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## **Theft, Mutilation and Abuse of Library and Information Materials by Undergraduate of University of Ibadan, Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

The study investigates theft, mutilation and abuse of library and information materials by undergraduate students of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan. Survey research method was adopted for the study; undergraduates' students in 100 level - 500 level were selected for this study. Questionnaire are the main instrument for data collection. Data collected were analyzed using frequency, tables and percentages. The results reveal that financial constraint (85.7%), selfishness on the part of students (80.9%) and high demand of books (75.2%) among others were the major causes of theft and mutilation of library materials. Also, findings revealed that selfishness on the part of students (80.9%), inadequate number of library materials (71.4%) and fear that one may not find the material at the next visit (61.9%) were the major causes of abuse of library materials. The findings also revealed that the means through which library materials are being stolen are by putting it in their handbags (80.9%), confusing/diverting the attention of people at the circulation desk (70.5%) and tearing of page(s) off etcetera. The findings further reveal that monitoring the attitude of people in the library and mounting of cameras in the library (94.3%), having qualified staff (92.4%) and good library orientation exercise (88.6%) among others were the major methods library adopt to prevent information resources from theft, mutilation and abuse. The study recommended that library management should implement a strong policy in the library such that users who are caught in the act of theft, mutilation and abuse of library materials will be expelled from the University.

### **Keywords**

Theft, Mutilation, Abuse  
Academic Libraries, Library Materials

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## Introduction

Undergraduate students in university are aspirants of first-degree university certificates. Students of higher institutions such as university undergo different disciplines of their choice for the acquisition of knowledge and as a profession for life career. The Undergraduate students make use of the library to study and to have access to information in line with their course of study. Academic libraries are established to serve these purposes, such as for learning, teaching, research and scholarship. Academic libraries are libraries in universities, polytechnics, research institutes and colleges of education awarding higher degrees and certificates. Academic library is the engine room of any institution of higher learning, it is at times called the heartbeat of an institution.

Library materials are information materials which are valuable resources acquired, processed and made available to users of academic library for learning and research purposes. These materials are both prints and electronic in nature and are acquired on a regular basis to contribute to the learning and research activities of the academic environment. A library without current materials is dead. Library resources are purchased with a huge amount of money, but miscreants' users pose challenges to the library by stealing, mutilating or abusing these valuable resources to benefit their own selfish interest.

Akor (2013) defines mutilation as the act of destroying or removal of an essential part of library materials as to render it useless. These could be as a result of bending of corner of paper or inserting pencil or biro into pages. Also opening of books back to back, tearing of relevant pages, etc. Utah (2004 : 13) defines mutilation and theft of library materials as "deliberate removal or attempted removal of library materials from the library without their being checked out". Also, successful unauthorised removal of library materials from the library, failure to return materials to the library is also considered to be theft of library materials. Aliyu (2004) cited in Akor (2013 :13) define theft "as the total removal of library materials from the library without the normal procedures, either by the library users, library staff or both of them".

Theft, mutilation and abuse of library materials are illegal incidences in libraries. Their causes are synonymous but have different features. The term theft refers to crimes involving taking of a person's property without their permission and consent. Theft can be defined as the unauthorised taking of library materials with the intent to permanently deprive others from using it or have access to the materials. Fasae and Adedokun (2016) opine that theft of library material is when information material of any form is taken out of the library in an unauthorised manner by the library users. The major reasons or causes of theft in the library are as a result of high cost of book, insufficient copies in the library, beauty appearance of book, lack of user orientation, high demand of books, lack of photocopying Machine and so on.

Mutilation means to injure, disfigure, or make imperfect by removing or irreparably damaging parts of library material. Mutilation of library materials is the improper handling of library materials thereby inflicting serious damage on the material. Mutilation could also be refer to as vandalism of library materials. Vandalism is recorded when library users engage in an act of cutting some pages, parts of a page, pictures, colour plates, computer sets, with the intent to steal them. This cause of mutilation of library materials could be as a result of financial constraint, selfishness on the part of students, and scarcity of library Materials, among others.

The abuse of library materials could be through theft, mutilation and other forms which serve as treats to the library and librarians. Abuse of library materials is the improper usage or treatment of an entity, often to unfairly or improperly gain benefit. Abuse of library materials can come in many forms, such as, physical or verbal maltreatment of library material. Factors responsible for abuse of library

materials are: selfishness, inadequate number of library materials, high cost of photocopying and fear that one may not find the material at the next visit

Theft, mutilation and abuse of library materials are deviant act or behavior by users in the library and have served as one of the major obstacles against discharging effective library services especially in academic libraries. This deviant act by users could also be refer to as user delinquency in library. Ebunnuwele, Yaya and Krubu (2011) study on user delinquency and the actions that can be taken to eradicate such illegal and immoral acts found user delinquencies to be actions that are illegal or immoral that users carry out during the process of consulting library books and other materials. Such actions include misuse of OPAC, databases in the library, unruly behaviors, receiving phone calls in the library while others are reading, mutilation of library materials, impersonation, and theft and computer system. These illegal and immoral acts of users can be found in different libraries.

### Statement of the problem

Information materials are organised in the library and the services are provided to users to meet their information needs as students, lecturers and the university communities. Despite all the efforts put in place by the librarians to meet users' information needs, librarians face some challenges in the provision of the information services in the library as they noticed missing materials and damages done to some library materials by deviant users in the library. These delinquency actions are theft, mutilation and abuse of library and information materials. This habit has deprived other potential users from the effective use of the information materials. Theft, mutilation and abuse of library and information materials has been identified as the most common crimes in libraries, one which has been on the increase for many years. Academic library experiencing growth and expansion are being exposed to challenges such as theft, mutilation and abuse of books in the hand of library users. Due to the growth and expansion taking place in the system, there is a need for the library to look for means of saving the valuable resources from miscreants. It is on this premise that this study investigates theft, mutilation and abuse of library and information materials by undergraduate students of University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

### Objectives of the study

The main objective is to identify the degree of theft, mutilation and abuse of library and information materials by undergraduate students of University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

The objectives are to:

1. Identify causes of abuse of library materials.
2. Identify causes of theft and mutilation of library materials.
3. Determine ways by which library materials are being stolen, mutilated and abused.
4. Identify the methods library adopt to prevent its information resources from theft, mutilation and abuse.

### Research questions

The following research questions where drawn to guide the study

1. What are the causes of abuse of library materials?
2. What are the causes of theft and mutilation of library materials?
3. What are the ways by which library materials are being stolen, mutilated and abuse?
4. What method library adopts to prevent its library materials from theft, mutilation and abuse?

## Brief history of University of Ibadan

The University of Ibadan is the oldest Nigerian university and is located at the centre of Ibadan city in western Nigeria. The University of Ibadan started off as the university college, Ibadan which was founded in 1948, occupying, at first the old site at Eleyele. It later moved to the new site which covered over 2,550 acres of land. The site was generously leased by the chiefs and people of Ibadan for 999 years. The establishment of the university could be traced directly to the reports in 1945 of the Asquith and Elliot commissions which were set up by the British government in 1943. There were 104 foundation students (including 49 students in teacher training and survey courses) who began their courses at Ibadan on 18 January 1948. The formal opening took place on 25 March, 1948, in February 1948, London University allowed Ibadan its special relationship scheme. Arthur Creech Jones, then Secretary of State for the colonies, and an influential member of Elliot commission, cut the first sod at the permanent site of the university college on 17 November, 1948, which thereafter became the foundation day, besides the College of Medicine, there are twelve other faculties: Arts, Science, Agriculture and forestry, renewable natural resources, Social sciences, Education, Veterinary medicine, Pharmacy, Technology, Law, Public health and Dentistry and later Economics, Environmental design and management, is proposed.

## Brief history of Kenneth Dike library

The University of Ibadan library is named after Professor Kenneth Dike, the first indigenous principal and former vice-chancellor. It was established out of the desires of the founding fathers and matriarch of the icon of higher education in Nigeria, to cut a niche for research and sound teaching in the University of Ibadan. The Kenneth Dike Library contains over 700,000 volumes and seats 1,250 readers. It is open to all senior staff, and students, and to senior staff of the University College Hospital, Ibadan, as well as Alumni of the University. Anyone else with serious reasons for using the Library may also be admitted to use it for study and reference purposes only, provided they have a letter of introduction from a recognised University official (HOD/Dean, or a designated authority from the visitor's school or organisation. In all cases, the claims of scholarship and research are given first consideration.

In the Kenneth Dike Library clients are allowed to search the Internet free of charge except for some minimal fee for photocopying and maintenance of the facilities. Gateways to various electronic journals are also available for users of the library especially researchers. Passwords are made available to users when they come to search. The information professionals available in the library include the academic librarians, reference librarian, circulation librarian, cataloguers, collection development librarian, systems librarian, special collections librarian, the acquisitions librarian and others. Paraprofessionals are also available in the library, as were all library assistants and attendants. All these personnel are there to help the users in their various searches. The academic librarians are often involved in teaching, and processing of information. The University Library contains approximately 700,000 volumes of books, and receives over 6,000 separate journals and other serials. However, current acquisitions have declined significantly due to shortage of funds. There are two main categories of collections-**Main Collection and Special Collection**. The main collection of books and pamphlets is located on open-access to readers in the upper floors of the main building, i.e. the first to fourth floors. Journals are, however, shelved on the ground floor of the Research Library. The special collection is where research materials such as Africana collection, Arabic books and manuscript, Government publications, maps and prints collection, Publications Ordinance rare books, theses and staff publications.

## Literature Review

Abuse of library materials is one of the major challenges facing library and libraries are making serious efforts to subdue. Anyaobi and Akpoma (2012) reported that abuse of library materials in libraries is a menace that has persisted, and the worsening state of libraries in Nigeria appears to have aggravated its intensity and the consequent detrimental impact. Literature has also revealed that abuse of library materials has become a common occurrence in academic libraries in Nigeria as well as other parts of the world and if not properly investigated and checked, will create a serious threat to Nigerian libraries' collections (Ifidon, 2000). The main causes of abuse of library materials are lack of finance, shortage of library materials and security personnel. Anyaobi and Akpoma (2012) opined that factors such as inadequate service staff at night and during the weekends, lack of multiple copies of library materials in high demand and inadequate photocopying facilities may cause a negative impact on users' disposition to library materials.

Fasae and Adedokun (2016), in their study showed that the mostly abuse information materials are textbooks, projects/theses/dissertations and newspapers. Some students abuse information materials because of selfishness and high demand of a particular book by the students influence abuse of library materials. The most common ways of abusing library materials by student is by tearing of pages, folding of pages and writing on pages of information materials. It was suggested that abuser should be subjected to heavy and well-defined penalties, while closed circuit television should be installed in libraries to minimize these occurrences, as well as providing effective photocopying facilities which can be easily used when needed by library users.

Adekunle, Adekunjo and Unuabor (2018) revealed in their study that the extent of theft and vandalism of library materials were very high in academic libraries in Osun State, Nigeria attributed causes to economic depression, lack of user orientation, the findings also revealed that the resources that were majorly affected are reference materials as well as books containing disc, the study found methods used to perpetrate the act of theft and vandalism of library resources, include, mutilation of books, walking out with library materials when security is not alert etc. The study concluded that theft and vandalism of information resources has affected the academic library in no small measure. It was therefore; recommended that there should be policy formulation that will guide against every form of theft and vandalism.

Higgins (2015) examines the reasons and motives for book theft and vandalism, the study summaries exiting security measures and offers suggestions for theft and vandalism prevention. It also states that until technology sufficiently meet the specific needs of collections security in today's library, best electronic security systems, vigilant observation such as the installation of posters and signs etc. That is, library should adopt and apply ICT in the operation of library in order to protect and preserve the library materials from abuse, theft and vandalism. Akor (2013) said crimes committed by some users of the academic libraries, have deprived many others from fully achieving their information needs. Vandalism, mutilation, defacement, theft are problems regularly encountered by the materials of these libraries. The commodity the libraries promote, books and other information materials are valuable and expensive but are likely targets for criminal activities. Ifidon (2000) in his own opinion stated that mutilation and theft in libraries is a menace that has persisted, and it is indeed a global problem, the worsening state of libraries in Nigeria appears to have aggravated its intensity and the consequent detrimental impact.

The study carried out by Ifidon (2000) attempts to investigate perception of students to the dynamic of book theft and mutilation, including its effect and impact on the library, its services and

clientele”. The result revealed: insensitivity to the need of other users, high cost of books, non- detection of previous acts of theft and incessant power failure. An academic library, being a complex institution must have large quantities of materials to meet the demands of the numerous students, lecturers and faculty officers; therefore, there is the need to protect the materials in the library from factors such as theft, abuse and mutilation. The threat to intellectual property through theft, abuse and mutilation has posed tremendous challenge to the library profession worldwide. According to Jackson (1991) “incidents of theft, non-return of materials and mutilation of library stock are on the increase. These unwanted acts need a serious tackle in academic libraries in order to protect library resources” Anunobi and Okoye (2008) contributed that, “academic libraries are faced with crossbreed challenges in order to acquire the necessary skills”. One challenge is the issue of security management for prevention of theft of print and non-print resources in the academic libraries. There is a need for academic libraries to ensure accessibility and effective use to make an effective program of collection security necessary. This programme must include assessment of collection security management for prevention of incessant book thefts and the measures use in curbing security infringement.

Afolabi (1993) and Tefera (1996) stated that the following factors constitute user delinquent in the library: throwing out books and other information resources through windows at night during power outage, carrying books and other information resources out of library without getting them properly charged out, tearing off pages of books and other information resources, using chemicals to clean off library ownership stamps in books and removing date due slips, removing the jacket cover and preliminary pages of books so that those books cannot be identified, stealing other registered library user borrower’s tickets and using them to borrow books, users conniving with some library staff such that a user can be issued with more tickets than allowed by the library, user borrows a book legally, goes out of the library, removes the date slip of the book intended to be stolen, uses a gum to affix the date due slip to create the impression that it is a legally borrowed book and takes the stolen book out of the library. Several library materials could be stolen this way until it is a time to return the book that was legally borrowed. Study by Sconul’s (2003) “New guidelines to safeguard collections in UK museums, archives and libraries’ recognized that ‘there is an established market for the stolen items, and they usually retain their value’. Book theft, abuse and mutilation is identified as the most common crime in libraries, one which has been on the increase for many years.

## Methodology

The research design adopted for this study was descriptive research design of the survey type. For the purpose of this research, the instrument used by the researchers for the collection of reliable information and data was questionnaire. The instrument is titled “Theft, mutilation and abuse of library and information materials by undergraduate students” Scale (TMALIMUS) contained questions developed into five sections. Section A; Background information. Section B; Causes of theft and mutilation of library materials, Section C; Causes of abuse of library materials, Section D; Means through which library materials are being stolen, and Section E; Methods library adopt to prevent its information resources from theft, mutilation and abuse. The total population of this study is One hundred and five undergraduates who are library users. Random sampling was employed to select participants for the study. A total of 105 questionnaires were distributed and were found valid for the study. The reliability coefficient for the instruments was tested to be 0.76 using Cronbach-Alpha method. The questionnaire was pre tested on undergraduates of Lead City University that was not included in the study. The data collected for this study were analyzed using frequency counts and percentages.

## Findings

**Table 1: Level of study of respondents**

Level of study	Frequency	Percentage (%)
100 Level	18	17.1
200 Level	37	35.2
300 Level	26	24.8
400 Level	14	13.3
500 Level	10	9.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 1 showed that majority of the respondents 37(35.2%) were 200 level students, followed by 26(24.8%) respondents, who were 300 level students, also, 18(17.1%) of the respondents were 100 level students, 14(13.3%) were 400 level students, while 10(9.5%) respondents are 500 level students. This implies majority of the library user are 200 level students who intend to study hard for the improvement of their academic performance and who are likely to practice theft, abuse and mutilation of library and information materials in the library.

**Table 2: Age Distribution of the respondents**

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
15-20 years	19	18.1
21-25 years	32	30.5
26-30 years	25	23.8
31-35 years	18	17.1
36 years and above	11	10.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 2 showed that majority of the respondents 32(30.5%) were within 21-55 years of age, followed by 25(23.8%) respondents, who were within 26-30 years, also, 19(18.1%) of the respondents were within 15-20 years, 18(17.1%) were within 31-35 years, while 11(10.5%) respondents are within 36 years and above.

**Table 3: Distribution of respondents by sex**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	56	53.3
Female	49	46.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 3 shows that 56(53.3%) of the respondents were male while their female counterparts were 49(46.7%). The indication of this is that majority of the respondents per level of study are male.

**Table 4: Marital Status of respondents**

Marital status of respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	98	93.3
Married	7	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4 shows that 98(93.3%) of the respondents were single, while, others 7(6.7%) were married. This indicated that majority of the respondents are young adults.

**Table 5: Department of the respondents**

Department of the respondents	Frequency	Percent
Animal Science	8	7.6
Architecture	6	5.7
Arts and Social Sciences	4	3.8
Communication and Language Art	5	4.8
Computer Science	8	7.6
Forest Production and Products	3	2.9
Geography	3	2.9
Geology	4	3.8
Guidance and Counselling	2	1.9
Library and Information Science	8	7.6
Library, Archival and Information Studies	10	9.5
Linguistics and African Languages	4	3.8
Physiotherapy	4	3.8
Political Science	5	4.8
Psychology	10	9.5
Sociology	10	9.5
Special Education	11	10.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 5 showed that majority 11(10.5%) of the respondents were in Department of Special Education, 10(9.5%) were in Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies, Psychology and Sociology respectively, 8(7.6%) were in Department of Animal Science, Library and Information Science and Computer Science respectively, 6(5.7%) were in Department of Architecture, 5(4.8%) were in Department of Communication and Language Art and Political Science, 4(3.8%) were in Department of Arts and Social Sciences, Geology, Linguistics and African Languages and Physiotherapy, 3(2.9%) were in Department of Forest Production and Products and Geography, and 2(1.9%) were in Department of Guidance and Counselling.

**Table 6: Faculty of the respondents**

Faculty of the respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agricultural Science	8	7.6
Clinical Sciences	8	7.6
Communication and Information Science	4	3.8
Education	34	32.4
Faculty of Arts	11	10.5
Faculty of Environmental Design and Management	6	5.7
Faculty of Science	5	4.8
Renewable Natural Resources	3	2.9
Social Sciences	25	23.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 6 showed that majority 34(32.4%) of the respondents were in Faculty of Education, 25(23.8%) were in Faculty of Social Sciences, 11(10.5%) were in Faculty of Arts, 8(7.6%) were in Faculty of Agricultural Science and Clinical Sciences respectively, 6(5.7%) were in Faculty of Environmental Design and Management, 5(4.8%) were in Faculty of Science, 4(3.8%) were in Faculty of Communication and Information Science, and 3(2.9%) were in Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources.

**Table 7: Causes of theft and mutilation of library materials**

S/N	Theft and mutilation of library materials	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	S.D
a.	Beauty appearance of books.	28(26.7%)	44(41.9%)	23(21.9%)	10(9.5%)	2.86	.924
b.	Financial constraint.	17(16.2%)	73(69.5%)	15(14.3%)	-	3.02	.554
c.	Selfishness on the part of students.	32(30.5%)	53(50.5%)	20(19.0%)	-	3.11	.698
d.	High cost of book.	30(28.6%)	43(41.0%)	25(23.8%)	7(6.7%)	2.91	.889
e.	Lack of photocopying Machine.	14(13.3%)	38(36.2%)	41(39.0%)	12(11.4%)	2.51	.867
f.	Insufficient copies of the book in the library.	15(14.3%)	60(57.1%)	21(20.0%)	9(8.6%)	2.77	.800
g.	High demand of books.	39(37.1%)	40(38.1%)	24(22.9%)	2(1.9%)	3.10	.820
h.	lack of user orientation	44(41.9%)	22(20.9%)	28(26.7%)	11(10.5%)	2.84	.922

Table 7 showed that majority 90(85.7%) of the respondents agreed that financial constraint with (Mean=3.02), followed by selfishness on the part of students 85(80.9%) with (Mean=3.11), followed by high demand of books 79(75.2%) with (Mean=3.10), followed by insufficient copies of the book in the library 75(71.4%) with (Mean=2.77), followed by high cost of book 73(69.5%) with (Mean=2.91), followed by beauty appearance of books 72(68.6%) with (Mean=2.86) and lack of user orientation 66(62.8%) with (Mean=2.84) were the major causes of theft and mutilation of library materials. This finding agreed with the findings of Adekunle, Adekunjo and Unuabor (2018), they revealed in their study that the extent of theft and vandalism of library materials were very high in academic libraries in Osun State, Nigeria attributed causes to economic depression, lack of user orientation.

**Table 8: Causes of abuse of library materials**

S/N	Abuse of library materials	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	S.D
a.	Selfishness on the part of students	32(30.5%)	53(50.5%)	20(19.0%)	-	3.11	.698
b.	High cost of photocopying.	14(13.3%)	38(36.2%)	41(39.0%)	12(11.4%)	2.51	.867
c.	Inadequate number of library materials.	15(14.3%)	60(57.1%)	21(20.0%)	9(8.6%)	2.77	.800
d.	Fear that one may not find the material at the next visit.	18(17.1%)	47(44.8%)	37(35.2%)	3(2.9%)	2.76	.766

Table 7 showed that majority 85(80.9%) of the respondents agreed that selfishness on the part of students with (Mean=3.11), followed by inadequate number of library materials 75(71.4%) with (Mean=2.77), and followed by fear that one may not find the material at the next visit 65(61.9%) with (Mean=2.76) were the major causes of abuse of library materials. This finding agreed with the findings of Fasae and Adedokun (2016), in their study showed that the mostly abuse information materials are textbooks, projects/theses/dissertations and newspapers and that some students abuse information materials because they are too lazy, selfish and that high demand of a particular book by the students sometime influence them in abusing library materials.

**Table 8: Means through which library materials are being stolen, mutilated and abused**

S/N	Means through which library materials are being stolen	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	S.D
a.	Removing the jacket cover .	22(21.0%)	50(47.6%)	28(26.7%)	5(4.8%)	2.85	.806
b.	Hiding them inside exercise books.	35(33.3%)	23(21.9%)	32(30.5%)	15(14.3%)	2.74	1.074
c.	Hiding them in their pocket.	18(17.1%)	48(45.7%)	27(25.7%)	12(11.4%)	2.69	.891
d.	Putting it in their handbags.	33(31.4%)	52(49.5%)	17(16.2%)	3(2.9%)	3.10	.766
e.	Confusing/diverting the attention of people at the circulation desk.	25(23.8%)	49(46.7%)	21(20.0%)	10(9.5%)	2.85	.896
f.	Confiding with library staff to help smuggle it out from the library.	21(20.0%)	27(25.7%)	41(39.0%)	16(15.2%)	2.50	.982
g.	Hiding under cloth.	22(21.0%)	45(42.9%)	32(30.5%)	6(5.7%)	2.79	.840
h.	Tearing of page(s) off.	20(19.0%)	59(56.2%)	21(20.0%)	5(4.8%)	2.90	.759

Table 8 showed that majority 85(80.9%) of the respondents agreed that putting it in their handbags with (Mean=3.10), 74(70.5%) agreed that confusing/diverting the attention of people at the circulation desk with (Mean=2.85), 79(75.2%) respondents agreed that tearing of page(s) off 79(75.2%) with (Mean=2.90), 72(68.6%) respondents agreed that removing the jacket cover with (Mean=2.85),67(63.8%) agreed that hiding under cloth with (Mean=2.79),and 66(62.8%) respondents agreed that hiding them in their pocket 66(62.8%) with (Mean=2.69), are the means through which library materials are being stolen. This finding is in line with the findings of Afolabi (1993) and Tefera (1996) they stated that the following factors constitute user delinquent in the library: throwing out books and other information resources through windows at night during power outage, carrying books and other information resources out of library without getting them properly charged out etc. It further confirmed the findings of Akor (2013) reported that crimes committed by some users of the academic libraries, have deprived many others from fully achieving their information needs. Vandalism, mutilation, defacement, theft, etc. are problems regularly encountered by the materials of these libraries.

**Table 9: methods library adopt to prevent its information resources from theft, mutilation and abuse.**

S/N	ITEMS	Frequency	Percentage (%)
a.	Dropping bags at entrance before going to the reading room	11	10.5%
b.	Monitoring the attitude of people in the library	20	19.0%
c.	Enough security guards to mount the entrance of the library	5	4.8%
d.	Qualified staff	17	16.2%
e.	Mount cameras in the library	18	17.1%
f.	Having good window burglar	3	2.8%
g.	Enough copies of books	9	8.6%
h.	Good library orientation exercise	14	13.3%
i.	Personnel moving around in the library	8	7.6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 9 showed that majority 20(19.0%) of the respondents agreed that monitoring the attitude of people in the library is the methods library adopt to prevent its information resources from theft, mutilation and abuse in the library, 18(17.1%) agreed that mount cameras in the library is the methods library adopt to prevent its information resources, followed by 17(16.2%) that agreed having qualified staff is the methods library adopt, and 14(13.3%) respondents agreed that good library orientation exercise is the methods library adopt to prevent its information resources from theft, mutilation and abuse in the library. This finding corroborate the findings of Fasae and Adedokun (2016), in their study

suggested that abuser should be subjected to heavy and well defined penalties, while closed circuit television should be installed in libraries to minimize these occurrences, as well as providing effective photocopying facilities which can be easily used when needed by library users. Meanwhile, Adekunle, Adekunjo and Unuabor (2018) recommended that there should be policy formulation that will guide against every form of theft and vandalism.

## Conclusion

Library materials are valuable resources acquired, processed and made available to users of academic library for research, learning and to meet their information needs. This purpose can be distorted by some deviant behaviour of users in the library such as the acts of theft, mutilation and abuse that are often done to library materials by users. This singular act will deprive other users to use the information materials and will also affect the effective information service delivery by librarians in the library. This study have been able to reveal that financial constraint, selfishness on the part of students, high demand of books, insufficient copies of the book in the library among others were the major causes of theft and mutilation of library materials. While, selfishness on the part of students, inadequate number of library materials and fear that one may not find the material at the next visit were the major causes of abuse of library materials. Means through which library materials are being stolen by users are putting it in their handbags, confusing/diverting the attention of people at the circulation desk, tearing of page(s) off, etc. Also, methods that are to be adopted by library to prevent its information resources from mutilation, theft and abuse are monitoring the attitude of people in the library, mount cameras in the library, having qualified staff, good library orientation exercise, dropping bags at entrance among others.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- i. To prevent theft and mutilation of library materials, library should ensure they stock sufficient copies of most consulted books by users in their collections.
- ii. Librarians should not tolerate indiscipline from the students who misbehave or distract others in the library while studying for it could be a strategy for deviant act.
- iii. Library management should implement a strong policy in the library such that users who are caught in the act of theft, abuse and mutilation of library materials will be expelled from the University.
- iv. In order to prevent theft and mutilation of library materials, security measures should be put in place that can help to prevent theft and mutilation in the library such as installation of CCTV cameras in the library, proper checking of bags after using the library, security alarm among others.
- v. Government should provide fund for the Academic libraries to help their financial incapacity in terms of ICT application for adequate security in the library.
- vi. There should be stable power supply in the library to monitor the users while using the reading room.

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