DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN ABIA STATE, NIGERIA: A SURVEY OF MICHAEL OKPARA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, UMUDIKE AND ABIA STATE POLYTECHNIC, ABA.

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Abstract

The paper investigated the disaster preparedness and management in academic libraries wit reference to Michael Okpara University of Agriculture university library, Umudike and Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic library, Aba all in Abia State. To achieve the purpose of the study, five objectives were postulated for the study. The study adopted descriptive survey design. Data were collected using questionnaire which were analyzed using frequency and simple percentage. The population of the study were 112 library staff comprising of 99 library staff: 26 Academic staff, 12 library officers, 49 library Assistants and 11 Library Porters from MOUAU and 13 library staff from Ogbonnaya Onu polytechnic, Aba. No sampling was used as the population was considered manageable. Questionnaire of 112 copies were distributed, out of which 105 copies were correctly filled and returned showing a response rate of 93.7%. Data was analyzed using frequency percentages and mean. The findings from the study revealed that there is no disaster policy that should be a guide to its implementation. The most essential tools needed for disaster preparedness and management are lacking in these two institutions due to non - budgetary allocation for disaster preparedness. However, the following recommendations were made to remedy these challenges: provision of disaster preparedness policy; adequate budgetary allocation, effective collaborative activities; regular training of staff; provision of disaster preparedness tools and engagement of institutions' management on the need for the provision of facilities for disaster management. Library rules and regulations should be regularly reviewed, revised and updated.

Key Words: Academic Libraries, Disaster, Disaster preparedness, Disaster management, Nigeria.

Introduction

Library is a social institution whose responsibility is bringing together users and resources provided for full exploitation in the generation of knowledge and information transfer for daily decision making and lifelong learning. Academic libraries located in the higher institution of learning are established to support their parent institutions in the actualization of goals and objectives in teaching, learning and research. In order to effectively meet up with the users demand, they provide information resources in different formats with enabling access tools for maximum utilization of the information resources available in the library. Considering the amount invested in the provision of these resources and facilities, it becomes important that effort should be made in disaster preparedness and management to secure the library. Disaster preparedness is an important activities carried out in the library and it is because of its importance that it is considered s one of the items considered during accreditation. In this information technology era and the recent flooding ravaging many states in Nigeria, adequate arrangement should be made for minimizing disaster through effective disaster management.

Across the world, disaster has devastating results due to inadequate preparation to control and manage it. The impact of disasters, usually spontaneous and severe, is often irreparable. Disaster is a common phenomenon that can and will happen when least expected. In fact, it often comes unannounced and uninvited with disastrous consequences. The dramatic increase and the unprecedented damages caused by disasters in recent past have become a cause for national and international concern. The unpredictability of their occurrences, how they occur and which one occurs first has been a great concern to individuals and organizations worldwide. (Ugwuanyi, Ugwu & Ezeama, 2015).

Disaster is a serious disruption occurring over a relatively short time of the functioning of a community or society, involving widespread human, material, economic and environmental loss and impacts which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. Disaster is any incident which threatens human safety and damages or threatens to damage a building, collection, or items, equipment, systems and services. Olubiyo (2023) defined disaster as an event whose timing is unexpected and whose consequences are seriously destructive. In other words, disaster is unpredictable and can occur without notice. It is therefore important that libraries as important service organization, should be prepared always to guard against every disaster by making available the necessary equipment in the management of disaster. Disaster management and preparedness is important as it will help in the growth of the library. Considering the economic situation and the huge amount spent in the purchase of library resources, academic libraries should be proactive in finding ways of conserving the resources already in the library. Libraries are where our cultural heritage are stored and as such are expected to provide measures to safeguard the resources in the library in order not to lose our history.

Academic libraries as libraries established in higher institutions have the primary role of providing resources based on the curriculum covered in their programmes of study. Libraries in higher institutions of learning face accreditation on regular basis and they are required to make available resources in different areas covered in their programmes and are also expected

to provide adequate safety measures to secure the resources provided. Considering the importance of the resources to the community and the high rate of money invested in the acquisition of these materials, library administration should have disaster preparedness plan to guide them in securing the available resources in the library. Libraries are not immune to disasters, which can strike at any moment and in any place and therefore, the need to safeguard their information resources from damage is paramount. Academic libraries, as repositories of knowledge and cultural heritage are vulnerable to variety of hazards such as earthquakes, floods, fires and human-induced events (Wardekker et.al,2023). Academic libraries play the role of supporting their parent institution in actualizing their goals and objectives. Their collections which include books, journals, and digital resources are invaluable assets that require safeguarding against potential disasters(Chigwada & Ngulube, 2025) . Abdullahi, Ibrahim and Haruna (2022) opined tha academic libraries must be prepared for all types of disasters whether natural or man-made, that may occur in their libraries as the effect of not being prepared may lead to loss of materials, loss of life or ultimately, the loss of the library building.

Academic libraries need to protect their resources and collection from disaster. This, therefore, implies that the information resources these building hold could be at risk in the event of a disaster. Resources in libraries can be damaged by water in form of rain, flood, and water leakage through roofs, blown off roof, faulty air condition system, burst or leaking pipes, or event from water used in putting off fire in case of fire outbreak. Man-made disasters that affected academic libraries between 2013- 2023 include vandalism, theft, bomb threats, shooting, war and accidental damages such as human error and equipment failure causing digital disaster, pest and virus infections (Oluwole, 2019; Nongrang &Khongtim, 2021; Rachman, 2021; Superio et al.,2019), Since university libraries of today are technology-driven, many nascent disasters are evolving. No academic library is insusceptible to these disasters depicting that any of them could befall any academic library any moment since it is totally inescapable without appropriate control measures.

Disaster preparedness plan will help in minimizing losses and erase confusion that usually arises during crisis. Hanse (2019) described disaster preparedness plan as a written document that describes the procedures devised to prevent and prepare for disasters and those purposed to respond to and recover from disasters when they occur. This disaster can be natural and man-made and if not adequately controlled, may have a catastrophic effects on the people and the environment of which library is a part. Academic library is one of the potential learning environment that function at the tertiary institution level and serve as store house of knowledge for the environment they serve. Disaster management is as important as in the provision of information resources. Abdullahi, Ibrahim and Haruna (2022) affirmed that the need for effective information resources in libraries is essential to the development of academic system. Librarians are expected to provide measures for protecting information resources in the library against threat.

Disaster preparedness plan are very important for libraries, as they collect and provide access to information and knowledge of human intellectual scholarly ideas and work (Abdullahi, Nwachukwu and Ahmad, 2022). The plan will help to minimize the impact of losses caused

by disasters and hence, maximize the efficiency of response if a disaster occurs. Furthermore, disaster preparedness has to do with measures taken to prepare for and reduce the effects of disaster. Preparedness in any situation is essential in ensuring that one is able to respond adequately to it. Disaster preparedness is a dynamic process that requires good cooperation and coordination among different types of professionals. Libraries and other relevant institutions need to take proactive steps towards preparing for disasters through the analysis of the peculiarity of their environment and resources with a view to formulating a disaster preparedness plan (Oyeniran, 2023). The danger associated with disaster therefore makes it imperative for the library to ensure that disaster preparedness and ability to manage it becomes part and parcel of its core activities.

Therefore, all that constitutes what disaster is, its antecedent and aftermath forms the basis of this research work to access the level of preparedness and disaster management in the academic libraries under study.

Statement of the Problem

Academic libraries as libraries found in the higher institutions have the mandate of providing resources to meet the academic needs of students and staff. As such the huge sum of money invested in the provision of these resources should not be wasted. Adequate security, disaster preparedness should be enforced to keep the resources safe. It is contended that disaster preparedness and management should be one of the important aspects of library management, but in practice, it has been found to be a neglected issue in librarianship. Disaster is inevitable and the academic libraries are not exempted from this reality.

Michael Okpara University library is not exempted from this as many of our facilities were lost to fire incident during students' riot. It therefore becomes important that adequate measures be provided to guard against such occurrence by making available disaster preparedness tools that would help in minimizing the effect of disaster on resources provided. It is therefore disheartening to observe that academic library managers are not giving proper attention to disaster preparedness and management as it supposed to be, by educating every staff on the need to participate in disaster preparedness so as to secure the resources in the library.

Most of the tools provided for disaster management are not always in use as staff show unconcerned attitude on disaster preparedness and are not knowledgeable on the use of the materials provided. In many cases during accreditation, many of the teams emphasize on the need for provision of disaster management materials as no one knows when disaster will come. They also discover that many of fire extinguishers provided have expired. It is therefore necessary that drastic measures should be taken for disaster preparedness as it does not give notice before it comes. It is on the premise that this study intended to critically ascertain disaster preparedness and management in academic libraries in Nigeria with focus on Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike and Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Aba, libraries.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this research is to examine disaster preparedness and management in academic libraries in Nigeria with specific reference to Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike and Abia State Polytechnic, Aba. However, to achieve this objective, the following specific objectives were formulated:

1. To ascertain the policy available for disaster preparedness and management by libraries under study.

2. To identify the tools/materials available for disaster preparedness and management in the libraries under study.

3. To determine the extent of use of the disaster tools in disaster management in the libraries under study.

4. To ascertain the factors militating against disaster preparedness and management by the academic libraries under study.

5. To suggest ways of improving disaster preparedness and management in the libraries under study

Literature Review
Concept of Disaster
Disaster can be commonly caused by fires either through arson, electrical faults, water from burst pipes or flooding as a result of heavy rainfall, poor storage and environmental conditions, inadequate security networks and poorly maintained buildings. In recent times, terrorism has become an issue and a major threat as well to libraries and information centres. As reported by Abdulraham (2016), many resources including library resources were destroyed as a result of bombing of primary and secondary schools in the North East. There are times staff of the library forgot to turn off water pumps before leaving their offices and as a result, water from broken, drainage or leaked pipes overflow and cause great disaster to the library. Moreover, fire is assumed the chief disaster which should be taken serious to avoid. Libraries should therefore provide fire-fighting equipment and keep it on standby to control fire disaster.

Disaster means different thing by different authors. Olubiyo (2023) defined disaster as any incident that threatens human safety and damages or threatens to damage a building, collection or items, equipment, systems and services. Abdulrazaq (2016) citing the United Nations, described as a serious disruption of the functioning of the society, causing widespread human, material or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected society to cope using its own resources. Ahenkorah-Marfo and Borteye (2010) defined disaster as a common phenomenon that can and will happen when least expected. They further emphasized that disaster often comes unannounced and uninvited with disastrous consequences. From the above definitions, disaster has become endemic in the society and as result, institutions are to provide necessary measures required to abet or control disaster.

Disaster Management Policies in Academic Libraries
Disaster management policies are written procedures to follow in disaster management such as disaster plan which is a set of written procedures prepared in advance to deal with an unexpected occurrence that has the potential to cause injury to personnel or damage to library collections, equipment and/or facilities sufficient to warrant suspension of services (Mathew & Eden cited in rattan, 2013). The disaster management policy of library is made up of a compilation of smaller plans that must be crafted with the support of library staff, school management and external stakeholders. It should contain clear, short and precise instructions

and e readily available to all employees, especially the disaster management team (Ayoung, Boatbil & Baada, 2015). Also, Wameru in his study on assessment of disaster management practices in school libraries with reference to Aga Khan Academy library proposed number of recommendations which included institution of a disaster management policy to govern disaster management implementation. Importantly, the disaster management policy must be endorsed by the top management of the school for it to be binding to all school stakeholders.

Disasters are so numerous and they differ from country to country and from library to library. These disasters can be natural or man-made which include flood, fire, hurricane, earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption, windstorm, wars, water leakage, roof leakage, pest, insects etc. Natural disasters are natural occurrences in the environment without human influence that can or have caused a lot of financial losses, risks, hazards and suffering to libraries, humanity and the environment at large. Natural disaster are often frightening and difficult to understand because we have no control on when and where they happen but we can only control them through how we are prepared as communities and governments to deal with the dangers that natural bring. Abdulraman (2016) brought the types of disaster closer to libraries. According to him, the types of disasters in libraries are; malicious vandalism, thefts, negligence, power surges and failure, rodent invasions, fire, mutilation, insect attack, storms, floods, bombing, rioting etc. Irrespective of types of disaster, the destruction and devastation it causes or threatens to cause to the library resources and the provision of library services remain a critical factor in the management of libraries.

Tools for Disaster Preparedness and Management
The consequences of disasters on the academic libraries are great as there will be depletion of library resources, denial of materials to users who are in need of them, frustration and discouragement on the part of users who cannot locate materials they are aware that are in the library as a result of total destruction of materials. Disaster is always sudden without warning. Libraries are therefore expected to get prepared to fight disaster by providing facilities necessary for disaster management. According to Ilo, Mole, Izuagbe and Ekwueme (2018), disaster preparedness and response in University libraries in Nigeria should be adequate availability rate of fire extinguisher, sand buckets, emergency exit doors, anti-virus software and thunder arrestors. Disaster control practices is a continuous process by which individuals, groups and countries manage hazards in an effort to avoid or minimize the impact of disasters resulting from either natural or man-made hazards. Libraries as institution for preservation of cultural heritage should always be on alert on the effect of disaster on information resources and as such make available materials needed to fight disaster when it occurs. (Abdullahi, Nwachukwu & Ahmad, 2022) Libraries should be equipped with disaster tools as nobody knows when it will occur.

Factors Militating Against Disaster Preparedness and Management in Academic Libraries
Ahenkorah-Marfo and Borteye(2010) saw the following as problems militating against disaster management. Lack of planning at all levels, lack of mitigation planning, lack of coordination and networking, delayed in response and lack of trained man power. Akussah and Fosu in Ahenkorah-Mafor and Borteye (2010) expressed that there are varying levels of lack of preparedness of most academic libraries for disasters in Ghana while Azigba and Edet (2009) stated that academic libraries in West Africa do not have budget to sufficiently cover

disaster control and should reach out for external help. In line with this development, Echezona, Ugwu anand Ozioko (2010) highlighted lack of adequate facilities, inadequate fund allocated to libraries and lack of interest on the part of some librarians on disaster management as problems encountered in disaster management in academic libraries. Related to this, Ayoung, Boatbil and Baada (2015) posit that funding to library is dwindling every year and as such do not have enough money to purchase the required textbooks let alone setting money for disaster management.

It is observed that most academic libraries in Nigeria lack funds to sustain and prepare for emergencies as a result, find it difficult to prepare for disaster. Ilo, Ngwuchukwu, Michael-Onuoha and Segu-Adeniran (2019) found that inadequate disaster facilities and equipment such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, dehumidifiers, close circuits cameras, sand filled buckets among others as well as poor funding were the greatest challenges confronting disaster mitigation in federal and state universities. Academic libraries must be prepared for all types of disasters whether natural or man-made, that may occur in their libraries.

Strategies to Adopt in Disaster Preparedness and Management in Academic Libraries
Academic libraries in Nigeria are prone to disaster and that is the more reason why they are expected to make available disaster control measures to checkmate it. During accreditation, disaster preparedness is considered as an important point in assessing library resources and as such all the disaster control facilities are checked to see how libraries are prepared for disaster in case of any emergency. It is therefore pertinent that academic libraries should adopt strategies which will prepare them for future disaster occurrence. It is with this that academic libraries will minimize the risk of losing important information resources and facilities.

Aziagba and Edet (2009) posit that training should be conducted for staff at all levels to practice particular activity such as the removal of items from a disaster area with minimal damage and to familiarize themselves with materials and equipment. This will enable individuals to react more quickly in an emergency and help to give them greater confidence in their ability to cope with disaster.

Other strategies as commented by Echezona, Ugwu and Ozioko (2010) are development of disaster preparedness plan, vulnerability analysis and risk assessment be conducted to evaluate the types of emergencies that might affect library collection, personnel and building, backing up library websites regularly, staff training and raising awareness of the need to protect document from disaster.

Disaster preparedness and management have been an abiding concern of librarians over the years as disaster whether natural or man-made can have catastrophic effects on library materials. It makes no sense to have clear and logical policies for stock acquisition, if the library does not also have proper policies to ensure that the materials are secured by having a disaster plan in place which will help librarians know ahead of time how to handle materials damaged in a disaster.

Methodology
The researchers adopted descriptive survey design. All the library staff with a total of 112 in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike and Abia State Polytechnic, Aba respectively were used as the population for the study. Questionnaire were used as instrument

to elicit information from respondents. The researchers considered all the population as useful and as such no sample was drawn as the number was seen to be manageable. Out of the 112 questionnaire distributed for the study, 100 showing 89.2% of the entire population were returned and found useful. Mean score, standard deviation and frequency table were employed in accordance with the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPPSS) to compute the result in the table. The study criterion mean was 2.50. This means that any mean less than 2.50 was rejected while any mean greater than 2.50 was accepted as high.

Data Analysis
Table 1: Response Rate

Name of Institution	Number of Questionnaire Distributed	Number of Questionnaire Returned	Percentage%
MOAUA	105	93	83 %
Abia Poly	7	7	6.2
Total	112	100	89.2%

Table2: Percentage response of disaster preparedness policies available in the libraries under study.

S/N	ITEMS	MOUAU Library	Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic
1	Documented Written Disaster Policy	×	√
2	No written Disaster Policy	×	×
3	No Policy at all for Disaster Preparedness	√	×

  KEY: **SA= Strongly Agree, A=Agree, D=Disagree, SD= Strongly Disagree, M=Mean, STD= Standard Deviation, DE= Decision, R=Reject, A=Accept**

From the response, it was found that no disaster policy exists in the libraries under study. The table shows Written policy (2.42), No written Policy (2.11) and no Policy for disaster as (3.14). Based on this, no disaster policy was rated positively and others rated negatively with an individual mean of 2.42 and 2.11 which is below the criterion mean of 2.50 From the findings, it was revealed that no disaster policy was available in the institutions and this has been hampering the effective implementation of disaster preparedness and management. This corroborates with the study of Isa (2012) which said that most of the libraries do not have a written disaster management policy. Whatever be the case, there should be disaster policy available in academic libraries due to its importance in guiding the execution of all activities

related to disaster in the library. Library management should set up a team that will see to the formulation of disaster policy. It should contain clear, short and precise instructions and be readily available to all employees, especially the disaster management team Lyall as cited in Ayoung, Boatbil & Baada (2010).

Table 3: Tools/Materials Available for Disaster Preparedness and Management

S/N	ITEMS	MOUAU	OGBONNAYA ONU POLYTECHNIC, ABA
1	Fire Extinguisher	√	√
2	Sprinklers	√	√
3	Audible Fire Alarms	√	√
4	Smoke Detectors	×	√
5	Emergency Exits	√	√
6	Break Glass Alarms	×	×
7	Water Sensing Alarms	×	×
8	Insecticides	√	√
9	Insurance Policy	×	√
10	Security Guards	√	√
11	Utilities Maintenance	√	√
12	Disaster Management Team	×	√
13	Thunder Protector	√	√
14	Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)	√	√
15	Sand Filled Buckets	√	√
16	Directory of Fire Service Agencies	×	×
17	Air Conditioners	√	√
18	Current List of Staff Emergency Roll Call	×	×
19	Bomb Detectors	×	√

From the table above, it was revealed that the following tools/materials are available for disaster preparedness and management in the libraries under study: fire extinguisher, sprinklers emergency exits, Insecticides, security guards, Utilities maintenance, Closed circuit television (CCTV), Sand filled buckets, Air conditioners while Bomb detectors, Disaster management team, Insurance policy and Smoke detectors were only available in Ogbonnaya Onu polytechnic, Aba. However, the result showed that Break glass alarms, Water Sensing alarms, Directory of fire service agencies, current list of staff emergency roll call were not available in the institutions under study. it is pertinent to know that this may be as a result of poor funding or absence in the budgetary allocation for the purchase of disaster preparedness tools/materials for the libraries. The findings also revealed that not all tools for disaster preparedness and management are available. Among the ones available, the most important ones are still lacking and this may affect the safety of the library and library staff are found not able to use the ones available. Thus, the library staff should be trained on how to use these available tools when any form of disaster strikes.

Table 4: Extent of Using the Tools for Disaster Management in the libraries under study.

S/N	ITEMS	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	M
1	Use of sand filled buckets	14	19	41	26	2.21
2	Use of fire extinguisher	34	42	18	6	3.04
3	Use of good Air Conditioners	53	30	16	1	3.35
4	Provision of effective CCTV	34	27	24	15	2.80
5	Installation of fire alarm system	8	29	41	22	2.23
6	Written disaster plan policies	13	18	38	31	2.13
7	Training of staff on Disaster prevention	14	11	43	31	2.08
8	Clear emergency exit routes	20	40	28	12	2.68
9	Insurance coverage for the library and its collection	20	31	34	15	2.56
10	Installation of thunder protection	13	18	38	31	2.13
	Total Mean					2.52

Criterion Mean= 2.50

KEY: VHE--Very High Extent, HE--High Extent, LE---Low Extent, VLE--Very Low Extent.

Table 4, showed that the average mean of (2.52) is greater than the decision factor (2.50). . The study reveals that use of air condition, use of fire extinguisher, provision of effective CCTV, clear emergency exit routes, and insurance coverage for the library and its collection were used to an average degree. It was found that these tools were used to a certain extent due to the fact that the sophisticated ones like CCTV, theft detecting machine, clear emergency exit routes are not available. Library management should therefore put in more effort to ensure that these tools are made available and used at a very high extent in libraries

Table 5 Factors militating against disaster preparedness and management in the libraries under study.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	M	D
1	Inadequate budgetary allocation for disaster management	63	26	8	3	3.49	A
2	Negative attitude of staff towards disaster preparedness and management	35	26	35	4	2.92	A
3	Inadequate training on disaster management	52	38	7	3	3.39	A
4	Poor electrical maintenance	33	39	22	6	2.99	A
5	Inadequate disaster management policy	41	48	10	1	3.29	A
6	Poor maintenance culture	30	55	6	9	3.06	A
7	Faulty CCTV	31	54	10	5	3.11	A
8	No insurance for staff and facilities	34	57	6	2	3.24	A
9	No emergency routes	19	41	31	9	2.70	A
10	No emergency call lines of fire service	25	44	23	8	2.86	A
11	Inadequate design of library building	32	40	24	4	3.00	A
12	No fire extinguisher in place	12	37	27	24	2.37	R
13	Poor staff/management relationship	8	29	41	22	2.23	R
14	No installation of thunder protectors in place	17	33	32	18	2.50	A

15	Absence of fumigation of the library	21	23	37	19	2.46	R
	Grand Mean					**2.90**	

Criterion=2.50

Table 5 presents results on the factors militating against disaster preparedness and management in the libraries under study. Out of 15 items listed, items 1-11 and 13 showed positive response as they are above and at the criterion mean rate of 2.50. Only item 12, 13 and 15 were rated below the criterion mean of 2.50. The implications of this result is that factors militating against disaster preparedness and management is high. Furthermore, as majority of the respondents agreed that there are factors militating against disaster preparedness and management in libraries, it is imperative that management make this as their priority and as such make budgetary allocation for disaster preparedness and management. Staff should be regularly trained on the new method in handling disaster and collaborate with outside bodies to help in the provision of fund for disaster in case of any emergency. Tukur (2022) identified some factors as lack of emergency exit in some libraries and the very few, have been always closed, no available equipment and facilities for recovering damaged books caused by flood or rainstorm, fire extinguishers are inadequate and not functioning; insurgency activities (Boko Haram), kidnapping, shortage of budget for disaster control practices and management plan and no staff training to handle disaster situation in libraries. Ayoung, Boatil and Baada (2015) agreed to the dwindling funding of the library every year as the major hindrance to implementation of disaster preparedness and management in our academic libraries in Nigeria.

Table 5: Ways of improving disaster preparedness and management in MOUAU and Ogbonnaya Onu Poly.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	M	DE
E	Building disaster emergency response team	66	33	-	-	3.64	A
2	Readily available disaster manual	54	44	2	-	3.52	A
3	Written disaster management plan policy	42	56	2	-	3.40	A
4	Budgetary allocation for disaster management	50	47	3	-	3.47	A
5	Having fire fighters in place	36	63	-	-	3.34	A

6	Disaster management committee in place	39	58	3	-	3.36	A
7	Enlightenment campaign on disaster	41	52	2	-	3. 29	A
8	Insurance for library building personnel and resources	45	50	4	-	3.39	A
9	Good design for library	48	46	2	-	3.38	A
10	Enough fire extinguishers	48	50	2	-	3.46	A
11	Identification and adherence to laid down land use policies and building codes.	46	44	7	-	3.38	A
12	Enough emergency routes	61	35	2	-	3.55	A
13	Contacts of fire service agencies in case of emergency.	50	45	5	-	3.45	A
14	Proper electrical installation	55	44	1	-	3.54	A
15	Good ventilation	41	56	1	-	3.36	A
16	Regular training for staff on safety and disaster preparedness and management	35	64	-	-	3.35	A
17	Provision of effective CCTV and Theft detecting machine	43	50	2	-	3.31	A
18	Use of sand filled buckets	40	52	6	2	3.30	A
19	Current list of staff for emergency roll call	40	49	3	8	3.21	A

20	Installation of thunder protections to library buildings	48	49	1	2	3.43	A
	Grand Total					**3.40**	

Criterion Mean=2.50

The table above shows the mean scores of ways to improve disaster preparedness and management in academic libraries of MOUAU and ABIA POLY. The scores revealed that all the listed items were rated positive and accepted. As this, none was below the criterion mean score of 2.50. Therefore, all the items in the table are considered as ways of improving disaster preparedness and management in academic libraries in the libraries under study. However, the study revealed ways that disaster preparedness and management can be improved. Such ways include; having well written policy, improved budgetary allocation, regular training of library staff, installation of modern and sophisticated disaster management tools. Patrick, Ferdinand and Efe (2020) opined that hazards or disaster can be avoided all together through meticulous and elaborate disaster planning. It was asserted that libraries should follow an affective disaster control plan, carry out periodic full scale mock drill, ensure library buildings, equipment, collections and computers are regularly checked. They further stated that staff are to be trained on checking fire extinguishers for expiration and in handling equipment in case of emergency, fit electrical installation in a safe mode and install single switch control, periodically carry out check against termite damaging the materials and make sure that digitization of library materials are done.

Summary of findings

The study looked at the availability of disaster policy that will guide the effective implementation of disaster preparedness and management in Michal Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike and Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Aba. The study reveals no written policy was found. The institution only carry out disaster plan based on necessity. Therefore, the respondents acknowledged there was no disaster plan for the libraries. This study corroborated with Abdullahi, Nwachukwu and Ahmad (2022) study that posited that written disaster preparedness plan will relieve much of the confusion that arises during crises situation.

It was established from the study that materials needed for disaster preparedness and management were mostly provided. Fire extinguisher, sprinklers emergency exits, Insecticides, security guards, Utilities maintenance, Closed circuit television (CCTV), Sand filled buckets, Air conditioners while Bomb detectors, Disaster management team, Insurance policy and Smoke detectors are available in the libraries. This study aligns with the study of Onyeniran,(2023) which agrees that majority of respondents indicated fire extinguishers as readily available in their libraries. Also , Abdullahi, Ibrahim and Haruna(2022) reported that fire extinguishers and clearly marked exit doors are the equipment and measures available in all the libraries studied for disaster response as the items recorded maximum response 82(100%).

It resulted from the study that use of air condition,, use of fire extinguisher, provision of effective CCTV, clear emergency exit routes, and insurance coverage for the library and its collection were used to an average degree. However, the study reveals that most of the modern tools needed for disaster management are not available and as such cannot determine the use. It was also established from the study that there are factors affecting disaster preparedness and management by the academic libraries under study with the mean rate of 2.90 which above the criterion mean of 2.50. The study revealed that inadequate budgetary allocation for disaster management, negative attitude of staff, poor electrical maintenance, inadequate disaster management policy, poor maintenance culture, faulty CCTV, no insurance for staff and facilities, poor design of library building, and no emergency call lines of fire service S were found as factors affecting disaster preparedness and management. This study is in line with study of Aboyade, Funmilola, Popoola, Agbetuyi and Adetunji (2021) used disaster likelihood index to measure the propensity of disaster and out of the seven indicators, water leakages (3.89), and faulty power supply (3.15) were shown to have the highest index scores. Also Balbin and Lascano (2023) identified limited financial resources as major factor hampering disaster management in academic libraries.

It was established from the study that there are measures to overcome disasters in academic libraries in Nigeria. The study revealed that provision of well written policy, improved budgetary allocation, regular training of library staff, installation of modern and sophisticated disaster management tools are considered as measures to be taken. The findings collaborated with the study of Oyeniran (2023) that suggested strategic plans towards safe guiding the library resources in libraries as regular surveillance to prevent theft and mutilation of library books, installation of CCTV and other electronic gadgets to monitor library resources in the library, regular check of library buildings and development and availability of disaster preparedness plan.

Conclusion

Disasters are major threat to library development and services considering a huge amount invested in the establishment of library in institution of higher learning and the value placed on academic libraries in supporting the goals and aspiration of the institution they serve. Academic libraries play a very big role in the provision, organization and preservation of information resources for teaching, learning and research in these institution. It is therefore important the libraries should be involved in disaster preparedness and management so as to guard against ant threat to the full utilization of the information resources provided. Academic libraries must be prepared for all types of disasters whether natural or man-made, that may occur in their libraries, as the effect of not being prepared may lead to loss of materials, loss of life or ultimately loss of library building. From the findings, it was discovered that these libraries are not fully prepared for disaster management since most of the needed tools and policy that will guide in disaster preparedness are lacking. Moreover, the budgetary allocation for disaster preparedness is very low and cannot afford most of the facilities/tools needed for disaster management. It is therefore suggested that written disaster policy, setting of disaster management committee, regular trainings and seminars and enough emergency exits be provided.

Recommendation

Based on the findings from this work, the following recommendations were made:

1. Libraries especially academic libraries in Nigeria should always be prepared for disaster so as to prevent loss. There should be written disaster policy to guide the library management on how to manage disaster when it strikes.

2. There should be regular trainings and workshops where contents of disaster management can be taught to enable staff to be equipped with the skills needed to fight disaster efficiently and effectively.

3. The management should cultivate good maintenance culture where building roofs and other damaged tools can be repaired as long storage of these items can cause more harm as well attract rodents, termites, cockroaches that can mutilate, cut wires and other sensitive things that can be disaster to the library.

4. In all, the university libraries should engage the university authorities in meaningful discussions on the need for regular disaster checks and provision of disaster preparedness tools.

5. Staff should be sensitized on the need for disaster preparedness and management so as to consider it a serious activity which should not be neglected..

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