

MAINTENANCE CULTURE IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES OF UNIVERSITIES IN SOUTH WEST, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *This study explored maintenance culture in academic libraries of universities in south west, Nigeria by taking a cursory look at Lagos State University Library, Ekiti State University Library, Ado – Ekiti and Olusegun Oke Library of Ladoko Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho as case studies. Related literatures were reviewed on sub heading that concerns the subject matter. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. Fifty (50) questionnaires were distributed to each of the university library sampled for the study making a total of One Hundred and Fifty questionnaires (150) in all. Out of this One – Hundred and Twenty Eight (128) were returned valid. Four point Lickert scale was used to elicit responses and data collected analysed using frequency count and percentages (%). The findings of the research work indicated some causes of deterioration of library materials in south west Nigeria which are characterized by high temperature and humidity, natural ageing, mutilation by users, insect activities among others. Some of the maintenance practices identified in the course of the work as being practiced were careful removal of documents from shelves, binding of torn books, fumigation, photocopying, digitization, mounting of securities to check delinquencies among others. It was revealed that there were lack of constant training and retraining for staff on preservation, no preservation policies, inadequate funding, lack of functional library equipments for preservation and conservation among others. Based on the findings, the study recommended the following: working policies should be formulated on maintenance, training should be organized, open communication should be established between library management and university community, equipment on preservation and conservation of library materials should be procured.*

KEYWORDS: Maintenance, Maintenance Culture, Deterioration, Preservation, Conservation, Academic Libraries, Universities, South West, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Maintenance of library materials has become a global phenomenon which libraries must take cognizance of if their mission of providing support in teaching, learning and research for their universities would be met continually. This cannot be down – played due to academic libraries' unflinching role of information service provision to ever - expanding institution of higher learning they are attached to. Maintenance of library holdings is also necessitated due to the fact that these materials are subjected to use by clientele for providing their information needs and as such, they undergo wear and tear in the process. Therefore, to sustain continued use and access to these library resources, their maintenance is inevitable. Ogunmodede and Ebijuwa (2013) opined that library plays a crucial role of protecting and preserving information-bearing materials from distortion to deterioration, and eventual loss because the materials are imperative.

The Advanced Learners Dictionary defines maintenance as the process of protecting or preserving someone or something, or the process of keeping something in good condition. Culture, on the other hand, is a way of life, a lifestyle, customs, traditions, habits that portray the attributes of a person/people. Furthermore, maintenance is the combination of any action carried out to retain an item or restore it to an acceptable condition. The aim of maintenance is the prolongation of the life of an asset since its use brings about deterioration. Assets have lifespan which when tied to responsible use will in turn encompass activities that retains the asset (Onyemenam, 2014).

On the other hand, maintenance culture, according to Onyemenam (2014) is the ability of people which have become their way of life to constantly maintain in their highest efficiency all they value most in life so that they could be of greatest use to them. Maintenance culture is an attitude which is sadly lacking in Nigeria, whether in the home, office, school or factory. Mbamali (2003) added that poor maintenance culture has become a widely recognized problem in Nigeria which has poorly affected the quality of public properties. In the context of this work, maintenance culture is the activities put in place to facilitate preservation and conservation of library collections. Oghenetega & Ebele (2014) quoted Awana (1997) that to observe maintenance culture profitably in the library context, we should keep at the back of our minds and at the tip our fingers the adage that “A stitch in time saves nine”. By this we could correct or amend little or small mistakes, defects, tear or wear as soon as they are detected, not allowing them degenerate to major problem before we begin to think about solution.

The term ‘Preservation’ has been defined in the IFLA Principles for the Care and Handling of Library Materials (2010) to include “all the managerial and financial considerations including storage and accommodation provisions, staffing levels, policies, techniques, and methods involved in preserving library and archival material and the information contained in them.”. While conservation is direct physical intervention arresting or slowing down deterioration of library materials, preservation involves both the direct and indirect action. In preservation, consideration is given to every element that promotes the protection of the materials including the housing, storage system and security against such threats as theft, mutilation and poor handling. Preservation is, therefore, a more embracing concept and it includes conservation

Conservation, according to the same IFLA Principles for the Care and Handling of Library materials (2010) as “specific practices taken to slow down deterioration and prolong the life span of an object by direct intervening in its physical or chemical make-up. The composition of library information resources makes deterioration inevitable.

Academic libraries acquire information resources to meet the needs of their community. People use the collections as a result of increasing enrolments in higher education. There are shortage and decline in book budgets arising from the poor funding of the institutions as well as the high cost of books and other information resources. As a result, the libraries are left with damaged books, distorted tapes, scratched CDs, etc. (Popoola, 2003).

Statement of the Problem

African countries generally lack maintenance culture. The management of libraries and information centres in Africa has poor maintenance culture of their facilities such as telephones, electricity, water supply, library equipment, ICT facilities, information bearing materials, buildings, disaster control devices, etc. This is responsible for the quick deterioration

of their collections. It had been observed that maintenance culture is generally poor among librarians, managers of information and information users in Nigerian university libraries. Even though, in few cases, there are beautifully designed preservation policies but are poorly or not even implemented at all. This is owing to the fact that little attention is given to it. According to Oghenetega & Ebele (2014), most library managers fail to realize that preservation of information resources is a component of the issues they have to contend with. In addition, no training is given to library staff and there is a generally low awareness about preservation issues especially on the deteriorative tendencies of information materials and what could be done to prevent their deterioration. They reiterated further that in some cases, libraries do not have preservation polices and as a result, there is neither preservation plan nor program to ensure safekeeping of library collections. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to find out the maintenance culture of academic libraries in Nigerian universities.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to explore maintenance culture of academic libraries in Nigerian universities. Other specific objectives of the study are to:

- i. find out causes of deterioration of library materials in university libraries in South West, Nigeria;
- ii. examine ways of maintaining library materials in university libraries in South West, Nigeria;
- iii. determine the problems of maintenance of library materials in university libraries in South West, Nigeria;
- iv. make recommendations based on the findings on ways of maintaining library materials in university libraries in South West, Nigeria;

Research Questions

For the purpose of the study, the following research questions are generated

- i. What are the causes of deterioration of academic library materials in university libraries in South West, Nigeria?
- ii. What are the ways of maintaining academic library materials in university libraries in South West, Nigeria?
- iii. What are the problems of maintenance of library materials in university libraries in South West, Nigeria?

Causes of Deterioration of Library Materials in Nigerian University Libraries

According to the National Library of Australia (2004), one of the major crises facing libraries throughout the world is the rate of deterioration of their collections. Since library materials are composed primarily of organic materials, they are subject to natural deterioration. Most libraries' collections today are based on paper – either in book or sheet form – bound volumes, newspapers, serials, manuscripts, maps, watercolours, prints and drawings. Some libraries have an important collection of oil paintings, a small collection of objects, and a large collection of photographic materials including negatives, prints, glass negatives and photographic albums.

The collections of modern materials such as sound tapes and electronically stored information such as CD ROMs and computer discs is growing rapidly, and most libraries' collections are essentially impermanent (National Library of Australia, 2004).

Furthermore, Ogunniyi and Adejube (2014) said that many academic libraries in Nigeria today faced a lot of problems owing to the deterioration of their holdings at varying levels. Teper & Akins (2004) in their study cited in Ikegune (2016) noted that periodic roof and foundation leaks led to flooding and subsequent mould outbreaks, including a significant mould bloom in the non-book/document room and multiple stack leaks. Whereas Akussah (2006) said such agents as fungus, insects and rodents thrive in conditions where there is dust, inadequate ventilation, poor lightening, high temperature and relative humidity and they caused considerable damage through weakening of paper, staining of the non-book materials, tearing and chewing up of other document. Alegbeleye (2002) equally opined that insects also cause deterioration of information bearing materials in the library.

According to Mahmood and Mari (2013), deterioration of library materials could be caused by natural elements, such as temperature and humidity extremes, light, air-born pollutants, mold and pests and atmospheric pollutants among others and this is usually gradual and cumulative, and is always irreversible. They also pointed out that some library materials deteriorate more quickly than others because they are made from materials that are inherently unstable, such as acidic paper. Natural disasters, such as floods or fires, and building problems, such as leaking roofs or dysfunctional HVAC systems, may cause more immediate deterioration. They reiterated further those biological factors such as insects (termites, cockroaches, silverfish, book lice, moths, beetle), rodents, fungi growth are also agents of deterioration of library materials. Other causes are chemical factors and human factors.

In another vein, ogunmodede and Ebijuwa (2013) quoting Mahapatra & Chatevabarti (2003) highlighted various causes of deterioration of library materials as follows:

- Natural aging of paper since the major constituents are of organic nature. Such inevitable deterioration can be minimized to a large extent by proper housekeeping.
- In the manufacturing of paper sometimes fibres are used with low cellulose content or sometimes non - cellulose materials of the lignin type are used by which paper becomes degenerated very easily.
- Mineral and chemical compounds used as basic constituents of paper affect the durability of paper.
- Impurities in the ingredients used as basic constituents of paper cause inevitable deterioration. 5. Presence of acidic sizing materials such as, alum, rosin, etc. causes the acidic effect.
- Oxidizing agents present in the constituents of paper make the paper weak, discoloured and disintegrated. Presence of metal accelerates oxidation.
- Alkalis used in the manufacture of paper affect it if used in a higher quality. Fungi grow very easily on such paper.
- Heat and exposure to light make the paper brittle and fade in colour.
- Dust particles make the paper discoloured, invite chemical impurities and accelerate biological growth.

- Acidic impurities present in the atmosphere make the paper discoloured and degenerated.
- Sulphuric acid is formed from Sulphur dioxide present in the air.
- Moisture and humidity by which not only the tissues of paper are disintegrated but also conditions are created for biological attack.
- Films are very sensitive to excessive heat, dryness, humidity and moisture.
- Chemicals present in audio-visual materials can cause deterioration under adverse environmental condition.
- Because of the basic elements used in the audio or video tape, deterioration is caused for physical and chemical change within the materials under adverse environmental condition.

Improper handling by the users through folding, use of ink to write on it, tearing pages of books are also seen as other causes of deterioration of library information bearing materials.

Overview of Maintenance Culture among Academic Libraries in Nigerian Universities

Oghenetega and Ebele (2014) quoting Owowoh and Iwhiwhu (2010) gave reasons why materials should be preserved and conserved in the academic libraries:

- There has been a drastic reduction in the allocation of funds for books, limiting the library's ability to acquire new material. Journals, which carry the latest findings by researchers, are the worst hit. This makes preservation of existing collections essential.
- More than 90% of library materials are foreign publications. The high foreign exchange rate is a problem, and therefore librarians must preserve material they have already acquired.

Madu and Adeniran (2000) and Nwalo (2003) in their separate studies (cited in Ikegune, 2016) recommended that air-conditioners should be installed to check dust and its effect on documents. Nwalo (2003) further advocated for the use of treated cloths to prevent dust from spreading. Ikegune (2016) further argued that all archivists and librarians must learn preservation skills so that these skills can be integrated into all aspects of processing and referencing. Also, cataloguing and reference staff should routinely make note of problems since they handle the records more extensively than anyone else. They must also follow the general guidelines for careful handling of multimedia materials. For example: wearing cotton gloves, keeping the records away from food, drink, or smoke. Writing on the back of photographic prints only with a graphite pencil, using pressure-sensitive labels or tape on records, and removing extraneous objects such as paper clips, rubber bands, staples, or acidic paper (After extracting any useful information they contain) etc.

In addition, Nwalo (2000), Alegbeleye (2002), and Sekiete (2004) in their various studies have outlined that the following good housekeeping practices should be used in preserving document from deterioration in libraries:

- Cleaning the library and book stock
- Proper shelving and careful removal of documents

- Careful use of books/document during reading
- Photocopying and
- Minor repairs which do not need special tools or expensive materials.

Ikegune (2016) also identified de – acidification as one of the ways of preserving library information materials; which is removing acids from paper – based documents. Also Alegbeleye (2002) cited in Ikegune (2016) recommended the use of air-conditioners, fans and windows in ensuring good air circulation. Fumigation of the library and digitization of books format were also highlighted as means of maintain library collections.

Problems of Maintenance of Academic Library Materials in Nigerian Universities

The Universities as public places of knowledge are expected to deliver education in a holistic manner. Not everything will necessarily be taught in classrooms or lecture halls as there are some virtues that can be imbibed through other means, especially in the university setting (Kuni Tyessi, 2014). In this regard, the library is not left out as it is a central nerve of learning.

Popoola (2003) also reiterated that there were shortages and decline in book budgets arising from the poor funding of the institutions as well as the high cost of books and other information resources. As a result, the libraries are left with damaged books, distorted tapes, scratched CDs, etc. inadequate finance, inadequate preservation & conservation equipment, unfavourable government economic policies, tropical climate, lack of preservation and conservation policy, lack of manpower training, administrative problems among others (Popoola 2003; Olatokun 2010)

Oghenetega & Ebele (2014) noted that among these problems are the library collections, especially paper-based, which are acquired without allocation of adequate resources, (financial and human) to address their future deterioration, lack of proper recognition of the need for preservation and restoration of information resources. Most library managers fail to realize that preservation of information resources is a component of the issues they have to contend with. In addition, no training is given to library staff and there is a generally low awareness about preservation issues especially on the deteriorative tendencies of information materials and what could be done to prevent their deterioration. In some cases, libraries do not have preservation polices and as a result, there is neither preservation plan nor program to ensure safekeeping of library collections.

METHODOLOGY

This study is aimed at examining maintenance culture of academic libraries in Nigeria. Empirical studies will be restricted to academic libraries in south – west, Nigeria. Descriptive survey method was adopted for the study. The population of the study consist of all academic libraries in South West Nigeria, out of these three universities were purposively selected viz: Ekiti State University, Ado – Ekiti (EKSU), Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso (LAUTECH), and Lagos State University, Lagos (LASU) as samples of the study. Fifty (50) questionnaires were distributed in each of the university library making a total of one

hundred and fifty (150) distributed. Out of this one hundred and twenty – eight (128) were returned valid. Those whose working experience is less than five (5) years were deliberately expunged because they may not be conversant with maintenance practices in such libraries. Questionnaire was used as research instrument for data collection. Four – point Lickert scale (Strongly Agreed [SA], Agreed [A], Disagreed [D], Strongly Disagreed [SD]) was used to elicit responses. Data collected was analyzed using frequency counts and percentages to extract the findings of the study. Recommendations were made based on the findings of the study.

Data Analysis

Demographic Information of the Respondents

Distribution of respondents across the selected University Libraries in South West, Nigeria.

S/N	Name of Library	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Olusegun Oke Library, LAUTECH	36	28.1%
2	EKSU Library	45	35.2%
3	LASU Library	47	36.7%
	Total	128	100%

Table 1.1 above shows that there are 36 (28.1%) respondents from LAUTECH Library, 45 (35.2%) respondents from EKSU Library and 47 (36.7%) respondents from LASU Library. This showed that LASU Library had the highest number of respondents, followed by EKSU Library and the least respondents are from LAUTECH Library

Distribution of Respondents by their Units /Sections across the selected University Libraries in South West, Nigeria.

Units/ Sections	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Cataloguing & Classification	40	31.3
E – library/ ICT	15	11.7
Circulation	26	20.3
Reference	9	7
Serials	17	13.3
Reprography/ Bindery	10	7.8
Acquisition/collection development	11	8.6
Total	128	100%

From table 1.2 above, Cataloguing & Classification unit has 40 (31.3%) respondents, E – library/ ICT has 15 (11.7%) respondents, circulation unit has 26 (20.3%) respondents, reference unit has 9 (7%) respondents, serials has 17(33.3%) respondents, reprography/bindery has 10(7.8%) respondents and acquisition/collection development unit has 11(8.6%) respondents. It could be deduced that Cataloguing & Classification had the highest number of respondents followed by circulation unit and the least respondents are from reference unit of the selected university libraries.

Distribution of Respondents by their Designation across the selected University Libraries in South West, Nigeria.

Designation	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Principal Librarian	14	10.9
Senior Librarian	14	10.9
Librarian I	17	13.3
Librarian II	22	17.2
Library Officer	20	15.6
Library Assistant	41	32
Total	128	100%

On designation, Table 1.3 above indicated that there were 14(10.9%) Principal and Senior Librarians respectively, 17 (13.3%) Librarian I, 22(17.2%) Librarian II, 20 (15.6%) Library Officers and 41(32%) Library Assistants. This showed a fair distribution of all categories of library staff in the survey.

Distribution of Respondents by their Years of Work Experience across the selected University Libraries

Years	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
6 – 10	60	46.9
11 - 15	26	20.3
16 - 20	23	18
21 - 25	15	11.7
26 - 30	4	3.1
30 yrs. & above	-	-
Total	128	100%

On years of work experience, the above table showed that there were 60 (46.9%) respondents whose work experience were between 6 – 10 years, 26(20.3%) respondents whose work experience are between 11 – 15 years, 23 (18%) respondents whose work experience were between 16 – 20 years, 15(11.7%) respondents whose work experience were between 21 – 25 years and 4(3.1%) respondents whose work experience were between 26 – 30years. The respondents are experienced at varying level and the implication of this is that they would have been fully involved in the maintenance process.

Causes of Deterioration of Library Materials across the Selected University Libraries in South West, Nigeria

S/N	Items	SA		A		D		SD	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	High temperature	38	29.7	52	40.6	38	29.7	-	-
2	High humidity	28	21.9	36	28.1	64	50	-	-
3	Insect activities	21	16.4	72	56.3	24	18.8	11	8.6
4	Acidic nature of materials	61	47.7	53	41.4	10	7.8	4	3.1
5	Natural ageing	97	75.8	16	12.5	15	11.7	-	-
6	Mutilation	72	56.3	28	21.9	28	21.9	-	-
7	Fire	37	29	16	12.5	51	39.8	24	18.8
8	Technological obsolescence	19	14.8	73	57	36	28.1	-	-
9	Moulds & fungi	14	11	55	43	44	34.4	15	11.7
10	Flood	57	44.5	20	15.6	31	24.2	20	15.6

On causes of deterioration of library materials, table 1.5 above indicated that higher percentage agreed that high temperature is a cause with 38(29.7%) and 52(40.6%) respondents respectively. 28(21.9%) and 36(28.1%) respondents also agreed that high humidity is another cause. Respondents also agreed that insect activities, acidic nature of materials natural ageing and mutilation are causes of deterioration. On the other hand higher percentage of respondents 51(39.8%) and 24(18.8%) respectively disagreed that fire is a major cause of deterioration of materials in their libraries. Also, respondents moderately agreed that moulds and fungi are causes of deterioration in their library with 55(43%) respondents and 57(44.5%) and 20(15.6%) respondents agreed that flood is a cause of deterioration while 31(24.2%) and 20(15.6%) respondents disagreed.

Maintenance Practice for Library Materials across the Selected University Libraries in South West, Nigeria

S/ N	Items	SA		A		D		SD	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	Use of AC, fans & windows	65	50.8	49	38.3	14	10.99	-	-
2	Preservation training were held	40	31.3	9	7	68	53.1	11	8.6
3	Careful removal of books from shelves	49	38.3	79	61.7	-	-	-	-
4	Binding of torn materials	28	21.9	100	78.1	-	-	-	-
5	Photocopying	20	15.6	91	71	12	9.4	5	4
6	Fumigation	38	29.7	77	60.2	13	10.1	-	-
7	Digitization	39	30.5	50	39	39	30.5	-	-
8	Mounting of securities to check students' delinquencies	40	31.3	62	48.4	26	20.3	-	-
9	Keeping CDs in separate conditions	13	10.2	90	70.3	25	19.5	-	-
10	Replication of CDs in different format	-	-	39	30.4	77	60.2	12	9.4
11	Replacement of torn books	26	20.3	38	29.7	-	-	64	50
12	Creating back up for e – resources	13	10.2	90	70.3	13	10.2	12	9.3

On the ways of maintain library materials in the university libraries, use of AC, fans and windows was identified as major way with 65(50.8%) respondents strongly agreeing and 49(38.3) respondents agreeing. Conversely, higher percentage of the respondents disagreed that preservation trainings were held in their libraries with 68(53.1%) and 11(8.6%) respondents. Careful removal of books from shelves and binding of torn books were also major maintenance culture in these universities with total respondents agreeing to it. 20(15.6%) and 91 (71%) respondents agreed that photocopying was a usual maintenance practice in their libraries. Other maintenance practices they agreed to as indicated in the table above were Fumigation, digitization, mounting of securities to check delinquent behavior, keeping CDs in separate conditions. Furthermore, 77(60.2%) and 12(9.4%) respondents disagreed to the practice of CDs replication in different formats in their libraries. 64 (50%) agreed and 64(50%) disagreed that they usually replace torn books while higher number of respondents 13(10.2%) and 90(70.3%) respectively agreed to the practice of creating back up for e - resources

Problems of Maintenance of Library Materials across the Selected University Libraries in South West, Nigeria

S/ N	Items	SA		A		D		SD	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	Lack of constant training and retraining	64	50	52	40.6	12	9.4	-	-
2	Lack of preservation policies	60	46.9	58	45.3	10	7.8	-	-
3	Irregular power supply	90	70.3	26	20.3	12	9.4	-	-
4	Inadequate funds causing decline in book budget	77	60.1	38	29.7	13	10.2	-	-
5	Lack of functional library equipments for preservation & conservation	51	39.8	51	39.8	26	20.4	-	-
6	Lack of adequate attention by the institutions management	38	29.7	52	40.6	38	29.7	-	-
7	Tropical climate	38	29.7	35	27.3	55	43	-	-

From table 1.7 above, only 12(9.4%) of the respondents disagreed that there were lack of constant training and retraining while a higher percentage of the respondents 116 (90.6%) agreed. This showed that there were lack of constant training and retraining for library staff on preservation and conservation. Lack of preservation policies was another identified problem with 118(92.2%) respondents agreeing and 10(7.8%) respondents disagreeing. Other identified problems as indicated in the table were Irregular power supply with 116(90.6%) respondents, inadequate funding causing decline in book budget 115(89.8%)respondents, lack of functional library equipments for preservation & conservation, Lack of adequate attention by the institutions management and tropical climate.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

On causes of deterioration, according to the findings of the study, it was revealed that high temperature, high humidity, excessive sunlight, insect activities, acidic nature of materials, natural ageing, mutilation by users, fire, flood, moulds and fungi growth and technological obsolesce were causing factors (agents). Ikegune (2016) identified temperature, humidity, sunlight as environmental agents of non – book materials among others. He also identified acidity of paper or ink as chemical agent of deterioration, and fungi, insect, moulds, rodents as biological agents.

It was found out that some of the maintenance practices inculcated in these libraries were careful removal of books from shelves and photocopying. This is in tandem with Nwalo (2000), Alegbeleye (2002), and Sekiete (2004) in their various studies outlining good housekeeping practices in preserving documents from deteriorating in the libraries. It was also found out that preservation training were rarely or not held in these libraries. Also, it further revealed that AC, fans and windows were used, fumigation and digitization also carried out. This agrees further with Akussah (2006) that libraries and archives should put together a sustained programme of mass fumigation of documents to forestall fungi infestation. Ikegune (2016) further recommended the use of air-conditioners, fans and windows in ensuring good air circulation. It was found out that CDs were kept in separate conditions. According to Harvey (1993), non-book materials are particularly sensitive to the effect of ultra-violet light and heat. It therefore

means that many of them, if not all, should never be shelved near a window or expose to heat of light.

On problems of maintenance of library materials, it was found out that there was lack of constant training and retraining for staff and lack of preservation policies. In a similar study by Ikegune (2016) it was revealed that most of the management of the university libraries do not provide training opportunities and as such most of the staffs do not have the required skills in the management and preservation of non-book materials and this often can lead to fast deterioration of information materials. Similarly, Akussah (1991) suggested that training programme should include operating environmental control, storage and housing, operating environmental system and designing new building or renovation of building. Popoola (2003) recommended that the only antidote to the problem of rapid degradation and decay of information materials is the formulation and implementation of sound preservation. Furthermore, Wamukoya and Mutula, (2005) also attested to lack of preservation and conservation policies and programmes on African information resources. Other identified problems from the study were irregular power supply, inadequate funds, lack of functional library equipment for preservation and conservation, lack of adequate attention by institutions management and tropical climate. Popoola (2003) noted that the poor funding for preservation programmes in most African libraries and archival institutions was caused by the economic recession witnessed to recent times. Other problems were identified in similar research work by Olatokun (2010), ESARBICA, (2002)

CONCLUSION

Since academic libraries are at the core of providing support for teaching, learning and research by acquiring, processing, storage, providing access to use of information materials, the onus therefore, rests on them in maintaining these information resources for continuous use. Some causes of deterioration of library materials had been identified based on this study. They were high temperature and humidity, mutilation, natural ageing, acidic nature of materials, moulds and fungi growth and excessive sunlight among others. Library management in each university must identify some of the causes of deterioration of their information materials and provide preventive and corrective measures to solve these problems.

Some of the maintenance practices by these libraries were also identified such as use of AC, fans and windows, careful removal of books from shelves, photocopying and bindery services, fumigation and mounting of securities to check delinquent behaviours among others.

Some of the problems these libraries encountered were lack of constant training and retraining on conservation, lack of functional library equipment for preservation, irregular power supply, tropical climate and inadequate funds among others. They must as well maintain good communication channels with the university management to keep them abreast of the happenings within and around the library, fostering good relationship that will yield positive result.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the findings of this study, the following are recommended:

- i. Working policies should be formulated on how library materials would be maintained. This should reflect the peculiarity of each university library
- ii. Open communication that will foster cooperation should be built between library management and institutions management so as to keep them abreast of the needs of the libraries.
- iii. Training and re – training of library staff should be organized at regular interval.
- iv. Securities should be mounted in the library study areas to check students’ delinquent behaviours
- v. There should be regular fumigation of the library
- vi. Disaster recovery plan should be put in place in case of fire, flood, earthquakes, etc.
- vii. Torn materials should be bounded or photocopied (as the case may be) obsolete and irreparable ones should be replaced with most recent editions.
- viii. Preservation equipments should be procured.

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