Influence of Institutional Support on Preservation and Conservation Practices of Information Resources by Library Personnel in University Libraries, Lagos State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The 21st century has witnessed the influx of information in electronic format which has increased library's responsibility of embracing digital preservation. Failure of which is liable to be the cause of the deterioration observed. The aim of the study is to, among several other reasons, explore, the influence of institutional support and digital competence on preservation and conservation practices among library personnel. The descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. Questionnaire with 0.73, 0.68 and 0.82 Cronbach alpha reliability rate was used for data collection. The study population is made up of One hundred and Ninety library personnel. The data collected was analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The study found that preservation is highly practiced (Mean = 3.4), institutional support was found to be high (Mean = 3.1). However, the study found deficiencies in the areas of automation/maintenances and provision of infrastructural facilities with a moderate mean score of 2.61 and 2.3. The test of hypotheses further revealed that institutional support has significant influence on digital preservation (Adj. R^2=0.076, F $(1,164)$= 15.219,p =0.000^b). The study confirmed a commendable level of institutional support within academic libraries. However, a notable gap was identified in the automation of processes and the provision of necessary technological infrastructure. This gap represents an area where further attention and investment are needed to fully harness the potential of digital preservation and conservation efforts. The study recommends that Academic institutions should prioritize the preservation and conservation of digital resources as well as physical resources.

Keywords: Preservation, Digital Preservation, Conservation, Digital competence, Automation.

Introduction

The library has the primary role of acquiring, processing, organizing, preserving, and conserving printed and non-printed information resources or materials for its clientele. Library information resources refer to all those media for storing information, such as textbooks, journals, newspapers, magazines, patents and standards, handbooks and manuals, directories, gazetteers, encyclopaedias, atlases and maps, calendars and diaries, vertical files, theses and dissertations, tapes, videos, films, optical discs, cassettes, magnetic tapes, microforms, etc. Similarly, library information resources can be defined as book materials, microforms, and electronic information materials capable of meeting the information needs of the users.

The systematic and planned human management of resource and activities aimed at minimizing physical and chemical deterioration of library items is what preservation of library resources implies. Environmental precautions, preventive cleaning, encapsulation, and digital preservation are all examples of preservation efforts. Conservation, on the other hand, refers to steps made to resuscitate decaying resources or the maintenance operations carried out to extend the life of information resources by delaying the decay process in order to restore or preserve them in usable form. When these operations are not in place or well-coordinated, degradation is not only unavoidable, but also imminent — a phenomena that could result in catastrophic library material destruction. Moreover, the emergence of information and communication technology has added to the preservation and conservation responsibilities of the library to include digital preservation.

Over, the years, several factors has been understudied to understand the factors that influence proper preservation and conservation of library among the factors are fund, attitude and expertise of librarians and library personnel, availability of infrastructures and so on. However, little attention is given to factors like institutional support and digital competence which is a necessary competence in this digital age. Institutional support in this context refers to active organizational encouragement through policies, regulations, and monetary and non-monetary help that propel employees to perform their responsibilities effectively and effectively. It is noted that the universities in Nigeria need to equip and provide institutional support in research grants, conference sponsorship, publication support, international linkages, and collaboration to enhance research skills among librarians. Some of the institutional support institutions of higher learning can provide includes research support in the form of conference sponsorship, research grants, publication support, and technical support, particularly in a knowledge-based

economy. Institutional support that can enhance the quality of research and teaching quality in the form of knowledge sharing includes research support, technical support, and pedagogical support. The technical support provided by the institutions will make the faculty more effective and efficient, particularly when they receive prompt responses to any technical issues while carrying out their responsibilities.

Institutional support can be in form of financial support, technical support, and research support. Financial support is an essential aspect of institutional support for the preservation of library resources. It refers to the provision of funds for the acquisition, maintenance, and preservation of library resources. Financial support enables libraries to purchase new materials, upgrade existing resources, and maintain their collections over time.

Every institution with enduring value collections should have a preservation strategy that balances the need for the collections against institutional resources and outlines a number of priority preservation initiatives. Setting priorities will allow the institution to see the needs and identify the activities required to complete the required preservation and conservation practices (Valverde & Rodriguez, 2002). However, reports, has affirmed that the major preservation challenges confronting most African higher institution libraries are institutional related factors like poor infrastructure, a lack of expertise in preservation and conservation, poor storage facilities, poor environmental control, a lack of proper preservation policies and strategies, and a lack of funding which has been identified as a major challenge (Ikegune; Masenya & Ngulube 2019)

Preservation and conservation of library resources is an ongoing concern for librarians and archivists. Library resources in all formats are subject to deterioration and damage over time, which can result to the loss of valuable information and cultural heritage. Moreso, preliminary investigation by researchers shows that there are new challenges in preservation and conserving of electronic resources due to increased use of digital technologies, which are subject to technological obsolesce. In a bid to address the preservation and conservation challenges, libraries has device means like digitization, retrospective conversion and solicit for funds from parent bodies and donors. However, there is a missing link in implementation of effective preservation and conservation policies and practices of which it was found that many libraries do not have collection development policy which is a key document in interpreting the preservation and conservation policy. This deficiency could be attributed to several factors like lack of well-planned staff development programs, bureaucratic bottlenecks, weak library

budget, institutional support and digital competences of librarians, archivists and curators More so, there is a dearth of literature on influence of institutional support on the preservation and conservation of library materials.

Therefore, this study set out to investigate the influence of institutional support on preservation and conservation practices of Information Resources in Academic Libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria.

Research questions

Based on the stated objectives, the following research questions are to be answered in this study:

i. What are the digital preservation and conservation practices available in University Libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria?

ii. What are the institutional support practices in University Libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria?

Research Hypothesis

H_o1: There will be no significant influence of institutional support on preservation and conservation in university libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

For digital materials, digital preservation has been recognized as one of the urgent challenges in our digital information society. It is the current trends in all modern libraries and a recognized as a vital part of managing information in digital format. A number of libraries have thus started to invest intensive research and development to provide solutions that allow us to maintain digital objects accessible. Most of these solutions, however, are aimed at larger institutions who have a dedicated mandate, and thus can build up expertise, resources and systems. Yet, we increasingly find that many libraries are faced with the challenge to preserve their materials. The major challenge of rapid obsolescence of the hardware and software required to interpret and present digital documents has been widely discussed. Ensuring continued access to digital information necessarily involves copying or transforming digital documents to run on current media, software, hardware and operating systems. The challenges that necessitate digital preparation are frequent change in software and hardware which has make copying a problem, loss of document and data, viruses capable of corrupting system and son on.

However, in this study preservation and conservation being is measured using the Davies Strategy, policy and Resources popularly known as troika model. The Davis Policy, Strategy and Resources (PSR) troika model is a framework for understanding the key elements that contribute to sustainable digital preservation and conservation. It consists of three components: policy, strategy and resources. Policy refers to the goals, principles and guidelines for digital preservation and conservation. Library policy encompasses collection development policy and so on. They contain the guidelines based on which decisions as regards library growth and development is concerned.

Strategy refers to the plans, methods and actions for achieving the policy objectives. Example of strategies includes having security cameras in place, insertion of Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) in books to curb thefts and so on. Resources refer to the human, financial and material assets that are needed to implement the strategy (Davies 2000). Resource includes human hands, well trained and equipped with necessary techniques involved in digital preservation and conservation of library information resources. For instance, librarians should be trained on how to use fire extinguishers in case of fire outbreak. It includes creating backups, migration, storage media refreshing, formats normalization, emulating environment, encapsulating essential information to contents, developing dark archives, developing trusted digital repositories, diffusing the backups through distributed preservation network, and performing digital archaeology and so on (Shimray & Ramaiah 2018). Strategies encompasses everything done by the library to make sure information resources are kept in good shape and protected from agents of deterioration.

The strategy deals with the strategic plans and approaches for preservation. The strategy is in tandem with the policy with the aim of translating policies into actionable strategies. For instance, the Strategy might design a comprehensive plan for digitizing and archiving historical documents and ensuring that digital resources are migrated on a regular interval into newer technological innovations to ensure their long-term availability.

According to (National Library of Australia on Preservation Policy), The Policy deals with the overarching guidelines and principles for preservation and conservation efforts. They are formulated regulations, laws, and guidelines that ensure the proper preservation of valuable resources of the library. In the context of cultural heritage, for example, the policy might establish regulations that require the protection of historical buildings and artefacts. The library's collection development policy is a key document in interpreting the preservation policy. It includes more detailed policy information on what the library will collect and retain.

policy documents which operate under the preservation policy includes collection disaster plan, digital preservation policy, related policy documents are, collection development policy, collection digitisation policy, conditions of loan (for exhibitions), information technology strategic plan and interlibrary loans policy.

The resource handles the practical aspects of preservation and conservation of digital resources, including budget allocation, financial allocation, and some other necessary things that must be on ground. For instance, the need for close circuit cameras, the availability of fire extinguishers and some other disaster management resources would be ensured available. Resources aspects ensure that the necessary funds, personnel, and technology are in place to execute the preservation strategies. For example, the resource Manager might allocate funds to establish preservation facilities and hire skilled professionals for artefact restoration (Davies 2000). It is however clear that preservation is a project with heavy financial implications which therefore places the library at the mercy of the organization or institution it serves. Much more is the need for digital competence which is regarded as the survival skill of the 21st century needed to manage digital resources.

In a study on Preservation and Conservation of Library Resources as Correlates of Service Delivery Effectiveness in Universities in South-South, Nigeria. One of the hypotheses is that there is no significant relationship between library resources conservation and service delivery effectiveness in academic libraries in federal universities in South-South Nigeria. It was found that the relationship between library resources conservation and service delivery status in academic libraries in federal universities in South-South, Nigeria was strong and positive (Beta=.241). The R-squared value of .058 in part A showed roughly a 5.8% contribution of conservation to library service delivery effectiveness. The regression equation shows that any increase in effective conservation will lead to an increase in library service delivery effectiveness in academic libraries in federal universities in South-South, Nigeria. When put to statistical test, the result of the F-statistic shows that there is significant relationship between library resources conservation and service delivery status in academic libraries in federal universities in South-South, Nigeria (F1, 295=18.139, p<.05). This led to the rejection of the hypothesis at 0.05 alpha level (Alex-Nmecha & Okoro 2020). This means that conservation of library resources have direct significance to library service delivery. Libraries in good condition have a way of triggering effective service delivery.

A scholar study on Preservation and conservation of information resources in special libraries: a peep into selected law libraries in Nigeria using a survey design with 113 respondents (with

93% return rate), found that law libraries like were found not to be insured (48%), a phenomenon common in academic institutions in Nigeria. The lack of financial support from parent bodies or independent means of generating revenue may have led to the unavailability of smoke detectors (51%), and fire detectors (59%) which are technology based appliances. Pipe sprinklers were also not installed in the libraries (Okpidi-Urhibo 2020). All these are institutional issues that can only be handled by the organizations management by providing adequate fund for insurance, and acquisition of smoke and fire detectors and pipe sprinklers.

Research Methodology

The descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population for this study consist of one hundred and ninety (190) library personnel in public universities in Lagos State. The study make use of total enumeration technique, such that all the One hundred and ninety library personnel that make up the total population of the study were used for the study. The instrument used in the study is a standardized scale based on each variable of the study. Data was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Analysis

Majority of the respondents are female 89 (53.6%). Majority of are within age range 41− 50 years73 (44.0%), the majority has Masters of Library Science72(43.4%). Majority 48(28.9%) have 6- 10 has 6-10 years work experience.

Research Question One: What are the preservation and conservation practices available in University Libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria?

Table 4.2. Preservation and conservation practices in university libraries in Lagos State.

Policy	S.A (%)	A (%)	D (%)	S.D (%)	Mean
My library has a preservation & conservation policy	80 (48.2%)	86 (51.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3.48
The preservation & conservation policy is strictly adhered to in my library	80 (48.2%)	86 (51.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3.48
Adherence to the policy has enhanced preservation and conservation positively in my library	92 (55.4%)	73 (44.0%)	1 (0.6%)	(0%)	3.54

	S.A (%)	A (%)	D (%)	S.D (%)	Mean
The preservation & conservation policy contains punishment for library offenders when caught	78 (47.0%)	88 (53.0%)	(0%)	(0%)	3.47
The library is insured against unforeseen disaster	59 (35.5%)	89 (53.6%)	17 (10.2%)	(0%)	3.15
Weighted Mean					**3.4**

Strategy	S.A (%)	A (%)	D (%)	S.D (%)	Mean
My Library subscribe to cloudstorage for digital resources	75 (45.2%)	88 (53.0%)	3 (1.8%)	(0%)	3.42
We do regularly carry out Migration (transfer of digital materials from one generation of computer technology to a subsequent generation) in the library	69 (41.6%)	92 (55.4%)	5 (3.0%)	(0%)	3.36
Library cleaners ensures regularly that computers, and other accessories are clean	88 (53.0)	78 (47.0)	(0%)	(0%)	3.53
We carry out emulation (preserving the original application program) in the library	62 (37.3%)	101 (60.8%)	3 (1.8%)	(0%)	3.34
Regular back-up of digital collections and upgrading of old Software to newer ones are done in the library	69 (41.6%)	94 (56.6%)	3 (1.8%)	(0%)	3.38
Weighted Mean			**3.4**		

Resources	S.A (%)	A (%)	D (%)	S.D (%)	Mean
CCTV cameras are installed in theft, activities	54 (32.5%)	56 (33.7%)	47 (28.3%)	9 (5.4%)	2.70 my library to curb mutilation and other criminal
Fire extinguishers are in place in my library against fire outbreaks	63 (38.0%)	102 (61.4%)	1 (0.6%)	(0%)	3.37
Library patrons are educated about disaster preparedness and how they should respond in emergencies while in the library	71 (42.8%)	94 (56.6%)	1 (0.6%)	(0%)	3.42
Regularly fumigation is done in my library against rodents	65 (39.2%)	100 (60.2%)	1 (0.6%)	(0%)	3.39

Library staff are trained on emergency procedures, how to	79 (47.6%)	85 (51.2%)	2 (1.2%)	(0%)	3.45
Weighted Mean					**3.3**
Grand Mean					**3.4**

use facilities like fire
extinguishers, fire alarm systems
and so on.

Source: Field Survey, (2023)

Decision rule: 1.0-1.99 = very low, 2.00-2.50 =low, 2.51-2.99= Moderate, 3.00-3.49.00= High, 3.50-4.00 = Very High

The table 4.2 above represent a survey of various policies, strategies, and resources related to library preservation and conservation practices. The table is structured into three main sections: Policy, Strategy, and Resources. Each section contains specific statements or questions, along with the respondents' ratings and mean scores. Below are the analysis of the findings: In the section for policy, various policies related to preservation and conservation in the library were highlighted. Each statement is rated by the respondents, and the results are presented in terms of the percentage of respondents selecting each rating option and the mean score. The statements include: "My library has a preservation & conservation policy" 80 respondents (48.2%) strongly agree, and 86 (51.8%) agree with this statement. No respondents disagree or strongly disagree. Secondly, 'The preservation & conservation policy is strictly adhered to in my library' Similar to the first statement, 80 respondents (48.2%) strongly agree, and 86 (51.8%) agree with this statement. No respondents disagree or strongly disagree. The third statement 'Adherence to the policy has enhanced preservation and conservation positively in my library' 92 respondents (55.4%) strongly agree, 73 (44%) agree, and 1 (0.6%) disagree. No respondents strongly disagree. Whereas, the statement 'preservation & conservation policy contains punishment for library offenders when caught' 78 respondents (47%) strongly agree, and 88 (53%) agree. No respondents disagree or strongly disagree. The last statement which states that 'The library is insured against unforeseen disaster' 59 respondents (35.5%) strongly agree, 89 (53.6%) agree, 17 (10.2%) disagree, and no respondents strongly disagree. The mean score for this statement is 3.15. Overall, there is general acceptance that the libraries understudy has preservation and conservation policy and the policy is adhere to high degree.

For strategy, the section evaluates various strategies employed by the library. Each statement is rated by respondents, and the results are presented in a similar format as the Policy section.

The statements include. 'My Library subscribes to cloud-storage for digital resources' 75 respondents (45.2%) strongly agree, 88 (53%) agree, and 3 (1.8%) disagree. No respondents strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.42 showed high agreement with this statement. This means that most of the library under study do cloud computing. More so the statement 'We do regularly carry out Migration in the library' 69 respondents (41.6%) strongly agree, 92 (55.4%) agree, and 5 (3%) disagree. No respondents strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.36 shows a level agreement with the question which depict that the library under study do carry out migration on a regular basis. More so, 88 respondents (53%) strongly agree, 78 (47%) agree, and no respondents disagree or strongly disagree that the library cleaners ensure regularly that computers and other accessories are clean. The mean score of 3.53 showed that on a regular basis, the libraries understudy do carry out cleaning of library electronic gadgets. More so, for the statement 'We carry out emulation in the library' 62 respondents (37.3%) strongly agree, 101 (60.8%) agree, and 3 (1.8%) disagree. No respondents strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.34 showed a moderate agreement. It shows that the library understudy do carry out emulation. However, as for the regular back-up of digital collections and upgrading of old software to newer ones are done in the library, 69 respondents (41.6%) strongly agree, 94 (56.6%) agree, and 3 (1.8%) disagree. No respondents strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.38 shows high agreement of librarians with regards to carrying out emulation.

The resources section evaluates the availability of various resources in the library. Each statement is rated by respondents, and the results are presented in a similar format as the previous sections. The statements include. 'CCTV cameras are installed in my library' 54 respondents (32.5%) strongly agree, 56 (33.7%) agree, 47 (28.3%) disagree, and 9 (5.4%) strongly disagree. The mean score is 2.70. This shows that there are reservations with regards to use of CCTV cameras in the library. More so, for the statement, 'Fire extinguishers are in place in my library against fire outbreaks' 63 respondents (38%) strongly agree, 102 (61.4%) agree, and 1 (0.6%) disagree. No respondents strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.37 shows a high agreement. This shows that there are fire extinguishers in place. 'Library patrons are educated about disaster preparedness and how they should respond in emergencies while in the library' 71 respondents (42.8%) strongly agree, 94 (56.6%) agree, and 1 (0.6%) disagree. No respondents strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.42 showed that there is regular orientation with regards to disaster preparedness in the library. For the statement 'Regular fumigation is

done in my library against rodents' 65 respondents (39.2%) strongly agree, 100 (60.2%) agree, and 1 (0.6%) disagree. No respondents strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.39 showed that fumigation is done on a regular basis. For staff training, the statement 'Library staff are trained on emergency procedures, how to use facilities like fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, and so on' 79 respondents (47.6%) strongly agree, 85 (51.2%) agree, and 2 (1.2%) disagree. No respondents strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.45 shows higher agreement of the respondents to the fact that fire alarms are in place.

Overall, the grand mean of 3.4 shows that preservation and conservation of library resources is practices at a very high level in term of policies, strategies and resources used.

Research Question Two: What are the institutional support practices in University Libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria?

Table 4.3. Institutional support practices in University Libraries

Financial support	S.A (%)	A (%)	D (%)	S.D (%)	Mean
Adequate financial provision is made from parent bodies to the library.	69 (41.6%)	92 (55.4%)	3 (1.8%)	2 (1.2%)	3.37
The Library personnel receives grants from the parent body for staff training and development on evolving technologies and information resources	65 (39.2%)	90 (54.2%)	10 (6.0%)	1 (0.6%)	3.27
Library personnel get sponsorship for seminars, conferences and workshops	50 (30.1%)	105 (63.3%)	9 (5.4%)	2 (1.2%)	3.18
Library use funds to renovate and maintain the facilities regularly.	55 (33.1%)	105 (63.3%)	5 (3.0%)	1 (0.6%)	3.27

My library gives study leave with pay to library personnel	68 (41.0%)	94 (56.6%)	3 (1.8%)	1 (0.6%)	3.37
Weighted Mean					**3.3**

Technical Support	S.A (%)	A (%)	D (%)	S.D (%)	Mean
There is regular updates of hardware, software and network connectivity.	51 (30.7%)	108 (65.1%)	7 (4.2%)	(0%)	3.22
There is adequate availability of technological infrastructure	41 (24.7%)	99 (59.6%)	26 (15.7%)	(0%)	2.93
Regular in-house training on digital preservation and conservation is conducted for library personnel	67 (40.4%)	90 (54.2%)	9 (5.4%)	(0%)	3.30
There is adequate provision of facilities like lighting and stable electricity	57 (34.3%)	101 (60.8%)	8 (4.8%)	(0%)	3.25
My library sets-up and maintain automation systems.	44 (26.5%)	54 (32.5%)	40 (24.1%)	28 (16.9%)	2.61
Weighted Mean					**3.0**
Grand Mean					**3.14**

Source: Field work, 2023

Decision rule: -1.0-1.99 = very low, 2.00-2.50 =low, 2.51-2.99= Moderated, 3.00-3.49.00= High, 3.50-4.00 = Very High

The table 4.3 above is a survey of various factors related to Institutional support which is made of financial support and technical support in a library setting. The table is structured into two main sections: Financial Support and Technical Support. Each section contains specific statements or questions, along with the respondents' ratings and mean scores.

Financial Support in this section evaluates various aspects of financial support in respect to the library. Each statement is rated by respondents, and the results are presented in terms of the percentage of respondents selecting each rating option and the mean score. The statements include, 'Adequate financial provision is made from parent bodies to the library' 69 respondents (41.6%) strongly agree, 92 (55.4%) agree, 3 (1.8%) disagree, and 2 (1.2%) strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.37 shows a high agreement in terms of financial provision. Secondly, 'The

Library personnel receives grants from the parent body for staff training and development on evolving technologies and information resources' 65 respondents

(39.2%) strongly agree, 90 (54.2%) agree, 10 (6%) disagree, and 1 (0.6%) strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.27 showed a moderate agreement. Library personnel get sponsorship for seminars, conferences, and workshops: 50 respondents (30.1%) strongly agree, 105 (63.3%) agree, 9 (5.4%) disagree, and 2 (1.2%) strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.18 showed a high level agreement supporting the statement. 'Library uses funds to renovate and maintain the facilities regularly' 55 respondents (33.1%) strongly agree, 105 (63.3%) agree, 5 (3%) disagree, and 1 (0.6%) strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.27 shows a high level agreement of the respondents with the statement. For another statement 'My library gives study leave with pay to library personnel' 68 respondents (41%) strongly agree, 94 (56.6%) agree, 3 (1.8%) disagree, and 1 (0.6%) strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.37 also showed a strong agreement with the statement. This showed that the library gives grants for study leave. Overall, the summary of the descriptive showed that theirs is high level financial support among libraries understudy.

Moreover, for technical Support the first statement, 'There is regular updates of hardware, software, and network connectivity' 51 respondents (30.7%) strongly agree, 108 (65.1%) agree, 7 (4.2%) disagree, and no respondents strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.22 showed a moderately high level agreement with the fact that there is regular update. For another statement 'There is adequate availability of technological infrastructure' 41 respondents (24.7%) strongly agree, 99 (59.6%) agree, 26 (15.7%) disagree, and no respondents strongly disagree. The mean score of 2.93 showed an average agreement with regards to adequacy of available technological infrastructure. This means at a significant level, the technological infrastructure available are not adequate. More so, for the statement 'Regular in-house training on digital preservation and conservation is conducted for library personnel' 67 respondents (40.4%) strongly agree, 90 (54.2%) agree, 9 (5.4%) disagree, and no respondents strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.30 showed there is regular in-house training on digital preservation and conservation of library resources. For the statement 'There is adequate provision of facilities like lighting and stable electricity' 57 respondents (34.3%) strongly agree, 101 (60.8%) agree, 8 (4.8%) disagree, and no respondents strongly disagree. The mean score of 3.25 showed fair agreement with the adequacy of provision of facilities. Finally, 44 respondents (26.5%) strongly agree, 54 (32.5%) agree, 40 (24.1%) disagree, and 28 (16.9%) strongly disagree that the library sets up and maintains automation systems. The mean score of 2.61 showed a fair agreement with the statement.

H_01: There will be no significant influence of institutional support on preservation and conservation in University libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria

Table 4.5a-c Influence of institutional support on preservation and conservation practices

a. Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.291[a]	0.085	0.076	0.481 a: Predictors: (Constant), Institutional support

b: Dependent Variable: Preservation and conservation in University libraries in Lagos state, Nigeria

b. ANOVA[a]

Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig
1. Regression	3.520	1	3.520	15.219	0.000[b]
Residual	37.926	164	0.231		
Total	41.446	165			

a. Dependent Variable: Preservation and conservation in University libraries in Lagos state, Nigeria
b. Predictors: (Constant), Institutional support

c. Coefficients[a]

Model	Unstandardized standard	Coefficients error	Standardized coefficients Beta	T	Sig. B
1. (Constant)	2.670	0.211		12.633	0.000
Institutional support	0.241	0.062	0.291	3.901	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Preservation and conservation in University libraries in Lagos state, Nigeria

Table 4.5a-c presents the results of the simple regression analysis for the relationship between institutional support on preservation and conservation in University libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria. From the results in Table 4.5a, institutional support has a significant

relationship on the preservation and conservation in University libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria. (R = 0. 291[a], p<0.05). The coefficient of determination (Adj. R^2) of 0.085 also shows that institutional support explains 8.5% of the preservation and conservation in University libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria while the remaining 91.5% discrepancy in the preservation and conservation in University libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria. is explained by other variables which are not considered in this study.

Table 4.5b presents the results of ANOVA (Overall Model Significance) of regression test which revealed that institutional support has significant relationship with preservation and conservation practices in University libraries in Lagos state, Nigeria. This can be explained by the F-value (15.219) and high p-value (0.000[b]) which is statistically significant at 95% confidence interval. Hence, the result posited that institutional support has a weak significance influence on the preservation and conservation in University libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria. Furthermore, the results of regression coefficients in table 4.6c revealed that at 95% confidence level, a unit change in institutional support will lead to a 0.241 increases in the preservation and conservation practices in University libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria given that all other factors are held constant.

On the strength of this result (Adj. R^2=0.076, F(1,164)= 15.219,p =0.000[b]), the null hypothesis one (Ho1) which states that there will be no significant influence of institutional support on preservation and conservation practice in University libraries in Lagos State, Nigeria is hereby rejected.

Discussion of findings

From a grand mean of 3.4, the study found high preservation and conservation practices in the library. This mean that at a high level, the libraries under study practices preservation and conservation of their digital resources. It is revealed that the libraries has functional collection development policies. More so, considering the Strategies used for preservation, the libraries at a high level are strategical, well organized and prepared against disaster. However, looking at the availability of preservation and conservation resources, the libraries under study are moderately prepared. This finding tally with what has been reported by other studies conducted previously. For instance, the finding in this study shows there is an improvement in library preservation and conservation practices because its findings negates a long time ago, findings of a survey of preservation and conservation

practices and techniques in Nigerian university libraries in 2008 where it was revealed that preservation and conservation techniques, though adopted in the university libraries were not effectively in use even with preservation polices in the libraries. The study also revealed that cleaning and dusting of library materials is the most commonly used technique. The study established that there are indeed incidences of deterioration with the most prominent results being books becoming torn and cracking and scratching. Further results showed that though some of the libraries adopt and use some digital preservation techniques, they are still not effectively used (Olatokun 2008).

In a related study on Disaster Preparedness Plan and Response Strategy as a Panacea for Effective Information Resources Preservation in University Libraries in North East, Nigeria found that the types of disaster preparedness plan in university libraries in North East, Nigeria are; creating and updating contingency plans, insurance of library collections, identifying alternative storage sites and providing adequate fire protection apparatus (Abdullahi, Nwachukwu & Ahmad, 2023). This support the findings of this study where it was found that most of the libraries understudy are insured and have library policies which includes disaster management plans.

However, against the findings of this study is a study on disaster management in central library, Tezpur university where it was revealed that except as a part of institutional insurance policy for library print collection, there is no written disaster control plan and no disaster management team in the library, which are essential elements that must exist in the library to prevent, fight, and manage disasters[3]. More so Another study that tries to find out the challenging issues facing preservation and conservation of library information resources found that Lack of preservation and conservation policies (M=3.35, SD=0.98) was the biggest problem faced by academic libraries at federal universities in South-South Nigeria when it came to preserving and conserving library materials. Next was the lack of or inadequate equipment and materials for preserving library materials (M=3.04, SD=0.92), and last, the insufficient training of library employees on proper measures of preservation and conservation of library resources (M=3.06, SD=0.85). Worst of all was a lack of concern for long-term archival and conservation planning on the part of library administration (M=2.63, SD=1.01) (Alex-Nmecha & Okoro 2020)

Summary

The findings of this study which investigated the influence of institutional support and digital competence of librarians on digital preservation and conservation in libraries are as follows:

1. The study found that digital preservation and conservation in libraries was high with regards to availability of necessary policies, well-coordinated and regularly implemented strategies as well as provision of necessary resources.

2. The study reported a very high support from the library's parent's body both financially and technically. However, moderate perception were found with regards to adequacy of technological infrastructure and regular setting of automation systems.

3. The first hypothesis found that institutional support have significant positive influence on digital preservation and conservation practices among librarians.

Conclusion

The study confirmed a commendable level of institutional support within academic libraries. This support was evident in various aspects, including policies, budgets, and recognition of the importance of preserving and conserving digital resources. However, a notable gap was identified in the automation of processes and the provision of necessary technological infrastructure. This gap represents an area where further attention and investment are needed to fully harness the potential of digital preservation and conservation efforts.

Recommendation

1. Academic institutions should prioritize the automation of processes and provide the necessary technological infrastructure to support digital preservation efforts. This includes digitization, metadata management, and digital asset storage systems.

2. Librarians and library administrators should advocate for a sustained commitment from their respective institutions to prioritize digital preservation and conservation as integral components of their academic mission.

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