

Disaster awareness and preparedness in academic libraries: The case of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Library, Umudike, Nigeria

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the disaster awareness and preparedness of academic libraries at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Library, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria. The research design adopted for the study was the descriptive survey design. The design was adopted to enable the researcher generate accurate data on the current status of disaster awareness and preparedness in the library investigated. The instruments used for collecting data for the study were questionnaire, interview and observation. The population of the study consisted of the management and the entire library staff of the Library. The collected data were analyzed using frequency counts and percentages. Findings revealed that fire outbreak, power failure, vandalism, theft, roof leakage, flood and biological agents are types of disaster that may occur in the library; the library has disaster preparedness plan, although the plan is lacking in effective implementation and monitoring, the library does not have any disaster training programme on disaster awareness and preparedness, there is no disaster response and recovery team in the library, the major disaster prevention measures available in the library are fire extinguisher, regular fumigation of the library and use of security procedures, monitoring and repair of leaking roof as well as regular checking of electrical fittings, the library does not have any sophisticated modern technological disaster equipment such as fire detective equipment, remote sensing equipment, smoke detector, etc., there was no insurance policy for quick disaster recovery and no response and recovery team in the library; the problems militating against disaster preparedness in the library include: absence or inadequate implementation of disaster awareness and preparedness plan, lack of insurance policy, financial constraints, lack of staff training, lack of modern disaster technological equipment, unreliable power supply for operating disaster modern technological equipment, negligence of the stakeholders and staff to disaster preparedness,. Disaster awareness and preparedness help library management to know and appreciate the dangers of disaster to its resources and appropriately position the library for its eventuality. The effort and commitment of library towards avoiding or reducing effects of disaster in the library by engaging in proper planning in view of library huge investments cannot be overstressed.

Keywords: Disaster awareness, Disaster preparedness, Academic library. Michael Okpara University, Agriculture, Umudike, Nigeria

Introduction

Libraries occupy a central position in information gathering, organization and dissemination in the society at large and the academic community in particular. They provide information materials in various formats to supplement and complement the tripartite function of higher education which is learning, teaching and research. A well-stocked library is not only the basis of all teaching and study, but also the essential condition of research, without which value cannot be added to the sum of human knowledge (Ampkpa, 2009). These, among other

things, underscore the indispensable role of the library in academic pursuit of both the staff and students in territory education.

Libraries, especially academic libraries, dwell within the "four walls" of our institutions and are however not immune from the vagaries of life such as Fire Outbreak, Flood, Arson. Earthquake, etc. they are still vulnerable and subject to disaster. Disaster is a natural phenomenon that occurs suddenly with or without a warning. It can strike at any time, and anywhere including the library, and its consequences are always catastrophic, resulting in damage and or loss of

property, and even human lives. Disaster, oftentimes, is unpredictable and the extent of its damage or loss is equally an only be imagined. Isah *et al* (2012) described disaster as any incident which threatens human safety and, or damage or threaten to damage a library building, collection, equipment and systems. Nwokeji, Panter, and Samuel (2017) defined disaster in library as the sudden removal of records and documents from accessibility as a result of threatening conditions. Many libraries across the world have lost valuable resources through disaster and oftentimes these damages remain irreplaceable or irreparable.

In the light of the pivotal role of the academic libraries in information provision and dissemination, any occurrence of disaster in the library will definitely lead to unimaginable damage of library resources which can adversely affect the overall function of the library and its service delivery, This calls for caution on the side of library to be aware and ready for disaster and disaster prone events in the library with a view to truly positioning its self for prompt and appropriate responses to such emergency. Disaster preparedness is the process of organizing a system to cope with disaster and its management either in the library or any other organization. Disaster preparedness enables the library to minimize potential damages of its resources, shorten library recovery time and provide temporary and or permanent cushion to both staff and library users.

Akin to disaster preparedness is disaster awareness, which relate to knowledge, understanding and acquaintance of disaster especially in the library. Disaster awareness reflects the knowledge of records and or statistical data of disaster in a particular environment or location over a period of time, It also informs and sustains the content and quality of disaster preparedness in any institution,

This study was carried out to investigate disaster awareness and preparedness of Management and staff of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, (MOUUAU) library, Abia State, Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

The library is the pivot of information and learning in academic institutions which are very vital fore advancement of education and training. The primary objective of every library lies in the provision of quality resources for the pursuit and sustenance of the satisfaction of users' need; this also underscores its relevance in the system and justifies the huge investment in it. In view of the huge amount of money spent on the development of libraries, one expects that adequate arrangements should also be made to protect library resources against disaster. Furthermore, the hard economic situation in the country which has resulted in dwindling budgetary allocations to many libraries, as well as and the difficulties encountered in replacing lost or damaged library resources occasioned by disaster define the compelling need for prompt and appropriate responses of library management to vagaries occasioned by disaster.

However, the state of disaster awareness and preparedness in many academic libraries leave much to be desired. Many academic library managers who are aware of library disaster do not have clearly defined and articulated frame work for combating disaster in their library. Others prefer to adopt a fire brigade approach rather than proactive measures in managing disaster. Many of the library staff are also not given appropriate training on disaster preparedness, and unaware of what to do when emergencies occur. A situation such as this will definitely lead to unpredictable destruction of the library and its resources in the event of disaster. This study investigated the disaster awareness and

preparedness of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Library, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to investigate disaster awareness and preparedness of management and staff of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Library, Umudike, Abia State. The specific objectives were as follows:

1. To identify the types of disaster that may occur in the library
2. To find out if the library management has a disaster preparedness and recovery plan
3. To find out if the library has a disaster response and recovery team
4. To determine if the library has any training programme/arrangement for Staff on disaster preparedness
5. To find out if the staff are aware of disaster prevention and recovery measures that are available in the library
6. To find out if the staff are aware of disaster response and recovery measures that are available in the library
7. To find out the problems that militate against disaster preparedness in the library.

Research question

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the types of disaster that may occur in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Library?
2. What disaster preparedness and response plan exist in the library?
3. What disaster response and recovery team exists in the library?
4. What form of training programme/arrangement is available for staff on disaster preparedness?

5. What are the disaster prevention measures available in your library?
6. What are the disaster recovery and response measures available in the library?
7. What are the problems that militate against disaster preparedness in the library?

Literature review

Disaster and emergencies have been part and parcel of human existence and they are even so, with the libraries and other social institutions. Disaster in library is any incident which threatens human safety and/or damage or threatens to damage a library building, collection, equipment or system (Alegebeye, 1993, Mathew & Edenh, 1996, Marfor & Borteye, 2016). It is the sudden removal of records or documents from accessibility and use (Alegebeye, 1993, Marfor & Borteye, 2016, Nwokeji, 2017). In the light of the above definitions, any incident that causes damage to library resources and disrupts normal functioning of the library is termed disaster. This was the view of Adinku (2005) that events that directly affects the normal administration of the library and disrupts services to readers either on a short or long term basis as disaster. The international association of library in Abareh (2014) defines disaster as an event whose timing is unexpected and whose consequences are seriously destructive. Federal Emergency Management Agency (1990) described disaster as an occurrence that has resulted in property damage, death and or injuries to a community. The United Nations (1992) in their own definition of disaster sees it as a serious disruption of the functioning of society, causing widespread human, material or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected society to cope using its own resources.

According to Corral and Brewerton (1999) the term disaster covers a range of natural and human made phenomena including storm, earthquake, pest, flood, explosion, theft, rioting and negligence etc. The reference is

already in the work. Isah et.al (2012) described natural disaster as happenings over which man has very little or no control and are greatly initiated by such events as flood, earthquake etc. He further described manmade disaster as wartime, rioting, bombing, malicious vandalism Negligence, power surge and failure. However, Isah et.al (2012) quoting turner observed that the classification of disaster into Natural and manmade has very little importance for the identification of what actually is a disaster. To him an event becomes a disaster when man and the environment he created and live are affected. Irrespective of the source of disaster, the destruction and devastation they cause or threaten to cause library resources and the provision of services remain critical.

Disaster can be commonly caused by fire, started by arson or an electrical fault, water from burst pipes or leaking roof, flooding as a result of rain, poor storage and environmental conditions inadequate security leading to break-ins, theft and poorly maintained building (Eden & Mathew, 1977, Alagbeleye, 1993, Marfor & Borteye, (2016). Other causes of disaster in the library include insect infestation, and effect of light and temperature (Ngulebe, 2005). Abareh (2014) speaking on the effect of fire on library stated that “ in libraries, archives and Museum, there is a likely-hood of fire as the collections are mostly organic in nature. He noted that once fire starts, it is difficult to save those materials which gets fire; that items not directly engulfed in flames can be charred by soot and smoke. Heat emitted from fire causes binding to shrink and wrap plastic materials to melt. Water used for fighting fire can cause enormous damage to the library. Flood. High winds, cyclonic earthquake affect libraries as they are also agents of deterioration for library materials. These will lead documents hto absorb water, swell, wrap and become extremely vulnerable to physical damage. Dyes and ink may bleed and book pages stick together, leather bindings seriously warps and change shape (Abareh 2014).

To protect the library and its resources from disaster, there is need for libraries and librarians to be ready for an unexpected events or emergencies and always be prepared to respond to such emergencies. Although disaster cannot entirely be prevented, but there is need to be prepared for them so that they negative effect may be minimized. Disaster preparedness with the emphasis on the speedy recovery and restoration assist to ensure that services are not unnecessarily disrupted (Alagbeyele. 1993, Echezona, Ugwu & Ozioko, 2012). Disaster preparedness is the process of organizing a system for coping with the damage that may be caused to the library by fire, storm, or flood. It refers to the situation whereby librarians are very prepared to prevent a potential disaster from destroying the library. National fire association (2004) defined preparedness as activities or programmes developed by systems to support and enhance mitigation, response to aid recovery from disaster emergencies Alagbeleye in Abareh (2014), stated that preparedness in the context of the library means being in a state of alertness and vigilance so that when disaster occurs, organizations is not caught happening, but is indeed in a position to react responsibly, maturely and rationally. Disaster preparedness as a concept encompasses all measures aimed at enhancing life safety when disaster occurs. It also include actions designed to enhance the ability to undertake actions in order to protect property and curtail disaster damage and disruption as well as ability to engage on post disaster restoration and early recovery of services. Amkpa (2005) reported that effective disaster preparedness of information services have often been accorded a low priority in many Nigerian universities. Alegbeleye (1993) pointed out that it is therefore little wonder that when library building goes up on in flames, the information sources it houses is destroyed and there is little protective programme for these materials.

Buchanam (2000) noted that libraries often overlook disaster preparedness even though it is fundamental to the protection of documentary materials. Amarrasin (2005) advised librarians to prepare for disaster rather than wait for events such as the tsunami that swept across Asia or hurricane Katrina that completely destroyed Martin Luther King branch of New Orleans Library in (2005).

Abareh (2014) quoting the National Response framework enumerated three basic principal benefits of planning as: it allows jurisdictions to influence the course of events in an emergency; it guides other preparedness activities and contributes to unity of effort by providing a common blue print for activities in the event of emergencies. Planning is a foundational element of preparedness and response

According to Wall (2006), libraries should prepare for four types of disasters:

1. Minor disaster: A minor disaster affects a non-critical part of the library, such as when a washroom overflows and a carpet gets wet outside the door.
2. Localised disaster: A localised disaster involves damage to library materials and collections. Recovery requires some specialised training in the handling of library materials.
3. Major disaster: More than 25% of the library materials or library facilities are affected or damaged in these cases. Library collection losses can occur and significant financial resources are needed for the recovery.
4. Catastrophic disaster: A catastrophic event has a devastating effect on a region or country. Widespread damage is done to the operation of all basic services and infrastructure. Complete recovery from a catastrophic disaster could take years or decades. The funding needs will usually be beyond the ability of the local and even state governmental resources.

Abareh (2014) quoting Fox (1989) identified five elements of disaster preparedness as protection, planning, prevention, response and recovery.

The first step in disaster preparedness has to do with creating awareness among library staff of disaster,

its causes, and how to handle such emergencies. Awareness, according to Panle and Samuel (2017), is being informed or having knowledge about something while lack of awareness means ignorance, consequences of which can be fatal. Hansenay and Kritalic (2016) insisted that raising awareness and education of staff about the importance of disaster is the first thing in disaster management. Abareh (2014), quoting Ogden advocates for the use of working policy that would ensure routine training and sensitization on safety measures and security measures for recovery after disaster. Olowatola (2015) carried out a study on disaster management practice in five public libraries in south west Nigeria and found that majority of the staff are fully aware of the disaster preparedness measures and have knowledge on how to use the available disaster equipment. Marfor and Borteye (2016) also did a study on disaster preparedness on Kwame Nkuruma University of Technology Ghana and majority of the staff indicated that they are aware of the location of emergency exits and the location of fire extinguisher.

One measure of disaster preparedness is the development of a disaster management plan. It is a formal written outline recommendation on how to overcome disaster when it occurs. Panele and Samuel (2017), quoting Muir and Shenton (2002) identified disaster management plan to include management commitment, well maintained facilities, training and testing of procedures, actively aware and involved employees who take ownership of the process. According to them, preparing any library for disaster involves identifying possible hazards, mitigating their effects and identifying response measures. Morgan g& smith carried out a study on the role of a disaster plan in managing disaster and found that majority of the library investigated were lacking in formal disaster plan. Again, a similar study conducted by Bartil and Baladi (2005) on disaster preparedness of

polytechnic libraries in Ghana showed absence of security policies and disaster plan in the libraries studied. Also survey carried out in 2003 worldwide among National libraries to find out which of them have disaster plan, it was found out that out of 177 libraries studied, only 39 (22%) had disaster plan (IFLA-PAC, 2006).

Another area of disaster preparedness in libraries is the provision of insurance policy for the library. This to a large extent will provide financial protection to both the staff and collection for loss or harm. Stressing this, Abarach (2014) pointed out that the importance of insurance coverage for buildings and contents of library cannot be overemphasized.

From the foregoing literature, it is evident that disaster can strike anytime and anywhere and libraries are not immuned to it. Since disaster occurs without warning, the best defense is to prepare for effective response to it. This study was carried out to investigate the disaster awareness and preparedness of Micheal Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike (MOUAU) Library, Abia State, Nigeria.

Methods

The research design adopted for this study was the descriptive survey design. Questionnaire, interview, and observations were used to collect data for the study. A total of 59 copies of questionnaire were distributed to respondents and the entire 59 copies were was duly filled and returned. The university librarian was interviewed to confirm some of the information from the staff, while observation were used to check the presence of disaster threats in the library and disaster preventive equipment..

The population of the study consisted of all library staff (59 in number) of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, Abia State. The entire populations of 59 library staff were used as sample because the population was small. The collected data were analyzed

using frequency counts and percentages. The findings were presented using tables and descriptions.

Results and discussion

In order to find out the ranks and cadres of the respondents, they were asked to indicate their various ranks and cadres as shown in Table 1. The distribution shows that 5(8%) of the total respondents are management staff, 15(25%) were in librarian cadre, 18(31%) were library officers cadre, while 21(36%) were library support staff cadre. The distribution reveals that all segments of staff of MOUAU Library were duly represented in the study.

In a bid to glean into the level of insight experience of the respondents on disaster and its management in the library, the respondents were requested to indicate the length of years they have worked.

Table 2 reveals that 10(17%) of the respondents have worked in the library between 1 -5 years, 16(27%) indicated they have worked between 6 -10 years, 19 (32%) 11– 15 years, while 14 24(%) indicated they have been in the library 15 years and above. The foregoing reveals that all the respondents have spent at least 5 years and above while some others have spent 15 years and above in the library. It can be possibly said that the length of time spent by the respondents have given them sufficient exposure and understanding of the history of disaster and its management in the library which also goes to establish their validity of their response.

To enable the researcher establish the disaster awareness of the respondents the respondents were asked to indicate the types of man-made and natural disaster they know and may occur in the library?

Table 3 shows that 59(100%) respondents unanimously indicated that fire outbreak power failure and stealing / theft are the most prevalent types of disaster in the library. Vandalism, and roof leakage had 55(93%), and 40(68%) respondents respectively while biological

agents,, flood and lighting strike 30(51%), 20(34%) and 5(9 %) responses respectively. However, there was a zero response favouring, earthquake, acts of arson/ terrorism, explosion, volcanic eruption and chemical spillage. The researcher gathered from the interview with some of the respondents that though earthquake, arson/ terrorism. explosion etc, are other forms disaster that may occur in the library but they did not for see its tendency in their library because the environmental condition of their library may not be suspect to these type of disaster.

What can be gleaned from the Table 3 is that fire outbreak, power failure, vandalism, theft, roof leakage, biological agents, and flood are some of the types of disaster that may occur in MOUAU Library. The study carried out by Marfor and Borteye (2010) reported that disaster can commonly occur through fire out break resulting from acts of arson, faulty electrical gadget /fittings in the library, water from burst pipes or flooding, inadequate security leading to break-in and theft as well as poorly maintained buildings. Ngulube (2005) identified other types of disaster which may result from insect infestation, effect of lighting and uncondusive temperature. In the library Alegbeleye (1993), Obokoh (1999) separately identified two commonly reoccurring types of disaster in the library as flood, and fire while Harvey (1993) stated that vandalism, theft, insect infestation and effect of light among others are types of disaster in the library.. The findings show that some of the respondents do not feel that some natural phenomena such as earth quark / tsunami, volcanic eruption and landslide can occur in their library. They argue that climate conditions or environment of their library is not susceptible to disaster of such magnitude.

In order to ascertain type preparedness of the library, respondents were asked to indicate whether or not their

library has any disaster preparedness and response plan.

Table 4 shows that majority of the respondents numbering 40 (68%) indicated that the library has a disaster preparedness plan. 15 (25%) total respondents indicated that the library has no disaster preparedness and response plan, while an insignificant number of only 4(7%)of total responses have no information on whether or not, the library has a disaster preparedness and response plan. It can be deduced from the 68% majority respondents that the has a disaster preparedness and response plan. This implies that the library has an articulated document and or framework that provide guidelines to staff on the management of emergencies arising from disaster. Indeed the effort and commitment of the library to articulate and produce a written document for management and control of disaster definitely reveals the institutions sense and level of preparedness for disaster. The finding of this study is quite contrary to the study carried out by Haseney and Kutalic (2010) which found out that that many academic libraries in Croatian do not have a disaster response plan. The disaster response plan is a set of written procedures which are prepared in advance by the library management that spells out clearly how to deal with an unexpected occurrences relating to disaster and facilitates efficient and quick responses to emergencies in the library. Disaster response plan creates awareness and knowledge of disaster to the staff of the library. It is also one of the ways of measuring the level of awareness of disaster and its preparedness among the management and staff of any library. It should however be emphasized that the design and development of a wonderful workable disaster response plan without effective implementation and proper monitoring is like brandishing a flashing knife without a cutting edge.

In a bid to find out the level of preparedness of MOUAU Library as well

as the effectiveness of its disaster response plan, the respondents were asked to indicate whether or not MOUAU library has got a disaster response and recovery team.

Table 5 shows that a minority of 5(8%) of the respondents indicated that MOUAU Library has a disaster response and recovery team, but their yes response was swallowed by the majority 40(68%) respondents who indicated that MOUAU Library does not have any disaster response and recovery team. A total of 14(24%) respondent were however silent on their views on whether or not, there is a disaster response or recovery team in MOUAU Library. The overwhelming 68% responses clearly show that MOUAU Library does not have any disaster response and recovery team, while the 24% responses who were silent on their views may represent the respondents who actually know what is happening in their library but choose not to be quoted. This corroborates the findings of IFLA-PAC (2003), Haseney and Kritalic (2010) and Abareh (2014) which affirm that many library institutions do not have any disaster plan, response and recovery team in their libraries. There is need for libraries to have a disaster response and recovery for effectively implementation of its disaster preparedness plan. The role of disaster response and recovery team in the library cannot be overstressed in the effort and commitment of any library to the management of disaster, and the absence of the team is a clear indication that the library is ill prepared for disaster.

The researcher sought to find out if MOUAU Library has any training programme for staff on disaster preparedness and asked the respondents to indicate whether or not they received any form of training on disaster preparedness.

The distribution on table 6 shows that 15(25%) respondents indicated that they receive training on disaster preparedness while 44(75%) responses indicated that they do not have any form

training programme on disaster preparedness.

What is glaring from the majority responses is that MOUAU Library does not have any training programme on disaster preparedness for their staff. One of the indices of disaster preparedness is development of a properly designed training programme on disaster preparedness for staff which among other things enhances the awareness and sensitization of the staff towards disaster and its management. Thus for any library to be must be trained and continuously sensitized on the various issues relating to disaster as an evidence of their commitment to effective disaster preparedness. The training programme enables staff to be conversant with existing technology for control of disaster in the library. Lending support to this, Obokoh (1991) in his study on coping with flood disaster of a university library argued for the need to make library staff aware of rescue options available to them in times of emergency. Corral and Brenentor (1999) also opined that training is a critical component of disaster preparedness which can take several forms including awareness talk, briefing session, Hands on practice, simulation exercise, and video presentation. Abareh (2014) insists that library staff should be trained on disaster, its causes and immediate action to be taken when its strikes.

In order to find out the prevention measures available in the library for combating disaster the Respondents were asked to indicate the type of prevention measures available in the library in MOUAU Library. According to the popular saying: 'Prevention is better than cure'.

Table 7 shows that 59 (100%) respondents identified fire extinguishers, regular fumigation of the library and use of security procedures as the most prominent disaster prevention measures in the library; 40 (68%), 30 (51%), 25(42%) and 20(33%) respondents indicated repair of

leaking roof, provision of flood drain, and regular check of electrical switches and sockets and provision of sand buckets respectively as other measures of disaster prevention in the library. There was zero response on provision of automatic disaster dictation equipment, water sensory equipment and the use of regular formal risk assessment for disaster prevention in the library.

The findings have shown that MOUAU Library made provisions for some disaster prevention such as fire extinguisher, regular fumigation of the library use of security procedures, repair of leaking roof, provision of flood drain, regular check of electrical fittings. It can also be inferred that no provision was made for the installation and use of some modern technological equipment such as fire detection equipment, remote sensory equipment, and smoke detection equipment, etc. This may be due to the high cost of provision and maintenance of these equipment. The finding agrees with the work of Ugwu anyi, et al (2015) quoting Alegbeleye (1993) where they reported that libraries in Africa do not emphasize the use of heat smoke dictator, which is one of the automatic disaster dictation equipment, probably because of their cost and maintenance. Some of the modern technological equipment is meant to dictate upcoming disaster and stop it before it occurs, and absence important equipment in the library may portrays the ill preparedness of the library for disaster management and control. Tenant, (2001) notes that an ounce of prevention is better than cure, remains a valuable aphorism for disaster prevention. While Issa *et al* (2012) Corroborated this by emphasizing that everything that can be reasonably done to avoid or lessen the impact of disaster by planning ahead of time is certainly well worth the time, effort and resources.

In a bid to find out the strategies put in place for prompt disaster response and recovery in the library, the

respondents were asked to indicate the things they do to respond and recover from disaster.

Table 8 shows that 59 (100%) respondents indicated that the library made provision for the use of first aid kits and emergency exits as their major strategies for prompt disaster response and recovery, while 50(85%) and 45(76%) of them indicated restoration of the disaster site and salvaging of damaged materials respectively as other measures put in place in the library for disaster response and recovery. 40(68%)response identified disaster management plan as a strategy used in the library for disaster response and recovery. There was 0% response to the formation of a disaster response and recovery team, provision of insurance policy and alarm signal in the library.

It is obvious from the foregoing that the types of disaster response and recovery in MOUAMU library includes provision of first aids kits, emergency exist, salvaging of damaged materials, restoration of damaged sites as well as disaster management plan. However the library does not have other measures for disaster response and recovery such as insurance policy alarm signals and formation of a disaster response and recovery team. This finding agrees with the study carried out by Abareh (2014) on disaster preparedness by heads of academic libraries in North-Eastern, Nigeria which reported that many academic libraries in North-Eastern, Nigeria do not have insurance policy for their resources. The importance of taking insurance policy for disaster recovery cannot be over emphasized because insurance policy is one of the ways libraries can quickly recover from impact of disaster. Brawner (1993) insists that libraries should not take the issue of insurance for its resources for granted, while Ungarelli (1984) stressed the importance of insurance coverage for the library building and the contents of libraries. The result of the finding shows

that the library has a disaster management plan but does not have a disaster response and recovery team. This goes to portray the fact that MOUAU Library may have a wonderful articulated disaster preparedness plan which is lacking in effective implementation and monitoring.

The researcher sought to find out the problems militating against disaster awareness and preparedness in the library and the respondents to indicate the likely problems that militate against disaster awareness and preparedness in their library.

Table 1: Rank and cadre of the respondents

Rank/ cadre	Frequency	%
Management cadre	5	8
Librarian cadre	15	25
Lib. Officer cadre	18	31
Support staff	21	36
Total	59	100

Note: Management cadre is made up of university librarians, deputy librarians and heads of units.

Table 2: Length of time they have worked in the Library

Length of time	Frequency	%
1-5 years	10	17
6-10 years	16	27
11-15 years	19	32
16 years and above	14	24
Total	59	100

Table 3: Type of disaster that can occur in the library

Types of disaster	Frequency	%
Fire out break	59	100
Roof leakage	40	68
Flood	20	34
Power failure	59	100
Earthquake	-	-
Chemical spillage	-	-
Theft	59	100
Vandalism	55	93
Explosion	--	--
Acts of arson/terrorism	-	-
Land slide	-	-
Lighting strike	5	9
Volcanic eruption	-	-
Biological agents	30	51

Table 4: Disaster preparedness and response plan

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	40	68
No	15	25
Do not know	4	7
Total	59	100

Table 5: Disaster response and recovery team

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	5	8
No	40	68
Do not know	14	
Total	59	100

Table 6: Training for staff on disaster preparedness in the Library

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	15	25
No	44	75
Total	59	100

Table 7: Disaster prevention measures in MOUAU Library

Prevention measures	Frequency	%
Installation of automatic disaster dictation equipment	--	--
Provision of fire extinguisher	59	100
Provision of water sensory drain	---	----
Regular fumigation of the library	59	100
Provision of flood drain	25	42
Monitoring and repair of leaking roof	40	68
Regular checking of electrical fittings	30	51
Regular / formal risk assessment	–	–
Provision of Sand buckets	20	33
Use of security procedures	59	100
Remote sensory technology	–	–
Provision of single circuit switches		

Table 8: Disaster response and measures in the MOUAU Library

<u>Measures</u>	<u>Frquency</u>	<u>%</u>
Provision of disaster management plan	40	68
Constitution of response and recovery team	–	–
Provision of insurance policy	–	–
Provision of first aids kits	59	100
Provision of emergency exits	59	100
Provision of alarm signals	--	–
Restoration of the disaster site	50	85
<u>Salvaging of damaged materials</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>76</u>

Table 9: Problems that militating against disaster awareness and preparedness the Library

<u>Problems</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>%</u>
Absence or inadequate implementation of disaster plan	59	100
Absence of insurance policy	59	100
Inadequate fund/ financial Constrain	45	76
Lack of staff training	50	85
Lack of modern disaster technological disaster equipment	59	100
Unreliable power supply for operating sophisticated disaster equipment	59	100
<u>Negligence of Stakeholders and Staff to disaster awareness and Preparedness</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>51</u>

Table 9 shows that 59 (100%) respondents indicated that absence or inadequate implementation of disaster preparedness and awareness plan, absence of insurance policy, lack of modern disaster technological equipment and unreliable power supply for operating sophisticated disaster equipment are among the major problems militating against disaster awareness and preparedness in the library, respectively. Furthermore, 50(85%), 45(76%) and 30(51%) respondents respectively, indicated that lack of staff training, financial constraints, and negligence of stakeholders and staff of the library towards disaster awareness and preparedness constitute problems facing disaster preparedness and awareness in the library.. The findings clearly reveal that all the on table 9 are problems militating against disaster awareness and

preparedness in the library. This supports the view of Rutto and Otike (2016) who observed that inadequate policy framework, financial constrain, Limited insurance cover, inadequate support facilities, inefficient communication channels, unreliable power supply, and inappropriate design and use of building” are among the challenges facing disaster management in libraries in Africa.

Conclusion

University libraries are the nerve centres of academic programmes in university education. The resources in their custody are quiet valuable for the achievement of the tripartite function of the university, namely is teaching, learning and research. it also underscores its relevance in the system and justifies the huge budgetary allocations to it. The huge investment in

the library cannot therefore be allowed to be wasted through disaster. This places a responsibility upon stakeholders and staff for a concerted effort and commitment towards the preservation of library resources against disaster. The study was designed to examine the disaster awareness and preparedness of management and staff of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike Library, Abia State, Nigeria.

The following are recommended in the light of the results:

1. There should be effective implementation and monitoring of disaster preparedness, response and recovery plan.
2. The library management should as a matter of urgency duly set up a functional disaster response and recovery team that will be responsible for proper implementation and monitoring of disaster preparedness plan in the library.
3. There should be regular staff training to create awareness on disaster and its management in the library.
4. The library should take up insurance policy for quick recovery from impact of disaster.
5. The library management should make appropriate allocation of fund for purchase and installation of modern disaster technological equipment to detect and fight disaster. Equipment such as fire alarm, smoke detector, fire tracer, remote sensory technology should be acquired and installed in the library.

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