

## SECURITY METHODS FOR PRESERVATION OF INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR LEARNING IN KOGI STATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION LIBRARY, ANKPA

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### Abstract

*The study investigated the security methods for the preservation of Information Resources for learning in the Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa. The purpose of the study was to identify the available information resources as well as examine the methods adopted for securing and preserving the learning and information resources in Kogi State College of Education library, Ankpa. Two research questions guided the study. The descriptive survey was adopted. Eighteen library staff were purposively selected for the study and a 10-item structured four-point rating scale questionnaire developed by the researchers titled "Security and Preservation of Learning and Information Resources Questionnaire (SPLIRQ)" was utilized for the collection of data. The data collected was analyzed using means and standard deviation. The investigation found that reference materials, serials, electronic resources, and books are information resources that require proper preservation in the studied library. It also revealed that adequate shelving of library materials for free flow of air, binding of physical books, photocopying of library materials, adequate security, microfilming, fumigation, lamination, installation of air conditioners, cleaning, and dusting are security methods adopted in the preservation of learning and information resources in the College of Education library. The study recommends that there should be deliberate orientation and enlightenment of the college community on the evils of book theft and mutilation. It also recommends the need to draw up policies for the preservation and security of library resources.*

**Keywords:** Security, Preservation, Information resources, Learning, Library

### Introduction

Information in scholastic libraries, like those in colleges of education, must be protected and preserved in order for them to be used in the teaching and learning process. In order to safeguard and sustain information resources for service delivery, education, and in support of the mission of the institution, academic librarians must create ways for efficient preservation.

Academic libraries should ideally function like living organisms that can fully adapt to the needs of their users. Oyedun (2015) describes them as libraries that are primarily located in tertiary institutions. In a context like the College of Education, an academic library is a library that deals with

the preservation and distribution of information resources for learning. They are an essential component of every higher education institution since they offer information resources to aid in the teaching, learning, and research efforts of their parent institutions (Alex-Nmecha & Okoro).

Academic libraries do not simply focus on offering information resources; they also conserve them to increase their longevity and general health. Academic libraries include those found in universities, polytechnics, colleges of agriculture, aviation, and education. Here, communication breaks out. The sentence above and this one below have no connection. Users use information resources for making judgments and coming up with solutions to problems. Information resources are materials that enable libraries to efficiently perform their role of delivering information to users, according to Hussaini, Veshistha, and Jimah (2018).

Considering this, library assets or data assets allude to all types of data stockpiling, including books, periodicals, papers, magazines, licenses and principles, handbooks and manuals, catalogs, newspapers, reference books, chart books and guides, schedules and journals, vertical documents, proposals, and theses, as well as tapes, videos, films, optical circles, tapes, and attractive tapes (IFLA, 2010).

Electronic information resources are similar to books and microcosms and are simply those that can satisfy users' information needs (Popoola, 2013). According to Popoola and Haliso (2016), information resources are information-bearing materials that the library gathers, preserves, organizes, and makes available to users in order to meet their current and future information needs. Services are only made possible by the library's collection of materials. Users turn to these sources for information. These information resources constitute an integral part of research, teaching, and learning as Odu (2017) affirmed. If the resources are properly exploited, it could lead to proficiency in one's professional calling and will enhance personality development. Thomas and Oladele (2020) assert that information resources play a vital role in the development of any society by strengthening the cause of education and academic research. They also cater to the information needs of thousands of people. In addition, Campbell (2016) averred that the attainment of the library goals has a functional relation with the resources available at its disposal. Campbell (2016), further stated that information resources are the staff and their information handling skills, adequate finance, materials, and equipment available for information acquisition, processing, storage, and dissemination. Information resources are therefore critical to academic work.

Generally, there are two kinds of data assets in the library. These are print and advanced assets. Print materials are books that incorporate reference materials like word references, reference books, catalogs, and so forth. Others are serials which include journals, newspapers, magazines, etc. There are also manuscripts, pamphlets, government publications, and textbooks, among others. This, therefore, means that digital resource materials are comprised of teaching and learning materials that make the experience worthwhile and exciting. These digital resources include audio materials, visual materials, and audio-visual materials and are accessed electronically through information and communication technology tools in the library.

The library as indicated by Ovowoh and Iwhiwhu (2014) requires data assets to meet their customer bases' data and sporting necessities. It is the obligation of the library staff and the organization to keep these assets in a great state of being to make them accessible for advancing consistently. Research has revealed that information resources in many College libraries throughout the country are still housed in situations that leave much to be desired (Ozioko, 2015). This researcher contended that a large portion of information recorded on audio or video tapes about important events, and people, among others, have been routinely wiped out in our electronic media houses. Therefore, it is critical to adopt techniques and measures to secure library resources which are expensive, and indispensable to the survival of any academic institution. Ozioko (2015) pushed further that libraries and file executives should take on security techniques to leave on protection programs that will shield their data assets from complete decay and obliteration to meet the always-expanding data requests of their clients. The legitimate and social obligation of school libraries makes it basic for them to save data assets.

Regarding security methods adopted in the preservation of information resources for learning, quite possibly the most mind-boggling issue confronting libraries today is the way best to safeguard the materials in their assortment. Since all library materials are not of equivalent worth, choices should be made concerning what should be kept. This cycle likewise includes laying out boundaries and deciding on suitable safeguarding techniques and techniques that will help prolong the life span of library materials (Lynn cited by Akande, 2014).

Preservation of information materials is part of the duty of the library staff. To achieve this, library staff ought to be trained in adopting best practices in library resource preservation. Preparing has for quite some time been viewed as the bedrock of accomplishing quality efficiency in any calling. Ekwelem, Okafor, and Ukwuoma (2013) stated that preparing bookkeepers in the space of data assets is basic to defend the current data assets for any kind of future family. Ngulube (2015) similarly kept up that for any conservation program to prevail in libraries and chronicles, there should be a sufficient and thoroughly prepared labour supply. Muhammad (2016) also agreed that staff training is essential, and librarians must specialize as preservation professionals to enable them to become experts in that area. Asuzu (2018) discovered in her study that training programmes on preservation are very paramount if information resources must be utilized for learning. Additionally, Njeze (2016) uncovered that the most usually involved techniques in protecting library materials in school libraries are restricting, copying, and racking books with the expectation of complimentary progression of air, sufficient security, cleaning, and tidying. Senapi and Nagta referred to by Akporhonor, (2011), distinguished the need to take on preventive estimates in the protection and safeguarding of library materials and records. These as indicated by the scientist incorporate legitimate lodging of archives, insurance against heat, mugginess, light, air contamination, dust, bugs, growths, water, and misuse. The author further suggests the inclusion of conservation and preservation in library education and training. Anasi (2014) advocates a preventive conservation and upkeep method in African countries, which must center attention on enhancing the environment and controlling light, temperature, humidity, and pollution. This advocacy however boosts the interest of the researchers

to investigate security methods for the preservation and securing of the available information resources in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa.

There are one-of-a-kind methods, and strategies librarians and archivists can appoint to extend the lifestyles span of substances in their custody. They include care and handling, control of environmental factors, security, and reformatting. With reference to care and handling methods, there is a need to educate librarians, archivists, and users on the need to handle all library and archival materials with care. It is equally important that the surroundings of the library and archives should be kept clean, otherwise known as good housekeeping. Anasi (2014) maintained that the practice of good housekeeping is probably the most straightforward 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, including vacuuming and dusting. Materials should be prohibited from eating, drinking, and smoking in the library.

With respect to control of environmental factors, one of the most critical factors affecting the longevity of library materials is the environment in which these materials are stored, used, and displayed. In prevailing upon the abovementioned, Mohammed (2016) states that beneficial local weather considerably impacts every library thing's life span. Also, Chaudhary (2012) confirms that after assortment security, natural control is the most practical interest in building a plan to broaden the help of the assortments. The advantages of expanded assistance life and diminished assortment support costs, notwithstanding human solace contemplations, can frequently legitimize ecological control throughout the library. Control of ecological elements to some diploma starts evolved from the willpower of the site, the coaching and the improvement of the library construction and the dust on which it will be constructed on the grounds that these aspects have an effect on the herbal management internal the structure. The development of plants close to the structure should be stayed away from, as the roots will harm the underpinning of the structure. Developing the structure away from traffic is in every case better to keep away from residue and soil. The arrangement of a sufficient number of electric fans and a couple of exhaust fans will work with airflow inside the library. Daylight ought to be kept from falling straightforwardly on books in light of the fact that the sun is an amazing producer of bright beams (Ogunsola and Ikegune, 2016).

In addition to the above, security is seen as another method of preservation. Libraries are required to provide adequate protection for lives and materials in the library. All materials in the library ought to be related to a characteristic of proprietorship to forestall episodes of robbery. Electronic identification at the exit is additionally expected to stay away from the unapproved evacuation of materials with possession marks. There is also the need for proper surveillance by staff of users consulting materials. This will go a long way in preventing stealing, mutilation, and other damage to library materials (Abdulrazaq, 2015).

Reformatting as mentioned above depicts that some library materials could become brittle due to the quality of paper used to produce them. These materials break easily due to constant usage. To avoid the loss of intellectual content of the materials, libraries make photocopies and microfilm them to prolong their life span. Other forms of reformation include Digitalisation, lamination,

and binding. Digitization which is the process of converting traditional library materials such as books and paper-based information materials into electronic form so they can be stored and manipulated. Examples of electronic forms include diskettes, CD Rom, and flash. Lamination is some other approach of reformatting used to fix an e-book or file to a usable condition. Lamination affords a defensive water-proof obvious foul to all sorts of documents. Binding is another method of elongating the life span of materials in the library. Cloths that have been damaged over the years are taken to the bindery for repairs and restoration.

Afolabi (2011) shows ways by which actual assaults on library books could be limited. This incorporates the utilization of insect poison for fumigation, fire quenchers in the event of a fire, a periodic assessment of the library water framework by an accomplished handyman, microfilming imperative records, and legitimate treatment of library materials. Since these materials can't persevere through harsh taking care of, fumigation, utilization of fungicides to books, cleaning of residue from books, and getting them far from direct daylight is suggested library rehearses. Alegbeleye (2012) likewise makes reference to three different ways by which data sources can be shielded from both fake and catastrophic events which are duplication, location, and offsite stockpiling.

Empirical evidence elsewhere shows that the preservation of information resources is paramount to actualizing educational objectives in schools. For instance, Alex-Nmecha & Okoro (2020) conducted a study on the investigation of the preservation of library resources as a correlate of service delivery effectiveness in universities in South-South, Nigeria and found out that when library resources are adequately preserved, service delivery will be hinge-free, and lead to an increase in library service delivery effectiveness. Likewise, Osunride and Adetunla (2017) completed a review to look at the protection and protection of library materials in college libraries in Southwest Nigeria and uncovered that the absence of legitimate safeguarding and preservation rehearses in the colleges is the reason for asset misfortune and crumbling. In the same vein, Adaora and Comfort (2020) also conducted a study on the preservation of information materials for effective service delivery in selected academic libraries in Imo State and revealed such factors that militate against the conservation of information materials as non-provision of adequate funding for the libraries, inadequate equipment needed for the preservation of information materials, tropical climate, and lack of preservation policy among others. Philip (2013) also conducted research on security management for the prevention of book thefts in the Benue State University Library, Makurdi. It found that clients devise different techniques to take and damage library books, including tearing book pages (s) off, taking off the book coat cover, and concealing books under their garments and pockets. A few suggestions were proffered to kill robbery and mutilation in college libraries. It is yet to be known whether the security methods put in place for the preservation of information resources by the library management of Kogi State College of Education, Ankpa are effective for the attainment of educational objectives in the area. It is against this background that this study is built.

However, Despite the value attached to the preservation of information resources, it appears that the college libraries that house these resources are always dirty and dusty and do not seem to understand the value of securing and preserving resources for effective learning. Apart from having

the foreknowledge in the preservation of the resources, school libraries might in any case be in reverse in the security techniques they take on in safeguarding their data assets. With this current situation in the college libraries, there is a need to find a timely solution to end the ugly trend of unsafe practices that do not help sustain the value and lifespan of library resources. If this ugly situation is not attacked, the consequences would be that several valuable resources will be wasted and thereby inaccessible to users.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study was to determine the security methods designed for the preservation of learning and information resources in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa. The specific objectives of the study were to:

1. Identify the available information resources for learning in Kogi State College of Education library, Ankpa.
2. Examine the security methods adopted for preserving the learning and information resources in the College library, Ankpa.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the available information resources in Kogi State College of Education Library Ankpa?
2. What are the security methods adopted to preserve Information Resources for Learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa?

### **Methodology**

A case type of descriptive survey research design was embraced for the review. This overview as indicated by Aina (2014), includes a precise and exhaustive collection of data about the suppositions, mentalities, sentiments, convictions, and ways of behaving of individuals through perception, interview, and the controlling of polls to a moderately enormous and delegate test of the number of inhabitants in interest. This technique was utilized on the grounds that the design is generally fitting for the review.

The research area was Kogi State College of Education, Library, Ankpa. This study area was chosen because the college library has several information resources, both print and non-print for learning and study. This library was laid out in 1981, at the beginning of the Advanced Teachers' College, Ankpa in the then Benue state. This later metamorphosed into the College of Education, Ankpa, and much later Kogi State College of Education, Ankpa at the creation of Kogi State in 1991 (UKAEGBU, 2011). The main objective of the library was to provide services to support the academic activities of the parent institution. It had two libraries, the old and the ultra-modern library. Currently, the College library has about 15,000 copies of textbooks and other resources. It has an electronic library with internet and ICT facilities, providing free internet services to its staff and

students. The security methods adopted by the library management seem not to be satisfactory because of the frequent complaints of loss of library resources that were constantly recorded. Besides, they were observations about the deteriorating resources in the unit. Hence, there is a need to examine the security methods designed to safeguard the available information resources in the library. The population of the study is the entire 18 employed staff both professionals and non-professionals in the library section of the college. This population was chosen because they constitute the staff that provides direct library services to the learners, and they are also involved in the handling, maintenance, and preservation of learning and information resources. According to the staff attendance register available in the college under study, a total of 18 staff workers are in the libraries. The sample comprised the entire staff purposively used for the study. The population was manageable and conveniently studied. The entire population was used for data collection since the researcher can reach out to all of them for data collection. The instrument used for data collection for this study was a 13-item structured four-point rating scale questionnaire developed by the researchers titled "Security and Preservation of Learning and Information Resources Questionnaire (SPLIRQ)". The researchers generated the questionnaire items in light of the targets and exploration questions as well as the information gathered from a review of related literature. The questionnaire was divided into two sections - A and B. Section A covered the respondents' background information such as gender and qualification. Section B was divided into clusters. The division of A and B was to guide the researchers to identify the professionals and the non-professionals among the library staff of the college. SPLIRQ was validated by three experts in the Department of Library and Information Science, Kogi State College of Education, Ankpa, and a measurement expert from the Measurement and Evaluation unit of Kogi State College of Education, Ankpa. This was aimed to ensure that all issues and questions were relevant and adequately addressed in the research topic. The instrument was administered by the researchers to 20 library staff in a nearby Al-Hikmah College of Education, Ankpa to ascertain internal consistency. Their responses were analysed using the Cronbach Alpha Correlation Coefficient Method and it yielded 0.87 indicating that the instrument is 87% reliable for use. The questionnaires were administered to the respondents (library staff) in the Kogi State College of Education Library. The responses provided reliable information on the subject of investigation.

The researchers visited the college library in Kogi State College of Education and administered the questionnaires, which were used to obtain accurate information from respondents." see my correction in the comments. In analyzing the data collected, descriptive statistics such as means, and standard deviation were used. The cut-off point for the decision of acceptance and rejection was 2.50. This is because the study used a structured questionnaire of a four-point Likert scale of measurement such as Strongly Agree (SA)=4 points; Agree (A)=3 points; Disagree (D)=2 points and Strongly Disagree (SD)=1 point. When one arithmetically puts the points together as  $4+3+2+1=10$  divided by the number of observations (4), it will be 2.50. Any item with a mean of 2.50 above was accepted as agreed, while an item with a mean score less than 2.50 was meant for rejection.

## Results

This section concerns data presentation, analysis, interpretation, and discussion of findings.

### Research Question 1

What are the information resources preserved for Learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa?

**Table 1: Means of Responses on the Information Resources preserved for learning in Kogi State College of Education Library.**

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Std	Decision
1	Reference Resources	7 (28)	11 (33)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3.38	1.83	Accepted
2	Serial Resources	6 (24)	8 (24)	3 (6)	1 (1)	3.05	1.74	Accepted
3	Electronic Resources	7 (28)	10 (30)	0 (0)	1 (1)	3.27	1.80	Accepted
4	Books of all kinds	6 (24)	7 (21)	2 (4)	3 (3)	2.88	1.70	Accepted
	Overall mean					3.15	1.77	Significant

Table 1 above shows the mean reactions of respondents on the data assets protected for Learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa. The table showed things 1, 2, 3, and 4 evaluated as 3.38, 3.05, 3.27, and 2.88, with their related standard deviation of 1.83, 1.74, 1.80, and 1.70, individually. The outcome from the table shows that every one of the things has a mean above 2.50, which means that the respondents concurred with those things that try to figure out the data assets that are safeguarded for Learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa. The general mean of 3.15 with a comparing standard deviation of 1.77 was likewise huge, showing that reference assets, sequential assets, electronic assets, and books of numerous sorts were data assets safeguarded for Learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa.

### Research Question 2

What are the security methods adopted to preserve Information Resources for Learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa?



**Table 2: Means Responses on the Security Methods adopted in the Preservation of Information Resources for Learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa**

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Std	Decision
5	Proper shelving of books for free flow of air	6	6	5	1	2.94	1.71	Accepted
6	Binding of physical book	11	6	1	0	3.55	1.88	Accepted
7	Photocopying of library materials	7	6	3	2	3.55	1.88	Accepted
8	Mount adequate Security	3	2	7	6	2.11	1.45	Rejected
9	Microfilming	1	3	8	6	1.94	1.39	Rejected
10	Use of insecticide	7	11	0	0	3.38	1.83	Accepted
11	Lamination	6	8	3	1	3.05	1.74	Accepted
12	Installation of air Condition	1	2	12	3	2.05	1.43	Rejected
13	Cleaning and Dusting	7	6	3	2	3.55	1.88	Accepted
	<b>Overall mean</b>					2.90	1.70	Significa

**Source: Field Survey 2023**

Table 2 shows the mean reactions of respondents on the security techniques taken on in the safeguarding of Information Resources for Learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa. The table showed things 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, and 13 were evaluated as 2.94, 3.55, 3.55, 3.38, 3.05, and 3.55 with their related standard deviation being 1.71, 1.88, 1.88, 1.83, 1.74 and 1.88 individually. These outcomes have a mean removed above 2.50 which showed that the respondents concurred with those things that look to figure out the security strategies embraced in the protection of data assets for learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa. Nonetheless, things 8, 9, and 12 have a low pace of 2.11, 1.94, and 2.05 with comparing standard deviation to be 1.45, and 1.39, and 1.43 which was underneath the limit of 2.50 which means that the respondents disagreed with those things that tried to figure out the security strategies embraced in the conservation of Information Resources for Learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa. The general mean of 2.90 with comparing standard deviation was likewise critical which demonstrated that a large portion of the things are security techniques taken on in the safeguarding of Information Resources for Learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa.

### Discussion of Findings

The analysis revealed that data assets that are saved for Learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa are Reference Resources, Serial Resources, Electronic Resources, and Books, everything being equal. The protection of these materials both print and non-print assets is exceptionally critical for the food of library assets. This outcome concurs with IFLA (2013) which noticed that scholarly libraries obtained, saved, and safeguarded data assets, for example, course readings, serials, vertical document materials, reference materials like reference books, diaries, and a lot more as well as electronic assets. Ovowoh and Iwhiwhu (2015) keep up with that libraries gained and protected different data assets to meet the data and sporting necessities of their customer base. The library staff, consequently, keeps these data assets in a great state of being to continuously make them accessible to clients.

It was also revealed that security strategies embraced in the protection of Information resources for learning in Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa are proper racking of books with the expectation of complimentary progression of air, Binding of actual books, Photocopying of library materials, mount satisfactory security, microfilming, Use of insect poison, lamination, installation of cool and cleaning and dusting. This outcome is upheld by that of Abdulrazaq (2015) who recognized the techniques utilized for the protection and conservation of data assets as racking of books, digitization, cleaning and tidying, and control of the climate by the establishment of fans and cools, overlay and restricting. Furthermore, the outcome invalidates the discoveries of Ovowoh and Iwhiwhu (2015) whose discoveries uncovered that cleaning and tidying was the main technique for the protection of data assets

### Conclusion

Based on the findings, it was determined that reference resources, serial resources, electronic resources, and books are available information resources for learning in Kogi State College of Education library, Ankpa. The libraries' new service platform is being driven by the preservation of information resources. It has been established that preservation is a crucial instrument for enhancing the services offered by college libraries. However, the study demonstrates that many information resource types, including reference books, serial books, electronic books, and books of all kinds, are kept in Kogi State College of Education, Ankpa. It was also found that Security methods adopted for preserving the learning and information resources in the College library, Ankpa were proper shelving of books for free flow of air, binding of physical books, photocopying of library materials, use of insecticide, lamination and cleaning and dusting. The Kogi State College of Education Library, Ankpa's study on the importance of adopting security measures for the preservation of learning-related information resources came to the following conclusions: protect library information resources from deterioration, decay, and decay for future generations. Access to historical information resources is made possible by preservation, which also makes it possible for the past to continue to influence the present and the future. Preservation extends the life of information resources and assists in meeting the users' constantly growing information demands.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following pointers had been made:

1. The government should put more effort into the provision of more information resources for learning in the Kogi State College of Education library, Ankpa. This will increase the viability of its operation for the actualization of educational objectives.
2. Users should be educated by the librarians as to the evils of stealing the available information resources for learning. This will create in their minds a culture of maintenance for the sake durability of information resources in the library.
3. Security methods for preservation policies should be drawn by the school management. This will guide the users on the limit of use.
4. Regular cleansing programmes have to be designed for librarians, for powerful control of library books. This will ensure its sturdiness within the library for use.
5. Librarians must patrol the reading rooms to make certain that customers no longer mutilate or take care of books. This will position them in practical mode to be used within the library.

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