

## **PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF PRINT MATERIALS IN SELECTED COLLEGES OF EDUCATION LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Libraries are to preserve and conserve print materials for others to have access in the near future. The objective of the study is to investigate the techniques used in preserving and conserving print materials, the preservation and conservation policy, deteriorating agents, level of degradation of print materials, the barriers and control methods. The descriptive method was used, 70 copies of questionnaire were administered but 50 copies were responded to using frequency counts and simple percentages. Finding revealed that adequate security, cleaning and dusting were the techniques used in preserving and conserving print materials. There is a policy statement concerning preservation and conservation, but the policy does not address disaster management. Wear and tear due to over use and photocopying are the visible agents of deterioration. While poor quality paper, theft and mutilation amount for the extent of degradation. It was recommended that a policy statement should be enforced; funding improved and builds manpower development in the college libraries in Nigeria

**KEYWORDS:** Libraries, Preservation and Conservation, Deterioration

### **INTRODUCTION**

Libraries as memory institutions, whose mission is to collect, organize, preserve and facilitate the use of cultural and scientific heritage. The Library as a knowledge house which is tasked with the responsibility of acquiring, processing and disseminating its information to users, and due to constant use these materials wears and get torn. To preserve and conserve print materials in the Library is very essential to prolong the life of the materials. The term Conservation is best understood to mean an active intervention in the repairs of items, which has deteriorated or degraded. Libraries acquire and preserves information bearing resources, such as periodicals, maps etc to meet the information requirements of its clientele. For the life of these materials to be prolonged for future generations, the Library staff has to maintain these materials in good physical condition, so that it can be made available and consulted at all times.

Nwalo (2003) submit that many Library user dog – ears a book innocently, this is a situation whereby a user folds back a book while reading it. This also includes folding and pressing in of a paper or some pages of a published materials. A Library user involves in this with the intention of noting the page where they stopped reading, or to mark some pages which they intend to read later. This type of behaviour and activities of users on printed materials hasten the disintegration of books no matter the texture or quality of the paper which they are made of or how strongly they have being bound.

Bank (1981) defines preservation as the art of anticipating and preventing decay” preventing decay caused by deteriorative agents grouped into three divisions; these are external factors referred to as destructive agents such as excessive light, humidity, moisture, heat, theft, floods, insects and rodents. Inherent factor, as a relationship with the paper content which aids its fast deterioration while the inherent factors can be divided into two, intrinsic and extrinsic.

Intrinsic acidity is the acid introduced during the production of the paper while the extrinsic acidity is as a result of pollution when it mixes with chemicals within paper it aids its ruin. Structural factors of deterioration, this can be as a result of careless handling, wrong shelving, damp binding, and failure of mechanized objects (e.g. the air conditioner) used to keep the temperature constant. The over use of any particular print material also affect the length of its lifespan.

The college of education libraries has been faced with the challenges of preserving and conserving their print materials. Even with the awareness and technological advancement in preservation and conservation techniques. Print deterioration is still on the increase. Therefore, there is need to find ways/methods in dealing with preservation and conservation issues in Colleges of Education Libraries in Nigeria. This necessitated the study on Preservation and Conservation of print materials in selected colleges of Education Libraries in Nigeria.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

This study is to investigate the preservation and conservation of print materials in selected colleges of education libraries in Nigeria.

### **The Study Focuses on**

- To investigate the preservation and conservation techniques in use in the selected colleges of education libraries.
- To investigate if there is any preservation and conservation policy used in these libraries.
- To find out the type of deteriorating agents in the selected Colleges of Education Libraries.
- To investigate the extent of degradation of print materials in selected colleges of education libraries in Nigeria.
- What are the barriers to the effective’s preservation and conservation of print materials in selected colleges of education libraries in Nigeria
- What are the strategies in improving preservation and conservation of print materials in selected colleges of education libraries in Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were drawn to guide in carrying out the study.

This includes

- What preservation and conservation methods / techniques are used in the selected colleges of education libraries in libraries?
- Are there any written or unwritten policy guiding he preservation and conservation of print materials in the selected colleges of education in Nigeria?
- What are the visible types of deterioration of print materials in the selected colleges of education in Nigeria?

- What is the extent of degradation of print materials in the selected colleges of education in Nigeria?
- What are the barriers to effective preservation and conservation of print materials in the selected colleges of education?
- What are the strategies for improving preservation and conservation of print materials in selected college libraries?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Bansa and Branches (1981) agree and submit that paper materials in libraries should be kept from harmful effects of light. They should be kept from changes in nature such as changes in the weather, temperature and humidity. According to Madu (2004) libraries help to preserve for those who follow us our thoughts intellectual and historic records. It is very necessary for libraries to do everything they could do to avoid disaster by planning ahead of time, effort and resources (Wise, 2003) Olatokun (2008) surveyed preservation and conservation practices and techniques in Nigerian university libraries. He investigated the techniques used in preservation and conservation of library materials, causes and nature of deterioration. The findings revealed that preservation and conservation techniques were adopted but were not effectively used in all the libraries.

Jordan (2003) states that preservation is an umbrella term for array of activities, principles, practices and organization that ensure the usability, longevity and accessibility of recorded knowledge. Activities as stated that are currently defining the realms of preservation of library materials includes conservation (general collection repair and special collection) reformatting (microfilming, photocopying and digitalization), selection for preservation, environmental monitoring and contents care and handling of materials, disaster preparedness and recovery, standards relating to materials, practice and techniques, commercial binding and preservation education and training.

Banks (1981) stresses the importance of binding as a mode of preservation for book materials and suggests ways of going about them.

Plumbe (1992) says that most destructive agents of deterioration; insects and fungi. He concentrated his study on their effects on print materials and solution to the problems of deterioration, he also suggests practical solutions to each problems. Print materials i:e information sources, according to Aina (2002) they are materials consulted for knowledge about a topic, a theme, an event, a date, a number, a place or even a ward. Obi (2001) stressed further that all these information sources are stored in the library to provide information for users needs. There is need to preserve and conserve print materials to lengthen their life span. Rosenberg (1993) is convinced that everyday care of the library books should be given special emphasis in preservation efforts. This conviction is based on the fact that quality and care of handling of books is a factor that prolongs the life of a book. IFLA (1986) defined preservation as to include all managerial and financial consideration including storage and accommodation provisions, staffing levels, policies, techniques and methods involved in preserving library and archival materials and the information therein.

## METHODOLOGY

A descriptive method was used to gather data on preservation and conservation of print materials in selected Colleges of Education Libraries in Nigeria. The Colleges of Education Libraries used are the following: Kogi State College of Education Library Ankpa, Kogi State College of Education (Technical) Library Kabba, and College of Education

Library, Warri Delta State. A questionnaire was designed and used as the instrument for collection of data. The population of the study covers all the library staff of the college Libraries. Random sampling technique was used to select respondents from each of the Libraries to represent the sample used for the study.

Frequency counts and simple percentages were used to analyse the data gathered.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

**Table 1: Sex Distribution of Respondents**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	24	48
Female	26	52
	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1 reveals that 52% of the respondents are female while 47% indicated males.

The outcome shows that there are more female librarians than males in the college libraries under study. The same result was revealed in Njeze (2012) study on preservation and conservation issues in selected private universities in South-west Nigeria.

**Table 2: Age Distribution of Respondents**

Age	Frequency	Percentages
20-30 Years	15	30
31-40 Years	10	20
41-50 years	21	42
51-60 years	4	8
61 years and above		
	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2 shows the age brackets of respondents Ages between 41-50 years was in the majority 21(42%), 20-30 years, 15(30%), 31-40 years 10(20%) and the least 51-60 years 4(8%). The study reveal that there are more mature librarians in the college libraries because the age bracket between 41-50 years were in the majority when the study was carried out.

**Table 3: Educational Qualification of Respondents**

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
BLS	15	30
MLS, Msc LIS	8	16
PGD	2	4
Others	25	50
	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3 indicates the qualifications of the respondents. Those with BLS 15(30%), MLS, Msc LIS 8(16%), PhD 2(4%) while others 25(50%) were in the majority. The data shows that there are more para professional librarians in the college libraries under study. (This are made up of WAEC, NECO, OND, NCE, DIPLOMA and Bsc) as in (Njeze, 2012).

**Table 4: Job Status**

Job Status	Frequency	Percentage
Library Assistant	15	30
Library Officer	10	20
Librarian II	6	12
Librarian I	8	15
Senior Librarian	4	8
Principal Librarian	5	10
Chief Librarian	-	-
College Librarian	2	4
	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

As revealed in the data in table 4. Library Assistants and Library officers constitute the majority of respondents i.e. 25(50%) while others, Librarian II 6(12%), Librarian I 8 (15%), senior Librarian 4 (8%), Principal Librarian 5 (10%) and college Librarian 2 (4%). The qualifications of respondents is an indicator to this result as shown in table 3, while others were in the majority comprising WAE, NECO, OND, Diploma, Bsc.

**Table 5: Years of Experience**

Years of Experience	Frequency	Percentage
1-5 Years	6	12
6-10 years	15	30
11-15 years	2	4
16-20 years	14	28
21 years and above	13	26
	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 5 indicates the years of experience of respondents as 1-5 years 6(12%), 6-10 years 15 (30%), 11-15 years 2(4%), 16-20 years 14 (28%), 21 years and above 13 (26%). The data shows that the majority of respondents are not old in the service because their years of experiences ranges between 6-10years and 16-21 and above, which is an indication that they still have more years to practice and improve on their productivity.

**Table 6: Response Rate According to Colleges**

Colleges	Frequency Distributed	%	Frequency Retrieved	%
College of Education, Warri	20	28.57	11	22
College of Education, Ankpa	30	42.8	21	42
College of Education (T), Kabba	20	28.57	18	36
	<b>70</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 6, shows the response rate per college under study. 70 questionnaire were shared among the colleges. 50 questionnaire representing 71.4% were returned duly completed and was used for analyzing data gathered.

**Table 7: What Preservation and Conservation Materials are Used in the Selected College Libraries?**

Print Materials	Warri		Ankpa		Kabba		Total
Binding	1	4.5	20	90.9	1	4.5	22
Fire Fighting equipment	2	10	14	70	4	20	20
Air Conditioning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Photocopying	3	33.3	4	44.4	2	22.2	9
Adequate security	7	17.9	20	51.2	12	30.7	39
Deacidification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Use of insecticide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and dusting	5	15.1	17	51.5	11	33.3	33

Table 7 shows the preservation and conservation technique used in the college libraries. The table shows that adequate security and cleaning and dusting with total of 39 and 33 respectively was favoured as the means of preserving and conserving print materials in the college libraries while binding and firefighting equipment 22 and 20 total respondent favoured the use in their respective college libraries. No libraries in question uses, air conditioning, deacidification and use of pesticide and insecticides as a technique for preserving and conserving print materials. Are there any policy guiding preservation and conservation of print materials in college libraries?

**Table 8: Preservation and Conservation Policy**

Policy Statement	Yes		No	
Does the library have preservation and conservation policy?	47	94	3	6
Is the policy written?	40	80	10	20
Is the policy obeyed?	41	82	9	18
Does it guide staff?	42	84	8	16
Is the policy helping the security of the Library?	44	88	6	12
Does the policy address disaster?	20	40	30	60

Table 8 indicated the policy and principles guiding preservation and conservation in the selected college libraries. The data shows that the college libraries are having a standing preservation and conservation policy, which is written, obeyed and it serves as a guiding tool to security of print materials, but the policy fail to address the issue of disaster management.

**Table 9: What is the Visible Deterioration of Print Materials in the Selected Colleges?**

Agents	Warri		Ankpa		Kabba		Total
Air Pollution							
Wear and tear due to overuse	11	24.4	20	44.4	14	33.1	45
Wear and tear due to photocopy	10	24.3	19	46.3	12	29.2	41
Dust and particles	5	19.2	11	42.3	10	38.5	26
Poor shelving	8	32	10	40	7	28	25
Excessive light	4	36.3	5	45.4	2	18.1	11
High temperature	3	100	-	-	-	-	3
Biological agents	4	40	2	20	4	40	10
Relative humidity	2	100	-	-	-	-	2
Students riot	-		15	100	-	-	19

Table 9 shows the agents of deterioration of print materials in the college libraries. The data reveal that wear and tear due to overuse and wear and tear due to photocopy i.e. 45 and 41 respondents favoured these agents. While dust and particles and poor shelving followed with the total of 26 and 25 respondents respectively. College of education Ankpa indicated student riot as one of its major agent of deterioration because of the student riot experienced that touched part of the college libraries destroying library resources. The preservation and conservation policy did not make provision for disaster management as indicated in table 8.

**Table 10: What is the Extent of Degradation of Print Materials in the Selected Colleges?**

Print Materials	Warri		Ankpa		Kabba		Total
Theft and mutilation of materials	8	20	19	48.8	12	30.7	39
Poor quality of paper materials	9	19.5	21	45.6	16	34.7	46
Broken spine of print material	9	25	16	44.4	11	30.5	36
Vandalisation of print materials	7	23.3	11	36.6	12	40	30

Table 10 shows the extent of deteriorating of print materials, all the items identified in the table constitute to the deterioration of print materials, with poor quality paper material rank first a total of 48 respondents, broken spine of print material 36, theft and mutilation, 39 and Vandalisation 30.

All the collage libraries indicated with high response rate in favour of poor quality paper material as a Contributing factor to deterioration of print materials.

**Table 11: What are the Barriers to Effective Preservation and Conservation of Print Materials?**

Barriers	Warri		Ankpa		Kabba		Total
Inadequate funding	3	7.5	20	50	17	42.5	40
Absence of preservation & conservation	10	100	-	-	-		10
Lack of infrastructure	5	20	3	12	16	64	25
Unqualified manpower	7	18.9	16	43.2	17	45.9	37
Harsh environmental condition	2	10	18	90	-	-	20
Lack of preservation policy	8	17.3	21	45.6	17	36.9	46

Table 11 shows the barriers to effective preservation and conservation of print materials with lack of preservation and conservation policy as a barrier, followed by inadequate funding and unqualified manpower.

Preservation and conservation of print materials are absent in Ankpa and Kabba College libraries as shown in the data. While harsh environmental factor was not experienced at Kabba College Library.

**Table 12: What are the Strategies for Improving Preservation and Conservation of Print Materials?**

Strategies	Warri		Ankpa		Kabba		Total
Manpower building	10	22.9	20	44.4	15	33.3	45
Adequate funding	11	22.9	20	41.6	17	35.4	48
Formulating preservation policy	11	22	21	42	18	36	50
Planned storage facility	10	27.0	19	51.3	8	21.6	37
Building unit	7	30.4	11	47.8	5	21.7	23

Table 12 shows the strategies in improving preservation and conservation of print materials, it was shown in the data that a policy is required to be formulated, this is indicated with a total of 50 respondents, 48 respondents indicated adequate funding, 45 respondents manpower building. All the items indicated in the table demands attention except the bindery units with a total of 23 respondents in affirmation of it as a strategy for improving preservation and conservation in college libraries.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

- The study revealed that the majority of responded are females.
- There are more mature librarians in the College libraries as indicated in the study.
- Paraprofessionals are in the majority i.e. constituting, NECO, WAEC, OND, Diploma and NCE certificate holders. This was also shown in the job status distribution where 50% of the respondents fall in Library Assistants and library officer’s cadre.
- Age distribution shows that the majority of respondents still have more years of service as indicated.
- Adequate security, cleaning and dusting were the preservation and conservation techniques used in the college libraries.

- The libraries have preservation and conservation policy, written and obeyed by the staff, but the policy did not address the issue of disaster management.
- Wear and tear due to over use and photocopying were indicated as the visible deteriorating agents.
- Poor quality of paper material, theft and mutilation of materials constitute the extent of degradation.
- Lack of preservation and conservation policy, inadequate funding and unqualified manpower was a barrier to the effective preservation and conservation of print materials.
- Adequate funding, and policy formulation and manpower capacity development was recommended based on the outcome of the study.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

As revealed in the study on the preservation and conservation of prints materials in selected college of education libraries in Nigeria. It was revealed that print materials deteriorate because of overuse and the extent of photocopying. It is recommended that multiple copies of print materials should be made available to avoid readers scrambling for few available copies.

In house clearing and dusting should be done at regular basis to avoid the invasion of pests and insects.

Copyright laws should be enforced in libraries to reduce plagiarisms, this preventing photocopying of full text which weakens the spine of books.

Damaged items should be removed from the shelve to the bindery and returned when the repair is fixed.

## CONCLUSIONS

The libraries are saddled with the responsibility of acquiring and preserving library resources for historical use,

These material needs to be preserved and conserved to prolong their life span.

Librarians should make sure that materials in their custody are protected and the governing body of the colleges to education libraries in Nigeria should develop and monitor their preservation policy.

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