

Valued Information Resources, Information Carrying Capacity and Measures Adopted to Curb Insurgency Attacks on Academic Library's Resources in North-eastern Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The mandate of an academic library has placed it as one of the important organ of a tertiary institution. These institutions in north-eastern Nigeria are under threat by insurgence who attack public facilities in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. This paper adds to the voices calling for deliberate measures to nib the destruction of valued [information] resources. The study adopted a survey research design to administer a structured questionnaire on the heads of institutional libraries owned by the three states, a federal university and a federal polytechnic to elicit information on the adopted measures to curb loss in an event of insurgent attack on the facilities. The findings revealed a holding of 379,079 information resources spread among the six academic libraries studied. These are possessions in print, and non-prints acquired over the years which when loss may be hard to recover. Use of technologies for preservation and conservation was recommended in addition to utilising web-based storage as well as taking advantage of new media collaborating platforms such as digitisation to serve as emancipating measures.

Keywords: Academic library, Adamawa State, Borno State, digitisation, institutional roles, repository, Yobe State

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I. INTRODUCTION

The north-eastern part of Nigeria since 2009 has experienced incessant attacks on government properties and public places. The crisis transformed from speculated insurgence into speculated terrorism just before the second quarter of 2010. The scale was so terrifying and rampant in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States (Adedire, Ake & Olowojolu, 2016, Uzochukwu, 2014). According to Adedire, Ake & Olowojolu (2016) the holistic approach adopted to curb the menace was yet to achieve its aim due to multidimensional factors. The societal fabrics and cohesion have changed in these states; schools were closed, religious, businesses and social events ceased to operate at optimal levels, and by far threatening the cohesive existence of the north-eastern region. The country became bedevilled by increased humanitarian crisis.

The entire schools (primary, secondary and tertiary) in these states were also not spared in terms of attacks and destruction. Of particular concern are academic libraries found in tertiary institutions which serve as institutional repositories for intellectual deposits. These libraries are important organs of the institutions because they support and facilitate curriculum implementation, students and faculty members by providing their appropriate information needs, and the information needs of communities surrounding the tertiary institution.

Depending on the tertiary institution, the libraries provide literacy instructions; reference, research, build community of scholars and promote their relationships. Academic libraries keep up with scholarship trends and technological advancements necessary to ease access and retrieval of information resources. These libraries are to students and faculty members support hubs and community information centres because they provide links to the internet, library collections and readers advisory services. Other roles are not limited to facilitating scholar

communication, building responsive collection; providing bibliographic and digital services as outreaches, and bridging gaps caused by dearth of information.

The focus on academic library is a reiteration that the study area (north-eastern Nigeria) subjectively and objectively is severely in a state of emergency to save its indigenous information collections and perhaps, because the libraries are important organ that support and salvage information resources of value from destruction, pilfers and mutilators and can do more to avert attack(s) that could lead to matchless loss. It is also worthy to note that, academic libraries look at the immediate information needs and posterity of scholars to sustain their expend efforts, and the conservation and preservation of these resources.

The concern for intervention of resources and sustainability in an endemic period and location such as the north-eastern Nigeria is apt to nab the claws which have defiled political, economic, social, cultural, educational and communal approaches to resolve the challenges. For instance, the incessant attacks on religious places, markets and recently schools call for the repositioning of academic libraries beyond the localisation of holdings in these institutions. It has become necessary to ensure that the documented human knowledge and rare cultural heritages of the region that have been collated over many centuries are preserve and conserved.

It is not farfetched, therefore, to reposition these repositories found in the region to avert intellectual crisis due to dearth of information that could also deter informed decision making when the need arises. The deployment of technologies should change the precursors and fortune of the region. The popular deployed technology comprised digitisation, use of cloud storage and subscribing to consortiums.

1.0.1 Brief on the study areas

A brief background on the states revealed that Adamawa State with capital at Yola came into being in 1991 when Taraba State was carved out from Gongola State. Yola incidentally is also the emirate capital of the Adamawa emirate that was founded around 1841 by Modibo Adama, a commander of Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio. Adamawa State has the Sukur UNESCO world heritage list inscription (Brown, Mitchell, & Beresford, 2005), and has the first airport and town to have electricity in Nigeria (Kemper, 2012). Borno State capital is Maiduguri was created in 1976 as a split of north-eastern state. The state is described as the endurance of traditional political institution in Africa because Emirs of the former Kanem-Bornu played significant part in the politics of the area for nearly 1,000 years (Barkindo & Dierk, 1988). The Kanem-Bornu is one of the reputable African trading empires ruled by the Sef dynasty from the 9th to the 19th Century. Yobe State was created on 27 of August, 1991 out of the old Borno State. Damaturu is the state capital. It is seldom detached from Boko haram because the leader Abubakar Shekau was born in Shekau village of the State (McElroy, 2013).

Technology-based institutions dominated the region in the 1970s and early 1980s, during the periods two polytechnics (Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri, and Federal Polytechnic, Mubi) were established and a University of Maiduguri. It was in 1981 that a University of Technology was established (Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola). Though, the first tertiary institution was the University of Maiduguri in 1975. Adamawa State University, Mubi and Federal University Gashua were added in 2002 and 2013 respectively perhaps to alleviate the admission pressure already mounting on the earlier institutions.

The states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe have greatly suffered due to the insurgency which has become a menace that should be curbed. A state of emergency was declared in the states (BBC News, 2013). The aim was to stop the carnage and destruction of lives and properties. The state of emergency was declared on 14th May, 2013 (The New York Times, 2013). In specific terms, the Executive governor of Borno State in July of 2014 said that “176 teachers had been killed and 900 schools destroyed since 2011” (AllAfrica.com, 2014), most schools in the state were closed after the Chibok Schoolgirls saga in April, 2014 (Olugbode, 2013). In Yobe State, on 18th June, 2013 nine students taking examination were killed, the school buildings were also not spared as fuel was brought to set schools on fire. On 6th July, 2013 gun men attacked a secondary school in Mamudo killing about 42 people, who comprised of students and staff (McElroy, 2013).

1.0.2 Understanding the consequences of distorted information resources

Attacks on schools, cultural and heritage centres, antiquities and valuable intellectual assets is endemic to knowledge management, institutional and intellectual growth, the people and whatever should be bequeath to the next generations. Other dangers comprised escalated costs for the evacuation of information resources to safety and overwhelming disorganisation of arranged, organised and described collections. These challenges cannot be undermine because the consequences is great to already paid human hours and failed competences due to the distortions.

To respond to the challenges, measures such as the benefits which are derived from environmental scanning is necessary, first to provide tools that are standardised and can harness total or substantial part of acquired information as they are conserved and preserved. Secondly, to be able to provide global visibility, access and retrieval of these resources, and finally to be obtain spaces in the cloud where they could be saved. Environmental scanning in this context refer to valuable process that took note of the strength, weakness,

opportunity and threats that taking cognisance and purposively taking responsibility can overturn. The utilisation of SWOT analysis is to galvanise the categorization and prioritization of the process and available tools for the most appropriate and affordable measure against intellectual resources loss. Underscore different opinions proffered from both the internal and external environments of academic libraries as measures to avert loss of valuable information resources.

In distinct circumstance, the focus of both the internal and external scans are huge and valuable. For instance, the external scan help to identify what constitute the threats, and what the threats institute ultimately to the effective and efficient performance of the libraries to salvage acquired resources valued for the information they provide. The internal library's organs promote services such as access, retrieval and storage. Internal scan are pertinent because they are not limited to responsive services derived from using the space, equipment and personnel of the academic library's when meeting patrons expectations. Internal scan are all the inevitable processes that start with the formulation and implementation of the said services and resource development frameworks consistent with the changing environmental conditions as well as instituting modifications that could evaluate the performance of the academic library's in a face-off of valued information loss.

Academic library internal environments comprise the physical assets such as the library collections, types of services rendered, patronage patterns and space. There is the technological environment which is dependent on the readiness of the library personnel to render services using technologies, and reflect on their competences to surf the different platforms supported by technologies to reach out to their respective patrons. Financial disposition of academic library constitute another aspect of the internal environment which dictate the library performance in terms of acquisition, organising, planning and execution of set objectives.

The external environment of the academic library can be narrowed to the micro and macro environments to distinguish the library hosts. For instance, the micro environments consist of the immediate environment hosting the library and comprise the parent institution and its principal officers whose decisions influence the library directly. The academic library macro environment comprised the surroundings that is made up and not limited to the library's patrons, location of the library, leadership and composition of resources and personnel diversity. Both the micro- and macro-environments influence environmental scans and the choice of facilitating services, monitoring, information seeking and responsive dissemination patterns, evaluation of general and specific objectives initiated to guide the library strategic, tactical and operational managers decisions making.

The micro- and macro-scanning exposes events, trends, issues and expectations of all the stakeholders. That could justify the reliance of the academic library inclusive thrust.

1.2 Objectives

- Ascertain valued information resources in academic libraries in north-eastern Nigeria
- Examine the information carrying capacity of academic libraries in institutions of north-eastern Nigeria
- Examine the measures adopted to curb loss of valued information resources in academic libraries in north-eastern Nigeria

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Valued information resources in academic libraries

Valued information resources depends on standard established in academic libraries is not limited to websites, databases, books, monographs, periodicals, government publications, encyclopaedias, magazines, excerpts from radio, television, newspapers and electronic resources. The value attached to each of the resources or the supporting gadgets depend on the audience, facilitation, type of information need and services rendered. A very important and value information sources are people because libraries are there to serve them, and they evaluate the performance of the libraries as well as their personnel as they encounter them any time, they are using the academic libraries. Patrons are presumed here to be consistent and reliable when. For instance, patrons evaluate collections such as encyclopaedias which provide good introductory notes of wide range of subjects. The rampant institutional websites which serve as a gatekeeper that contained and provides relevant, current, accurate, purposeful and authoritative information concerning the institutions and its organs. For in-depth information, books are acquired particularly those authored by authorities in the subject and published by reputable presses. Books acquired by academic libraries follow a deliberate and consistent process.

Other valued information resources are articles; a general term used for journals, magazines, newspaper and acquired periodicals. These categories of valued information resources are very specific in terms of topics and frequency. Articles are written by professionals and are reviewed before being published. Monographs are valued information resources in academic libraries because of their characteristics to be able to stand on its own – takes forms of essays, books and not a part of a series. The internet is a controversial but highly valued information resource of the academic libraries. It is a platform that hosts all kinds of information free of charge or for fee. The internet supports online books, databases, journals, videos, images, and sound and reference

resources. Academic libraries valued indexes and abstracts that serve as pointers, surrogates and support research and bibliographic descriptions. Academic libraries are compelled to acquire databases connected to or used off-line the internet. The off-line databases acquire come in storage media such as external disk drive, flash drivers, CD-ROMs and tapes. Not left out are electronic versions of books, articles, monographs, images and sounds that can be read, download, printed and stored using electronic driven devices. The premium placed on valued information resources comprises the divergence and opportunities that the library can exploit in particular instances such as the situation affect the areas of this study. By just being part of academic libraries networks the academic libraries can reshape the contextualization of the people and institution the library serves. For prognosis, academic libraries in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States do not need to reinvent measures against terrorist attacks because they are not predictable but guarantee tremendous loss (Adedayo, 2014). Therefore, academic libraries in these states are encouraged to leverage on the different electronic platforms of the internet to host their valued information resources that the institutions have rights to safeguard against their loss.

2.2 Information carrying capacity of academic libraries

Academic libraries are libraries found operating in educational institutions of higher learning such as universities, colleges, polytechnics and monotechnics. Academic libraries support the curriculum (teaching and learning) and research (Curzon & Quinonez-Skinner, 2009). The concern on information carrying (volume of resources) of academic library according to Ogunmodede and Mafelu (2012) is guarantee the library possession contribute to development of human resources and meet the information needs of past and current trends. Note that these collections have direct impact on library services and patronage, materials for class and further reading and access to print and electronic resources. Incidentally, the volume as strength is inversely related by access. When an academic library resources are highly accessible, it become effective and efficient, and reflect the focus of the parent institution.

Academic library holding reflect also the institutional approved curriculum in the pattern of the library collection development, relationship between the library and faculty members, and between the library and the community of users it serves. Therefore, academic library capacity project the collection niche – value information (original papers, artwork, artifacts and other specific works) that have identified the needs of faculty and student, mission of the institute and its academic programmes as well as the community of users.

The priority of inclusive library collection for diverse information carrying media is to protect the resources leveraging on these formats and the platforms to ensure and promote access. Activities such as reprography, digitization and subscription to electronic resources have indeed changed library resources and affect information carrying capacities directly or indirectly. The concern for balance information carrying capacity in academic libraries apart from the promotion of flexibility also translate to impact of forms which contribute to information description generation (metadata), dissemination and use of surrogates.

In most instances, academic libraries are encouraged to offer privilege services that are accessible virtually in additional to the traditional practices which require patron to be physically present (McCabe & Person, 1995). The transformation of academic libraries into digital collection centre is unprecedented by use of technologies that facilitate effective service delivery. These technologies also impact on academic library's focus to advance areas such as intellectual resources harvesting, storage and uploading local contents. According to Watters (2011) most academic libraries are turning into learning commons, that is, academic libraries that encourage sharing of information using appropriate digital technologies remotely, the libraries educate online, collaborate, socialise, study as well as create their own local content. These are among the numerous advantages which use of technologies by academic libraries avails. Another advantage and very pertinent with the use of technologies is the guaranteeing and provision of platforms that help to curtail and totally end intellectual information resources loss due to physical damage. Academic libraries where technologies are adopt/adapt help library personnel and patrons to benefit from other people's innovativeness.

2.3 Measures adopted to curb loss of valued information resources

Adopting measures to prevent damages and loss of valued information resources is imperative (Isebe, 2014). Academic libraries measure to curb loss of valuable information resources should depend on experience gained or that shared by others. These experiences factor what should be repositioned and to recognise that repositioning of academic library is continuum.

The measures are expected to justify the strategic roles and position of academic libraries in affairs of scholarship, protection and sustenance of academic activities and services that facilitate access to the information needs of stakeholders served. Repositioning of academic library to a large extent should focus on the prioritisation of measures that do not hinder the flow of information which is the crux of library (Herold, 2001).

Repositioning of academic libraries like every other strategic activity is systematic (follows a timeline and takes cognisance of internal and external environments), and dependent on factors such as funding, technological infrastructure and personnel skills sets. Issue of security and legislation, knowledge management,

virtual presence/services, information storage and retrieval (real-time), and learning support that happens spontaneously cannot be overlooked for futuristic approaches.

Internal and external scanning are veritable tools used as measures to help libraries curb loss and approach with global appeal. The internal and external scans synthesised results can provide the leeway to curb loss of valued information resources. The data collection processes are deliberate and anticipate expectations as well as seek steps of actions. Internally, librarians can be engaged with content curation, gathering and syntheses of acquired statistics from user focused services. According to Gomathi and Thilagavathy (2016), and Walters and Skinner (2011) content curation help with the seeking, making sense and sharing of sorted and filtered information to patrons and communities needing information in simplified and comprehensible formats.

External scan from the synthesis of statistics repositions the library to respond efficiently, effectively and timely from the plight of the users after collation and interpretations. Failing to acknowledge the impact of external scan was described by Maidabino and Zainab (2011) devastating. Perhaps because these scans help to provide the implications of action or inaction and other liability that could befall the library. Losing information resources could cause great disservice, averting further colossal loss of irreplaceable valued information resources through these scans have become inevitable because losses of between one to ten (1 to 10) per cent are recorded annually by several academic libraries after stock taken is huge (Okoye, 2000).

The understanding prevalent and interrelation consequences particularly among the internal and external environments is important to academic libraries when making implementable suggestions and measures that can curb loss of valued information resources. And from these corrections, specific measures can be formalised against grievance of permanent information resources loss (Abioye & Adeowu, 2013).

Macha (2012) for instance opined that development of institutional repository respond to both primary and secondary research, archiving, preservation, and interoperability, and basic for the harnessing of whatever resource that is hosted on the institutional website can hasten the globalisation of holdings. The academic libraries in the north-eastern Nigeria cannot afford to be left behind to help them recover from other institutions who have harvested such information.

III. METHODOLOGY

Survey research design was adopted. The design enabled the study to collect data from the head of tertiary institutional libraries to explore academic libraries information carrying capacities, valued information resources and measures adopted to curb loss of information resources in the face of terrorist attacks in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. A structured questionnaire was administered to the heads of academic libraries owned by the states and federal government in the states to elicit information. The sample size were a federal university, a state own university and federal polytechnic in each of the states. Elicited information was analysed descriptively.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The findings of the study were based on the following: Information carrying capacity of academic libraries in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States, types of valued information resources in academic libraries of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States and Measures adopted to curb loss of valued information resources of academic libraries in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States.

Table 1: valued information resources in academic libraries in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States

Valued information resources	UMM	MAY	RPM	FUG	ASU	FPM
Books (print, non-print and periodicals)	√	√	√	√	√	√
Correspondence					√	√
Cultural documents	√				√	
Scientific, public and administration resources	√			√	√	
Traditional medicinal information documented				√		
Monuments	√				√	
Works of arts					√	
Government documents	√	√		√	√	

Source: Field survey, 2019

Key: UMM – Ramat Library, University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri; MAY – Ibrahim Babangida Library, Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola; RPM – Ramat Polytechnic Library, Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri; FUG – University Library, Federal University, Gashua; ASU – Abdurrahman Ghaji Library, Adamawa State University, Mubi; FPM – Professor Jibril Aminu Library, Federal Polytechnic, Mubi

Table 1 revealed the different types of valued information resources acquired and in possession of the selected academic libraries the three states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. These resources are in print and non-print formats (electronic resources). The results show that RMP and FPM do not have government documents, whereas UMM, MAY, FUG and ASU claimed they are of value. Abdurrahman Ghaji Library in ASU possessed works of Arts. The University Library in FUG possessed traditional medicinal information documented. For correspondence collections, Abdurrahman Ghaji Library in ASU and Ramat Poly Library in RPM claimed to have substantial quantity containing valued information. These results showed that diverse collections were acquired over the years and of value. Therefore, true that any loss could cause great distress and negates the academic libraries from performing their responsibilities and attain their objectives.

Table 2: Information carrying capacity of academic libraries in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States

Name of institution	Name of library	Academic Library information carrying capacity (print and electronic resources)
Adamawa State University, Mubi, Adamawa State	Abdurrahman Ghaji Library	11,230
Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, Adamawa State	Professor Jibril Aminu Library	530
Federal University Gashua, Yobe State	University library	9,000
Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola, Adamawa State	Ibrahim Babangida Library	56,351
Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri, Borno State	Ramat Polytechnic Library	-*
University of Maiduguri, Borno State	Ramat Library	301,968

Source: Field survey, 2019

*Records not declared

Ramat Library in University of Maiduguri (301,968) has the largest volume of information carrying capacity among the institutions in north-eastern states, following is Ibrahim Babangida Library in Modibbo Adama University (56,351). Federal Polytechnic Mubi has the least information carrying capacity (530) because the data for Ramat Polytechnic was not declared. In all, however, the study areas produce a volume of 379,079 information resources among the five institutional information repositories that participated in the study. There are other institutions that comprise private, state and federally owned in these three states. The three fell within the scope of the study selection criterion that excluded private institutions because their owners will do everything humanly possible to protect the institutions which may not be with government who may be slower to nib the challenges.

Table 3: Measures adopted to curb loss of valued information resources by academic libraries in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States

Measures explored to elicit support from stakeholders academic libraries	UMM	MAY	RPM	FUG	ASU	FPM
Internal environmental scanning		√		√		
External environmental scanning						
Using both internal and external environmental scanning	√		√			√
Measures adopted against destruction of physical structure						
Using modern storage facilities/platform (cloud computing, drop box)	√		√	√	√	√
Digitization of traditional information resources					√	
Decentralization of archived document centres					√	
Collaborating with other institutions outside the state					√	
Duplicating copies of original information carrying resources they have the copy right					√	

Source: Field survey, 2019

Key: UMM – Ramat Library, University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri; MAY – Ibrahim Babangida Library, Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola; RPM – Ramat Polytechnic Library, Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri; FUG – University Library, Federal University, Gashua; ASU – Abdurrahman Ghaji Library, Adamawa State University, Mubi; FPM – Professor Jibril Aminu Library, Federal Polytechnic, Mubi

Table 3 reported the measures adopted to elicit support from stakeholders and measures against destruction of the physical infrastructure by academic libraries in the study areas. These approaches were aimed at helping the libraries to harness the best suggestions/recommendation that could reposition the libraries against loss of valued information resources. Ibrahim Babangida Library in MAY and University Library in FUG used the internal environmental scanning principles, whereas Ramat Library in UMM, Ramat Poly Library in RPM and Professor Jibril Aminu Library in FPM leveraged on both internal and external environmental scanning principles. Abdurrahman Ghaji Library in ASU is yet to exploit any of the measure to harness the best ways to position the library.

The measures adopted to curb loss of physical infrastructures supported the use of technological support (modern storage) facilities/and platforms (cloud computing, drop box, etc) because of the benefits globalising the collections. However, only Abdurrahman Ghaji Library in ASU digitize traditional information resources, collaborate with other institutions outside the state and duplicate copies of original information carrying valued resources they have copy rights over. None have any form of decentralized archival document centre that can serve as alternative source for storing and retrieval of valued information resources in case of any kind of inflicted damage.

V. CONCLUSION

The study concluded that considering academic library capacities, types of their information resources and institutional roles are attributes that put-on course guidelines for curbing loss of valued information resources in the face of terrorist attacks on the physical institutional structures in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe in the north-eastern Nigeria.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusion and the findings of this paper, the following recommendations are put forward:

1. With over 379,000 valued information resources from local contents and diaspora among the six (6) institutions studied, the volume is enormous. The use of technology for the preservation and conservation is pertinent to avert loss. Therefore, the principal officers of the tertiary institutions are encouraged to support the head of libraries with funds and good will to acquire appropriate technologies for the digitalisation, retrospective conversions and the hosting of these resource on the world wide web.
2. With diverse types of valued information resources which is an indication of unique peculiarities among the academic holdings it has become onus on the heads of these academic libraries to form parallel collaboration networks to pool these resources together to promote their services and attain the objectives of their parent institutions and be able to salvage/restore loss as these resources are also hosted by other members collaboration.
3. The institutional roles to curb loss of valued information resources cannot be overemphasised, however noted to vary considerably among the tertiary institutions. It is recommended that efforts expended comply with standards prescribed that support digital objects generation, conversion, conservation, storage and retrieval.

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