFID system. She elicited the advantages and use of ESDs in libraries in which such capabilities are real. Some of its defects were mentioned. Osayande (2011) showed that a public library (University of Lagos Library, two private university libraries (Babcock University and Covenant University) have deployed the use of ESGs. Adewuyi and Adekanye (2011) revealed that electronic detector machine has significantly enhanced theft cases discovery. However, the major constraint was irregular electricity supply and maintenance culture. This implies that ESDs no doubt have advantages and disadvantages. Their advantages however outweigh the disadvantages, and therefore balanced management is required. Most university libraries in Nigeria are yet to deploy the ESDs. This corroborates Fabunmi (2010) who stated that all sorts of electronic security measures are yet to be used to control crimes and other malpractices in many of our libraries in Nigeria. Ajala and Oyeboade (2008), in their study also revealed non availability of electronic security devices in the academic libraries studied. This has posed a serious threat to library collections, especially in this period of economic meltdown and dwindling funding to government academic libraries due to inadequate security measure operating in the libraries. Ajegbomogun (2004), in his study revealed that library materials are being stolen and mutilated from users' view points, while Fabunmi (2010) asserted same challenges from staff point of view. This implies that, issue of insecurity in libraries is not a one party affair but the collective consideration of both staff and users. Ogbonyomi, (2011) opined that, users and staff agreed that poverty is the major cause of abuse of library resources.

Furthermore, Maidabino and Zainab (2011) stated that, it is imperative to adopt regular monitoring of collection security status through assessment instrument. Their findings also revealed that, full implementation of good governance, assessment and evaluation of good written plans and policies among others will ensure security sustainability of library resources. Effective and efficient management of electronic security equipment is capital demanding.

Capital intensiveness of the installation of electronic security devices to safeguard the library resources, as well as its maintenance requires regular availability of funds by the library. At the same time, inadequate funding of libraries prevented them from the implementation of ESDs to protect lives and properties of the library, staff and users.

Moreover, Mansfield (2009) posited that, causes of theft is a complex issue and presented some valuable precautions that could be implemented as well as considering needs for social inclusion and stock security. Among them are: regular stock checks, adequate security staff and installation of electronic security systems. It was noted that security gate operation problems could arise from power failures or by electrical fault. Witt (1996) and Gelernter (2005) posited that advance theft could take place where electromagnetic systems is tricked or manipulated by attaching magnet with sensitised materials through the sensing screens. Such unchecked items will pass through silently. The implication of this is that, there should be standby security officers at the exit points of the library. This will ensure proper protection of staff and users as well as their personal belongings and library materials already borrowed legally as well as un-loaned library materials from theft. Gelernter (2005) opined that, valuable materials should be withdrawn from open shelves to closed access. This is in line with Ajayi (2003), where her study revealed operation of closed access system for over a decade at Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Osun State, Nigeria. Her finding shows that students accept closed-access as a measure to curb library materials malpractices. This implies that, for academic libraries to practice this system, the staff strength for retrieving materials must be high to be able to timely meet the demand of the users. In addition, there is a need for thorough checking of the materials to prevent mutilation of these resources when returned to the collection point. Gelernter (2005) submitted that, theft prevention should be highly prioritised in libraries especially with high physical collection. This implies that, libraries with huge collection of print without a very good preventive measure are vulnerable to continuous theft, mutilation, and hiding of books and other library collections. According to literature, collections most vulnerable to theft and mutilation are reference collection, Bello (1998), Ajayi (2003), Ajegbomogun (2004). This is because these materials cannot be borrowed from the library, coupled with non functioning/expensive photocopying services.

This will eventually have adverse effect on service provision to meet users' information needs. Furthermore, ability to timely check and assert the lost materials will be difficult where library is not automated or automated without collections assessment instrument support. However, this could be overcome by subscription to electronic reference resources, access tools and training for use by patrons.

In Kenneth Dike Library, Africana, rare and special collections are kept in closed access and are consulted in the library when requests are made. Also; digitisation is on-going at KDL to preserve and create better visibility and accessibility to these valuable resources for teaching, learning and research which will reduce the contact with physical materials. University of Ibadan journals, and special collections among others are currently being digitised.

Furthermore, copies of International Institute of Tropical Agriculture's (IITA) publications in print were moved to closed access for better management. This correlates Igbeka and Ola (2010) submission in their study that revealed that part of KDL collections are under closed access management. Rathinasabapathy, Sundari and Rajendran (2008) acknowledged the use of ESDs such as biometric technology as a real measure in combating

all sorts of unethical practices in libraries especially academic libraries. The benefits surpassed the limitations as reported by Rathinasabapathy, Sundari and Rajendran (2008). However, they recommended ESDs for use in India libraries due to its numerous advantages.

Implications on the part of University Library Management

Adequate funding: Installation of e-gates and other ESDs are capital intensive ventures which need dedicated funding with long term commitment for its successful implementation and maintenance. This will enhance durability and sustainability of the system.

Steady power supply: Electricity supply to the library must be stable and constant. There must be alternative power supply to augment the general public power supply. Availability of good generator sets, maintenance and regular supply of diesel to power the generator cannot be overemphasised. Other alternative sources of power could be by using solar energy and inverter. This is because e-gate entails scanning or swiping of identity cards at the entrance or exit. The system therefore requires steady power supply. Even the CCTV and other electronic equipment require steady power supply to function properly.

Control of theft of library materials: Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) labels and barcode numbers placed on library materials as well as identity to identify materials that are for consultation within the library only would enhance theft detect. This is because the e-gate would have been programmed to detect any unlawful materials that someone may want to take out knowingly or unknowingly from the library. Books for borrowing must have barcode numbers, correct date due stamp on it before it can be taken out of the library. When materials get to the exit gate, an alarm will sound to alert the library staff of a attempted theft. This will discourage users' theft of library materials. Since the RFID gate records anything going through the gate, it can prevent and be a deterrent to staff from taking books illegally.

Illegal Entry Prevention: Non qualified users will be prevented from entering the library.

Security and porters' services enhanced: Activities of more area in the library are covered and recorded.

Regular training: There is need for training and retraining of both users and staff on the implication of library resources and facilities' misuse. This could be in form of face to face, podcast, you tube among others.

Library Security Policy Visibility: Availability of library security policy possible on the library webpage for better awareness and precautions on the part of the academic community.

Installation of fire outbreak alarm in strategic locations in the library building: This will enhance quick alert of everybody in the building of the need to evacuate the library immediately in order to protect lives first. Most of the libraries in Nigeria do not have these facilities. Hence, there is a need to start building it into new library structures. In addition, fire protector should be acquired by the library to protect important resources whenever there is fire outbreak signal.

Provision of assembly points near by the library: This would serve as point of gathering staff and users for sensitization and demonstration on handling library security issue such as fire outbreak.

Conclusion

Challenges such as stealing, mutilation of library materials among others, encountered by KDL, coupled with inadequate staff during the overnight library service no doubt call for attention of the library management. The control of the regular influx of library users on daily basis is of urgent concern. This is a result of the twenty four hour services which call for urgent installation of e-gate and other ESDs in Kenneth Dike Library. Furthermore, literature reviewed revealed that, handling library security issues with the use of electronic security systems outweighed traditional security systems in academic libraries. It is therefore justifiable in curbing malpractice activities to the minimal level.

This paper has established the need for installation of e-gate security system and other ESDs in a typical academic library in Nigeria, with a particular reference to Kenneth Dike Library, Ibadan, Nigeria. The implications for the university library management are highlighted. In addition, unethical behaviours that are associated with theft of library materials and other library crimes would be curbed. Academic library, as a hub of information will take its rightful place and will be well positioned in order to meet up with the challenges of security, particularly in the library system in the information age. More importantly, electronic security systems are more reliable than staff considerations and will record the stolen books and other activities in the library. ESDs systems cannot be corrupted. When this installation is in place, the library management system would be improved greatly. Users, staff, library resources and personal belongings would be safe and both users and staff will be awake to security consciousness.

Recommendations

Recommendations are hereby made as follows:

- Academic libraries should have e-gates installed at strategic point in the library, surveillance cameras among others installed within and outside the library. With this, there will be close monitoring of the activities within the library to discourage unhealthy activities such as theft, mutilation, hiding of library materials among others.
- Proper lightning system with bulbs that consume less energy should be fixed within and in the surroundings of the library to prevent any dark areas in the library from abuse.
- Regular vigilance by security personnel and staff on the library's physical building environment to prevent loop holes of theft of library materials, personal belongings as well as any unhealthy activities.
- Acquisition, training and regular use of machine shelves reader. This will also assist in timely detection of missing materials which will enable necessary actions to be promptly taken.
- Efforts of the management initiated through digitisation in Kenneth Dike Library, to put critical materials in electronic formats should be given adequate support. When such materials are available electronically, it will discourage theft and mutilation of these materials.

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