

DOG-EARING AND ITS EFFECTS ON LIBRARY RESOURCES IN ADE BIMFE IKE LIBRARY OF ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA UNIVERSITY BAUCHI

BY

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Abstract

Dog-ear is an act of folding down corner, bookmark and keeping sheets of paper together in a book and other fragile information resources, in the absence of a stapler or paper clip that leads to the reduction of lifespan and damage of the material. The study investigated the types of Dog-Earing perpetrated on the Library resources of Adebimfe Ike Library of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi (ATBU) and ascertain its causes and effects. A descriptive research design guided by four objectives and four research questions was adopted. A questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. Twenty-five (25) Library staff that made up of all the professional librarians and shelves supervisors were the population of the study. The data collected was analyzed using mean and standard deviation with the help of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). The findings of the study revealed amongst other things that, Newton and Highlight Dog-Earing were the two major types of perpetration of information resources used in the Library with a mean rating between 2.80- 2.85. Finally, the study recommended amongst other things that, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) should be properly utilized in the Library to minimize these occurrences, as well as providing good photocopying facilities to be used when needed by Library users.

Keywords: Dog-Earing, Library Resources, University Library

Introduction

A library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to materials and may be a physical building or room, or a virtual space or both. Thus, a library's collections can include books, periodicals, newspapers, films, manuscripts, maps, print documents,

microforms, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, audio, Blue-Rays, databases and other formats likes. According to the encyclopedia of library and information science (2018), a library as an organization exists to support the parent organization (the university) in achieving its objectives. In the same way the use of library will help students, researchers and other library users to overcome the barrier and discouragement to information access and use to achieve their academic pursuit. Libraries ensure that their resources are used effectively. Policies are mechanisms for ensuring that individuals are treated fairly and equitably and that individuals' interests are managed for the greater good (Bryson, 2018). Policies are guides to decision making. They ensure that organizational decisions are in line with organizational philosophy (Clark 2014).

However, conservation is an act of preservation, protecting and shielding material from destructive influences that shorten their life span. The library plays a crucial role in protecting and preserving information-bearing materials from distortion, deterioration, and eventual loss because the materials are imperative. Academic libraries acquire information resources to meet the needs of their community. People use the collections as a result of increasing enrollments in higher education. There are shortages and decline in book budgets arising from the poor funding of the institutions as well as the high cost of books and other information resources. As a result, the Libraries are left with damaged books, distorted tapes, scratched CDs, and the likes (Baker, 2001).

Rosenberg (2003) has a strong conviction that everyday care of library books should be given special emphasis on preservation measures taken by libraries and information centers. This conviction is derived from the fact that the quality of care and handling ultimately contributes to the longevity of the book.

University library is a library that is attached to a higher education institution which serve two complementary purposes to support the school curriculum and the research activities of the University, faculty and students. The library is the symbolic heart or nerve center of academic life in any university. Reding (2005) indicates that from a social, cultural and economic point of view libraries play a fundamental role in our society. They are the collectors and stewards of our heritage; they are organizers of the knowledge in the books they collect – adding value by cataloguing, classifying and describing them; and, as public institutions, they assure equality of access for all citizens. They take the knowledge of the past and present, and lay it down for the future.

The university library is an academic library but not all academic libraries are university library. According to Daun and Arjmand (2015) university libraries are committed to an environment of respect with the inclusion for faculty, staff, students and members of the community. It is expected that the pages or resources in the library should not be wrongly handling by folding or down corner to avoid dog-earing. A dog-ear is a folded down corner of a book page. The name arises from the fact that wolves' ears stand erect while the ears of many breeds of dog flap over. A dog ear can serve as a bookmark. While generally frowned upon by those that want to preserve books in their original condition, it is particularly common in use on paperbacks which are designed to be cheaper and more harshly used than hardcovers. Sometimes, it is also used to keep sheets of paper together, in the absence of a stapler or paper clip. The phrase dates back to the late 18th century, according to the submission of the Hon. Gentleman, William Pitt the Younger, in his address to the House of Commons, (Feb. 3, 1799). Dog-earing is also commonly used to mark a section or phrase in a book that one finds to be important or of personal meaning. Dog-ears can range in size from the tip of the page to half the page. Although people generally

dog-ear the top section of pages (on either side), some also dog-ear on the bottom half of pages. Dog-ears work best on thin pages.

Dog-ears may be unmade by folding it back into its original location and compressing the pages of the book together. Removing dog-ears is not recommended on paper that are trail, fragile and bottle from age, as it may cause the flap to separate from the page. Dog-eared more than one successive page can cause problems, as the flaps (depending on the thickness of the paper and the number of pages) may cause the marked sections to bulge and distort the book. Reference works are most prone to this problem (Ogbodo, 2004). State that all users must treat furniture, equipment, books and other library property with care. Users must not damage, mark or deface library materials. They must not dog-ear pages or use paper clips or post it in books. Stressing further, he advised that users must be careful with drinks near books and equipment. They must not attempt to repair furniture, equipment, books or other items; rather, they should report damage to staff (Rev, 2016).

Statement of the Problem

Information is a vital resources needed by students to perform well in their academic pursuit. However, research and observation reveals that students Dog eared books in the library while accessing the information. This is one of the great challenges faced by the library and its collection as such affect readers' service department toward information delivery, conservation and prevention of materials. When library materials especially print are not well prevented, the problem of inaccessibility to the required occurs, this may likely affect the library and the user's efforts in search of information and collection status of the library particularly the university library. It is against this backdrop that the problem of this study is in question of what are the types of dog earing perpetrated, its causes and effects to the library resources of the Adebimfe Ike University Library of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi.

Objectives of the Study

The study sought to:

1. establish the types of dog-earing perpetrated by users of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi Library resources;
2. find out the causes of dog-earing of library resources perpetrated by users in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi Library;
3. determine the effects of dog-earing of library resources perpetrated by users of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi Library; and
4. find out the strategies used for reducing the causes of dog-earing of library resources in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi Library.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided this study.

1. What are the types of dog-earing perpetrated by users in Adebimfe Ike Library of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi?
2. What are the causes of dog-earing of library resources perpetrated by users in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi Library?
3. What are the effects of dog-earing of library resources perpetrated by users in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi Library?
4. What are the strategies for preventing library resources from dog-earing in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi Library?

Literature Review

The misuse of library materials (prints, non-prints and e-resources) through dog earing and other forms of abuse has posed serious challenge to academic materials. Karin de Jager (2018) reported that material use in academic libraries take place for a considerable number of reasons by students, researchers and teaching staff. Student may need library items in preparation of papers and class assignment for establishment or verifying facts or in the tracing of historical development over a period of time. Researchers, teaching staff may use library materials in order to keep pace with the development in specific field of interest (Karin de Jager, 2018). It was observed that the library delinquency literature is heavy and the researchers are many and varied because delinquent acts are certainly not new phenomenon to libraries.

Dog-earing

Tefera (2016) stated that user delinquent in the library could result from the following factors: throwing out books and other information resources through the 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. It could also arise from using chemical to clean off library 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 ticket and using them to borrow books, some library staff cooperate with users such that the user can be issued with more borrowers tickets allowed by the library, while library staff at times assisting users to borrow books illegally and destroy the records thereafter.

Gadekar and Golwal (2013) noted that library crime such as dog earing is a serious and widespread problem in academic and public libraries, where damage to library materials could be recorded. Apart from this, theft, dog earing, loss of books, non-return of books, physical and verbal abuse, misuse of reading materials, over borrowing, unauthorized borrowing, problem patron behaviour, delinquent readership, misplacement, and illegal incidences also constitute vandalism in the library.

Holt (2017) identified rare books, manuscripts and special collection as frequent target of theft and dog earing because of special demands for in depth studies of such materials. However, rates of theft of library equipment and audio-visual materials were comparatively low. Looking at the way forward from this ugly perspective in academic libraries.

Ewing (2014) noted that authorities must ensure that loan and renewal policies are liberal, access to stock is more than enough, and there are good photocopying facilities. Holt (2007) highlighted theft of library collection by staff as a real problem that libraries should address and not ignore because of the risk of bad publicity. According to Ewing (2014), library staff should be acquainted of losses and should be trained to be vigilant when on duty. In addition, users should be made aware of the effects of dog earing of materials. Greater statistics of amounts of dog earing is needed, and much further research is vital. However, it has to be said that, in an area where library crime is high that librarians can no longer tolerate it, there is then need for library security. In African context, specifically Nigeria, which is regarded as the giant of African, academic libraries have been faced with varying degrees of criminal behaviour in the use of their resources especially materials and to some extent manpower. Abuse of library materials has become a common occurrence in academic libraries in Nigeria and other parts of the world and if this is not

investigated and checked, it will create a serious threat to Nigerian libraries' collection and preservations (Anyaoobi and Akpoma, 2012).

Dog-earing is carried out by lazy, uncultured users for their selfish ends. Dog earing in academic libraries becomes rampant towards the end of the semester when students are preparing for examinations. Akpoma (2016) affirm that as long as library materials are physically handled and are intellectually explored, there is bound to be some forms of abuse or the other. One of the reason responsible for dog-earing of library resources, inadequate number of multiple copies of library materials, high cost of photocopying and fear that one may not find the material at the next visit.

To curb abuse of library materials which will eventually help to reduce the incidences of pilfering, theft and dog earing, photocopying services must be available at an affordable price in libraries (Aguolu and Aguolu, 2012).

Edem and Feather (2007) in a study carried out on Conservation arrives at the conclusion that preservation is a cord that runs through the activities of a Library. Preservation includes all the protection, maintenance and restoration of information materials. Preservation involves direct and indirect actions.

Review of Related Empirical Studies

A review of literature was conducted to explore the various research studies on dog-earing and its effects on library resources, related empirical studies with respect to the topic are very scarce. However, few studies were found to be relevant and related to this study, one of which was carried out by Akporhonor blessing Amina (2015) on deterioration of serial materials in University Libraries in South-south. Nigeria. Two research questions were posed and answered by the study. The study employed A descriptive survey research design with the total population of 461 university librarians in seventeen selected university libraries in the six (6) state of south-south, Nigeria. The sample of the study was 461 librarians, both male and female in 17 selected university libraries in the selected states in south-south, Nigeria purposive sampling technique was used to select the sample on the basis of specific characteristics. The data collected was analyzed using both descriptive method of questionnaire administration and collection with the help of two research assistants.

The data collected were analyzed using both descriptive statistics. The simple percentage was used to analyzed the respondent's personal data, while the mean and standard was used to answer the research question and criterion response rate. The response rate of 67% is considered adequate while 60% considered inadequate for the study. In analyzing personal data, the respondent age reveal that 139 (44.8%) of the respondents were within the age while 98 (31.6%) fell within the range and remaining 73 (23.5%) fell within the range of 40 years and above 103 (33.2%) respondents possess B.Sc. or B.L.S while 84 (27.10%) respondents have HND. The study suggested that 187 (68.3%) out of 310 (39.7%) of the respondents are academically prepared for preservation.

The study reveal that deterioration of serials in university libraries in south-south, Nigeria with an average calculated mean of 3.90, which is greater than the criterion mean of 3.00, it was observed that the deterioration of serials in university library was as a result of brittleness, fragility, and tear with a mean score of 4.21 and standard deviation of 1.02 and another mean score of 4.09 and standard deviation 0.92 of the respondents agree that deterioration of serials was as a result of dust, soot, embedded dirt and finger print.

The study concluded that serials materials deteriorate as a result of brittleness, fragility, and tear and the type of serial of materials that are prone to deterioration are newspapers, magazines, newsletter etc. the study also recommended that university libraries should consider various method that could be applied to curb deterioration of serials, also appropriate instruction should be developed for monitoring good housekeeping practices and inappropriate use of photocopier should be discourage while the study is found relevant to the current research of Dog-earing and its effect on libraries resources.

Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was used for the study using four objectives and four research questions. Questionnaire was used for data collection for the study. Twenty-five (25) library staff that made up of all the professional librarians and shelves supervisors were the population of the study. The data collected was analyzed using Mean and Standard Deviation with the help of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS).

Data Presentation and Analysis

Table One: types of dog-earing perpetrated by users of Adebimfe Ike University Library resources.

Research question One: What are the types of dog-earing of library resources perpetrated in Adebimfe Ike University Library of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi?

S/N	Items name	Items Picture	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Newton's Dog-Earing		2.80	.60	P
2	Highlight Dog-Earing		2.85	1.06	P
3	Jojo Cooper Dog-Earing		2.38	1.02	NP
4	Phil Ashley Dog-Earing		2.28	1.05	NP
5	Ollo via getty Dog-Earing		2.23	1.17	NP

6	Post-it Notes Dog-Earing		2.47	1.16	NP
7	Paperclips Dog-Earing		2.14	1.19	NP
8	Pressure sensitive tape Dog-Earing		2.19	1.03	NP
Cluster Mean			2.41		NP

Key: 0.5 to 2.49 = Not Perpetrated, 2.50 to 3.49 = Perpetrated, 3.50 to 5.0 = Highly Perpetrated.

Table 1. Above reveals the types of dog-earing perpetrated in the library. Where item 1 revealed and 2 which Newton's Dog-Earing and Highlight Dog-Earing were found to be perpetrated at a mean rating between 2.80- 2.85. while from item 3,4,5,6,7 and which included were not perpetrated because the rating indicated that Jojo Cooper Dog-Earing 2.38, Phil Ashley Dog-Earing 2.28, Ollo via getty Dog-Earing; 2.23, Post-It Notes Dog-Earing; 2.47. While item 7&8 also, show that Paperclips Dog-Earing and Pressure sensitive tape Dog-Earing are at not perpetrated with the mean 2.14 & 2.19 respectively. A Cluster Mean of 2.41 against the entire items indicated not perpetrated types of dog-earing in Adebimfe Ike library of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi.

Table Two: Causes of Dog-earing of Library Resources perpetrated by users in Adebimfe Ike University Library of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Bauchi.

Research Question two: What are the causes of Dog-earing of Library Resources in Adebimfe Ike Library of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi?

S/N	Item Statements	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Inadequate copies of books	2.61	.86	A
2	Inadequate copies of Journals	2.85	.91	A
3	Restricted access to book resources	2.38	1.11	D
4	Restricted access to rare books resources	2.14	.91	D
5	Lack of reprographic services in the Library	2.47	.87	D
6	High cost of text books	2.47	1.07	D
7	High cost of Journals	2.66	1.06	A
8	Cost of photocopying services	2.19	.81	D
9	Lack of e-book resources	2.47	.98	D
10	Lack of e-journal resources	2.57	1.07	A
Cluster Mean		2.48		D

Key: 0.5 to 2.49 = disagree, 2.50 to 3.49 = agree, 3.50 to 5.0 = strongly agree.

Table 2. Shows that item 2 inadequate copies of Journals recorded the highest mean of 2.85 followed by item 7 with a mean value of 2.66. Also, item 1&10 revealed that is agreed that inadequate copies of books & lack of journals resources are among the causes of dog-earing in the

library. Equally items 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, & 9 are at disagree extent with the mean value of 2.38, 2.14, 2.47, 2.47, 2.19, & 2.47 respectively. But the cluster mean recorded the mean value of 2.48.

Table Three: Effects of Dog-earing of Library Resources perpetrated by users of Adebimfe Ike University Library of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Bauchi.

Research Question Three: What are the effects of Dog-earing on Library Resources in Adebimfe Ike Library, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi.

S/N	Item Statements	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Deliberate wrong shelving of library resources	2.23	.94	D
2	Fear of missing access to the materials consulted in the next visit	2.57	.81	A
3	Pages torn from books	2.66	1.01	A
4	Pages torn from journals	2.66	.96	A
5	Erasing library identification stamp	2.61	.92	A
6	Removing due date slips	2.04	.92	D
7	Borrowed books are not returned	2.19	.98	D
Cluster Mean		2.04		D

Key: 0.5 to 2.49 Disagree, 2.50 to 3.49 = Agree, 3.50 to 5.0 = Strongly Agreed.

Table 3. Revealed that item 1 is at disagreement level with the mean value of 2.23. Also, item 2 revealed that Fear of missing access to the materials consulted in the next visit is at agreed extent with the mean value of 2.57. item 3 show that Pages torn from journals is at agreed level with mean value of 2.66. Also, item 4 recorded the mean value of 2.66 therefore, it is at agreed extent. While item 5 show that Erasing library identification stamp is at agreed extent that is one of the effects of dog-earing on library resources in the library with mean value of 2.61. The items 6&7 with the mean value of 2.04 & 2.19 are at agreed extend. The Cluster Mean revealed that the effect of dog-earing on library resources is at disagreed extend with the Mean value of 2.04.

Table Four: Strategies used for reducing the causes of Dog-earing of Library resources in Adebimfe Ike University Library of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Bauchi.

Research Question four: What are the strategies for preventing Dog-Earing of Library resources perpetrated by users in Adebimfe Ike library Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi?

S/N	Item Statements	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Provide more text books for borrowing	3.09	.83	A
2	Number of book copies to be issued to users should be increase	2.71	.71	A
3	Proper checking of physical feature of returned books at the circulation desk	3.57	.59	SA
4	Installing electronic security devise/system on books	3.52	.60	SA
5	Provide cheaper photocopying facilities	3.09	.99	A
6	Provision of functional photocopying facilities	3.04	.92	A
7	Provision of cheaper photocopying services	3.04	.86	A
8	Provision of scanning facilities	3.04	.97	A
9	Security alarm should be installed on the library resources	3.19	.67	A
Cluster Mean		3.14		A

Key: 0.5 to 2.49 = Disagree, 2.50 to 3.49 = Agree, 3.50 to 5.0 = Strongly Agree.

Table 4. revealed that item 1 providing more text books for borrowing is agreed by the respondent to be used as a strategy for preventing dog-earing on library resources is at agreed extent with the mean value of 3.09. Item 2 also, shows that proper checking of physical feature of returned books at the circulation desk is at agreed extent as a strategy for preventing dog-earing on library resources in the library. While item 3&4 recorded a strongly agreed extent with the mean value of 3.57 & 3.52 respectively. Items 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9 have shown that Provide cheaper photocopying facilities, Provision of functional photocopying facilities, Provision of cheaper photocopying services, Provision of scanning facilities are at agreed extent that are strategies for preventing dog-earing of library resources in the library when considering that the mean responses reads 3.09, 3.04, 3.04, 3.04, and 3.19 respectively

Discussion of Findings

The finding established that highlight Dog-Earing and newton's dog-earing recorded highest mean value of 2.85 & 2.80 respectively showing that these two act recorded an acceptance by the respondent that are perpetrated in the library. While other types of dog-earing such as Jojo cooping dog-earing, Phil- Ashley dog-earing, Olla Via Dog-Earing, post in notes Dog-Earing and pressure sensitive tape Dog-Earing are not perpetrated in Adebimfe Ike library, because they are recorded as not perpetrated by the respondent.

The research also shows that causes of dog-earing of library resources in Adebimfe Ike library, the items number 1,2,7 & 10 (inadequate copies of books, inadequate copies of journals, highest of journals, lack of journal resources are definitely recorded as agreed level of acceptance as the causes of dog-earing of library materials in the library. While others items show that are recorded at disagree level as causes of Dog-Earing in Adebimfe Ike Library.

From the responses of the respondents, in table 4.3 shows that item 5,4 & 3 recorded the high mean values showing that erasing library identification stamp, pages torn from journals and books are some of the effects of Dog-Earing of library resources in Adebimfe Ike Library. While others, accepted by the respondents as effects of dog-earing of library resources in the library.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis carried out on the strategies for preventing dog-earing of library resources in the library. Indicates that respondents strongly agreed that proper checking of physical feature of returned books at the circulation desk and installing electronic security device system on books can serve as strategies for preventing Dog-Earing of library resources in Adebimfe Ike Library on the other hands items like providing more text books, provision of scanning facilities provision of functional photocopying facilities are also strategies for preventing dog-earing but are at agreed levels by the respondents. Also, respondents accepted at agreed extent that installing security alarm on the library resources and provision of more textbooks for borrowing are the strategies for preventing Dog-Earing of library resources in Adebimfe Ike Library.

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