A STUDY ON PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION ISSUES IN SELECTED COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN THANJAVUR

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Abstract

This study examines the problems in preserving and maintaining paper based documents in selected college libraries. The purpose of this study is to find out whether paper-based information in the college libraries are secure or insecure, finding the key issue in preserving printed materials and finding solutions for it. Furthermore, this study examines how the college administration's support is to preservation of information materials in college libraries and existing preservation policies in college libraries.

Key words: Library Preservation, Issues, preservation policies, information materials.

Introduction

The study is to find out the problems faced by the library staff in the preservation and conservation of information materials in selected college libraries. The purpose of this study is to find out whether the paper-based information materials in the college libraries are preserve or insecure and the main issue in the preservation of printed materials and solutions to it. All the items in the library increase their degradation rate due to the continuous functionality of the library.

Library materials fall in two ways. One is biological factor; there is pest/ fungus attack, another one is environmental factor; there is moisture content, temperature, light and atmospheric pollutants. Libraries have printed and non-printed material resources. For example, non-print materials such as computer, library software, CD ROMs, audio and videotape. These printed materials such as pictures, magazines, books, maps, and photos.

The Publishers are producing a book with low quality paper materials, and these books in the library deteriorate very quickly. Our local publishers have a tendency to produce books with low quality materials in low cost. Due to the internal and external light and colour of the paper also fade the quality of print materials.

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Furthermore, when the quality of such materials in a library (such as the book) is overused, its nature changes, they cannot be used further long time. Such affected books cannot be permanently removed; therefore, it is necessary to preserve such items for future purposes.

Statement of Problem

The degradation of information materials in college libraries is a universal phenomenon. This is the negative impact of information material that is damaged by climate and environmental factors. Sometimes, specific materials in the library are damaged under certain circumstance. This issue continues grow. Thus librarians should declare a decline in their collections. Behavior of the library users can be changed accordingly. The awareness and technological advances in the importance of preservation and conservation will reduce the falling of library resources. The study of the preservation and conservation of college libraries in Thanjavur has been identified and the pains to address them are being reviewed.

The study analyzes the library's information preservation capability and explains how the librarian can preserve library materials. Furthermore, the importance of library preservation helps librarians to make quick decisions. This can bring current information to future generations. The libraries provide awareness to reduce the degeneration of the valuable information sources of libraries to protect their information. This will result in the destruction of the material for future use.

Objective of the Study

The specific objectives of this study;

- To find out the awareness of preservation and conservation techniques of selected college libraries.
- To know about the knowledge of printed policies of preservation and conservation technique of the library professionals.
- To identify the Preservation and conservation Techniques of print materials practiced in libraries.
- To determining the types of deterioration in selected college libraries.
- To find out the barriers of preservation for library materials and the solution for the problems.

Review of Literature

Lawal-Solarin, Esther Opeola, "(2012). "A Survey of Library and Information Services to Physically-Challenged Students in Academic Libraries in Ogun State, NigeriaLibrary Philosophy and Practice (e-journal). Paper 699. Academic library as any library that caters for the needs of those engaged in academic pursuits in higher institutions like the universities, colleges of education, colleges of technologies and polytechnics.

Bessy, F. Abalaka, B. F., Dauda Y. and Okikiri, M. N. (2014) Acquisition and Preservation of Newspapers and Magazines in Dr. Aliyu Obaje Library, Kogi State University Anyigba. Journal Human Ecology, 45(3): 251-255. On the other hand defined preservation as activities which include all the managerial and financial considerations, including storage and accommodation provisions, staffing levels, policies, techniques, and methods involved in preserving library and archival materials and the information contained in them.

Ogunniyi, S. O. and Adejubee, F. V. (2014) "Strategies of Curbing Deterioration of Undergraduate Projects: A Case Study of Six Selected Colleges of Education Libraries in Southern Nigeria". Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal). Paper 1036. Had indicated that for decades librarians have tended to mix up preservation with conservation and all efforts have concentrated on the curative treatment of single documents. Conservation and restoration are the most central activities of preservation; they are concerned with the physical maintenance and repair of documentary materials.

Research Methodology

A detailed study method is used to collect information on the issues of preservation of the print items in the college libraries surrounding Thanjavur. There were three methods of research used to collect data, there are questionnaire, observation and interview. About 50 libraries in Thanjavur surrounding colleges are involved in this study. Random sampling technique has been used to choose from the respondents and found results of the study.

Data analysis and discussions

Table 1: Sex Distribution of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	33	66
Female	17	34
	50	100

Analysis detail on Table 1 shows that 66 percent of college libraries are male and 34 percent are women. It is clear that male librarians work more than female in college libraries.

Table 2: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentages
31-40 Years	15	30
41-50 years	24	48
51-60 years	11	22
	50	100

Table 2 shows 30 percent of people aged 31-40, 48 percent between 41-50 years and 22 percent by age 51-60. According to this, college libraries prove to be middle-aged librarians.

Table 3: Educational Qualification of Respondents

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
BLIS.	15	30
MLIS, M.Phil..	18	36
PhD.	12	24
Others	05	10
	50	100

Table 3, 30 percent of the BLIS. Qualification, MLIS., M.Phil., 36 percent of the eligibility, Ph.D., 24 percent in qualification and 10 percent are graduates. So you know the professional librarians who have a library-based degree in college.

Table 4: Job Status

Job Status	Frequency	Percentage
Library Assistant	08	16
Library Officer	07	14
Librarian	23	46
Asst. Librarian	12	24
	50	100

Table 4 shows on the librarians and assistants librarians are the majority of respondents, as 70% shown in the data in the table. Others are library officers 14%, librarian assistants 16%.

Table 5: Years of Experience

Years of Experience	Frequency	Percentage
1-5 Years	6	12
6-10 years	15	30
11-15 years	2	4
16-20 years	14	28
21 years and above	13	26
	50	100

Table 5 indicates the years of experience of respondents as 1-5 years 6(12%), 6-10 years 15 (30%), 11-15 years 2(4%), 16-20 years 14 (28%), 21 years and above 13 (26%). The data

shows that the majority of respondents are not old in the service because their years of experiences ranges between 6-10years and 16-21 and above, which is an indication that they still have more years to practice and improve on their productivity.

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents According to Institution

Colleges	Frequency Distributed	Percentage (%) Distributed	Frequency Retrieved	Percentage (%) Retrieved
Arts and Science colleges	35	50	26	52
Engineering colleges	20	28.5	12	24
Polytechnic colleges	15	21.5	12	24

Table 6 showing; 70 questionnaires were distributed in the college libraries in Thanjavur district, with 50 questionnaires being represented and correctly completed. These are systematically analyzed.

Table 7: Preservation and conservation Techniques of print materials

Preservation and conservation Techniques	Arts & Sci. Colleges		Engi. Colleges		Poly. Colleges		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Lamination	21	42	04	08	05	10	30
Microfilming	-	-	-	-	02	04	02
Deacidification	-	-	-	-	1	02	1
Binding	20	40	8	16	06	12	34
Cleaning and dusting	17	24	10	20	06	12	33
Photocopying	23	46	11	22	07	14	41
Shelving	24	48	11	22	06	12	41
Installing Air-conditioners	23	46	11	22	03	06	37
Adequate security	22	44	10	20	01	02	33
Use of Insecticide	11	22	03	06	02	04	16

Table 7 shows; the majority of respondents indicate that 30-45% of respondent use text books, such as airborne book storage areas, cleaning and adequate safety facilities, and Binding that are commonly used for preserving library materials in their libraries. About 15-30% of respondents use lamination and pesticides, and 01-15% use acids and microfilming.

Table 8: written and unwritten policies for library preservation.

Policy	Yes	%	No	%
Do you have any library preservation policies for your library?	39	78	11	22
Are those policies written?	21	42	29	58
Does it provide guidelines for library staff?	36	72	14	28
Does that policy help library security?	33	76	17	34
Are those policies having preparations for disaster?	28	56	22	44
Is it easier for employees to handle those policies?	37	74	13	26
Does that policy lead to the restructuring of degraded library materials?	32	64	18	36
Does that policy help to improve the library?	37	74	13	26

Table 8 shows that there are policies for library use. It is helping disaster management projects. And those policies are not sufficient for the security covering the library's parts.

Table 9: Represents deterioration of print materials

Print Materials	Arts & Sci. Colleges		Engi. Colleges		Poly. Colleges		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
High Acidity levels	02	04	01	02	04	08	07
photocopying	20	40	03	06	18	36	67
Unclean air	02	04	01	02	-	-	03
High Temperature	16	32	08	16	12	24	36
Unnecessary moisture	06	12	05	10	15	30	26
Excessive Light	13	26	-	-	11	22	24

Dust and Particles	16	32	12	24	15	30	43
Biological Agents	20	40	04	08	13	26	47
Bad Shelving	19	38	04	08	13	26	36

N = number of respondent.

Table 9 show on Misuse of library materials and biological factors is the decline in the college libraries. Due to the duplication and dirt, the collapse of the print materials of college libraries is high.

Table 10: Barriers to the preservation of Library materials

Barriers of preservation	Arts & Sci. Colleges	Engi. Colleges	Poly. Colleges	Total	Percentage %
Lack of funding	19	18	10	47	94
The lack of qualified staff	25	10	11	46	92
Deficiency of preservation policies	23	06	13	42	84
Inadequate infrastructure	17	07	12	26	52
Environment conditions	05	4	11	19	38
Not upgraded hardware and software	06	04	03	13	26

Table 10 shows that funding required for the security of libraries is essential, training of preservation for the library's staff, and the hardware and software used in the library shows the need to improve the library preservation.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Librarians working with high education qualifications in college libraries.
- Book storage areas there is cleanliness and adequate care facilities, and college libraries are used in general preservation and conservation techniques.
- The majority libraries have preservation policies for use. They help disaster management projects. However, the security of covering parts of the library is not enough.
- The collapse of college libraries is due to misuse of library materials and biological factors. Due to the duplication and dirty footage, the collapse of the print books of college libraries is high.
- Financial resources needed for library preservation and library staff requires training for preservation and conservation.

Recommendations

- To reduce the usage of the same book in library, they have to buy multiple copies of the same book.
- Proper instructions for the library users should be given to handle the books.
- The library has to be protected from the insects and the entire area must be kept clean.
- The damage caused in the library should be immediately rectified with an accurate and proper solution.
- The management of the institution must be ready to provide the funds for the preservation of library.

Conclusion

Library resources are worthless and can be a book that is not available anywhere in the world and a non-recursive book. Preservation of such library materials is utmost importance. So the Librarian is responsible for the collection, organizing, redirection and dissemination of books. The library is not an old paper shop. Historical documents, a very long time preserving approach to specific library materials, such as rare books. Furthermore, educational institutions should be able to generously provide the funds to improve the library and preserve their books.

The latest preservation techniques in the library must follow. Library management should enhance their technical expertise through orientation and training programs conducted to library staffs. Strong personality and excellent technical support for preserving valuable books in libraries should be accepted.

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