Disaster Management Practices Infive Public Libraries In South-West, Nigeria

Oluwatola, Idowu Kolawole[1], Ogbuiyi, Sussan Udoaku[2], Oriogu, Chuks Daniel[3], Ogbuiyi, Darlina Chima[4]

[1]*Afe Babalola University Library, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State Nigeria.*
[2]*Babcock UniversityLibrary, Illisan-Remeo, Ogun State, Nigeria.*
[3]*Nigerian Turkish Nile University Library, Abuja, Nigeria.*
[4]*Lead City University Library, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.*

Abstract: *The study explored the disaster management practices in five public libraries in South West Nigeria. The study revealed that all libraries boards had put in place adequate measures to curtail disaster occurrences, therein majority of the staff were fully aware of the disaster preparedness measures and have knowledge on how to use available disaster equipment. However, some challengesencountered in all selected library boards are not non-functional offirefighting equipment, inadequate facilities, technophobia, financial incapability and lack of interest/carefree attitude of library personnel. Based on these findings, it was recommended that more concentration and attention should be given to disaster control programmes in all library boards for better presentation and conservation of library resources. And there should be provision of adequate disaster equipment and facilities and increase in the level of staff awareness on preparation for disaster.*
Keywords: *Disaster, Disaster management practices, Public Libraries, South-West Nigeria*

I. Introduction

Libraries, right from earliest times to the present have been suffering a lot of threats from disasters such as flood, fire, harmattan, leaking roof, mutilation, insects, fungi and theft. All these have cause great ravages to the library as a result of poor disaster management practice. Therein, disasters are sudden happenings that often subject lives, property and the entire environment to risks and hazards of different sources and dimensions. Disaster is any incident which threatens human safety and/or damages, or threatens todamage, a library's building, collection or items, equipment and systems (Eden and Matthews,1996). Mclntyre(n.d) vividly described disaster as "an event, the timing of which is unexpected and the consequences seriously disruptive. However, there is no library that is totally free from risk, and disaster – whether natural or manmade around the world.

Events of disasters over the years have shown that there is no country that does not stand the threat of disasters. Countries like China, Indonesia, Iran and Pakistan are prone to earthquakes. Small Island states in pacific region and countries like Maldives are prone to various types of threat from the sea. Bangladesh and parts of China and India experience floods each year. Therefore, disaster management is no longer a choice, but mandatory for all including academic libraries, individuals and organizations. Recent disaster happenings in and outside Nigeria like earthquake in Haiti in 2009, the fire outbreak in President Kennedy Library of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 2008,flood in Ibadan in 2011, and fire outbreak in Alaafin of Oyo in 2013 show that disasters have come to remain with man.Disaster management 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. It covers planning, risk assessment, training and finance for a successful implementation. Therefore,effective disaster management relies on thorough integration of emergency plans.

II. Literature Review

Public libraries are democratic institutions, critical to the development of socio-economicwellbeing of any nation. They acquire, process, organize and disseminate information in a variety of formats to every citizen in the community where they are located regardless of race, gender, age, etc. Public libraries also employ all kinds of services to ensure that information get to the generality of the populace at the most convenient time and place. Ogbuiyi et al, (2014) asserted that it provides several value adding functionssuch as information, education, cultural, and recreational services for the development of the total man, who by the reason of these, is strategically positioned to add value to the society.The importance of modern public library services has been acknowledged globally. It is obviously impossible for any individual or nation to participate in the global conversation without having adequate information. To be accepted and equally participate in the global market

place, the public libraries in Africa must strategized; recounting myriads of problems will not do any good. Instead best practices from the developed world and the IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Guidelines (Gill et al, 2001) on public libraries should be employed.

Disaster Management Practices In Public Libraries

Preparing for future disaster is a many faceted process involving the public as much as it involves local and central authorities; the focus of this is on the public, what people can and should do to minimize future disaster risk and how to motivate people to act. Matthew and Eden (1996) presents interim findings of a yearlong project examining disaster management policy and practices in British libraries and suggests areas which should be covered in a disaster training programme; having drawn on the experience of librarians, archivists, museum officers, heritage organizations, disaster salvages and recovery companies, commercial binders, fire service officers, loss adjusters and local authority insurers. He refers to the possibility of inter-library co-operation and concludes that all libraries and information centres need to take practical measures to minimize the risk of disaster and be prepared to react quickly and effectively if a disaster occur.

Disaster training is therefore an essential requirement of any disaster management programme. Fosu (2005) found that although disasters are not prevalent in Nigeria libraries, serious consideration should therefore be given to contingency planning for disasters. Alegbeleye (1993) emphasizes good disaster control planning in libraries, archives and electronic data processing centres as a prerequisite for any insurance company or broker to undertake insurance coverage of library. Echezoma and Ugwu (2010) provide an insight into insurance coverage for libraries. They stresses the thought that security Policy formulation poses a challenge for all types of libraries and security concerns which continue to influence the shape of library buildings, the organization, collections, staffing and using library services. Balon and Gardner (2006) noted that a disaster plan must apply to the building and all its contents, including people, collections, records and equipment. It is highly desirable that the plan be prepared by a team rather than an individual. There are five main steps in preparing a disaster plan: Conducting a risk analysis, Identification of existing preventive and preparedness procedures, Making recommendations to implement additional preventive and preparedness procedures, Allocating responsibilities, Devising procedures to respond to and recover from disasters.

Response To Disaster Outbreak In Libraries

According to Harvey (1993), the response phase is concerned with producing and documenting the disaster plan and keeping that plan up- to- date. The first step are to form a disaster response team whose members are likely to be available at the time of an emergency, to train these personnel and to institute procedures to notify and assemble them rapidly when a disaster occurs. Materials for priority salvage, needs to be identified and marked. Documentation needs to be assembled, for example, building floor plans and lists of personnel and their addresses and telephone numbers, list of equipments and of suppliers of item needed during an emergency such as crates, newsprint or generators. Equipment required in a disaster needs to be assembled and maintained. Arrangements should be made for access to freezer capacity and for a mechanism to pay for emergency needs. Measures should be adopted which ensures that damage should be minimized if a disaster happens.Hlabaangagi (2008)said that response to disaster team typically includes the chief administrator or director, the head of security, the building engineer or equivalent, the research librarian, archivist or other person in charge of collection development and the head of technical services. The list will vary depending on the institution but the object is to have people who can fulfill a variety of duties. Buchanan (1981) asserted that when disaster strikes a library, fire and water are almost always involved. Knowing what action to take will save time, personnel, cost and content. The presence of firemen being part of the library need and priorities will immediately take charge in case of fire outbreak. Buchanan stated that the first step after access ibs gained to a building is to assess the damage as precisely and completely as possible.

Problems Militating Against Disaster Management

As most concerned librarians and archivist in the world look more closely at the collection, the magnitude of the disaster management problem becomes increasingly threatening. This situation has been partly caused by many years of neglect and partly by the environmental conditions most often beyond the control of the custodian. Bharact (2001) added that, there are many factors that seem to have helped in aggravating the situation in the libraries. He further explained that paramount among these is the attitude of successive government in the whole issue of information processing and storage closely linked to this problem and increasing it further to the economic problems which the library has being passing through for the past two decades or more. For example, the government would be more comfortable resuscitating her ailing industries than to engage in the frivolity of buying air conditions and other inputs for information processing into the libraries.

Eden and Mathews (1997) identified some of the following as problems of disaster management: insufficient exit in the library, firefighting equipment not in working order and order of advice to users and defective lifts. Research has shown that many institutions with disaster plans rarely review, update or test them. Staffs are not adequately trained in emergency procedures. Echezona and Ugwu (2010) stated that inadequate facilities and fund allocation to libraries are one of the major problems that militates against disaster management. The government pays little or no attention to disaster management finance to the public libraries as a whole. McMichael (2007) stated that lack of interest on the part of some librarians on disaster management issues is part of the problems militating against disaster management. Also McEntire and Myers (2004) noted that one of the most commonly reasons for a disaster management failure is lack of awareness on the part of staff. This problem of awareness is at its most basic level, a managerial responsibility and must be addressed by management that is continuously committed to the disaster management process and supported by the well trained staff because prevention and diligence is crucial, the staff should be prepared to report on maintenance problems that may arise in addition to keeping abreast of changes in procedure or contact lists. Muir and Shenton (2002) have also identified other common problems militating against disaster management as inaccurate contact lists, inadequacy of disaster supplies, absence of health and safety guidelines and the size of the disaster itself; if the resulting damage is the total destruction of the library or archive building, there would be no implementation of a recovery plan.

Statement Of The Problem

Several studies have been carried out on disaster generally, but not specifically on disaster management practices in public libraries in Nigeria, as well as the factors responsible for lack of preparedness in spite of the constant disaster experiences often faced by institutions, individuals and the society at large.Libraries in Nigeria have paid little attention to the disaster control mechanism. It cannot be overstated that records are unique and irreplaceable while books are expensive to acquire and as such there is a need to protect them from disasters. This study therefore investigated disaster management practice in five selected public libraries in South West of Nigeria.

Objectives Of The Study

The main objective of the study is to investigate disaster management practices in five selected public libraries in South-west of Nigeria. The specific objectives to the study are to:
(1) find outif there are measures put in place to control disaster outbreak in selected public library in South west, Nigeria;
(2) ascertain the extent to which library staff are aware of disaster preparedness and security;
(3) identify the challenges facing disaster control programme.

Scope Of The Study

The study covers library staff of five selected public libraries in South-western, Nigeria which includes: Oyo State Public Library Board, Osun State Public Library, Lagos State Public Library, Ogun State Public Library and Ekiti State Public Library. It also investigated disaster management practice.

III. Research Methods

Survey research method was adopted for the study and structured questionnaire and observation were used to collect data.A total of two hundred and eight (208) of library staff were sampled, out of which two hundred (200) was completed for analysis using frequency counts and simple percentage, to answer the research questions. Thus, Random sampling technique was used to administer the questionnaire.

IV. Analysis Of Findings
Table 1: Measures to Control Disaster Outbreak in Selected Library Boards

Name of Library Items	Lagos State Library Board		Ogun State Library Board		Ekiti State Library Board		Osun State Library Board		Oyo State Library Board	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Security patrol round the library premises	2	4.3	2	4.5	3	6.5	2	5.6	2	7.1
Security checks at the library exit	5	10.9	5	11.4	4	8.7	6	16.7	3	10.7
Disallowing bags and coats into the library	2	4.3	2	4.5	2	4.3	2	5.6	2	7.1
Maintaining vigilance on the in-house use of materials to detect mutilated books	2	4.3	2	4.5	2	4.3	2	5.6	1	3.6
Provision of single exit and locked emergency exit	2	4.3	2	4.5	2	4.3	2	5.6	1	3.6
Ensuring standard electrical work in the building	4	8.7	4	9.1	4	8.7	2	5.6	1	3.6
Ensuring good drainage facilities and good plumbing work in the building	2	4.3	2	4.5	2	4.3	2	5.6	2	7.1
Conducting regular surveys in and outside the building to identify defects	2	4.3	2	4.5	2	4.3	2	5.6	2	7.1
Installing and lightning devices on the library building	3	6.5	4	9.1	5	10.9	2	5.6	2	7.1
Regular house keep	8	17.4	7	15.9	6	13	4	11.1	2	7.1
Micro filming of library materials	2	4.3	2	4.5	3	6.5	2	5.6	2	7.1
Availability of fire alarm system	4	8.7	3	6.8	3	6.5	2	5.6	2	7.1
Availability of fire extinguisher systems	3	6.5	3	6.8	3	6.5	2	5.6	2	7.1
Staff training	3	6.5	2	4.5	3	6.5	2	5.6	2	7.1
Total	**46**	**100**	**44**	**100**	**46**	**100**	**36**	**100**	**28**	**100**

Table 1 showed that security checks at the library exit in Lagos public library has 5(10.9%) respondents, Ogun 5(11.4%), Ekiti, 4(8.7%), Osun 5(16.7%) and Oyo State 3(10.7%). Other measures to control disaster outbreak in the five selected public libraries are to ensuring standard electrical work in the building, which had percentage of respondents in three library such as Lagos, Ogun and Ekiti with 4(8.7%), 4(9.1%) and 4(8.7%) respectively. From the Table 1, it was also noted that regular house keeping in Lagos 8(17.4%), 7(15.9%), Ogun, 6(13%), Ekiti 4(11.1%) while in Osun and Oyo 2(7.1%) respectively. Availability of fire alarm systems 4(8.7%) Lagos, 3(6.8%) Ogun, 3(6.5%) Ekiti, 2(5.6%) Osun and 2(7.1%) in Oyo State. Availability of fire extinguisher systems 3(6.5%) Lagos, 3(6.8%) Ekiti, 3(6.5%) Ogun while Osun and Oyo with 2(5.6%) and 2(7.1%) respectively. Also, staff training was one of the measures adopted to control disaster outbreak in the library. Lagos and Ekiti had 3(6.5%) respondents while the rest has 2(4.5%), 2(5.6%) and 2(7.4%) respectively.

Table 2: Awareness of Staff Disaster Preparedness and Security

Name of Library Items	Lagos State Library Board		Ogun State Library Board		Ekiti State Library Board		Osun State Library Board		Oyo State Library Board	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Committee set up for disaster control?										
Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No	46	100	44	100	46	100	36	100	28	100
Total	**46**	**100**	**44**	**100**	**46**	**100**	**36**	**100**	**28**	**100**
Measures in place in case of emergency situation										
Yes	46	100	44	100	46	100	36	100	28	100
No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**46**	**100**	**44**	**100**	**46**	**100**	**36**	**100**	**28**	**100**
Measure in place for controlling emergency situation										
(a) Provision of fire extinguisher	26	56.5	24		20	54.5	30	83.3	20	71.4
(b) Provision of fire alarm	20	43.5	20		26	45.5	06	16.7	8	28.6
Total	**46**	**100**	**44**	**100**	**46**	**100**	**36**	**100**	**28**	**100**
Would you like your library to have disaster equipment?										
Yes	46	100	44	100	46	100	36	100	28	100
No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**46**	**100**	**44**	**100**	**46**	**100**	**36**	**100**	**28**	**100**

Table 4: Challenges of Disasters Control Programme

Challenges	Lagos State SA & A		Lagos State D & SD		Ogun State SA & A		Ogun State D & SD		Ekiti State SA & A		Ekiti State D & SD		Osun State SA & A		Osun State D & SD		Oyo State SA & A		Oyo State D & SD	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Lack of interest on the part of staff	9	19.6	9	26.7	5	11.3	4	9.0	6	13.0	9	17.4	5	13.9	9	25.0	5	17.8	9	32.1
Insufficient exit in the library	9	19.6	9	26.7	5	11.3	5	11.3	4	8.6	9	15.2	4	11.2	6	16.9	5	17.8	5	17.8
Fire fighting equipment not in working order	35	54.3	9	19.5	5	11.3	4	9.0	4	8.6	5	10.8	4	11.2	13	36.1	5	17.8	5	17.8
Lack of suitable accommodation for libraries and archives	6	13.0	7	10.8	5	11.3	6	13.6	4	8.6	17	36.9	5	13.9	8	22.2	4	14.2	7	25.0
Inadequate facilities e.g. Air condition etc	7	15.2	14	26.0	5	11.3	6	13.6	9	19.6	17	36.9	5	13.9	7	19.4	4	14.2	4	14.2
Technophobia	4	8.6	7	15.2	5	11.3	5	11.3	4	8.6	8	17.4	4	11.2	5	13.9	7	25.0	7	25.0
Financial incapability of the library	8	17.3	7	15.2	12	27.2	6	13.6	44	96.7	7	15.2	25	69.5	8	20.3	7	25.0	5	17.8
Care free attitude of library personnel/ authority	9	19.6	13	18.2	13	29.5	6	13.6	13	28.3	11	24.0	8	22.2	8	20.3	5	17.8	5	17.8
Lack of interest on the part of librarians	15	32.6	15	32.6	13	29.5	6	13.6	4	8.6	12	26.0	12	33.4	9	25.0	13	50.0	9	32.1

Table 2 revealed that the selected public libraries do not have committees for disaster control. Though majority of the respondents agreed that their libraries have measures in place in case of emergency situation. This was supported with the availability of fire alarm and fire extinguisher systems. The findings also show that all the respondents would like the library to have disaster equipment in their libraries.

Table 3 indicated that it was obvious that all the public libraries selected for the study are facing different challenges such as lack of interest on the part of staff, insufficient exit in the library, firefighting equipment not in working order, financial incapability of the library and inadequate facilities such as air conditioners. From the result obtained, it was noted generally that financial incapability was the major problem in all selected public library. Nearly all the respondents in the selected public libraries agreed that firefighting equipment are not functioning well.

V. Conclusion

Disaster management practice is a necessary course of action that public libraries in Nigeria must have to adopt more especially now that there is perturbing action of terrorist group (Boko haram) in the northern part of the country. Therefore, taking cognizance of how valuable and expensive library collection is, government and management of public libraries must take necessary step of action to blueprint disaster management control procedure so as to be ready in case of any future occurrence of disaster.

VI. Recommendations

In trying to address the problem of disaster control programme in the selected libraries, the study recommends that: More concentration and attention should be given to disaster control programmes in all library boards for better preservation and conservation of library resources and staff should also participate positively towards disaster control programmes. More plans should be put in place for disaster, security, policies and procedures in the library as a means of controlling disaster in the library. All state libraries should ensure that there is a committee set up for disaster control programme.Additional, disaster equipment and facilities should also be acquired and also be in a proper functional state in all library board. Also, there should be increase in the level of staff awareness on the preparation for disaster and suitable accommodation should be provided for the library and archives. Finally, there should be budgetary provision for the programme training of library staff.

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