

**ANALYSIS OF COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF  
INFORMATION RESOURCES IN SELECTED UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN  
LAGOS AND OGUN STATES, NIGERIA**

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**ABSTRACT:** *The central mission of library is to collect, organize, preserve, conserve and provide access to knowledge and information resources in order to make them available to users. However, acid paper-based information resources, poor storage environment, theft, mutilation of information resources in academic libraries have affected information resources and learning in many tertiary institutions. This study analyzed collection development and conservation of information resources in selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria. Multi stage sampling technique was used to select 333 library personnel from six universities in Lagos (University of Lagos, Lagos State University and Caleb University) and Ogun (Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Olabisi Onabanjo University and Bells University of Technology) states. Structured questionnaire was used in obtaining data on socio-economic characteristics of the respondents, collection development, conservation methods and factors necessitating conservation of information resources in the libraries. Data were analysed using frequency counts, percentages, mean, Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and Multiple Regression. This study concluded that the library collection development helps in conserving information resources in University Libraries in order to reflect the library mission. Therefore, the study recommended that collection development policies should be given serious consideration in building library collections, while adequate funding, provision of resources and good maintenance culture should be encouraged in University libraries in order to conserve the information resources.*

**KEY WORDS:** collection development, conservation, information resources, university libraries

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**INTRODUCTION**

The primary function of the library is to; acquired, processed, organized, preserved and

conserved the printed and non-printed information materials for the utilization by the users. Library information resources refer to all those media for storing information such as textbooks, journals, newspapers and magazines, patents and standards, handbooks and manuals, directories, gazetteers, encyclopedias, atlases and maps, theses and dissertations, calendars and diaries, vertical files, films, tapes, optical discs, magnetic tapes, videos, microforms, and others. Similarly, library information resources can simply be defined as book materials, microforms and electronic information materials capable of satisfying users needs. (Popoola, 2013). He also points out that security and conservation of information materials in the library was thought to be relevant to rare book materials by librarians and curators of collection of unique materials. But, library information materials are bound to deteriorate or breakdown with time through the aging process, and to replace them may be difficult and expensive if not practically impossible. Deterioration of information resources and maintaining their holdings is the problem faced by the modern-day academic libraries. Information resources in some of these academic libraries have deteriorated to the point of losing their scholarly contents. It must be noted that majority of information materials in several academic libraries and information centre's in some African Countries are both in condition of brittleness and shabby as the result of conservation problem.

Conservation as elucidated in a more specific term by the American Institute for Conservation (2012) refers to the physical treatment of individual items usually after some damage have occurred. Similar to this, the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) (2011) defined conservation to denote those specific procedures involved in safeguarding library and archival resources from degeneration, spoil and decompose, these as well as techniques formulates by technical staff. Moreover, Alhassan (2013) expressed that conservation is a phase where materials are properly processed and stored for easy retrieval any time the need arises. Resources in most academic libraries in Nigeria are either in the state of brittleness or disrepair. In spite of all these, the decline of library resources forms the basic problem of libraries and gives rise to preservation and conservation needs.

Collection development is rationalized by the changing model information resources publishing and sales requiring processes such as online selection of resources, item verification, order preparation, collection evaluation and assessment, budget management, and subscription renewal. Papatheodorou (2006) points out that transformation of resources from print has brought forth new models of searching and delivery of information. According to Muya (2014) this is likely to continue since library users own smart phones iPad and tablets and are constantly seeking for information and as such tools such as social media, online and hybrid learning and mobile devices will be the defining factor in the new environment. The addition of electronic materials in academic library's collection has been increasing over the years across most subject disciplines. Khan & Bhatti (2016) speaks on the similarity between the old form of collection development and collection development of electronic resources. They paint a picture of the need to collaborate and improving of skills for collection development staff.

Collection development is the method of building and upholding the library's whole resources collection, including print, non-print, electronic and remote formats. It encompasses the formulation of regulation and procedures, collection evaluations, harmonization of acquisition activities, needs assessments, selection, resource sharing and de-selection, budget formulation and allocation. According to Aina (2007) it is one of the fundamental functions of the Library and Information Profession. It involves selection and acquisition of information resources that will enable library and information practitioners to perform their myriad functions to the users effectively. Akewukereke (2011) further explained collection development as a conscious and orderly expansion of a collection based on Library objectives. Similarly, Peggy (2009) cited collection development as a term that represents the procedure of thoroughly building of library collections to serve the learning, coaching, researching, entertaining, and other library users needs. The author further stipulated that the collection development goal of any in any organization is equipping the library with resources that will meets the relevant needs of its clients within the restrictions of its financial and human resources (Peggy, 2009). Therefore, to attain this goal as suggested by the author, each division of the collection must be developed with an application of resources consistent with its relative importance to the mission of the library and its patron's needs.

Therefore, the very core aspect of collection development is that of conserving of information resources. Library and Information resource are undoubtedly very expensive, thus, there is need to ensure that they are always in good condition (Aina, 2007). Otherwise, it will be a great waste of time and fund to select and acquire materials without taking adequate and proper steps to ensure their longevity. Adomi (2008), posit that conservation activities are to minimize deterioration or prevent changes to the collection. This includes maintenance of buildings (house), providing safe storage space, ecological control, security, disaster preparedness planning, handling skills training and exhibition conditions. One of the main goals of the library is to make its collections available for use by eligible users. This must be balanced at all times with the need to ensure the conservation of the resources.

### **Statement of the problem**

For information resources to serve the purposes for which they are collected, they need to be conserved in such a way that their life spans are prolonged so as to sustain their utilization by the academic communities. Information resources in academic libraries are partly print materials that can deteriorate due to several reasons and this can obstruct the permanent access by users when needs arises. It has also been observed in these university libraries, that their library resources are always very dirty and dusty. Some of these library resources have lost their back cover and as a result of this, they are just floating in the shelves as they can no longer be identified with their area of specialization and some are mutilated. The spine of some of these resources (book) has been pulled out as a result of rough handling by the users. It has also been observed that some of these resources have no hard-cover, they are not laminated and there is no provision for duplicate copies for them. Sometimes, the pages of these resources will be incomplete as a result of constant and frequent use by

the users which lead to missing of information contained in them. That was why the study sought to analyse collection development and conservation of information resources in selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria.

### **Research objectives**

The research objectives of the study were to:

1. investigate collection development policies in selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria;
2. ascertain the collection development status in selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria;
3. examine the activities and techniques used in conservation of library materials in selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria;
4. investigate the conservation method employed by these selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria;
5. examine the prevailing factors necessitating collection development, preservation and conservation of information resources among library personnel in selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria;

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Conservation is the consistence utilization of innate resources. Sustainable use means managing and using resources carefully so that it may last for future generation. On the other hand, the world book dictionary vol.1 describes conservation as the action of conserving, preserving, and protecting from loss or from being used up and avoidance of waste. In agreement with this, the 21st Century Webster's International Encyclopedia (2012) explain that conservation is management and protection of the earth's natural resources to guarantee sufficient provisions for future generations. It explains that conservation aims to provide an environment free from pollution of air, water, land, and to protect the welfare of plants, animals and humans. As such, conservation is a means of protecting what ones have at hand to see that it does not get lost or damaged and to last for a very long period of time. However, Encyclopedia Americana International, vol.7 depicts conservation as the concerns and strategies surrounding the safeguarding of natural resources from overuse or degradation.

Conservation programme is based on balancing those activities designed to have the most significant and immediate impact on the condition of the collection with those designed to provide the library with a logical, unified and well-organized long-range operating programme. According to Madu (2010), the priorities of the conservation programme are to: stop destructive practices in the library; set up environmental controls in the entire stacks and departmental libraries, including systems for filtration of particulate matter and absorption of gaseous pollutants, humidity control, air-conditioning, and protection against the effects of ultraviolet rays; educate the library staff to recognize items that needs immediate action and to end inconsiderate practices; spot out and separate those resources

in instantaneous danger; separate materials too fragile to circulate; implement broad policies for the conservation of the collections; formulate specific objectives based on the policies and goals of the conservation program; and assign priorities to materials that needs treatment and develop procedures for treatment.

The information and technology era, characterized by globalization and increase in search for knowledge spotlight is the importance of university libraries. Khan & Bhatti (2016) observed that academic libraries have expanded and increased coupled with functional reorganization of key processes and practices. Collection development is one of the areas in the library that has been significantly affected by technology. According to Johnson, (2009), collection development involves building a collection that is balanced through evaluating the requirements of users by analysing the available budget and the usage statistics. Evans & Saponaro, (2005) state that collection development starts with user needs assessment then formulating appropriate policy formulation. Khan & Bhatti (2016) observe that there is a universal agreement amongst librarians on the need for libraries to have a written collection development policy. They assert that collection development policy determines extent of the collection, helps in weeding and evaluation of collections, lay down precedence, calls for dedication to organizational goals and objectives, make available inclusion and exclusion guides, get rid of individual prejudice in selection, helps to uphold evenness by familiarizing new personnel, controlling them and aids in resolving complaints.

Collection development is one of the basic roles of the Library and Information Profession. It involves selection and acquisition of information resources that will enable library and information practitioners to perform their myriad functions to the users effectively (Aina 2007). According to Johnson, (2009), collection development involves building a collection that is balanced through evaluating the requirements of users by analysing the available budget and the usage statistics. Dhanishtha, (2013) further augments this by saying that an effective collection development process should seek to address the present and future needs of a library. In a similar study, Akewukereke (2011) asserted that collection development consist of all that goes into acquiring materials which includes selection, ordering and payment. Collection development serves as a foundation upon which other library services are built. She further explained that it is a planned systematic development of a collection based on the objectives of the Library.

A collection development policy establishes ground rules for planning, budgeting, selection, and acquiring library resources. These documents provide a framework for coordinating collection development programme in libraries. Collection development policy helps the library to serve the user community better (Akewukereke, 2011). It explains the content and intent of collection development which includes the definition of the scope of a library's existing collections, plan for the continuing development of resources, outline the relationship between selection philosophy and the institution's goals, identify collection strengths, weaknesses, general selection criteria, and intellectual freedom. Adomi (2008)

stated that collection development policy guides libraries on issues and processes of selecting information materials to satisfy users' needs. It also provides criteria for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of a developed collection, in meeting the needs of the library patron. It spells out issues related to content of the collection, format, responsibility for selection and acquisition of library information resources.

A collection development policy should also concern itself with selection; planning, public relations and cooperation and resource sharing (consortia). Therefore, for the policy to be effective it should address elements such as; community profile, community needs assessment, collection goals, selection responsibility, selection criteria, acquisitions, and collection evaluation and assessment, wedding policies, and resources sharing. Agee (2005) sees collection assessment as one important measure of collection development. As important as this function is in libraries, Librarians are hardly engaged in it. It is imperative to have a written policy. A clear acquisition policy should be formulated in line with the objectives of the library and needs of the users (Adomi, 2008). It is not enough to procure, process and organize information resources for the purpose of meeting the needs of users, it is imperative to periodically assess library information resources to determine their relevance and utility at the moment

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study used descriptive survey design. The population for the study was from two federal, two states and two private universities each in Lagos and Ogun states targeting total of three hundred and fifty (350) libraryd personnel. Multi-stage sampling technique was used to select the population for this study. First, a stratified sampling technique was used and universities in Lagos and Ogun States were stratified based on their ownership status namely: federal, state and private. Secondly, purposive sampling technique was used to purposely select universities in the two cultural domains namely Lagos and Ogun States with knowledgeable experts (library personnel) on the bases of one federal, one state and one private university in each state, making a total of six universities. The universities selected were: University of Lagos (UNILAG), Akoka; Lagos State University (LASU), Ojo and Caleb University, Ikorodu in Lagos state; and Federal University of Agriculture FUNAAB), Abeokuta; Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU), Ago-Iwoye, and Bells University of Technology, Ota in Ogun state respectively.

Thirdly, random sampling technique was employed to sample 95% of all the library personnel working in the six university libraries in Lagos and Ogun states respectively totaling three hundred and thirty three (333). Kerlinger and Lee (2000) stated that where the population of the study is small in number, a larger percentage of such population could be used as sample size with a view to generalize the findings. A total number of three hundred and thirty three (333) copies of questionnaires were administered to the respondents and two hundred and sixty-seven (267) copies were correctly filled and returned. The research objectives were analysed using descriptive statistics such as

frequency counts, percentage, mean and standard deviation. The International Business Machine Statistical Package for Social Sciences (IBM SPSS) was used to analyse the data.

### Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation

**Table 1: Questionnaire return rate**

<b>Questionnaire distributed and retrieved</b>		
<b>Name of Institution</b>	<b>Number of questionnaire Distributed</b>	<b>Number of questionnaire Retrieved</b>
University of Lagos	138	127
Olabisi Onabanjo University	33	29
Caleb University	8	5
Bells University	16	14
Federal Uni. Of Agriculture Abeokuta	70	38
Lagos State University	68	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>Frequency distribution of respondents by institution name</b>		
<b>Name of Institution</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
University of Lagos	127	47.6
Olabisi Onabanjo University	29	10.9
Caleb University	5	1.9
Bells University	14	5.2
Federal Uni. Of Agriculture Abeokuta	38	14.2
Lagos State University	54	20.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work, 2019

Table 1 showed the names of institutions in Lagos and Ogun States with the number of questionnaire distributed and retrieved from the respondents. Three hundred and thirty three (333) questionnaire were distributed while two hundred and sixty seven (267) were retrieved, these represent 80.2%. The table also showed the frequency distribution of respondents by institution. One hundred and twenty seven 127 (47.6%) respondents were from University of Lagos, 29(10.9%) were from Olabisi Onabanjo University, 5(1.9%) were from Caleb University, 14(5.2%) were from Bells University of Technology, 38(14.2%) were from Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, and 54(20.2%) were from Lagos State University.

**Data analysis based on socio-economic information of respondents****Table 2: Demographic information of respondents**

<b>Frequency distribution of respondents by gender</b>		
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	155	58.1
Female	112	41.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Frequency distribution of respondents by age</b>		
<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Below 25 years	19	7.1
25-29 years	25	9.4
30-34 years	14	5.2
35-39 years	42	15.7
40-44 years	78	29.2
45-49 years	76	28.5
50 years and above	13	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Frequency distribution of respondents by marital status</b>		
<b>Marital status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Single	43	16.1
Married	203	76.0
Divorced	2	0.7
Others	19	7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Frequency distribution of respondents by educational qualification</b>		
<b>Educational qualification</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
SSCE	13	4.9
OND/HND	71	26.6
B.Sc/B.A/BLIS	140	52.4
MLIS	34	12.7
Ph.D.	9	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Frequency distribution of respondents by job description</b>		
<b>Job description</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Librarians	46	17.2
Paraprofessionals	119	44.6
Other staff	102	38.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2 showed the socio-economic information of respondents for this study, considering their gender, age, marital status, educational qualification and job description. The table revealed that there were more male 155(58.1%) than females 112(41.9%) among the



respondents of this study. Majority of the respondents 78 (29.2%) were between the age bracket of 40 – 44 years and 76 (28.5%) 45-49 years. Also, majority of the respondents 203 (76.0%) were married, 140(52.4%) had B.Sc./B.A/BLIS certificates while 34(12.7%) had MLIS certificate and 119(44.6%) were paraprofessionals.

The inference drawn from this finding was that majority of respondents were youth and middle-aged. This means that they are still active in service. Also, greater numbers of the respondents were married while majority of them were first degree holders. And in job description, respondents were mostly the paraprofessionals.

**Research objective 1:** Investigate collection development policies practiced in the selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria

**Table 3: Collection development policy practiced in university libraries**

s/n	Collection Development Policy	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{x}$	S.D
1.	The library collection development policy provides information to the stakeholders	156 58.4%	106 39.7%	2 .7%	3 1.1%	3.55	0.58
2.	The collection development policy set goals for the collection to reflect the library mission	156 58.4%	98 36.7%	6 2.2%	7 2.6%	3.51	0.67
3.	The purpose of collection development policy is to create a collection of library information resources that support the library mission	136 50.9%	121 45.3%	6 2.2%	4 1.5%	3.46	0.62
4.	Collection development policy serves as guide for maintenance and retention of library information resources in my library	143 53.6%	109 40.8%	6 2.2%	9 3.4%	3.45	0.70
5.	Maintaining the collection is one of the aspects of collection development	123 46.1%	138 51.7%	4 1.5%	2 .7%	3.43	0.57
6.	The collection development policy in my library is reviewed and revised periodically	134 50.2%	118 44.2%	7 2.6%	8 3.0%	3.42	0.69
7.	When drafting collection development policy, conversation of information resources should be put into consideration	130 48.7%	126 47.2%	5 1.9%	6 2.2%	3.42	0.65

8.	There is uniformity in procedures and appropriate balance in the library information resource collection	122 45.7%	138 51.7%	4 1.5%	3 1.1%	3.42	0.58
9.	Qualify of information resources are considered when building collection in my library	118 44.2%	140 52.4%	7 2.6%	2 .7%	3.40	0.58
10.	There is a developed checklist for selection, which assists the selectors in a sound selection process	108 40.4%	147 55.1%	6 2.2%	6 2.2%	3.34	0.64
11.	The library use selection tools such as trial offers and demonstrations from the publisher/vendor, faculty patron suggestions, discussion lists, peer library websites, and vendor exhibits at conferences for identification of information resources	100 37.5%	154 57.7%	8 3.0%	5 1.9%	3.31	0.62
12.	Selection of information resources in your library is done following established criteria	95 35.6%	162 60.7%	7 2.6%	3 1.1%	3.31	0.58
13.	In your library, there is a blueprint for the selectors to work with	97 36.3%	159 59.6%	5 1.9%	6 2.2%	3.30	0.62
14.	My library only subscribes to information resources through consortium	98 36.7%	152 56.9%	10 3.7%	7 2.6%	3.28	0.66
15.	License and business agreement are reviewed before acquisition of information resources in your library	89 33.3%	168 62.9%	5 1.9%	5 1.9%	3.28	0.59
16.	Scholarly periodicals and articles with full text are subscribe regularly in my library	86 32.2%	167 62.5%	8 3.0%	6 2.2%	3.25	0.62
17.	The library only provide access to open access journal through its internet services	85 31.8%	166 62.2%	11 4.1%	5 1.9%	3.24	0.62
18.	Ordering and acquisition of information resources product is based on benefit from licensing agreement	85 31.8%	162 60.7%	13 4.9%	7 2.6%	3.22	0.65

19.	At least 10% of library personnel are aware of collection development policy	93 34.8%	151 56.6%	12 4.5%	11 4.1%	3.22	0.71
20.	The reputation of the provider is considered before choosing information resources	80 30.0%	170 63.7%	9 3.4%	8 3.0%	3.21	0.64
21.	Currency of information resources content is considered before acquisition in my library	71 26.6%	186 69.7%	5 1.9%	5 1.9%	3.21	0.56
22.	Impact factor is used for evaluation journal titles using journal citation reports and local journal utilization reports before acquisition	88 33.0%	155 58.1%	14 5.2%	10 3.7%	3.20	0.70
23.	Ease of access for users are considered before acquiring information resources in my library	80 30.0%	166 62.2%	14 5.2%	7 2.6%	3.19	0.65
24.	Cost considerations are made before acquisition of any information resources in my library	56 21.0%	196 73.4%	10 3.7%	5 1.9%	3.13	0.55
25.	There is collection development policy in this library	33 12.4%	180 67.4%	47 17.6%	7 2.6%	2.90	0.63
<b>Weighted Mean =3.31</b>							

**Key:** SA = Strongly Agree    A = Agree    D = Disagree    SD = Strongly Disagree

To investigate collection development policies practiced in the selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria, respondents were asked to indicate the level of agreement or disagreement with the 25 items on collection development policy. A four-point Likert Scale classified into Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree and Strongly Disagree were used to elicit information from the respondents. Table 3 showed the collection development policy being practiced in the library. The library collection development provides information to the stakeholders ( $\bar{x}=3.55$ ) ranked highest by the mean score rating and was followed by the collection development policy set goals for the collection to reflect the library mission ( $\bar{x}=3.51$ ), the purpose of collection development policy is to create a collection of library information resources that support the library mission ( $\bar{x}=3.46$ ) and collection development policy serves as guide for maintenance and retention of library information resources in the library ( $\bar{x}=3.45$ ). There is collection development policy in this library ( $\bar{x}=2.90$ ) and cost considerations are made before acquisition of any information resources in the library ( $\bar{x}=3.13$ ) were the least items indicated by the respondents.

The inference drawn from this finding was that the collection development policy practiced in these selected university libraries according to majority of the respondents was that the

library collection development provides information to the stakeholders, the collection development policy set goals for the collection to reflect the library mission, the purpose of collection development policy is to create a collection of library information resources that support the library mission, collection development policy serves as guide for maintenance and retention of library information resources in the library. This was because these were the elements of collection development policy that ranked higher and above the weighted mean of 3.31.

This finding therefore agrees with Adomi (2008) which affirmed that collection development policy guides libraries on issues and processes of selecting information materials to satisfy users' needs. It also provides criteria for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of a developed collection, in meeting the needs of the library patron. It spells out issues related to content of the collection, format, responsibility for selection and acquisition of library information resources.

**Research objective 2:** Ascertain the collection development status in selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria.

**Table 4: Status of collection development in the library**

s/n	Status	VA	A	NA	$\bar{x}$	S.D
1	Engineering sciences	181 67.8%	73 27.3%	13 4.9%	2.63	0.58
2.	Medical sciences	165 61.8%	90 33.7%	12 4.5%	2.57	0.58
3.	Environmental sciences	163 61.0%	82 30.7%	22 8.2%	2.53	0.64
4.	Education	139 52.1%	96 36.0%	32 12.0%	2.40	0.69
5.	Physical sciences	105 39.3%	155 58.1%	7 2.6%	2.37	0.53
6.	Health sciences	112 41.9%	142 53.2%	13 4.9%	2.37	0.58
7.	Arts	101 37.8%	154 57.7%	12 4.5%	2.33	0.56
8.	Social sciences	137 51.3%	75 28.1%	55 20.6%	2.31	0.79
9.	Natural sciences	91 34.1%	164 64.4%	12 4.5%	2.30	0.55
10.	Earth sciences	93 34.8%	158 59.2%	16 6.0%	2.29	0.57
11.	Animal sciences	56 21.0%	59 22.1%	152 56.9%	1.64	0.81
12.	Agricultural sciences	50 18.7%	47 17.6%	170 63.7%	1.55	0.79
<b>Weighted mean = 2.27</b>						

In order to ascertain the collection development status in selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria, the respondents were asked to indicate the level of adequacy with the 12 items on the status of collection development. The result presented in Table 4 illustrates the status of collection development in the library. The findings from the respondents revealed that Engineering sciences ( $\bar{x}=2.63$ ) was ranked highest by the mean score rating as the most adequate status of collection development in the library and was followed by Medical sciences ( $\bar{x}=2.57$ ) and Environmental sciences ( $\bar{x}=2.53$ ) while Animal sciences ( $\bar{x}=1.64$ ) and Agricultural sciences ( $\bar{x}=1.55$ ) were the least status indicated by the respondents. Using the weighted mean of 2.27 as the benchmark and also from the ranking of the status, it was revealed that collection development on Engineering Sciences; Medical Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Education, Physical Sciences, Health Sciences, Arts, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Earth Sciences were adequate in selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria. This was because these were the items that ranked above the weighted mean of 2.27.

This finding corroborates Johnson (2009) and Dhanishtha (2013) assertion that collection development involves building a collection that is balanced through evaluating the requirements of users by analysing the available budget and the usage statistics. They posited that effective collection development process should seek to address the present and future needs of a library. Akewukereke (2011) also asserted that collection development includes everything that goes into acquiring materials which includes selection, ordering and payment. She noted that collection development serves as a foundation upon which other library services are built. She further explained that it is a planned systematic development of a collection based on the objectives of the Library. Meanwhile, this all important function rests solely on collection development policy.

**Research objective 3:** Examine the activities and techniques used in conservation of library materials in the selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria.

**Table 5: Conservation of information resources**

s/n	Conservation methods	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{x}$	S.D
1.	Re-binding	2 .7%	111 41.6%	141 52.8%	13 4.9%	3.42	0.74
2.	Shelving	16 6.0%	143 53.6%	97 36.3%	11 4.1%	3.39	0.78
3.	Cleaning and dusting	4 1.5%	130 48.9%	129 148.3%	4 1.5%	3.30	0.57
4.	Lamination	17 6.4%	107 40.1%	134 50.2%	9 3.4%	3.27	0.73
5.	Photocopying	5 1.9%	162 60.7%	89 33.3%	11 4.1%	3.25	0.62
6.	Binding	3 1.1%	161 60.3%	84 31.5%	19 7.1%	3.22	0.62
7.	Provision of adequate security system	6 2.2%	122 45.7%	115 43.1%	24 9.0%	3.16	0.67
8.	Reformatting	14 5.2%	107 40.1%	106 39.7%	40 15.0%	3.14	0.86
9.	Microfilming	8 3.0%	46 17.2%	168 62.9%	45 16.9%	2.94	0.68
10.	Scanning	14 5.2%	75 28.1%	156 58.4%	22 8.2%	3.09	0.75
11.	Media preservation	10 3.7%	54 20.2%	191 71.5%	12 4.5%	3.08	0.63
12.	Installation of air-conditioner	4 1.5%	117 43.8%	120 45%	26 9.7%	3.06	0.59
13.	Use of insecticides and insect repellent	7 2.6%	39 14.6%	201 75.3%	20 7.5%	3.02	0.57
14.	Refreshing (Periodical copying from one physical medium to another)	9 3.4%	44 16.5%	191 71.5%	23 8.6%	3.01	0.62
15.	Technology preservation (Replicating any old configuration of hardware and software)	8 3.0%	37 13.9%	194 72.7%	28 10.5%	2.97	0.60
16.	Migration (transfer of digital materials from one generation of computer technology to a subsequent generation)	5 1.9%	30 11.2%	205 76.8%	27 10.1%	2.97	0.54
17.	Encapsulation (Creating the original application that was used to create or access the digital object on future computer platforms)	10 3.7%	32 12.0%	192 71.9%	33 12.4%	2.92	0.62
18.	Emulation (Preserving the original application program)	12 4.5%	24 9.0%	201 75.3%	30 11.2%	2.89	0.61
<b>Weighted Mean =3.12</b>							

In order to examine the activities and techniques used in conservation of library materials in the selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria, the respondents were asked to indicate the level of agreement or disagreement with the 18 items on conservation methods used in the library. The result represented in table 5 shows the activities and techniques needed in conservation of information resources in the library. Re-binding ( $\bar{x}=3.42$ ) was ranked highest by the mean score rating as the most used method and technique of conservation of library information resources and was followed by shelving ( $\bar{x}=3.39$ ) and cleaning and dusting ( $\bar{x}=3.30$ ). Encapsulation (creating the original application that was used to create or access the digital object on future computer platforms) ( $\bar{x}=2.92$ ) and emulation (preserving the original application program) ( $\bar{x}=2.89$ ) were ranked the least by the respondents among the activities and techniques used in conservation of information resources. The inference drawn from this result was that majority of the respondents indicated that re-binding; shelving, cleaning and dusting, laminating, photocopying, binding and security were the most conservation methods used. This was because these methods were ranked above the weighted mean of 3.12 set for major conservation methods used in the library. It was also discovered that so many of these methods are applied but they are not adequately used.

In agreement with this finding, Olatokun (2008) carried out a survey of preservation and conservation practices and techniques in Nigerian University Libraries and found that the preservation and conservation technique adopted in many university libraries are not effectively in use, even when there are evidence of preservation and conservation policies. The study further revealed that cleaning and dusting of library materials is the most commonly used technique in the preservation of library materials..

**Research objective 4:** Investigate the conservation method employed by these selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria.

**Table 6: Effects of conservation methods**

s/n	Effects of conservation methods	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{x}$	S.D
1.	There are equipment for preservation and conservation of information resources in my library	110 41.2%	121 45.3%	23 8.6%	13 4.9%	3.23	0.80
2.	The assessment of conservation technique applied in my library is high	95 35.6%	141 52.8%	23 8.6%	8 3.3%	3.21	0.72
3.	There are needs for conservation of information resources in my library	97 36.3%	128 47.9%	35 13.1%	7 2.6%	3.18	0.75
4.	Quality attention is paid by my library management to conservation of information resources	57 21.3%	177 66.3%	24 9.0%	9 3.4%	3.06	0.66
5.	There are adequate infrastructures in my library.	28 10.5%	10 3.7%	164 64.1%	65 24.3%	3.06	0.70
6.	My library has trained conservator	13 4.9%	48 18.0%	131 49.1%	75 28.1%	3.00	0.81
7.	The application of conservation method in my library is adequate.	39 14.6%	95 35.6%	126 47.2%	7 2.6%	2.99	0.59
8.	There is little awareness of the importance of preservation and conservation of information resources among library	46 17.2%	177 66.3%	34 12.7%	10 3.7%	2.97	0.67
9.	There are panacea to solve problem of conservation of information resources in my library	50 18.7%	171 64.0%	30 11.2%	16 6.0%	2.96	0.73
10.	There is a maintenance and culture in my library	51 19.1%	12 4.5%	148 55.4%	56 21.0%	2.93	0.76
11.	Library management provide fund regularly for conservation of information resources	32 12.0%	61 22.8%	169 63.3%	5 1.9%	2.85	0.64
<b>Weighted mean = 3.04</b>							

**Key:** SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, D = Disagree and SD = Strongly Disagree

In order to investigate the conservation method employed by these selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria, the respondents were asked to indicate the level of agreement or disagreement with the 11 items on effects of conservation methods used in the library. The result represented in table 6 shows the effects of conservation methods. The information obtained from the respondents on the effect of conservation method employed in the library revealed that there are equipment for preservation and conservation of information resources in my library ( $\bar{x}=3.23$ ) was ranked highest by the mean score rating as the most effective conservation method employed in the library and was followed by the assessment of conservation technique applied in my library is high ( $\bar{x}=3.21$ ). There is maintenance culture in the library ( $\bar{x}=2.93$ ) and library management provide fund annually for conservation of information resources ( $\bar{x}=2.85$ ) were the least items indicated by the respondents.



From the above findings, it was discovered that indicators like the equipment for preservation and conservation of information resources in the library, the assessment of conservation technique applied in my library, there are needs for conservation of information resources in my library, and quality attention is paid by my library management to conservation of information resources were ranked above the weighted mean of 3.04 rating the effectiveness of the conservation methods. This finding therefore is in agreement with Aina (2007) who asserted that to avoid wears and tears of library materials, there is need for effective preservation and conservation measures to be put in place, also quality attention be paid by library management to conservation of information resources.

**Research objective 5:** Examine the prevailing factors necessitating collection development and conservation of information resources among library personnel in selected university libraries in Lagos and Ogun States, Nigeria.

**Table 7: Prevailing factors necessitating conservation of information resources in the library**

s/n	Prevailing factors to conservation	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{x}$	S.D
1	Inadequate finance	37 13.9%	167 62.5%	52 19.5%	11 4.1%	2.86	0.69
2	Inadequacy of equipment/material	36 13.5%	158 59.2%	63 23.6%	10 3.7%	2.82	0.70
3.	Maintenance culture	36 13.5%	156 58.4%	65 24.3%	10 3.7%	2.82	0.70
4.	Lack of cooperative and conservative venture	23 8.6%	164 61.4%	71 26.6%	9 3.4%	2.75	0.65
5.	Lack of public enlightenment campaign	15 5.6%	176 65.9%	70 26.2%	6 2.2%	2.75	0.59
6.	Quality of paper and ink	37 12.7%	142 53.2%	75 28.1%	16 6.0%	2.73	0.76
7.	Unfavorable government/economic policies	33 12.4%	143 53.6%	73 27.3%	18 6.7%	2.72	0.77
8.	Administrative policy	19 7.1%	160 59.9%	78 29.2%	10 3.7%	2.70	0.65
9.	Little awareness of the importance of preservation and conservation of information resources among library	22 8.2%	153 57.3%	83 31.1%	9 3.4%	2.70	0.66
10.	Lack of trained personnel	14 5.2%	164 64.1%	81 30.3%	8 3.0%	2.69	0.62
11.	Tropical climate	36 13.5%	125 46.8%	92 34.5%	14 5.2%	2.69	0.77
12.	Lack of preservation and conservation policies	27 10.1%	139 52.1%	90 33.7%	11 4.1%	2.68	0.71
13	Manpower and other infrastructure	17 6.4%	158 59.2%	80 30.0%	12 4.5%	2.67	0.66
<b>Weighted Mean = 2.74</b>							

In order to examine the prevailing factors necessitating collection development and conservation of information resources among library personnel, the respondents were asked to indicate the level of agreement or disagreement with the 13 items on effects of conservation methods used in the library. The result represented in table 7 shows the prevailing factors to conservation. Inadequate finance ( $\bar{x}=2.86$ ) was ranked highest by the mean score rating as the most prevailing factor necessitating conservation of information resources in the library and was followed by inadequacy of equipment/material ( $\bar{x}=2.82$ ), maintenance culture ( $\bar{x}=2.82$ ) while lack of preservation and conservation policies ( $\bar{x}=2.68$ ) and manpower and other infrastructure ( $\bar{x}=2.67$ ) were ranked the least by the respondents.

The inference drawn from the above result was that of all the prevailing factors, inadequate finance and inadequacy of equipment, maintenance culture, lack of cooperative and conservative venture and lack of public enlightenment campaign were the major prevailing factors to conservation of information resources. The finding agreed with Popoola (2013) and Olatokun (2008) revealed that the prominent inhibitors to effective and efficient preservation of information resources in academic libraries include inadequate finance, inadequate equipment/material, lack of cooperative and conservative venture, lack of adequate funding, among others.

## CONCLUSION

This study concluded based on the findings that that the library collection development helps in conserving information resources in University Libraries in order to reflect the library mission.. More so, the status of some courses like Engineering sciences; Medical sciences; Environmental sciences are high which make collection development levels in these courses to be higher than others. Regular cleaning, dusting and binding of library resources were the major preservation practices applied in preserving information resources. Also, re-binding, shelving, cleaning and dusting were the major conservation activities and techniques used in these libraries. The impeding factors necessitating conservation of information resources in the selected libraries were inadequate finance, inadequate equipment/material, maintenance and culture.

Based on the findings made and conclusions drawn from the study collection development could significantly predict conservation of information resources. Therefore, the study recommended that collection development policies should be given serious consideration in building library collections, while adequate funding, provision of resources and good maintenance culture should be encouraged in University libraries in order to conserve the information resources.

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