

# Investigating the Role of Institutions to Curb Loss of Valued Information Resources In The Face Of Terrorist Attacks in Academic Libraries in North Eastern Nigeria

Danji – Fari Yahaya

**Abstract—** The paper highlights the felt need of the tertiary institutions in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, north-eastern Nigeria where a state of emergency was declared due to the prevalence of terrorist attacks on institutions, where lives and properties were lost. Eliciting information from these tertiary institutions relied on structured (close-ended questionnaire) so to harvest the varied opinions that was anticipated to contribute to addressing the challenges of loss. Well sort solutions, way forward, prospects and benefits of environmental scanning formed part of the information asked, and what to do to save the institutions from monumental loss leveraging on different perspectives. Recommendations offered were based on SWOT analysis. The intent was to encourage the academic libraries to take note of the internal and external environments, because from the two platforms comes help of identifying the strength, weakness, opportunity and threats that a well categorized scan avails as well as suggesting appropriate and implementable measures.

**Index Terms—** terrorist attacks, emergency, tertiary institutions, implementable measures.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Academic libraries pay attention to curriculum and research this inform the manner in which they select, acquire/subscribe, organize arrange these resources to ease access, retrieval and storage. As an institutional organ, academic libraries promote every facet that add value to the chain of scholarship, protect and

sustain same. Curbing loss of valued information resources is not negotiable to enable it bridge and guide emancipation of professionals as well as scientists. Institutional roles in the context of curbing loss of valued information resources will require understanding and situating existing ordinances, laws, collaboration, consortiums, open access, institutional repositories, website development and hosting, so that round pegs are put in round holes. For instance, the issue of intellectual property rights, plagiarism, scholarship cheating, access, human intelligence and numerous contributing factors to the mesh of the copyrights, ordinance and laws cannot be underestimated. These have been acknowledged in Nigeria to influence transcription, ownership, fair use, reprographic activities, duplication, hosting, digitization and institutional repository (Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), 1990).

Danji – FariYahaya, Principal Librarian with Federal Polytechnic Bali, Nigeria

National and international professional associations and regulating agencies have roles such as formulating policies, modify rights of acts directly and link same to factors that can serve as measures that curbs loss of valued information resources in areas faced with extreme cases such as the emergence of terrorist attacks on institutions and their repositories. Destruction of literary works, artistic works and music, etc., pose a dilemma that challenged institutions such as libraries, museum and archives globally and calling for the reinstating and flexing ordinances and laws of knowledge sharing. Arguably, Hippner (2009) posited that what constitute economic rights such as reproduction right, the right to create adaptation or derivative works, the right to distribute copies of works to public, the right to perform and/or display the works publicly have to be revisited. According to Michael and Peacock (2011) other rights to consider are neighbour rights, that is, rights for privacy and publicity because they influence social sustainability. The stance of this paper is to emphasize of the immediacy and what it will maintain as state of emergency on valued information resources in the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. The implications, extent of damages and increase spending to counter destruction of lives and properties are on the increase and detrimental to other infrastructural development (Rose & Bloomberg, 2014). Global Terrorist Index (2015) report on Nigeria revealed that in 2014 properties damaged amounted to 1,512 from 662 incidents. This is craving for institutional redemption.

## II. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The manifolds of disasters that terrorism has caused are devastating. The attacks on schools and heritage repositories cannot be allowed because it can plunge the present and future generations into confusion and deplete it of documented human knowledge, lead to loss of cultural identity, education, social and humane values. The concerns reported of effect of terrorists in Nigeria, showed three states to be the most affected in the north-eastern geo-political zone. The states comprise of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States (Akande, 2013; Okupe, 2015). These states have tertiary institutions that are prone to terrorists' attacks. It suffices to investigate and proffer appropriate resolutions against the estranged happenings because of the negative consequences it will have on the objectives that established the academic libraries.

# Investigating the Role of Institutions to Curb Loss of Valued Information Resources In The Face Of Terrorist Attacks in Academic Libraries in North Eastern Nigeria

The role of national and international practicing and academic librarianship, and agencies and national regulatory professional bodies are pertinent for the repositioning of academic libraries against loss of valued information resources particularly at this time of state of emergency on the institutions. Discussions have started regionally and globally but not really scalable. For instance, Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) has instituted mind probing questions about the future of library and information services. The focuses were to brainstorm on convergence, connection and the golden age of information (ALIA, 2013). Repositioning of academic library is expected to converge skills sets and development in terms of relevance and significance to function in the library which will metamorphose into new and challenging environment. Secondly, there should be discourse on connection because of the strength of the libraries as a highly exploratory environment, so that the findings can help it thrive, embed and include old and new innovations even those that are alien to it for as long as it can make the libraries function effectively and efficiently within its objectives as an organ facilitating curriculum and research.

Repositioning of academic libraries against loss of valued information resources like every other strategic activity must be systematic, follows a timeline and takes cognizance of internal and external environments. The aspects of academic library management is expected to expand beyond collection, preservation, organization, conservation and other known classical roles of academic libraries to include security and legislation, knowledge management, virtual presence/services, information storage and retrieval real-time, changing patrons and learning support. So much is desired and must happen spontaneously. A framework is highly desirous that supports content, technology, physical spaces, discoverability and facilitation. This list expands depending on the needs and challenges of an academic library.

### III. OBJECTIVES

1. Find out the institutional roles to curb loss of any valued information resource
2. Find out what were the exploit and harnessed suggestions that can reposition the library against

Table 1: Demographic information of selected academic libraries in three states of north-eastern Nigeria

Name of institution	Name of library	Year of establishment	Library holding capacity (print and electronic resources)
Adamawa State University, Mubi	Abdurrahman Ghaji Library	2002	11,230
Federal Polytechnic, Mubi	Professor JibrilAminu Library	1979	530
Federal University Gashua	University library	2013	9,000
ModibboAdama University of Technology, Yola	Ibrahim Babangida Library	1981	56,351
Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri	Ramat Polytechnic Library	1978	-*
University of Maiduguri	Ramat Library	1975	301,968

**Source:** Field survey, 2019

\*Data not given

Ramat Library in UMM (301,968) has the largest volume of collections (print Ramat Library in UMM (301,968) has

loss of valued information resources as a result of terrorist attack.

### IV. METHODOLOGY

Quantitative research method was adopted to draw statistical data from affected institutions in the three states most affected by terrorism in north-eastern Nigeria. A structured questionnaire was administered to the tertiary institutional libraries owned by the states and federal government to elicit information of both internal and external strategies adopted to curb loss of acquired information resources (Appendix attached). The population is made up of all tertiary institutions in the three states that federal government declared state of emergency in 2014. The sample size comprised a federal university, a state own university and federal polytechnic from each of the states, respectively. The heads of the respective libraries served as respondents because they manage both the human and information resources of their respective libraries. Data collection lasted for one month to ensure that questionnaires are duly filled and returned for analysis. Frequency counts and tabular presentations of response were used to present the results.

### V. FINDINGS

The findings of the study were based on the following: demographic information of selected academic libraries in three states of north-eastern Nigeria, types of valued information resources in the custody of academic libraries in three states of north-eastern Nigeria, institutional roles for curbing loss of valued information resources due to terrorism in academic libraries in three states of north-eastern Nigeria, means exploited to harness how best to reposition academic libraries against loss as a result of terrorist attack on academic libraries facilities in three states of north-eastern Nigeria, and Academic libraries and valued information resources: Strength, weakness, opportunity and threats.

the largest volume of collections (print and non-print) acquired by a single institution in the region, following is Ibrahim Babangida Library in MAY (56,351). However, a total of 379,079 valued information resources are scattered among the six (6) institutions selected for the study. Looking at the year of establishment and the peculiarity of the academic libraries, it is suable that the libraries through a period less than fifty years have enriched their institutions with adequate information resources that adequately aided retrospection and prognosis, contribute to the information value chain, scholarship spaces, political, social and cultural wellbeing of the region and its people. The institutions were established at different times and seems to follow a deliberate gap filling pattern of educational need at the tertiary levels.

1970s and early 1980s, during the periods two polytechnics (Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri, and Federal Polytechnic, Mubi) were established and a University of Maiduguri. It was in 1981 that a University of Technology was established (ModibboAdama University of Technology, Yola). Though, the first tertiary institution was the University of Maiduguri in 1975. Adamawa State University, Mubi and Federal University Gashua were added in 2002 and 2013 respectively perhaps to alleviate the pressure already mounting on the earlier institutions. There are other institutions that comprise private, state and federally owned in these three states. The three fell within the scope of the study specifically to reflect the challenge that must be nib by the states and federal governments.

Technology-based institutions dominated the region in the

Table 2: Institutional roles of curbing loss to valued information resources that can be inflict by terrorism

Institutional roles	U	M	R	F	A	F
	MM	AY	PM	UG	SU	PM
Transcription of traditional documents	√		√		√	√
Digitization		√		√	√	
Establishment of institutional repository	√	√		√		
Reprographic activities				√	√	
Duplication of information resources	√			√	√	
Decentralization of information storage centre	√				√	

Source: Field survey, 2019

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

Institutional roles that are instituted to curb loss due to terrorism are listed in Table 3. These are with respect to the actions the academic libraries have taken. Ramat Library in UMM, Ramat Poly Library in RPM and Professor JibrinAminu Library in FPM have not commenced with the digitization of their valued information resources. Ibrahim Babangida Library in MAY and University Library in FUG do not transcribe their traditional documents. Ramat Poly Library in RPM, Abdurrahman Ghaji Library in ASU, and Professor JibrilAminu Library in ASU do not have institutional repositories. Also revealed is the Ramat Library in UMM, Ramat Poly Library in RPM and Professor JibrilAminu Library in FPM do not engage in any

reprographic activities. Ibrahim Babangida Library in MAY, Ramat Poly Library in RPM and Professor JibrilAminu Library in FPM don't encourage duplication of their valued information resources, and only Ramat Library in UMM and Abdurrahman Ghaji Library in ASU have decentralized the storage of their valued information resources to other centers. The results revealed mix concerns informs of inconsistent institutional roles. These are perturbing because each academic library seems to work independently which may not be encouraged in the face of the effect a single attack on the facility can cause the entire institution. Therefore as a vital organ of the institution they are encouraged to leverage on technologies that support virtual dispositions because each have important information that is unique, original and consistent with the needs of the region. It is apt to suggest that looking at each success story peculiar to these libraries utilizing multiple approaches to curb the menace that terrorism can cause can be deterred. Academic libraries can collaborate to increase access, retrieval and make visible their valued information resources thereby also sustaining them against any kind of infliction due to terrorism.

Table 3: SWOT analysis of academic libraries thrust to curb loss of valued information resources that terrorism can inflict

SWOT of academic libraries	UMM	MAY	RPM	FUG	ASU	FPM
Strength of library that can help it curb loss of valued information resources						
Library has requisite expertise/technology				√		
Library has embarked on digitisation					√	
Library is guided by policy for information resources appraisal		√	√		√	

**Investigating the Role of Institutions to Curb Loss of Valued Information Resources In The Face Of Terrorist Attacks in Academic Libraries in North Eastern Nigeria**

Library has policy on harvesting of valuable information resources and sources					√	√
Library operates virtually		√		√		
Library utilise web-based storage facilities	√	√	√			
<b>Weaknesses of the library</b>						
The library is yet to begin digitization						
The library lack basic equipment/technologies (scanners, camera)				√		√
Library lack internet connectivity	√	√	√		√	
There is no policy on information resource appraisal				√		
Library depends on students, faculty members and donations		√			√	
Library still traditional						
<b>Opportunities the library avails</b>						
Possesses rich collections of value		√			√	
Library has a robust engaging platforms that makes visible valued Information			√			
Adequately funded to subscribe information resources, appropriate technologies, cooperate and consort with other institutions	√			√		√
Staff are trained to facilitate access and use of acquired information resources and services		√			√	
Library facilities and use are not discriminating		√			√	
Provide teaching platform that can help patrons leapfrog into using modern technologies		√			√	
<b>Threats to the library</b>						
The library is susceptible target to attack		√			√	
Safety to human/information resources cannot be guaranteed						
Some resources of value have already been destroyed						

The use of library is no longer a priority due to the insurgency	√	√	√		√	√
Cost of equipment, available of experts and installation is far over what is obtainable in other parts of the country	√					
There is frequent interference and interruption with the internet services	√	√		√	√	

Source: Field survey, 2019

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

The SWOT analysis results in Table 3 provided a balance score card of the academic libraries in the three states plagued by terrorist attacks in north-eastern Nigeria. True picture of the deliberate actions and/or instituted measures in terms of readiness, personnel competence and infrastructure (technologies) that helped the academic libraries curb any form of loss can be deduced easily. To a greater extent what constitute best practice to curb loss due to terrorist attack on academic library is assured. For instance, the weaknesses and threats components can be contextualized to arrive at categorized resolutions against loss. Arguably, also the results showed that academic libraries in the region have strength which opens them to opportunities that can facilitate the implementation of measures that are peculiar to each library

and incorporate suggestions that may be alien, but adequate against loss of valued information resources.

The academic libraries are at different levels of employing technologies in the course of averting loss, though the quickest of the technological techniques against loss and could be used for the preservation and conservation, as well as for virtual storage and transmission of local contents. There is a risk that must be addressed such as issues of obsolescence of technology and equipment, popularity of platform and response of help desk (real-time). Without prejudice, the Polytechnic libraries are lagging behind in terms of instituting a proactive mechanism against valued information resources loss that is strategically coordinated to oversee the tactical and operational levels in their respective academic libraries. Nevertheless, so much is still desired if these institutions are determined to conserve, preserve, and make visible and accessible their respective intellectual and valued information resources. It must also be deliberate to protect against loss and destruction in the event of terrorist attack.

#### Best Practices

The SWOT analysis suggests the following as best practice:

- Academic libraries in the study area are encouraged to be guided by policy for information resources appraisal and utilize web-based storage platforms.

- Academic libraries should work out modalities that keep them connected to the internet.
- Adequate funding that enable academic library subscribe appropriate technologies, put them on a pedestal to cooperate and consort with other institutional libraries should be encouraged.
- Academic libraries ensures the use of the library is attractive and sustainable, frequent interference and interruption of library services and access to information resources is reduced to minimum.

#### REFERENCES

- Akande, L. (2013). UN warns Jonathan on amnesty to Boko Haram. *Guardian* Retrieved from [http://www.nguardiannews.com/index.php? Option=com\\_content&view=article&id=120850:un-warns-jonathan-on-amnesty-to-boko-haram&catid=1:national &Itemid=559](http://www.nguardiannews.com/index.php? Option=com_content&view=article&id=120850:un-warns-jonathan-on-amnesty-to-boko-haram&catid=1:national &Itemid=559)
- Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) (2013). Library and information services: The future of the profession, themes and scenarios 2025. ALIA discussion paper, 34p.
- Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) (1990). Copyright (amendment) decree No. 42, Section 37 (1-6); Section 12, Act Cap 68, and Section 26, Act Cap 68. Laws of the Federation of Nigeria.
- Global Terrorism Index (2015). Measuring and understanding the impact of terrorism. Institute for Economic and Peace, New York.
- Hippner, C. (2009). A study into the size of the world's intelligence industry. Masters Thesis, submitted to Faculty of Mercyhurst College, Department of Intelligence Study, Erie, Pennsylvania.
- Michael, Y. M. A. K., & Peacock, C. J. (2011). Social sustainability: A comparison of case studies in UK, USA and Australia.
- Okupe, D. (2015). The Guardian February 26. P4.
- Rose, A. Z., & Bloomberg, B. S. (2014). Total economic consequences of terrorist attacks : Insight from 9/11. Create homeland and security centre, paper 190. [http://research.create.usc.edu/published\\_papers/190](http://research.create.usc.edu/published_papers/190)

**Danji – FariYahaya** is a Principal Librarian with Federal Polytechnic Bali, he holds Diploma Library Science from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria and Bachelor of Arts Library Science (BLIS) from Bayero University Kanohe is a Certified Librarian of Nigeria (CLN), a member of Nigerian Library Association (NLA), his area of research interest includes: management information system and digitisation in libraries