

**EFFECTS OF FUNDING, STAFF TRAINING, PRESERVATION  
AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL ON NEWSPAPER  
UTILISATION IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA**

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## ABSTRACT

Newspapers are sources of information on topical and current issues, stocked by libraries for use but due to their nature, they are susceptible to deterioration much faster than other printed materials. University libraries, therefore, have the challenge of preserving newspapers for posterity, quick access and use. Existing studies have dealt with newspaper preservation but there is a dearth of studies on effects of funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation. This study, therefore, investigated effects of funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.

The survey research design was adopted. The stratified random sampling technique was used to select 14 (out of 25) federal and 15 (out of 28) state universities from all public universities in Nigeria in 2010. Twenty-nine serial librarians and 50 users from each of the selected universities participated in the study. The instruments used were two questionnaires, one for the serial librarians and the other for the users, interview checklist and observation schedule. The questionnaire on serial librarians had scales on funding ( $r=0.65$ ), staff training ( $r=0.68$ ), preservation and bibliographic control ( $r=0.71$ ), while that of the users had scale on newspaper utilisation ( $r=0.71$ ). Two hundred copies of 16 titles of different national newspapers were sampled and inspected in each of the universities to verify their level of deterioration. Nine research questions were raised and six hypotheses tested at 0.05 level of significance. Data collected were subjected to descriptive statistics, Pearson Product Moment correlation, multiple regression and content analysis.

There was a significant relationship between preservation of newspapers and newspaper utilisation ( $r=0.264, p<0.05$ ), newspaper utilisation and bibliographic control of newspapers ( $r=0.514, p<0.05$ ); and between newspaper utilisation and funding of newspapers ( $r=0.516, p<0.05$ ). There was no significant relationship between newspaper utilisation and staff training on preservation. Funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control of newspapers jointly influenced newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria and accounted for 3.2% of the variance on newspaper utilisation. The four factors when combined made significant contribution to newspaper utilisation ( $F_{(4;24)}=4.37, p<0.05$ ). The contributions of these factors were as follows: preservation ( $\beta=0.308$ ), bibliographic control of newspaper ( $\beta=0.227$ ), funding ( $\beta=0.117$ ) and staff training ( $\beta=0.025$ ). Funding of newspapers in federal university was ( $x=\text{N}500,000$ ) and state ( $x=\text{N}100,000$ ). The interview revealed that newspaper subscription and preservation were not adequately funded and staff training in both federal and state universities was inadequate. However, funding of newspapers in federal universities was relatively better than in state universities. It was revealed that majority of users from all the universities consulted newspapers frequently. Observation guide showed that newspapers were not well preserved to provide quick access to them in both federal and state universities.

Funding, staff training on preservation and bibliographic control positively influence the shelve life of newspapers in both federal and state universities. Therefore, university librarians should sustain and improve on preservation and bibliographic control of newspapers to extend their shelve life and provide quick access to them due to their role as information resources.

**Key words:** Newspaper funding and preservation, Staff training and bibliographic control, Newspaper utilisation, University libraries.

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is solely dedicated to my mother, Mrs. Comfort Aduke Teibo of blessed memory.

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## CERTIFICATION

I certify that this work was carried out by Olatundun Oluwatoyin Oyewumi in the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies, Faculty of Education, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

The purpose of university libraries is to create, preserve and transmit knowledge. Libraries preserve and transmit the knowledge that perpetuates societal culture and allows scholars to create and learn. University libraries also facilitate scholarship, teaching, research and development based on the utilisation of knowledge. The Florida University Library (2013) states that the mission of the university library is to support and enhance learning, teaching, research and service activities by providing organised access to quality information in all formats, promoting information literacy and preserving information. It states further that libraries provide the raw materials for students to learn and the resources for the faculty to conduct research. Therefore, libraries' collections, contained in a variety of media, newspapers inclusive, should be organised in such a manner that learners can retrieve what they need to support their academic work.

The University of California (2013) shares a similar opinion but adds that the library system is an integral part of the educational process. It is essential to the quality of the intellectual and cultural life of the university in particular and the citizens of the state in general. Moreover, the primary function of university library is to provide support for the university's approved programmes of teaching and research and to serve students, faculties and other university staff engaged in these programmes. The secondary function is to furnish inter-institutional support for academic programmes in other institutions of higher learning both public and private. In addition, it serves as a resource for other users throughout the state and nation, subject to such limitations as may be necessary to ensure effective discharge of its primary functions.

Furthermore, Ifidon and Okoli (2002) submit that university libraries especially in Nigeria have the following additional responsibilities: pursuit, promotion and dissemination of knowledge, provision of intellectual leadership and manpower development. From these responsibilities, university libraries, according to Nok (2006), have derived their objectives to include provision of materials for undergraduate instruction, term papers and projects, support of faculty, external and collaborative research, personal development, leisure and cooperation with other

academic libraries with the view to developing a network of academic library resources that are at the disposal of all scholars

Since the major purpose of the library is to acquire, preserve and make materials available, there is need to acquire appropriate materials and collect necessary print and non-print materials to meet the information or recreational needs of its users. Anafulu (1996) in his contribution to the subject stated that if the library is to meet the objective for which it was established, money should be made available for the procurement and processing of materials. To achieve this purpose therefore, the library needs recognition by the authority of such institution (Opaleke, 2005). Such recognition would be by providing adequate fund through an annual budget allocation for the library to operate effectively.

According to Oduwole and Idowu (2011), lack of funds for effective running of university libraries in Nigeria have adversely affected adequate provision of quality modern books, updated literature materials, journals and subscription to adequate newspaper titles and copies for library users. Moreover, without finance, university libraries cannot provide continuous subscription to newspapers and other information resources (Mahmood, Hameed and Haider, 2006). Therefore, budgeting is a necessary exercise in the university library. According to Peavler (2013), budgeting is the process of preparing a detailed statement of financial results that are expected for a given time period in the future. Oyelude and Ola (2008) defines budget as a guide or directive for fiscal management. They assert that libraries need funds for services including acquisition of newspapers, and these services must be budgeted for. As also reported by Omoniwa (1987), a budget is a financial document for planning and control purposes for the present and future. He stated further that a budget is also an important instrument of communication with an accompanying informative supporting statement. Thus, budget serves as an instrument for pursuing efficiency, and translation of financial resources into human purposes. With an annual budget, university libraries would in turn be able to set aside or make money available for certain purposes such as daily subscription to copies of different titles and multiple copies of newspapers, preservation of newspapers, having a preservation policy to work with, bibliographic control of newspapers through indexing and abstracting, training and retraining of library staff through staff development programmes, and having a disaster control plan in place. These would increase the frequency of newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.

Agarwal (2011) in an article titled 'Essay on the Importance of Libraries', submitted that libraries should always subscribe to all important newspapers for its various users, because they make interesting reading whether for leisure, educational or research purposes. They also serve as primary sources of announcing any significant break-through in science, art and technology (Igbiosa, 1998). Agarwal (2011) stated further that it might be difficult for a person of average means to purchase more than one or two newspapers. However, it is the keen desire of people to know all possible shades of opinion as expressed in various newspapers. To achieve this, users need to visit a library and glance through the relevant pages of many newspapers. According to Mahmood, Hameed and Haider (2006), university libraries play a vital role in social and economic development of a country. They argue that newspapers in university libraries are very important to users because they provide valuable information on vital national issues, contribute towards better education, social environment, and growth in agriculture, business and industrial sectors.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica (2010) defines a newspaper as a publication usually issued daily, weekly or at other regular times. It stated that newspapers provide news, views features and other information of public interest. Also, the World Book Encyclopaedia (2008) defines newspaper as a publication chiefly devoted to presenting and commenting on the news. As the "first draft of history", newspapers offer unparalleled source of information in the community which they serve. They connect people to their past and to one another. Wei Zhang (2006) also asserted that newspapers are the draft version of history and are very important reference materials for historical research. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (1996) stated that newspapers are of great interest to a wide variety of library users. It is seen as an indispensable record of all kinds of information on day to day life in a country, local community or world-wide historical, economic, cultural facts or events.

According to Igbeka (2010), newspapers provide up-to-date information on local, state/provincial, national and world issues. They are among the most widely read periodicals that are available and accessible to the vast majority of people of all ages and walks of life in any community. She argues that every category of readers can find some important, current and interesting information in the newspapers because they may and usually do offer views and opinions on current events. They

also contain articles and features which do not have close connection with the immediate news. Moreover, they can be read in the library at the users' conveniences fitting easily into time schedules (Encyclopaedia Americana, 2006).

Besides, the need for adequate, timely and up-to-date information in taking both personal and corporate decisions has often been stressed. One of the means through which information is transmitted is the newspaper. The importance of newspapers as an information source was highlighted in Aiyepoku's (1982) study on information utilisation by policy makers. The study revealed that 84% of the policy makers consulted newspapers and magazines and this ranked among the five most consulted information used by policy makers in Nigeria. Onu (2005) also supports the view that daily newspapers are accorded a great deal of importance in university libraries in most countries. According to her, in most cases, the source of many policy changes, priority changes and even interest changes has been the information read on the pages of newspapers. Moreover, there is a universal agreement that information is an important element in every sector of life and cannot be underestimated (Bello and Ajala, 2004). This view is supported by the social responsibility theory of the press which postulates five functions of the media. One of them is that the media should give citizens access to all relevant information through newspaper reports (Fadiran, 1988). In view of the interest of users in reading newspapers and its importance as a primary source of information, librarians should improve and sustain newspaper subscription in university libraries in Nigeria.

Despite the keen competition from other mass media, and in a time when information is available to anyone at the push of a button, a turn of the dial, and now a click of the mouse, newspapers have continued to exert the greatest influence because they have had to adapt in order to satisfy their audience and users. It is inherently cheap, portable, frequently published and more widely available, thus ensuring the most up-to-date information and readability by individuals with varying reading ability. The British Newspaper Library (1987) also emphasised that for decades, even hundreds of years after publication, researchers of all kinds, all over the world, turn to back issues of newspapers in university libraries for information relating to a wide variety of research needs. Thus, according to Okojie (1993), the value of newspaper as a tool for research cannot be underestimated. Therefore, the library has a role to play in providing different titles and multiple copies of newspapers to satisfy the interest needs of their various users.

Newspaper, according to Okorafor (1990), is also useful in teaching reading skills to students. It helps them to distinguish between facts, opinions and propaganda. Wei Zhang (2006) shares the same opinion by asserting that newspapers preserve vast amount of first-hand information for research and are reliable sources for studies on politics, economy and culture of a country and a specific period of society. Borgart (1981) reported that keeping up with the news establishes and reinforces the connection between the individual and his social environment, narrowly defined as his home or more broadly as his country or the world. The social bond, according to Bankole and Babalola (2011), is uniquely expressed by the newspapers, among other media, due to the bulk volume of information contained from which readers could select what are relevant to them. In positioning newspapers within the environment and establishing their academic research viability, Cheney, Knapp, Alan and Czapla (2006) opined that despite the growing presence of news on the Internet, radio and television, the current newspaper collections of university libraries would continue to play a vital role to users in the academic community. It should therefore be noted that the production of newspapers in developed and developing countries provides an enormous resource for research on all subjects. Therefore, university libraries should subscribe to all newspapers published locally and improve on preservation and bibliographic control so that they can be of use to the user the library.

Nevertheless, despite the rapid development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in recent years, the preferred medium for communication of information and ideas between one person and another according to Oketunji (2005) is still largely the printed book. People, during World War II, were able to read about the heroes and the progress of the war via the newspaper because it offered all kinds of information to people about issues of the world. Even when a new form of publishing of newspapers arose via the Internet with the introduction and advancement of computers, which made many newspaper companies take a major step by putting an on-line version of their newspaper on the Internet knowing that the Internet offers information from all over the world with just a click of the button, the hard copies of newspapers still capture the interest of the majority of the population (Oketunji, 2005).

With regard to quick access to newspapers, the Internet offers an opportunity for people to read newspapers and to communicate regularly with one another around the world. Lending credence to the importance of Internet, Nwokedi (2007) asserts



that the Internet has broken down barriers of communication access anywhere in the world because it is fast, reliable and does not have restrictions on content or format. He states further that the Internet has a limitless range of facilities which assist users to access almost infinite information on the net. It provides access to information that would otherwise not have been available. In addition, it provides an opportunity to access up-to-date research reports and knowledge globally. Magazine and newspaper articles about any current event can be found and read anywhere in the country where access to Information and Communication Technology is available. In some developed countries, for example, United States of America and the United Kingdom, households are equipped with personal computers and/or laptops where users can read newspapers on the Internet.

The evolution of newspapers has had many effects on people and there is still the question of whether or not having newspapers on the Internet is really better than the printed version. It should however be stressed that having newspaper on the Internet does not solve the problem of preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. Although digitisation has become one of the key activities in the libraries because it is an excellent way of providing quick access to library materials and digitisation of newspapers is sometimes loosely referred to as preservation, it is crystal clear that, digital resources are at their best when facilitating quick access to information and weak when assigned the traditional responsibility of preservation (Smith, 1999). It is important to mention that despite the availability of a rich digital environment, people are still buying and reading/consulting newspapers in university libraries, especially in Nigeria where power supply is erratic.

McIntyre (1986) reports that the most important reason why people read or subscribe to newspapers is that people enjoy the medium's portability coupled with the fact that the medium contains information they cannot get from another source. Unfortunately, according to Delaunay (1992), newspapers are printed with low quality ink on poor quality paper, generally of large size and without binding covers. Thus, they exhibit certain fragility. Ferber (2009) states that newspapers made before the late 1800's often held up better than more current newspapers because prior to the mid-1800, newspapers were printed on paper that contained rag linen content which contained virtually no acid, chemicals or wood pulp rather than today's traditional newsprint. Thus, many of these newspapers in the early eighteenth century, survived

in excellent condition and could, if properly handled and cared for, survive for generations to come. Production of rag paper was a relatively expensive process, however as the 19<sup>th</sup> Century progressed, technology and increasing literacy combined to encourage cheaper production of paper (The Encyclopedia Americana, 2006).

In the 1880s, most newspapers and other mass market publications were published on paper that was produced using a manufacturing technique that substituted untreated ground wood fibres for more expensive rag content and included additional substances to prevent discolouration and decreasing porosity. Unfortunately, paper made using this process carries within itself, reactive agents that speed up its deterioration. Excessive moisture causes the lignin and other impurities present in newsprint to produce acid, which weakens the paper. On the other hand, excessive heat and dryness contribute to the paper's brittleness. While the use of wood pulp allows production of a more economical medium for publication, the stability of that medium over time is not guaranteed. The cheapest and least stable form of this paper is the newsprint.

Though Aguolu (1980), Aina (1987), Adeyemi (1987) and Sangowusi (2004) in their studies have shown that newspapers play a significant role in research in a number of fields, the problem in preserving, storing and providing quick access to them, makes them not to be as widely available as needed. This is because they come in various sizes and format and due to the way in which paper is manufactured, they pose various problems of management and quick access in the library. In addition to its obvious fragility, today's newsprint is especially susceptible to damage caused by heat, light, dampness and airborne pollutants. However, with proper preservation, their shelf life could be extended while deterioration is reduced since the purpose of preservation is to ensure the protection of information of enduring value for access by present and future generations (Conway, 1996). Therefore, libraries, archives and information agencies have the responsibility of preserving information for present and future use, whether recorded in words or not, bearing in mind that paper-based collections are the most strongly represented formats in Nigerian library collections.

Harvey (1993) asserts that adequate care should be given to paper-based collections, especially newspapers so as to prolong their shelf life and usefulness. Newspapers, according to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA, 1996), may crumble away in twenty or thirty years or even less, if they are not properly preserved from wear and tear and stored in a conducive

environment. Harvey (1993) and Feather (1991) note that preservation does not only protect materials from deterioration, but also ensures access and usage of that information. Besides, newspapers are meant to be used. According to Clement (1987) in his report of UNESCO survey of library collections in the world, frequent use of documents gradually wears them out. Frequent use and/or careless handling of materials by staff and library users cause deterioration. Thus, preserving them is a necessary and better solution. To this end, preservation of newspapers in university libraries should be seen as a method that enhances access and use.

Observation made on the readers of newspapers by the researcher in university libraries shows that users normally crowd around the newspaper section, with about five to six users on a newspaper. This could be because the library subscribe to few titles and copies of newspapers. As a result, there is increased pressure on the available newspapers by users who need information from them. The effect of this on print copies of newspapers is their fast deterioration since it has been established that all papers whatever the constituents, deteriorate with age. It has also been established that though newspapers are very fragile, under some conditions, paper which is properly made and cared for has a long shelve life (Akussah, 1991).

The increase in use and the way newspapers are handled has led to mutilation, defacing and deterioration of some of the newspapers by library users and library staff. Thus, there is the need to expose librarians, archivists and information professionals to preservation and conservation practices during training while libraries can de-acidify, bind, and microfilm or digitize to prolong newspapers shelve life. Harvey (1993) submits further that all library staff should be constantly kept aware of preservation and its techniques. Alegbeleye (1999) avers that librarians and information specialists should no longer claim ignorance of the need for preservation and conservation in libraries due to large quantities of information now available to them.

Thus, the importance of staff training on preservation in university libraries in Nigeria cannot be overemphasised. As noted by Nwalo (2003), it is the responsibility of library staff to ensure that book materials are in good physical condition so that they can be readily available for use at all times. Staff training falls under staff development programmes which have been given different names like re-training, in-service training and continuous professional development (Poole, 2002; Akintunde, 2006; Ajidahun, 2007; and Adanu, 2007). Librarians in universities need to undergo

constant and continuous training on new methods of preservation, information handling and dissemination in libraries. According to Adanu (2007), there is the need for librarians to engage in continuing professional development activities in view of the changes that have been introduced into the profession especially in this Information and Communication Technology (ICT) era. He stressed further that learning new skills is mandatory for librarians in order not to be sidetracked in this era of change.

Akintunde (2006) also emphasised the need for librarians to undergo compulsory routine retraining to preempt technological obsolescence and to be able to cope with the unfolding exigencies of the technological age. In his view, Manda (2005) posits that the training of library staff is not an end in itself as the expectation is that the staff will impart the skills and knowledge gained to the library and end users including academic staff and students. Similarly, Edem (2004) opines that training of librarians in form of in-service training, workshops, seminars, conferences and other forms of personal or corporate development will, in no small way enhance the productivity of the librarians and the institution. The researcher is of the view that no investment would appear to be too great and no expenses would be too much on staff training on newspaper preservation when it is juxtaposed with the accruable benefits. The individual employee, management and entire library organisation would reap huge dividends and profits from the services of trained and highly skillful librarians and vice-versa.

Studies have shown that newspapers are read for current information, they are also often consulted for retrospective information, and they are one of the major resources in university libraries (Ajidahun, 2006, Wei Zhang, 2006, Igbeka, 2010). Compared to other print media such as textbooks and journals, newspaper collection grows rapidly in libraries due to their publication frequency (Igbinosa, 1998). There is the need therefore, through bibliographic control, to properly record, organise and manage them in order for users to utilise their intellectual content through quick accessibility. Moreover, the researcher also observed that there is no effective control of the number of newspaper titles circulating daily or weekly in Nigeria.

Bibliographic control in library and information science, according to Wikipedia (2013) is defined as the process by which information resources (such as books, periodicals, an image) are described so that users are able to find and select the ones needed. Also, Thapa (2009) defined bibliographic control as the activities

involved in creating, organising, managing and maintaining the file of bibliographic records like the materials held in a library or archival collection or the sources listed in an index or database (information retrieval tools). A bibliographic record is thereby created by providing a name, title and subject access to the description. He stated further that bibliographic control includes the scientific description and subject access by means of a uniform catalogue code, classification scheme and name authorities.

Research has shown that establishing bibliographic control on newspapers could be difficult because newspaper publishers frequently adjust masthead styles, and often change the title. Upham (1988) points out that the volatile nature of every aspect of the format that is size, publisher, place of publication, and most importantly, title, makes the creation of a reliable bibliographic record a risky venture. From the research carried out by her, she reported that patrons access newspaper files through the use of a combination of geographic location, title and date, though it is important to note that access to the contents of newspapers has always been limited. She states further that using newspapers as a reference source usually involves the time-consuming effort of passing through large, hefty volumes or scanning reels of microfilm. She opines that with access to newspaper, unless the paper has been indexed or bibliographically controlled, searching for the desired information can be a tiresome quest.

Unfortunately, there are no specific cataloguing rules for newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria. However, this cannot be overlooked by librarians because it enables users to identify the existence of newspapers useful to them and also to identify the information needed quickly (Okojie, 1993). Moreover, bibliographic control of newspapers in the library is essential because it aids prompt access to users (Woods, 1988). Petersen and Boylan (1988) pointed out that though newspapers are inexpensive and not difficult to acquire, they are however time consuming and expensive to catalogue, bulky and fragile in their original format. They present a special problem in technical processing to the librarians that collect them. To this end, they are of the opinion that there is critical concern today that a universal solution is required to save them through preservation and bibliographic control.

Libraries purchase newspapers but painfully, according to Igbiosa (1998), no library has enough space to adequately preserve them neither do they have a uniform bibliographic tool to control newspapers in order to provide quick access to current

and retrospective newspapers and also reduce users' drudgery in wading through bales of newspapers trying to retrieve a particular issue. Thus, there is no doubt that adequate preservation measures and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation are lacking in most university libraries in Nigeria

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Newspapers are sources of information on current issues in any nation and in the world at large. They are loaded with information which appear in the form of news reporting and feature articles on contemporary issues. However, finding information especially from back issues of newspapers can be a challenge due to their bulkiness. On a daily basis, the quantum of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria increases and this has implications for accessing, as well as space management with regard to their storage. To manage these resources, libraries need to devise mechanisms for tracking or controlling newspapers in a way that access to them and subsequent utilisation by readers are facilitated.

Furthermore, the print versions of newspapers, due to their nature, are susceptible to deterioration much faster than their non-print version. This may not be unconnected with inherent acidity of the paper used in producing them, heavy utilisation by readers and researchers and its attendant implications vis-à-vis wear and tear, handling, harsh tropical conditions coupled with inadequate storage facilities. For the above reasons, libraries have had to find a way of preserving these resources for posterity and facilitate easy and quick access to retrospective and current issues of newspapers. The extent of these management approaches (to funding, staff training, bibliographic control, preservation) on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria by librarians is not known. This underscores the need for the study.

It has been observed that little has been done to improve bibliographic control of newspapers in many university libraries in Nigeria so that access to newspaper collections can be facilitated. Large quantities of newspapers that are deteriorating in many university libraries will imperil long term access to them, when they are later needed by users. The twin problems of poor bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation and lack of adequate preservation necessitated the current study.

The researcher therefore sets out to study the effects of funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. This would help in determining better methods of managing newspapers

for use and the bibliographic control tools that could be effectively used to gain quick access to retrospective and current print format of newspapers.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to find out the effects of funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. The specific objectives of this study are to:

1. find out if university libraries subscribe to newspapers and which titles;
2. find out how much is expended by university libraries in Nigeria on the purchase of newspapers annually;
3. determine the categories of users and frequency of newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria;
4. find out if newspapers have been lost to any form of disaster;
5. find out the present and adequacy of mode of preservation of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria;
6. examine the problems confronting university libraries in Nigeria in the storage and preservation of newspapers;
7. examine major bibliographic control method(s) and tools utilised for controlling newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria;
8. find out the relative effects of funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria;
9. identify what training programmes are available to library and information professionals in Nigeria in preservation and conservation of newspapers and whether or not these are adequate; and
10. find out if information and communication technology affect access, preservation and bibliographic control of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria.

### **1.4 Research questions**

The following research questions guided the study:

1. How many and which titles of Nigerian newspapers are subscribed to by university libraries in Nigeria?

2. How much is expended on the purchase of newspapers annually in university libraries in Nigeria?
3. What are the categories of users and frequency of newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria?
4. What proportion of newspapers on the average has been lost to disasters in university libraries in Nigeria?
5. What are the present modes of preservation of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria and how adequate are they?
6. What are the problems confronting university libraries in Nigeria in the storage and preservation of newspapers?
7. How effective are the bibliographic control methods utilised in university libraries in Nigeria for retrieval of current and retrospective newspapers?
8. What training programmes are available for library and information professionals in the management of newspaper collections?
9. To what extent has information and communication technology affected access, storage and preservation of Newspapers?

### **1.5 Hypotheses**

The following null hypotheses in the study were tested at 0.05 level of significance:

1. There is no significant relationship between funding and newspaper preservation in university libraries in Nigeria.
2. There is no significant relationship between staff training and preservation of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria.
3. There is no significant relationship between preservation and newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.
4. There is no significant relationship between bibliographic control and newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.
5. There is no significant joint effect of preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.
6. There is no significant relative effect of funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspapers utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.



## **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The study would be limited to librarians, archivists and information specialists because they provide information to users and also deal with newspaper management. It focused also on funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in federal and state university libraries in Nigeria. Federal and state university libraries in Nigeria are selected for this study because they have a rich collection of newspapers dating from the year of establishment of the oldest university to the youngest. In addition, they have different titles of newspapers and different categories of users who visit the newspaper sections to use newspapers for a variety of reasons.

Also, the libraries have bibliographic control tools such as indexing, captioning of major headlines, newspaper cutting adopted for their newspaper collections in order to make them easily accessible to users and a preservation method for extending the shelf life of newspapers

## **1.7 Significance of the study**

The significance of this study revolves round the importance attached to newspapers by university libraries in Nigeria which accounts for their daily subscription. The outcome of this research would offer new insights into the effects funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control have on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. In addition, it would be of significance not only to university librarians, but also to students, researchers, archivists, university library personnel, information specialists and all those involved in newspaper acquisition, preservation and bibliographic control.

It is expected that the findings would reveal areas where university libraries are lacking in funding, staff training and preservation of newspapers and would invariably offer suggestions to the problems of newspaper preservation in university libraries in Nigeria. It would also identify how newspapers can be controlled by using bibliographic tools to aid easy retrieval, access and dissemination to users in university libraries as and when needed. It would equally suggest how newspapers can be carefully handled by users and library staff who have the basic training in preservation in order to prolong the shelf life of newspapers.

Similarly, it is hoped that the study would be of great importance to those concerned with the training of librarians, archivists and information specialists by

imparting knowledge on the improvement of effective preservation, bibliographic control through adequate funding and better utilisation of newspapers in Nigerian university libraries. Finally, it would add to the body of knowledge in preservation, conservation and restoration of information resources.

### **1.8 Operational definition of terms**

There is the need to define some terms to enhance further understanding in the context of the study. The following terms are therefore selected for the purpose:

**Bibliographic control of newspapers:** In this study, bibliographic control of newspapers refers to the way in which the growth of information via the newsprint can be controlled by using bibliographic tools such as indexes, abstracts, cataloguing, etc. to aid access.

**Conservation:** Conservation is the specific practice employed to reduce deterioration and prolong the life of an object by directly intervening in its physical or chemical makeup such as repairing damaged bindings or deacidifying newspapers.

**Funding:** This refers to an amount of money that has been saved or made available for a particular purpose.

**Newspaper:** This a set of large printed and folded sheets of paper containing news, literary articles and advertisements published every day or every week.

**Preservation:** It includes 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.

**Serial librarians:** These are professional librarians in charge of the serials unit/section in each university library.

**Staff training on preservation:** It refers to the process of learning the skill of preservation by staff employed in the library.

**Utilisation:** The use of newspapers by library patrons.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

Several research activities have been carried out generally in the field of funding, staff training, newspaper preservation and their bibliographic control. This chapter therefore focuses on the review of related literature on the subject under study. The review covers the following sub-headings:

- 2.2 Value of Newspapers for Research
- 2.3 Funding and Subscription to Newspapers by University Libraries in Nigeria
- 2.4 Funding and Newspaper Utilisation in University Libraries in Nigeria
- 2.5 Newspaper Deterioration in University Libraries in Africa
- 2.6 Newspaper Preservation Practices in Developed and Developing Countries
- 2.7 Preservation and Newspaper Utilisation in University Libraries in Nigeria
- 2.8 Staff Training and Newspaper Utilisation in University Libraries in Nigeria
- 2.9 Staff Training on Newspaper Preservation and Utilisation in University Libraries in Nigeria
- 2.10 Bibliographic Control and Newspaper Utilisation in University Libraries in Nigeria
- 2.11 Bibliographic Control Tools for Newspaper Utilisation in University Libraries
- 2.12 Handling and Storage of Newspaper Collections in University Libraries
- 2.13 Disaster Control Management for Newspapers in University Libraries
- 2.14 The Place of Information Communication Technology in the Management of Newspapers
- 2.15 Theoretical framework
- 2.16 Conceptual Model
- 2.17 Appraisal of Literature Review

#### **2.2 Value of Newspapers for Research**

Information is important, and cannot be underestimated. Berezi (1981) sees it as the fifth factor of production. According to him, increasing the information component of the input factor mix definitely improves productivity. Bello and Ajala (2004) also stressed that one of the means through which information is transmitted is the newspaper. Newspapers hold a special place among the most important and accessible sources of information about the past for researchers. They are the major

channels of communication and main sources of information on the country's social, economic, political and cultural life as well as pursuit latest trends on different subjects (Sangeeta, 2006). Onu (2005) also supports the view by stating that newspapers have been accorded great importance in the transmission of government policy changes, priority changes and even interest changes

Similarly, Okorafor (1991) submits that newspapers are vital research resources in the humanities and social sciences. They also report discoveries in science and technology. In the same vein, the British Newspaper Library (1987) reports that for decades, even hundreds of years after publication, researchers of all kinds all over the world still turn to newspapers for information relating to a wide variety of research needs. No wonder, recent activities in the information community have begun to focus upon newspapers and their worth to researchers of both professional and amateur status (Sangowusi, 2004). According to Upham (1988), most information specialists realise that newspapers are important although too often forgotten or ignored information resources, they must be aware that they have a real responsibility to provide access to this unique category of materials.

In university libraries, newspaper services is considered as one of the services provided and it forms an invaluable part of materials acquired, processed and made available to library users because they provide up-to-date and timely information to users. Also, they play a vital role in information dissemination (Olanlokun and Momoh, 1994). Research has shown that they are primary useful source of information in different fields of knowledge and are used virtually by everybody. Okojie (1993) and the Birkbeck Union of London Newsletter (2005) lend credence to this view. Newspapers provide information on all aspects of human endeavours. According to Ibrahim and Agaja (2002), they relax the mind and calm emotions of their serious readers. Supporting this view, Nwakoby (1988) stated that the major obligation of a newspaper is to disseminate information to the public. The contents and features on various subjects, people, and places are useful, not only to the present generation, but also as sources of potential historic value to posterity. Though Bello and Ajala (2004) stated that newspapers contain ephemeral information, which become stale as the day passes by, they are of the opinion that newspapers contain articles of research value and intellectual reviews apart from having the advantage of being up-to-date.

To Aguolu (1980) and Sangowusi (2004), newspapers are vital instruments for disseminating news and providing information on current affairs, financial and political matters. Adeyemi (1987) stresses the importance of newspapers to researchers with particular reference to developing countries where newspapers feature current trends in politics, arts and science, a role played in developed countries by primary journals. He further notes that information in newspapers are of value and benefit to industry, government, publishers, the media, banks, labour unions, political organisations, legislators, legal practitioners, researchers and the general citizenry. In his own contribution, Aina (1987) submits that newspaper is one of the tools used by researchers in education in Nigeria. It is therefore important for libraries to emphasise the collection and organisation of newspaper information for use. Thus, newspapers are indispensable and veritable vehicle for producing a well-informed citizenry. They are seen not only as a disseminator of news, but also as a ready source of historical facts for the professional historian, sociologist and the economist (Ibrahim and Agaja, 2002).

### **2.3 Funding and Subscription to Newspapers by University Libraries in Nigeria**

Funding is significant and it plays a prominent role in any administration. Funds are needed in university libraries for the materials and services which are provided for library users and one of these materials is the newspaper. Edoke (1992) posits that funds for library and information services are traditionally derived from the library proprietor. The university library proprietor in this case, is the university that sets it up to serve its community needs. Thus, the parent body takes full responsibility for its funding.

Without fund, hardly could an organisation function well. Funding assists every organisation to plan for their expenses for a certain period of time (Opaleke, 2005). It is therefore important for every organisation to have a budget proposal in order to plan for their expenses for a certain period of time. The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (2010) defined budget as the money that is available to an organisation and a plan of how it will be spent over a period of time.

From the above definition, it can be said that budget is a mechanism for financial proposal of the possible revenue and expenditure for pursuing efficiency or human purpose within a given period of time. Budgeting is important because it forecasts probable income and expenditure. It cuts excesses of spending as worsening

economic conditions necessitate a better way of allocating limited resources to the various functions that have to be carried out (Summers, 1971). With budget, areas of priorities are spelt out for the year. It also serves as guide document or record for present and future estimates of the organisation for improvement.

Bearing this in mind, funding is important in university libraries because university libraries according to Ajibero (1992) are to support teaching, learning process and research needs of the faculty and graduate students. In addition, they must be up-to-date in their collections, and at the same time they must allow access to older materials in their collection. Moreover, university libraries have to provide services and guidance to their users. They must house collections of special value, newspapers inclusive, which should be part of the university and nation's heritage (Fowowe, 2006). Adequate funding should therefore be considered a basic necessity for the effective development of university libraries since part of the university libraries responsibility is to subscribe to newspapers daily and make them available to users knowing that newspapers are important and their value in the library cannot be underestimated. Unfortunately, according to Ojebode (2007), the reverse is the case. Supporting this view, Ajibero (1992) submits that this position is now being threatened by dwindling resources. Moreover, studies have shown that under-funding is the bane of library underdevelopment in Nigeria (Odusanya, 2004).

Lawal and Okwueze (2007) submitted that university libraries are influenced by changes and developments that occur within the society in which they are situated. Hence, university libraries are not spared the hard economic crunch in the nation. Their annual budgets are directly affected by the national budgets. University libraries have therefore been left with serious cut in their budgetary allocation owing to the continuing economic depression in the country. They stated that where there has been slight increase, it has been swallowed up by high exchange and inflationary rates. Thus, the overall effect is that annual library votes are no more adequate to meet its various needs, including collection development, newspaper subscription, preservation and bibliographic control.

In respect of paucity of funds, Afolabi (2006) observed that university libraries in Nigeria are in shambles. Ike (1998) also discovered that many university libraries are confronted with the problems of funding. Besides, according to Lawal and Okwueze (2007), funds allocated are sometimes unrelated to the goals set out for the library. Anafulu (1996), Olanlokun and Adekanye (2005) and Ifidon (2006)

traced the origin of poor library funding to the downward turn of petroleum prices immediately after 1984. Its effect on libraries was that their budgets were cut. The implication of inadequate funding of university libraries as summarised by Ayoola (2003) is that the library will not develop at the same pace with the academic programmes of the institution. New books will hardly be purchased while renewal of journals and newspaper subscriptions will be limited. As a result, the libraries will be unable to adequately fulfil their primary objectives.

Newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria have witnessed a great economic crunch in the past few years due to the global economic recession (Ajidahun 2006). Majority of the university libraries subscribe to different titles and more than one copy of local newspapers, in their geographical area. Some of the local newspapers subscribed to in university libraries in Nigeria then and at present are: The Guardian, The Vanguard, The Punch, The Tribune, The Nigerian Pilot, The Compass, The Sun, This Day, The Daily Trust, The Nigerian Observer, The Nation, The Daily Champion, Independent Newspaper, Leadership, The Mirror and Triumph. Some of these papers according to Igbinsosa (1998) are government owned while some are of private ownership. Subscription to newspapers in university libraries is usually done through direct purchase from local vendors. Unfortunately, most of the university libraries in Nigeria have reduced newspaper titles and copies subscribed to due to decreasing budgets and dwindling purchasing power of the naira (Anafulu, 1996).

Lending credence to this, Salam (2002) stated that prior to 1986, the average Nigerian could afford to buy three or more newspapers daily as the cover price of any Nigerian newspaper was just twenty kobo (20k). According to her, the current prices of newspapers ranging from one hundred naira to one hundred and fifty naira per copy have gone beyond the reach of an average Nigerian. This has made university libraries important avenues for reading newspapers (Bankole and Babalola, 2011). Unfortunately, it is sad to note that most university libraries in Nigeria, because of the poor financial state of their parent institutions, have reduced the number of newspapers to which they subscribe owing to lack of fund, high cost and proliferation of different titles in the country.

In the early 1990's, some university libraries were subscribing to all the titles of newspapers on the news stand daily. This view was corroborated by Ibrahim and Agaja (2002). They stated that newspaper collections in Ramat library, university of

Maiduguri dates back to the establishment of the university in 1975. The library subscribed to seven copies of each title of newspapers available locally since the economy of the nation was booming during the period and they were made available to the library users.

But currently according to Salam (2002), most university libraries subscribe to newspapers ranging from a minimum of two to a maximum of eight daily. Though almost every radio and television station in the country has a programme meant for the review of the newspapers. This cannot be substituted for reading newspapers as part of the contents of the papers are read to the listeners and viewers. The university libraries therefore still have the responsibility of subscribing to newspapers, providing quick access and keeping them safe for the present and future users. Perkins (1987) submitted that no matter how inconsequential certain materials might seem to contemporary readers, newspapers should still be subscribed to by the university libraries because the unconsidered trifles of today become the history of tomorrow.

#### **2.4 Funding and Newspaper Utilisation in University Libraries in Nigeria**

The need for funding in university libraries is increasingly important. In public institutions, government funds continue to dwindle. The literature (books, journals, and newspapers) that must be managed continues to grow (Oyelude and Ola, 2008). Moreover, there has been enormous increase in students' enrolment without corresponding increase in funding (Ojebode, 2009). Therefore, university libraries have been put under pressure over the last decade to manage their resources effectively and efficiently. They must effectively divide funds between staff and materials, which include acquisition of books, journals and newspapers, services and equipment (Oyelude and Ola, 2008). They are also charged with the responsibility of meeting the information needs of their users (staff and students) in pursuit of their academic endeavours. This can only be made possible through selection, acquisition, storage and dissemination of knowledge, both in print and electronic formats (Ojebode, 2009). However, for university libraries to effectively perform these functions, they have to be adequately funded. According to Odusanya (2004), underfunding of university libraries in Nigeria has however affected newspaper subscription and utilisation.

Some of the implications of inadequate funding and its effects on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria are summarised by Ayoola (2003) as



follows: subscriptions to periodicals, newspapers inclusive will be limited, the growth of newspaper collections will be reduced and the university library will not develop at the same pace with the academic programmes of the institution. While users interest in the library will diminish as long as the facilities that make it conducive for learning and reading for pleasure are lacking.

According to Oloruntoba (2002), of the three major factors of production, the place of finance is very important. It is the first prerequisite of any establishment. In library acquisition, university libraries are supposed to follow the 60:40 ratio with the latter figure being for journal and newspaper subscriptions Lawal and Okweze (2007). However, Ike (1988) submits that many university libraries encounter problems of funding. According to him, funds allocated to university libraries are sometimes unrelated to the goals set out for the libraries. In addition, there are also budgeting allocation problems for newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria and other developing countries. Unfortunately, this has affected newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.

Olanlokun and Adekanye (2005) and Ifidon (2006) agree with the statement. They traced the origin of poor newspaper funding to the downward turn of petroleum prices immediately after 1984. The effect of this on university libraries in Nigeria according to Lawal and Okwueze (2007) was that budgets were cut. Most libraries experienced a slash in their funds and subscriptions to some titles and multiple copies of newspapers had to be dropped. The drop however affected newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.

The situation at present remains the same with university libraries in Nigeria. Inadequate funding for periodicals, newspapers inclusive seems to be a global issue (Lawal and Okwueze, 2007). According to them, the situation is the same in most African countries. Kavulya (2006) in his survey of four university libraries in Kenya revealed inadequate funding of newspapers due to dwindling government fund allocation to parent institutions. Lending credence to this, Mahmood, Hammed and Haider (2006) stated that among various types of library collections, periodicals to which newspapers belong, have been the worst victims of financial crisis in Pakistan university libraries. Consequently, libraries have to cut their subscriptions and this has affected newspaper utilisation.

As observed by Fowowe (2006), adequate funding should be considered a basic necessity for the effect of newspaper acquisition in university libraries. In this

respect, it must be recognised that funds are needed for newspaper subscription and services which are provided for library users. Funds are needed for the staff that will obtain and make available the newspapers and preserve them. The cost of all this will represent the level of funding required by university libraries to subscribe to newspapers on daily basis for their users and for preservation. In addition, with adequate fund, university libraries would achieve greater efficiency and optimal results in delivering newspapers services that meet the identified needs of its users.

## **2.5 Newspaper Deterioration in University Libraries in Africa**

Research has shown that paper is one of the greatest and most useful inventions man has ever made on the planet. This is because it improves social and economic activities of man. Paper is also used as a medium of information storage and dissemination. Newspapers and magazines which carry news on government policies, programmes, projects and current events happening in the society are also made from paper. In both traditional and electronic libraries, paper based information materials are still more relevant in the provision of information services. Librarians and archivists cannot shy away from the fact that newspapers stand the imminent risk of losing so much of their valuable written heritage through the ever increasing deterioration of paper on which they have been written. Akussah (1991) and Popoola (2003) submitted that the situation is more alarming in most tropical African countries where a large number of documents and newspapers are in different stages of deterioration due to the interplay of some factors such as air pollution, biological agents and acidity which are not prominent in temperate countries.

Alegbeleye (1996) asserted that while books produced in earlier periods remain in mint condition, those produced from 1920's – 1950's to which category most newspapers in Nigeria belong have lost their strength and are now brittle. This, he said, could be traced to the source of material used in producing paper, which according to him is highly acidic and that the source of paper acidity could either be external or internal.

He stated that prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, it was standard practice to size a book and writing paper to prevent feathering. However, the principal agent for carrying this out was through the use of animal gelatine or glue considered to be innocuous. It was in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century that alum (potassium aluminium sulphate) was brought to the assistance of tub sizing. Clapp (1971) described alum as the false friend of

librarian/archivist because it could be consequently converted to sulphuric acid. Chlorine, which was discovered by the Swedish chemist Karl Scheele in 1774, helped in paper bleaching, and proved quite effective for the whitening of paper as an oxidising agent which, if not removed properly after bleaching, will cause deterioration of paper.

In the 1840s, the ground wood mechanical process of paper making was developed. Ground wood is generally used for making newsprints and magazines. Paper resulting from ground wood is often weak because its method of preparation produces very short fibres in clumps. Thus, Barrow (1964) in a test of the physical and chemical characteristics of paper of 500 non-fiction books published between 1900 and 1949 discovered that most have lost 96 percent of their strength (by comparison with newspapers).

However, air pollution as noted by Mwiyeriwa (1988) is one of the external sources of acidity. Acidic gases often reach paper in the form of air pollution, a typical example is sulphur dioxide. But sulphur dioxide is not itself harmful to paper. Rather, by oxidation of sulphur dioxide, acid is aided by impurities such as traces of iron and residual lignin in paper. The impurities act as catalyst to chemical reaction, evidence of this in our libraries is the brown discolouration one finds at the edge of books and newspapers as a whole. Akussah (1991) posits that the most hazardous pollutants to library and archival materials are those with acidic and oxidising tendencies and paper is one of them.

Vital to the provision of services in libraries is light. On the other hand, it is one of the greatest enemies of library materials especially paper. Ultra-violet light of sunlight or unfiltered fluorescent light which emits undesirable quantities of ultraviolet radiation cannot be overlooked. The photochemical effect of direct light leads to oxidation of lignin and paper cellulose, which causes paper to become yellow or brown. It also causes the fading of books and newspaper prints in library thus hastening the process of their deterioration. Burchberg (1983) submits that certain portions of light spectrum are more injurious than others but the blue violet light are the most deleterious. It is therefore necessary to filter ultra violet rays from domestic light in libraries, archives and information centres in order to prevent rapid deterioration of information materials.

The role biological agents in the environment play in the deterioration of paper cannot be over-emphasised. Microbiological elements, (fungi, bacterial), insects,

rodents are instrumental to newspaper deterioration. These agents are most potent in humid tropical countries where the most suitable environmental conditions for their propagation and destructive potency are found. Tropical countries, according to Plumbe (1964), are known to swarm with insects, pests and other microorganisms. He noted that some years back, of the over 1,200 species of cockroaches, majority of them were found in tropical countries.

The Nigerian weather and climatic conditions promote the growth of biological agents that destroy paper-based information materials. Nwokedi and Nedosa's (1999) investigation on paper microorganisms associated with the deterioration of library book materials in Jos, Nigeria and its environs reveal the presence of bacillus sp, a microorganism. The presence of this microorganism was found to depend largely on the temperature of the environment. Preventive measures should therefore be taken to avoid infection. Many chemicals can be used to destroy biological agents involved, while care should also be taken to ensure that they do not destroy newspapers. Nwokedi and Nedosa (1999) sum it up that the knowledge of the causes of deterioration of library materials especially newspapers in university library is important because it allows the information professional to understand why some preservative methods are more effective and why certain activities have to be carried out on a long term basis to enhance their effectiveness.

## **2.6 Newspaper Preservation Practices in Developed and Developing Countries**

It is a paradox of our time that it is paper, which is so fragile, that is assigned the awesome task of transmitting man's cultural heritage and accumulated wisdom. Man in his ingenuity has also produced other information carrying media such as microfilms, digitisation, magnetic tapes/discs and optical disk. According to the Encyclopaedia Americana (2006), the oldest and best known use of paper is as a writing material which is used to provide information services to users. For these reasons, the university library management must embark on preservation programmes that will safeguard them from deterioration and destruction, in order to meet the increasing demands of their users.

The history of preservation itself according to Abe (1994) is as old as the invention of the printing press. Thus, according to Balarabe (1990), the problem of preservation is not only of protecting paper and archival materials in particular against

possible dangers, but also that of permanently keeping them in conditions that could ensure their preservation in the most favourable condition and away from anything likely to cause slow but continuous deterioration. Cunningham (1987) shares the same opinion with him that newspapers were probably not intended to be a permanent record neither are they intended for long-term preservation, since paper is manufactured from wood pulp which is highly acidic, and is consequently subject to deterioration due to humidity and temperature and that the solution to it is preservation.

Moreover, preservation, according to Cunningham (1987), is the maintenance of newspapers as close to their original condition as possible, for as long as possible until they are no longer needed. Morrow (1979) and Ritzenthaler (1983) view preservation as an action taken to retard deterioration of library and archival materials by controlling their environment and or treatment of their structures and restoration. But the problem is that the materials on which we store information are subject to decay and damage. Feather (1991) describes damage whether caused by human agency or by other means, as something that can be avoided to some extent, and that provisions can be made to minimise its consequences if it should happen by accident. He describes decay as being intrinsic to all materials currently used for information storage and concluded that there is no technically and economically acceptable medium into which we can transfer even a significant percentage of the store of written and printed information.

As a result, preservation of information, newspapers inclusive, still depends upon our ability to preserve the books, manuscripts, newspapers and other documents in which the greater part of mankind's collective memory and wisdom is stored. Preservation, according to Khayundi (1991), is the term often regarded synonymously with "conservation and restoration". This is true to some extent since the three terms have one meaning especially when applied to reading materials. He states further that restoration and conservation require the skills of specialist while preservation which is the main focus of this study requires an alert librarian, archivist or curator who is committed to total good management of his collection.

Popoola (2003) submits that preservation in Africa, as a collection strategy has been relegated if not neglected by librarians and documentalists for a long time, especially in Nigeria. It is only of recent that information specialists in Nigeria have realised the urgent need for establishing preservation, conservation programmes and

strategies of managing their information resources efficiently and effectively in order to be relevant in this age of knowledge management and information technology. He observed that until 1980s, preservation and conservation of library information materials was only thought to be relevant to rare book materials. But these materials including newspapers are bound to deteriorate or breakdown with time through use and aging process. It might be difficult and expensive if not practically impossible to replace them. Besides, the modern day libraries and information centres are faced with the problem of deterioration of information materials in their holdings. Their information materials have deteriorated to the extent of losing their intellectual contents. In his study on the extent of book deterioration at the University of Ibadan, Alegbeleye (1996) noted that 80% of the available books therein were in the brittle book category.

From all these studies, one can conclude that preservation of newspaper in university library is important because newspaper deteriorates over time and the rate of deterioration is the function of such factors as the chemical characteristics of the paper, environment of storage, human handling and intensity of use. Periodicals and books which are issued without permanent binding should be preserved by libraries, archives and organisations. The multifarious forms of sheet, music maps, posters and many others all have their places in the library, and for research libraries which seek to maintain comprehensive collections, they present a serious and growing problem because they are not designed for permanent preservation, whereas, preservation is necessary.

Moreover, the ageing of newspaper is seen as a natural phenomenon, which causes brittleness, and most of the modern papers have got high acid content. A good example are books in tropical countries, which, due to high temperature and consequent faster chemical hydrolysis of cellulose fibres, decay faster and very often become unusable after ten years, while newspapers, because of the poor quality of paper, decay faster than other papers. Lamination at the proper time can enhance their age substantially, though deacidification of paper must however precede lamination to give the paper chemical stability besides physical strength. However, the laminated newspapers still take enormous space in university libraries in Nigeria therefore microfilming of newspapers sound more appropriate. Brandt (1998) also submits that newspapers housed in various collections in their original format are all deteriorating and according to him, the principal causes of paper deterioration is acid-catalysed

hydrolysis which is encouraged by high temperature. He also concludes that microfilming or digitisation will be a permanent solution.

The British Newspaper Library (1987) however mentioned how Canadian libraries and archives have been handling storage and preservation of their newspapers. It stated that binding was seldom used as a conservation measure in Canadian libraries and archives. Rather, microfilming which is still one of the accepted medium of preservation is used, despite the latest technology called digitisation which is unstable for about ten years in long term. Canadian libraries and archives are also of the opinion that there is no point relying on such technology when they have paper materials that are slowly degrading over 100 or 200 years. It further states that microfilming projects have been undertaken in Canadian academic, legislative and public libraries, archives, historical societies and newspaper publishers themselves. For example, the Canadian Library Association (CLA) has microfilmed several hundred titles for its series, Canadian Newspapers on microfilm, and also in Canada, there are a handful of commercial micropublishers with newspaper titles in their catalogues, while elsewhere, the British Library has filmed 136 Canadian papers based on the holdings of the newspaper Library.

According to a research carried out by Alegbeleye (1998) on newspaper preservation and access in Nigerian university libraries, the use of microfilm for preservation of the intellectual content of newspaper is still very restricted in Nigeria, and only two university libraries among those studied by him reported that they have converted small portions of their newspaper holding to microform. According to him, microform as a method of preserving the intellectual content of the originals also enjoys the advantage of saving space.

He reported that most libraries store their newspapers by wrapping them up in bundles, while others employ binding as a method of storage. He submitted that newspapers must be stored in a controlled environment because this minimises their deterioration. In his opinion, atmospheric pollutant, for example often cause the lignin and other impurities in paper to produce acid, which weaken paper stability and strength. The photochemical effect of direct light leads to oxidation of lignin and paper cellulose thus hastening the process of deterioration. He therefore recommended that many libraries in Nigeria, where back files are in advanced stages of deterioration, and where there is no demonstrated need to preserve the original,

micro-reproduction might be possible option of saving space which librarians could then use for other library related activities.

Holmes (1969) asserts that all libraries and media organisations have a problem if majority of the books, journals, newspapers and magazines they buy cannot last up to two or three decades, and if their structure is so poor that the binding will not survive even two years of normal use. More books and journals and less money means that those newspapers, books, journals have to be chosen more carefully before they are bought, and cherished more effectively after they have been acquired. Such books, newspapers and journals have to be stored and preserved adequately in that the preservation of the information content of a book, newspaper or document, as opposed to the original format is sometimes the only solution to preserving it at all.

The above statement supports the research findings of Falaiye (2003), which states that it is unfortunate that in preservation, funding which is of paramount importance is not taken seriously by authorities of the institutions where university libraries are situated in developing countries. This however is in contrast with the trend in developed countries such as the United States of America and Canada.

## **2.7 Preservation and Newspaper Utilisation in University Libraries in Nigeria**

For centuries, books and records have been the key means of carrying the past to the future. Even in the computer age, they remain a remarkably useful invention, but paper and other records are fragile and prone to deterioration (Falaiye and Isokpehi, 2001). Therefore, newspapers should be preserved to extend their shelf live for present and future use. According to Elaturoti (1990), newspapers contain more current information than the information contained in published books. Alhassan (2006) also submits that newspapers constitute important sources of information in Nigeria. He states that the information they carry does not only keep readers informed of what goes on in the society, but also educate and entertain the readers. This is because of their various area of coverage which includes subjects such as arts, social sciences and the sciences. The rich information which is on daily basis makes them one of the important sources of information in the university library. This accounts for their daily subscription.

Hutchins (2001) opines that it is no longer necessary to argue for the importance of newspapers in reference work. He submits that from childhood and up



to the present generation, he has read newspapers and used them for information. He argues that the variety of information which they cover on a daily basis makes them a rich source of information in university libraries. Furthermore, the information they carry may not be found in other sources such as books. Due to this reasons, university libraries should sustain and improve on newspaper subscription to satisfy the information needs of their varied users. Unfortunately, newspapers are fragile materials usually printed on low cost paper (Ugah, 2009). But according to Alegbeleye (1999) under some conditions, newspaper properly cared for has a long life span. Thus, university libraries have to preserve them for use and posterity.

The question which both laymen and professionals may ask is on the wisdom of preserving newspapers by university libraries for use. Ngulube (2002) avers that preserving and providing access to newspapers and other library materials are some of the reasons for the existence of university libraries. According to him, the concept of preserving library materials is not new since preservation is concerned with ensuring long-term access to information of value. The need to preserve newspapers arises from their format, that is, the kind of paper used in printing, the environment which they are stored and frequent handling and use.

Essentially, newspapers are created for use by their originators and they should be used for as long as they are needed. The presumption is that documents and library materials, newspaper inclusive are preserved for use. Thus, university libraries should adopt preservation policy for their collections to facilitate their use for as long as possible (Isah and Kayoma, 2003).

University libraries are faced with the deterioration of their newspaper collections as a result of meeting up with the varied needs and expectations of their users from outside and within the university community. The users include undergraduates, postgraduates, sandwich course students, part-time students, distance learning students and staff. Thus, they have to ensure that newspapers are not threatened with deterioration due to constant and frequent usage. Therein lies the preservation challenge of newspapers. Preservation strategies are needed in university libraries for newspaper collection to facilitate quick access, utilisation and posterity.

For this reasons, preservation plan and policy should be designed for newspaper collection in university libraries. If the preservation plan is to be successful and sustainable, part of the library operations, staff's collective consciousness about the importance of newspapers should be raised. Policies and rules should be

inculcated to ensure that readers are made to observe preservation related library rules on newspapers.

## **2.8 Staff training and Newspaper Utilisation in University Libraries in Nigeria**

Staff training is a short term process utilising a systematic and organised procedure by which non-managerial personnel learn knowledge and skills for a definite process (Chadan, 2000). This definition is found to be lacking because training should be for managerial and non-managerial staff to increase output and efficiency at work.

Staff training according to Eze (2012) is a public or private education programme directly applicable to work situation. When there are lapses or loopholes in work efficiency and expected productivity, it means that the workers involved need more, better skills and knowledge to be gained. Abba and Dawha (2009) also state that staff training is meant for one that seeks to improve his work performance. Thus, university library staff whose work is to provide information for newspaper users in any way needs to be competent enough in that area and in any area he finds himself in the library (Eze, 2012).

Tella and Popoola (2007) are of the opinion that staff training is an essential strategy for motivating workers in university libraries as a service organisation. Inadequate training facilities and lack of proper information training programmes affects staff input on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria (Panti, 2012). For users to utilise newspapers frequently and effectively, university library staff need to acquire the needed skills and knowledge suitable for their work (Tella and Popoola, 2007). The reasons, according Ekwelem, Okafor and Ukwoma (2011) is because graduates turned out by library schools do not possess adequate skills and expertise required to preserve and aid quick accesses to newspapers for users in university libraries in Nigeria.

Certain staff training programmes should be provided for the different cadres of university library staff to provide quick access and frequency of use of newspapers in university libraries (Adeniji, 2011). Such programmes, according to him should include orientation programme for new workers, library staff seminar and an educational programme that offers diploma in library and information science. Eze (2012) is also of the opinion that induction, in-service-training, study leaves and

exposures to conferences/seminars/workshops should be adequately provided for university library staff to improve on newspaper utilisation.

## **2.9 Staff Training on Newspaper Preservation and Utilisation in University Libraries in Nigeria**

Adams (1973) maintains that the greatest 'enemy' of library materials such as newspapers is the librarian who neglects to preserve his collection in the quest for more efficient management systems. Thus, a vigorous educational programme for librarians/information professionals and users and/or staff development programmes (which can come in form of formal training, seminar, workshop/conference, staff orientation and on-the-job training) should be embarked on to guard against this problem and to create awareness. By creating awareness through this educational programme, the major factors that cause damage and deterioration to newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria will be raised and tackled, thereby leading to progress.

Thus, training is a systematic way of altering the behaviour and/or attitudes of employees in a direction to increase organisational goals (Ducker, 2000). Similarly, Appleby (1991) reiterates that the purpose or objective of any training programme should reflect the basic knowledge for the job which usually comes from education. He also noted that a good training programme should include skill and experience acquisition. In addition, it should include development and conditions of attitudes and patterns of behaviour of employees. According to Ekwelem, Okafor and Ukwoma (2011), much writing on the state of professional librarian's training in most third world countries constitute a library of woes which can be summarised as lack of equipment, poor funding and inadequate man power. They state that these are interlinked and are generally blamed on a variety of problems external to the library, such as lack of government policies, supporting libraries and this leads to poor services to the users.

Archer (2001) opines that a good educational background for librarians without continuous improvement on the job in form of training is grossly inadequate. Asiagodo (1989) outlines staff development at the Balme library, University of Ghana to include staff orientation, staff meetings, departmental seminars, subject responsibilities as well as professional activities outside the university. Omekwu (2006), while highlighting the changing role of librarians in a bid to cope with the challenges of the information age, stresses the need for a paradigm shift from

traditional information handling methodologies to technological platforms. Hence, there is need for training and re-training of university librarians in a bid to maximally exploit the immense benefits that are accruable to the profession through proper application of Information Technology.

Stoner (2002) asserts that training refers to improving an employee's skills to the point where he or she can do the current job more effectively. Similarly, Kreitner (2000) sees training as the process of changing employee's behaviour and attitudes through guided experience. Poole (2002) observes that staff development involves training which is a systematic process used by organisations to develop employees' knowledge, skills, behaviours or attitudes in order to contribute to the achievement of the organisational goal. Staff training would not only enhance the skills of employees but would also make them realise how much they are valued by the organisation.

Mullins (2002) submits that very few people would argue against the importance of training for staff as a major influence on the success of an organisation. He views training as a key element of improving organisational performance. Adanu (2007) stresses the need for librarians to engage in continuing professional development activities in view of the changes that have been introduced into the profession in this Information and Communication Technology (ICT) age. He asserts that learning new skills is mandatory for librarians so as not to be sidetracked in this age of change. Moreover, staff training on newspaper preservation in university libraries in Nigeria can be seen as a hallmark of strategic management, which is one of the pillars of success of any institution (Ajidahun, 2007).

Thus, effective training is particularly vital in today's changing workplace since staff members that are exposed to new technologies and flexible working conditions need to update their skills on a regular basis (Anderson, 2002). Owusu – Acheaw (2007) notes that effective training should thus, depend on knowing what results are required for the individual, the department and the organisation as a whole. He stresses further that training programmes should be directed towards maintaining and improving current job performance, while development programmes seek to develop skills for future jobs in order to keep up with the rapid changes in library field and maintain professionalism. Therefore, professional development is a universal requirement for all university librarians (Pan and Hovde, 2010). In addition, training on newspaper preservation is important because it would enhance productivity and quality service delivery to users.

Nzotta (1984) emphasises the need to provide education and training in new skills to accommodate modern and latest development in librarianship. Formal training in librarianship is basic and fundamental to successful operation of all library routines. Without formal training in recognised library schools in Nigeria, America, Europe and in any other part of the world, it is impossible for an individual to be legally recognised as a practising librarian. According to Ogunseye (1984), a librarian without practical exposure would be a passive librarian. In other words, formal training in librarianship in any recognised library school in Nigeria or in any other part of the world is not enough. For a librarian to remain productive, continuous professional training is mandatory.

As stressed by Singh (2004), the developments in library and information curricula have serious implication for library and information science education. As a result, it has become imperative to incorporate appropriate components of preservation in library and information science education. This is because training has long been regarded as the bedrock of achieving quality productivity in any profession. According to Ekwelem, Okafor, and Ukwoma (2011), educating university librarians about preservation is now widely recognised as an essential element of any plan to address preservation problems. As stated by Harvey (1993), preservation education courses for library professionals are very essential for tackling preservation problems. He further argued that it is also essential to offer continuing education opportunities in resources' preservation for those whose qualifications need updating or those who wish to build on their existing knowledge.

University librarians need to undergo constant and continuous training on new methods of preservation, bibliographic control, handling of newspapers and dissemination in university libraries of today and the future. This is a way of making them improve on newspaper collection and dissemination to various users in the library as fast as possible.

Feather (1996) summarises staff training by calling attention to proper handling of newspaper collection by all those involved as a sort of inexpensive measure by any library or archive to begin its programme of preservation, which can at least prevent damage to newspapers which would have been caused by simple ignorance.

## **2.10 Bibliographic Control and Newspaper Utilisation in University Libraries in Nigeria**

A library is a collection of materials organised to provide physical, bibliographic and intellectual access to a target group, with a staff that is trained to provide services and programmes related to the information needs of the target group. According to King (2013), it can be difficult for many university libraries to grasp their scale of newspaper collection because of the huge production of newspapers since 1700 and their daily subscription to them because of the enormous resource they contain on all subjects. Moreover, university libraries that have newspaper collections need to provide users access to them. This can only be achieved if they have bibliographic control over them.

Mitchell (2013) submits that a library is not worthy of the name if it is not organised and administered according to the sound principles of library and information science. Without such organising principles or bibliographic control, university libraries collection of newspapers of any substantial size cannot be used effectively and efficiently. Information retrieval from newspapers becomes an arduous process of hit and miss, of trial and error, with no assurance that the user would get the information needed. Moreover, the history of newspaper publishing in Oklahoma State argues that university libraries should attempt to gain bibliographic control over the vast number of newspapers in their libraries in order to facilitate quick and easy access to them by various users.

The existence and identity of newspapers in the university library must be known before it can be found. King (2013) is also of the opinion that giving out newspapers to users in university libraries without any bibliographic control would only partially fulfil users' needs as many, if not all, desire to read as many newspapers available because information contained in newspaper reports is often unique to that source. This is in agreement with the findings of the research carried out by Neuberger, Tonne, Biebl and Duck (2013) that 56% still read the print newspapers in libraries. Therefore, it is necessary for university libraries to provide bibliographic control on their newspaper collections through the use of bibliographic tools such as indexing, abstracting, newspaper cutting and captioning of major headlines. This will allow users to access quickly and utilise newspapers more frequently. They submit that newspaper pose a dilemma given the very poor nature of the paper the newspaper was printed on. However, they are of the opinion that university libraries should switch over to

digitisation to allow users utilise newspapers even more frequently because manual indexing is laborious and time consuming for librarians.

## **2.11 Bibliographic Control and Tools for Newspaper Utilisation in University Libraries**

Fourie and Burger (2007) assert that newspapers form part of the heritage of the country that need to be preserved for generations. They are supposed to be listed in a systematic manner and in such a way that users can be aware of the information in them and also have easy and quick access to them, by having an effective national and universal bibliographic control over them.

Newspapers are voluminous yet users need to consult them. According to Upham (1988), bibliographic control of newspapers has always been a difficult task owing to the volatile nature of the format. From previous research, patrons of the library usually use title, date and location to access newspaper files. Of these three, the title usually presents the greatest difficulty for both the patron and the librarian. This difficulty can be the result of one or several related problems. The most obvious is the fact that newspaper titles especially in the last century tended to change often. A closely related problem is the existence at different times or at the same time, of several newspapers with the same title. Totally distinct papers can hold these duplicate titles from the same or different geographical locations or can result from resumption of an earlier title by the same paper.

Bibliographic control, according to Lor and Geusteyn (2003), is aimed at making publicly available, information sources in the country. It is a concept made up of ideas and schemes for the control of publications (Bankole, 1981). Harrods librarian's glossary (1990) defines bibliographic control as the creative, development, organisation, management and exploitation of records prepared first to describe items held in libraries or on databases and secondly, to facilitate users' access to such items. Lor (1996) applied the metaphor of fishing net to explain bibliographic control. He pictured bibliographic control as creating a finely meshed net of bibliographies and bibliographic databases which are so comprehensive that nothing published can escape being recorded, located and made available for use. The aim of bibliographic control therefore according to Behrens (2000) is to list the information sources in a systematic manner to enable us become aware of what information is available and where it can be located. He further explained that the need for bibliographic control

arose from information explosion/information overload. The control of information sources is the way we manage them so that we can have some sort of order over the vast store of newspaper collection in university libraries and also the world's information. Defounga (1995) described bibliographic control as a concept embracing all the systems concerned with the listing of all the publishing output of a country, for the purpose of achieving comprehensiveness and compatibility. In summary, bibliographic control is getting a grip on what information are at our disposal by creating some sort of list (catalogue or index) of what those information resources are. It is the process of bringing newspaper collections and other holdings of a university library under control in order for users to find and utilise information when they need them

The main bibliographic control activities involve acquiring information sources, compiling bibliographic descriptions, subject cataloguing (which includes classification, indexing and abstracting). Ideally, there should be many ways to find information from newspapers in the library so, there should be multiple access points and retrieval aids to assist users. Thus, bibliographic control has acquired special importance in the 20<sup>th</sup> century because of the need for effective organisation of records of human communication. Besides, there has been enormous growth of the publishing activity on newspapers in Nigeria. Therefore, there is the need, especially in underdeveloped countries, for informed access to the world's scientific and technical information. Without bibliography, the record of civilisation, newspapers inclusive would be an uncharted chaos of miscellaneous contributions to knowledge, unorganised and inapplicable to human needs. In addition, for the preserved intellectual content of newspapers to be easily retrieved and utilised by users, especially back issues, there has to be a bibliographic control over them. Complete citations assure that users can access the preserved newspapers from any university library in Nigeria and others attempting to do the same work can avoid the costly duplication of bibliographic control efforts (Thapa, 2009).

Appropriate bibliographic control of newspapers has often been overlooked as a preservation concern. However, it is worth mentioning that it is an essential component to the success of any newspaper preservation programme in university libraries. Comprehensive bibliographic information enables one to determine who holds a given title and what issues are available or missing, as well as any comments concerning supplements, editions or title change (Lor, 1996). Unfortunately in



Nigeria, there still seems to be a problem of bibliographic control over Nigerian newspapers as more emphasis seems to have been placed on textbooks, while in developed countries, few libraries, local historical societies and archives have been able to maintain consistent bibliographic control over their newspaper collections. According to the British library news (2000/2001), readers and potential readers all over the world are able to search the British Newspaper Library holdings themselves by title and/or place of publication without sole resource to the on-line catalogue in the newspaper library reading rooms.

It has been shown that researchers in some countries such as India and the United States of America have made attempts to create a newspaper bibliographic project. In India, it was a successful project and was tagged the Indiana newspaper bibliography. This has assisted researchers in having access to detailed information on each of Indiana's 8,000 newspaper titles. Alegbeleye (1998) reported that the National Library and possibly the National Archives were likely to be in a better position to sponsor a survey of newspaper holdings in Nigeria. Such a survey would identify the coverage and types of newspapers held in Nigerian libraries, newspaper factories and organisations.

Bibliographies are usually of two types namely, current bibliography (sources that have been published recently) and retrospective bibliography (sources published in early years). The two are applicable to newspapers in university libraries. The purpose of bibliographic control of newspapers in university libraries is to list information sources in a systematic manner to enable users become aware of what information is available and where it is located. Bibliographic control tools are needed to achieve this because they help newspaper readers to become aware of, identify and find the sources of information needed. Thus, there are various tools and methods by which the incessant growth of information via the newsprint can be controlled. Apart from identification, recovery, collection and preservation of physical items, the creation of bibliographic records, which describe and identify the newspapers publication, is important. The publication on its own is of no value to the academic community without the records indicating their existence and giving access to the content.

Bibliographic tools for newspapers include catalogues, indexes, abstracts, current content, inventory, chronological listing and bibliographies. Oketunji (2005) submits that one of the ways to achieve bibliographic control is to compile special

reference sources, called bibliographies. Bibliography is a list of information sources, which have a factor in common. The sources are each described uniquely in bibliographic description and these descriptions are then included together in one list. Their arrangements are usually alphabetical by title, author etc. and with some annotations and summaries. Catalogues and bibliographies are very similar in that they help to control collections in the library. The catalogue describes each source to identify it uniquely and indicates where the source can be found in the collection. By consulting the catalogue, newspaper users become aware of, identify and locate the source, while in the case of bibliography, newspaper users become aware of, identify and sometimes also locate the source. In addition, bibliographic control helps users to save time (Thapa, 2009). The unique feature of catalogues is that all sources belong to the same collection or group of collections, but bibliographies are not related to one collection.

## **2.12 Handling and Storage of Newspaper Collections in University Libraries**

There is increasing use of newspaper collections in university libraries by way of reading and photocopying. According to Falaiye and Isokpehi (2001), staff, students and researchers in these institutions rely much on library materials leading to high wear and tear. Constantly unfolding and closing newspaper to view it harms the newspaper (Ferber, 2009) while further studies have shown that a great deal of damage and deterioration is also caused by unnecessary use and overuse of newspaper.

Although the seeds of much damage are sown as newspapers degrade chemically, Mwiyeriwa (1988) agrees that the actual break, tear, mutilation and dirty smudge do not occur until they are handled. Newspapers should therefore be handled and stored appropriately so as to extend their shelf life for use. This is because repeated poor handling can quickly transform newspaper or any library material into a worn out one, and a worn out newspaper or library material into an unusable object that requires costly repair, rebinding or replacement.

One of the solutions suggested by Abe (1994) to the problem of handling and storage is microfilming, a flexible and effective tool in managing records of important value in university libraries such as newspapers. According to him, apart from helping to preserve materials printed on poor paper, it also lends itself to the advantage of

storage space, speedy retrieval and security. He therefore concluded that microfilm may be used as an alternative to handling preservation of the original.

According to Woods (1988), the bulk of newspapers create both handling and costly storage problems, and in addition, they are extremely fragile. In her opinion, newspapers published in the 1880 on acidic wood pulp disintegrate rapidly creating the need for expensive microfilming programmes to preserve and store them for posterity. Cunningham (1987) shares the same view with Woods (1988). She submits that newspapers were neither intended to be a permanent record, nor were they intended for long-term preservation, since they were manufactured from wood pulp. Newspapers, according to her, are highly acidic and, consequently subject to deterioration due to humidity and temperature. They are often stored in basements or attics, which hasten their deterioration. They are usually oversized and take up a lot of space. They are therefore excellent candidates for preservation, probably by microfilming or digitization (which is a more recent technology) which would provide easy storage.

In Nigeria, temperature is high all the year round and it is agreed that the rate of chemical reaction in cellulose doubles for each five degree rise in temperature. Besides, atmospheric pollutants for example have been known to cause lignin and other impurities in paper to produce acid, which weakens paper stability and strength. Feller (1973) buttresses the fact that if temperature in which books and newspaper prints are stored is hot, they get warm and this hastens deterioration. Banks (1979) supports the view that the temperature which is comfortable for human being is also good to store books and newspapers. An extreme variation in temperature and humidity according to Abe (1994) is even more damaging to newspapers and records. He suggests the use of air conditioners which will help maintain a cool temperature because, relative humidity help to eliminate air impurities and atmospheric pollutants. Thus, for effective utilisation, newspapers should be stored and preserved separately from the rest of the library materials because of their size and value. However, they should be stored in a controlled environment as storage in a controlled environment minimises their deterioration.

### **2.13 Disaster Control Management for Newspapers in University Libraries**

Newspapers in the library are valuable assets because they are veritable source of information for the development of a nation. They are used for teaching and

research, to document cultural heritage of a nation and are sources of pleasure. University libraries house and protect information resources, which by their nature are prone not only to deterioration, but also to disaster. The library itself is subject to disasters which result in loss of precious materials and information. Though seen by some libraries as very remote, disasters in libraries are real, and have been happening since ancient times (Adinku, 2005). Studies carried out in African libraries by Kemoni (1996), Akussah (2001) and Fosu and Akussah (2002) revealed lack of a disaster control plan in the libraries surveyed.

According to Millar (1999), no organisation is totally free from disasters, either from natural causes or human action. Within the library context, disaster can be anything or event that directly or indirectly affects the normal administration of the library or disrupts the services to readers on either short or long term basis. From the perspective of records and archives management, Alegbeleye (1993) defines disaster as any event that results in the sudden removal of records and documents from accessibility and use. Anderson and McIntyre (1986) relate disaster to library management by saying that it is an unexpected event with destructive consequences to library holdings. It can be a small-scale incident or a full-blown emergency, but in either case, it requires prompt action to limit damage. Edem and Matthews (1996) see disaster as any incident which threatens human safety and/or damages, or threatens to damage library/archive buildings, collections, or items therein, equipment and systems. To this end, Uche and Udo-Anyanwu (2008) submits that disaster have caused high losses of precious newspaper collections in many university libraries all over the world. Nevertheless, disasters can only be controlled, it cannot be prevented. Nevertheless, the degree of impact of disasters varies from organisation to organisation depending on the level of preparedness to absorb the adverse consequences.

Discussing the problem from the developing world perspective, Cuny (1983) states that nowhere are the impact of disasters and emergencies felt more strongly than in developing countries where they do not only cause huge material damage and untold human suffering, but also hamper national and regional development. Also in a survey of twelve academic libraries in Ghana carried out by Akussah and Fosu (2001), they concluded that almost all the libraries except one were vulnerable to disasters because of lack of preparedness for such emergencies. Reiterating the same point, Landwijk (1994) observed that the impact of disasters has continuously been

severe because few governments, organisations and university libraries have adequate preparedness to reduce the disaster impact and manage emergencies efficiently.

Planning for the occurrence of disasters is therefore another ingredient of maintaining and preserving newspapers in university libraries for use. It involves awareness and knowledge of the disaster plan, resources, their location and use of vital equipment during the emergency period. In other words, awareness of the likelihood of a disaster implies that efforts should be made to prevent the disaster where possible. A disaster preparedness plan helps to manage disasters and the absence of such a plan creates confusion and lack of coordination during emergencies Fosu and Akussah (2002). Disaster planning is a set of rehearsed actions, which reduce the effects of disaster, whatever its magnitude on the library and help in restoring the collections to a useable condition in a short period as possible. McIntyre (1989) opines that it would be foolish and naïve to think we can control disasters. Rather, we can do a lot to prevent some from happening so as to reduce their effect on collections when they do happen and to minimize the damage caused by those items, which become affected. Elimination of the 'enemies' of newspapers as discussed in causes of newspaper deterioration in African countries above by ensuring an ideal environment, good storage systems, promotion of protective use and handling techniques and formulating action plan for disasters are all important in the maintenance and preservation of newspaper collection in university libraries in Nigeria.

Causes of disasters may be due to an act of vandalism, fire, negligence or poor maintenance or natural act. Akussah and Fosu (2002), Alegbeleye (1993) group the causes of disaster that affect newspaper collections and utilisation into two main categories: natural and man-made disasters. According to them, natural disasters are happenings over which man has little or no control while man-made disasters are those induced by man. In general, both natural and man-made disasters affect libraries. Libraries should therefore have an approved disaster plan and recovery plan policy which will help to prevent and react to disaster incidents because without knowledge and a well thought out plan, essential time is lost when disasters strike, and knowledge as defined by Abell (2001) is what people know.

## **2.14 The place of Information and Communication Technology in the Management of Newspapers in University Libraries**

Newspapers are known to be particularly difficult to preserve and access. They are large in format and prolific in output. Their creators intend them as essential ephemeral – important today, discarded tomorrow and so they print them on paper that is produced with cheapness in mind rather than survival. There is however no other medium in our history that records every aspect of human life over the last 300 years on a daily basis like newspapers. Newspapers are extremely difficult to extract information from unless indexed or the researcher knows the exact date he or she seeks. Thus, there has been grave concern for decades about the survival potentials of newspapers given that many of them were printed on acidic paper.

Besides, university libraries are known to have large collection of newspapers which are voluminous and occupy lots of space. At the same time, they stand the risk of being mutilated and eaten up by termites. In addition, they are threatened by deterioration because of the high content of acid in the paper used in production. In such a situation, it might be necessary to preserve the intellectual content of the paper. Finding information in newspapers can be a challenge; this makes it necessary to transfer the newspaper to another medium. According to Aina (2002), there are generally three methods of preserving library materials. These are photocopying, microfilming and digitisation. Digitisation of library materials solves the traditional library problems like conservation, preservation, storage and space. It provides access to information to different users. Alegbeleye (1996) also reported that in Nigeria, Kenneth Dike library, University of Ibadan was one of the first university libraries to develop its micrographic section. One of the first jobs tackled by the section was microfilming for preservation of the libraries files of Nigerian newspapers.

Major libraries in developed countries such as the Library of Congress in the United States and the British library in the United Kingdom have been microfilming newspapers for many decades in order to preserve the historical records. One of the prime reasons for the use of microfilming according to the Records Management Handbook (1974) is to achieve better physical management of the material concerned. It states further that the preservation of historical or otherwise valuable records and newspapers is another reason often given for microfilming. According to a research titled ‘guideline for digitising newspapers’, microfilm remains the accepted standard for preserving newspapers. Microfilming has the advantage to be a rather stable

medium and it may form the basis for subsequent transfer of the newspaper to a digital format otherwise known as digital technology or digitisation. Digitisation from microfilm has been known to be fast and cheap, giving relatively good results. Flexibility is one of the chief assets of digitisation because it is easy to access and retrieve, (if it is controlled bibliographically), edit, reformat and commit to print in a variety of iterations. Digitisation of newspapers decreases the need to use the original which may be fragile or difficult to access.

Digitisation of library materials according to Sangeeta (2006) has advanced rapidly. Digitisation solves the traditional library problems like conservation, preservation, storage and space. It provides wider access of information to different users. Today in the digital environment, digitisation has become one of the key activities in the libraries. It is an excellent way of providing access to library materials. Through digitisation, libraries have been able to access, preserve, maintain the digital collections and easily provide effective services to the user's requirements. Research has shown that some National libraries in the developed countries such as the National libraries of New Zealand, Canada, France and Australia have been digitising their newspapers.

Digitisation is the process of taking traditional library materials that are in the form of books and papers and converting them to electronic form where they can be stored and manipulated by a computer (Ian and David, 2003, Fatoki, 2007). Digital format medium for storage of newspapers has not the same stability as microfilm. It however presents better possibilities for providing quick access to newspapers because it would have the potential of being keyword searchable. For this reason, apart from microfilming, transfer to digital format is now in operation in some libraries in developed countries. According to Andrew Prescott of the British Newspaper Library, the library is looking at ways in which they can digitise their microfilm collections bearing in mind that digitisation will not hinder microfilming. Research also shows that the University of Georgia library has been digitising selected materials since 1994 for the purpose of both preservation and quick access. Digitised items are presented as images, searchable texts files, or a combination of the two depending on the nature of the material.

Digital preservation according to Russell (1999) is defined as a process by which digital data is preserved in digital form in order to ensure the usability and intellectual integrity of the information contained therein. Though research has also

shown that digitisation has preservation role in reducing use of originals, it appears not to be suitable for preservation of information that is preserved in no other form. Thus, the consensus among American preservation officers is that digitisation alone does not constitute newspaper preservation and should not be a replacement for microfilming or other preservation activities. Smith (1999) does not share the same view above. He has a contrary opinion of referring to digitisation as preservation. According to him, digital resources are at their best when facilitating access to information and weak when assigned the traditional library responsibility of preservation. He submitted that digitisation is a type of reformatting, like microfilming, but confused with preservation and often seen as superior and expensive. However, research still shows that there is unease with the library sector as regards to digitisation as a way of preserving the contents of newspapers, yet digitisation is a more recent technology and some libraries in advanced countries have been digitising their newspaper collections from the original format. Therefore, university libraries in Nigeria should take a cue from what is happening in developed countries as regards to newspaper digitisation.

### **2.15 Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework in this study aims at putting together an appropriate theory to enhance better understanding of funding, staff training, preservation, bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. Kemoni (2008) opines that a theoretical framework in a research should answer two questions. What is the problem and why is the adopted approach by the researcher a feasible solution. The theoretical framework in a study also ensures that the results of the study are not left hanging.

More than ever before, university libraries and archival institutions in Nigeria today have to grapple with dwindling financial resources for their development, acquisition and maintenance. Alegbeleye (1993) points out that many African libraries and archives place less emphasis on maintenance and adequate preservation of newspapers acquired or collected by them due to inadequate fund. O'Toole (1989) in his theory on preservation of newspapers explored the changing and varied meanings to archivists and their information professionals, of both preservation and permanence. He noted that the idea of preserving information resources including records and newspapers has at present three meanings which are:



identifying and acquiring the original documents, providing conservation treatment to deal with chemical and or physical problems and transferring the information to an alternate medium. A fourth meaning can be added which is providing a level of environmentally controlled storage, care and maintenance that will retard further chemical deterioration and protect materials from physical damage.

The theory on which this study would be anchored on is Toigo's (1996) theory on preservation of newspapers and other information materials. He puts forward the toolboxes of structured system analysis, as shown in figure 1 below. The toolbox provides a model for the management and utilisation of newspapers which he believes to be endangered information materials in university libraries. In this model, planning is shown to consist of ten discrete activities. In this figure, the directional arrows show the interdependency of some activities.

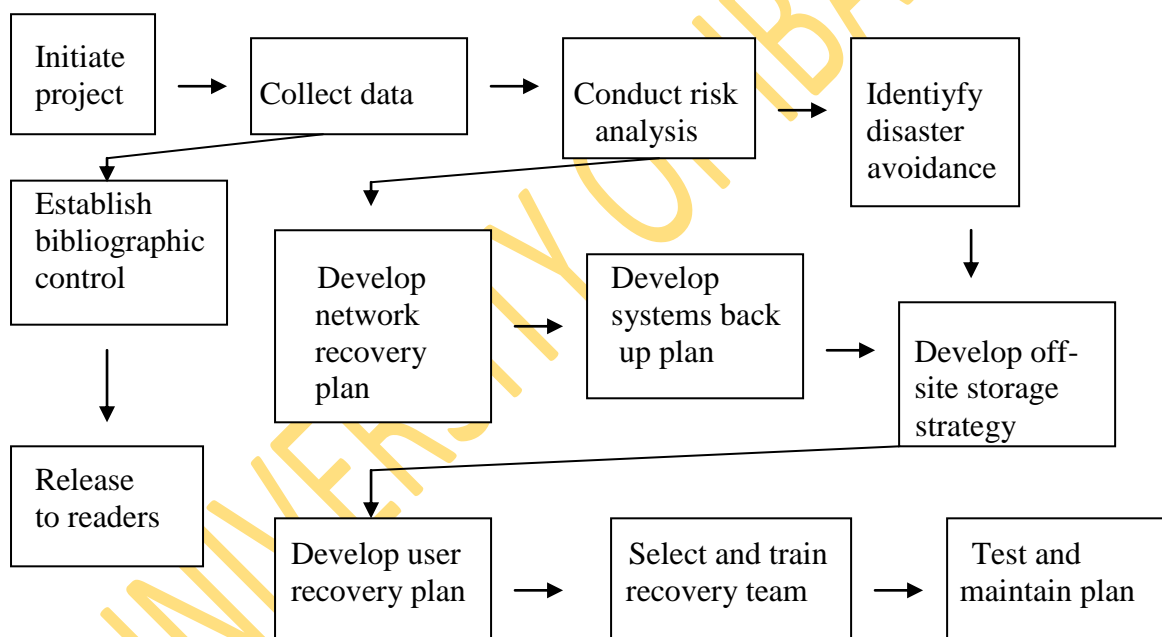


Figure. 1: Toolbox of structured system analysis for newspaper utilisation adapted from Toigo's (1996).

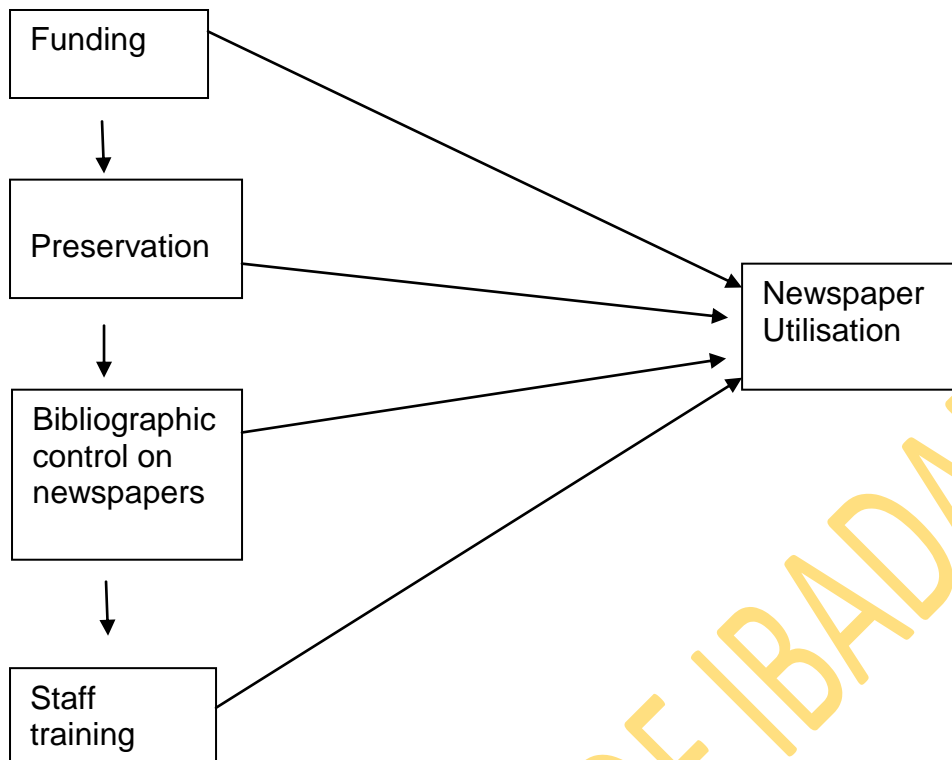
Planning begins with project initiation which is convincing the library management that newspapers are valuable information materials in the library and can be affected by deterioration, including such other occurrences as disasters. Therefore, planning and setting up a preservation committee or team is necessary. This is followed by the collection of data (subscription to newspapers). One of the arrows from the collection of data points to the need for the library to establish bibliographic

control over its newspaper collections in order to increase the frequency of use and facilitate quick access to users. The next phase, which is conducting risk analysis, means documenting deteriorative and disaster potentials of newspapers, identifying them and developing a worst-case scenario for presentation to the management.

The second part which is the development of a network of preservation and recovery plan means identifying university libraries that have the same types of newspaper collections and establishing a network of preservation and recovery strategy. Next in the figure is identifying disaster avoidance systems. Pragmatism dictates that money should be spent first on preventing avoidable disasters that can affect newspaper collections than on planning for recovery that could be expensive. Therefore, facility design considerations should be emphasised. Newspaper systems backup arising from digitisation, microfilming or binding is another important phase while the development of off-site storage strategy is important and interrelated with newspaper information backup.

The next phase which is developing user recovery plan involves availability of alternative locations, hot or cold sites for the purpose of resuming operations after a disaster. Selection and training of recovery preservation committee, staff or team comes up next while testing and maintaining plans put together by the recovery team concludes the toolbox.

## 2.16 Conceptual Model



**Figure 2:** The conceptual model designed by the researcher is based on the title of the study.

Figure 2 shows the conceptual model of the present study. It could be observed from the model that a relationship exists between funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. The arrow that flows from funding to preservation assumes that if university libraries have adequate fund earmarked for newspaper preservation, it would in turn affect the frequency of newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. The arrow that flows from preservation to bibliographic control on newspapers also assumes that to increase the frequency of use, newspapers have to be bibliographically controlled in order to aid quick access to current and retrospective print copies. While the arrow that flows down to staff training suggests that if library staff attends international and local conferences/seminars/workshops, they would have skills in the area of preservation and bibliographic control of newspapers. These would affect the frequency of newspaper utilisation in university libraries.

## 2.17 Appraisal of Literature Reviewed

The researcher has shown through literature review that there is unity of thought among the authors that newspapers are valuable and important to the collection of university libraries in Nigeria. Therefore, they subscribe to it on a daily basis. Moreover, it also showed that adequate fund is required in order to keep up with subscription, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control of newspapers.

Furthermore, there is consensus of opinion among majority of the authors that newspapers are organic in nature due to the chemical process involved during manufacturing. They are susceptible to brittleness, decay and deterioration, which is a universal problem in university libraries. Therefore, they should be preserved in order to prolong their shelf life so that users can have access to them. The literature reviewed revealed that staff training is important in the area of newspaper preservation in university libraries. Therefore, they should be encouraged to attend international and local conferences/seminars/workshops on preservation and bibliographic control of newspapers.

In addition, it showed that little has been done in the area of bibliographic control of newspapers whereas bibliographic control of newspapers is important because it facilitates quick access to retrospective and current newspapers bearing in mind that if newspapers were well preserved, without bibliographic control it would amount to a fruitless effort on the part of the librarian. This would in turn affect newspaper utilisation by users in university libraries in Nigeria. The review has shown that digitisation is a more recent technology and some libraries in developed countries have digitised some or all their newspaper collections in the literature reviewed. However, many Nigerian university libraries are yet to start digitisation.

Several studies have discussed newspapers but there has not been much research on funding and staff training as it affects newspaper preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. The gap this study would fill is to reveal how print copies of newspapers can be preserved in university libraries in Nigeria through adequate funding. It would also provide a uniform method in which university libraries in Nigeria can control print copies of their newspapers to aid easy retrieval, access and dissemination to users. The study would also reveal how newspapers can be carefully handled by users and library staff through staff training in the area of preservation, in order to extend their shelf life, easy retrieval and frequency of use by readers. Moreover, many university libraries in

Nigeria do not have a disaster control policy, a policy that is very important in all libraries. Therefore, this study is necessary to fill the gaps mentioned above and to provide a reference point for future studies.

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## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This section of the study gives the detailed information about the research design, population, sample procedure, instrumentation, reliability and validity of the instrument, data collection procedures and method of analysis.

#### **3.2 Research design**

The design adopted for this study was the descriptive survey research design. This design was adopted because it is an appropriate method of obtaining reliable information about the effects of funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. The advantage of this design was that it involved the description, recording, analysis and interpretation of conditions that existed. Furthermore, it helped to point out the extent of a problem to be investigated and indicated how serious or widespread it is. Moreover, surveys were normally used when there was need to study a large population requiring a sample to be drawn.

#### **3.3 Variables in the study**

The variables in the study were both independent and dependent. The independent variables were funding, staff training, preservation of newspapers and bibliographic control of newspapers, while the dependent variable was newspaper utilisation.

#### **3.4 Population of the study**

The study population consisted of all university librarians, serials librarians and users from federal and state university libraries in Nigeria. Federal and state university libraries were selected for this study based on the fact that they were owned and funded by the federal and state governments, and as a result, they were regarded as vibrant in terms of facilities and resources. These libraries not only acquired newspapers, they also tried to ensure their proper exploitation by users. At the time when this study was carried out, there were 25 federal, 28 state universities and 28 private universities (JAMB Brochure 2009/2010). The sample of university librarians, serial librarians and users was therefore obtained from the universities that were in

existence then. However, all private, federal and state universities that were established in the last five years would not be included in the study because from preliminary investigation, some were yet to take off academic activities while some were relatively new and had few resources, especially newspapers.

The preliminary investigation done by checking the statistics of users (researchers) of newspapers in 25 federal and 28 state universities libraries in Nigeria through personal contact of the researcher with the affected university libraries and the librarians in-charge of the newspaper sections showed that an average of fifty users consulted newspapers on daily basis in the newspaper section of each university library. Therefore, a total number of 2,650 formed the estimated population of users of newspapers while the estimated population of serial librarians and university librarians in the 25 federal and 28 state universities in Nigeria was 53 each.

### **3.5 Sampling technique and sample size**

Stratified random sampling technique was to select serial librarians and university librarians from selected fourteen (14) federal and fifteen (15) state universities. The choice of this sampling technique is because the population of the study is heterogeneous and also to reduce the cost of sampling and ease of field administration (Cochran, 1976). The stratification was done along the ownership of the universities in Nigeria. The researcher randomly selected fourteen (14) federal and fifteen (15) state universities making a total number of twenty-nine (29) universities representing 55% of the universities as shown in Appendix I. These universities were selected using the balloting method. The names of the federal universities were written on separate sheets of paper which were put inside a bag and shaken together. The researcher then asked a colleague to randomly select the names of the 14 federal universities. This method was also repeated for the 15 state universities. The twenty-nine (29) universities selected, formed the sample size for this study. As a result, twenty-nine (29) serial librarians and twenty-nine (29) university librarians were selected from the fourteen (14) federal and fifteen (15) state universities.

The choice of serials librarians was preferred because, as observed by the researcher, they were the ones dealing directly with newspaper collections. Similarly, the choice of university librarians to be interviewed was preferred because they were the heads of each university library and would be in a better position to give detailed information on some questions raised in the interview checklist.

The statistics of users (researchers) of newspapers was obtained from the serials librarians of the university libraries selected for the study. The data was generated from the daily statistics generated in the university libraries over a period of five days. This showed that about two hundred and fifty (250) users consulted print copies of newspapers per week in the newspaper section of each federal and state university libraries selected for this study with the exception of Saturdays and Sundays. The major reason why Saturdays and Sundays are exempted from the study is because some university libraries do not provide services on those days of the week, while some provide half day service. Therefore, an average of fifty users consulted print copies of newspapers daily in the newspaper section of each federal and state university libraries selected for this study.

It must be noted that the estimated average number of users of newspapers in each university libraries selected for this study was fifty per university. Therefore, 700 users of newspapers were randomly selected from fourteen (14) federal universities, while 750 users of newspapers were also randomly selected from fifteen (15) state universities selected for the study totalling 1,450 users. The sample of 1,450 users who made use of newspapers during the period of data collection in the fourteen (14) federal and fifteen (15) state university libraries were selected from the population of 2,650 users of the twenty (25) federal and twenty-eight (28) state university libraries in existence in Nigeria at the time this study was carried out. Therefore, the sample size used for this study was one thousand, four hundred and fifty thousand (1450).

In addition, two hundred retrospective print copies of sixteen (16) titles of different national newspapers each from the fourteen (14) federal and fifteen (15) state university libraries in Nigeria totalling five thousand, eight hundred (5,800) were used to examine the conditions of newspapers in each library selected for the study. The reason for selecting two hundred newspapers each from the fourteen (14) federal and fifteen (15) state university libraries in Nigeria was that from preliminary investigation done by the researcher, majority of the university libraries had newspaper stock level of between twenty thousand and forty thousand, while some university libraries had inadequate stock size, and the list of some newspapers was not available. The particular titles of print copies of newspapers to be checked were the ones subscribed to by each university library selected for the study as shown in Table 3.1.



**Table 3.1: Titles of newspapers subscribed to by federal and state university libraries**

S/N	Federal Universities	Titles of newspapers subscribed to
1.	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi	The Nation, The Sun, Blueprint, The Guardian, Daily Trust, Vanguard, Leadership, National Mirror
2.	University of Abuja, Abuja	Daily Trust, Punch, Daily Times, This Day, The Nation
3.	University of Agriculture, Abeokuta	Punch, Nigerian Tribune, The Guardian, The Nation
4.	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria	Vanguard, The Nation, The Sun, Blueprint, Leadership, The Guardian, Daily Trust, This Day
5.	Bayero University, Kano	The Guardian, The Nation, Leadership, Triumph, This Day, Nigerian Tribune, Daily Trust
6.	University of Calabar, Calabar	The Guardian, The Nation, Daily Times, Chronicles, The Punch
7.	Federal University of Technology, Akure	Punch, The Guardian, The Nation, Business Day, Nigerian Tribune, Hope, Vanguard
8.	Federal University of Technology, Minna	The Guardian, The Nation, Nigerian Tribune, Leadership, Daily Trust, This Day, The Sun
9.	University of Ibadan, Ibadan	Punch, The Guardian, The Nation, This Day, The Tribune, Daily Independent, Vanguard, Business Day
10.	University of Ilorin, Ilorin	This Day, National Mirror, Daily Independent, The Sun, Daily Trust, Punch, Nigerian Tribune, The Nation, Herald, Compass,
11.	University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri	The Guardian, Compass, Leadership, This Day, Daily Trust
12.	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	The Guardian, The Nation, Nigerian Tribune, Punch, Vanguard
13.	University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt	The Guardian, The Nation, Punch, Daily Times, The Sun
14.	University of Uyo, Uyo	The Guardian, The Nation, Punch, Daily Times

<b>S/N</b>	<b>State Universities</b>	<b>Titles of newspapers subscribed to</b>
1.	Lagos State University, Ojo	Punch, The Guardian
2.	Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti	The Guardian, Nigerian Tribune
3.	Benue State University, Markurdi	The Guardian, Daily Trust, New Nigerian, This Day, Daily Times
4.	Delta State University, Abraka	Vanguard, The Guardian, Nigerian Tribune, The Pointer, Urhobo Voice
5.	Enugu State University of Science & Tech, En	Nigerian Observer, The Guardian
6.	Evans Enwerem University, Owerri	The Horn, The Trumpeter, Imo Voice, The Guardian
7.	Kano State University of Tech, Wudil	The Guardian, Triumph
8.	Gombe State University, Gombe	The Guardian, Nigerian Pilot
9.	Kogi State University, Anyingba	Daily Trust, The Sun, The Nation, Nigerian Tribune, Vanguard, National Mirror, The Guardian, Graphics, Punch
10.	Nasarawa State University, Keffi	National Mirror, The Guardian
11.	Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye	The Guardian, Nigerian Tribune
12.	Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba	The Guardian, The Nation, Punch, Nigerian Tribune, the Sun
13.	Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso	The Guardian, Nigerian Tribune
14.	Adamawa State University, Adamawa	The Guardian, The Nation
15.	Rivers State University, Port-Harcourt	Daily Times, This Day, The Nation

**Table 3.2: Population and Sample**

Population of the study				Sample of the study		
Universities	University Librarians	Serials Librarian	Users	University Librarians	Serials Librarian	Users
Federal Universities	25	25	1250	14	14	700
State Universities	28	28	1400	15	15	750
Total	53	53	2650	29	29	1450

### 3.6 Research Instruments

Four research instruments were used for collecting required data for the study in order to improve the quality of the study. They were: two different sets of questionnaire, observation guide and interview schedule.

The first instrument used for the study was questionnaire for serials librarians (Appendix II) entitled Funding, Staff Training, Preservation, Bibliographic Control and Newspaper Utilisation in University Libraries in Nigeria (FSTPBCNUULN). It consisted of sections A to G with forty-eight items. Section A elicited background information of the respondents such as information on the number of years they had been working as serial librarians, their status and their highest educational qualifications. Sections B to G elicited information on subscription to newspapers, funding, newspaper storage and security, consultation of newspapers by users, preservation and bibliographic control and access to newspaper, staff training on preservation, microfilming and digitisation of newspapers.

Another questionnaire named 'Utilisation of Newspapers in University Libraries in Nigeria (UNULN)' was administered to library users who came to read newspapers (Appendix III) during the period of data collection. It consisted of sections A and B with twenty items. Items in section A were used to elicit background information of the users. Section B elicited information on consultation, accessibility and frequency of use of newspapers by users.

Interview schedule for University Librarians (Appendix IV) was the third instrument employed for this study. It consisted of twenty-seven items used to elicit information on preservation, subscription to newspapers, and funding/budgetary allocations for the management of newspapers, staff training, storage and security of

newspapers. The use of the interview schedule allowed the researcher to compare and find out if the responses of the serials librarians and the university librarians in the university libraries selected for the study contradicted one another or not.

The fourth research instrument was the observation guide (Appendix V). The researcher visited the libraries to make on the spot observation on the utilisation of newspapers by readers, conditions of newspapers and how they were accessed and preserved. Observation was also made on the types of bibliographic control tools used to document and retrieve print copies of current and retrospective newspapers and how effective the tools were. The observation guide gave the researcher impressions which were adequate and objective on the true state of newspapers in the university libraries visited.

### **3.7 Validity and reliability of the instruments**

Each questionnaire was validated and the essence of the validation was to ensure that the questionnaire measured what it was intended for. The questionnaire was validated for construct and face validity using peer/expert review. By this, librarians in some private universities such as Covenant University, Sango Ota; Bowen University, Iwo and Babcock University, Illisan Remo (which were not included in the study sample), and lecturers from the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies were consulted for their comments and criticism. Their comments and suggestions were used to rework the question to arrive at the questionnaire used for the study.

The reliability of an instrument is the degree of consistency or precision to which an instrument measures what it was designed to measure. To ensure this, the instrument was subjected to a pre-test before the final administration. A sample of thirty library users, from Bowen University, Iwo, responded to the user's questionnaire. The reliability co-efficient was calculated using Cronbach Alpha method to ascertain its internal consistency. The value alpha ( $\alpha$ ) of 0.71 was obtained while test-retest was used for the interview schedule and observation guide. This resulted in 0.68 and reliability co-efficient of 0.72 respectively. The reliability coefficient of questionnaire for the serials librarians is 0.65 using the test-retest method.

### **3.8 Data collection procedure**

Copies of the questionnaire were personally administered and distributed to the respondents with the assistance of six trained research assistant. The data collection exercise was in two batches. One was between 29 February, 2010 to 8 July, 2010. The remaining data collection exercise for the South-East state universities was from January to February 2011. All the research assistants had the capacity to speak, read and write in English language. The period of data collection took this long because of the irregularities in the university academic calendar of each university caused by prolonged union strike in the nation.

In all, twenty nine copies of the second questionnaire were administered to serials librarians from 14 federal and 15 state universities respectively. The questionnaire were filled on the spot and in very few cases where the serial librarians complained of busy schedule, they were allowed to defer the return of the questionnaire till the next day when the researcher or the assistant would collect them.

Also, copies of the questionnaire were administered by the researcher and research assistants through the help of head of the serials unit in each university library. Fifty users found reading newspaper in each of the fourteen federal and fifteen state university libraries were selected for the study giving a total of one thousand, four hundred and fifty (1450) users. Users were not allowed to go away with the questionnaire, they were requested to fill them on the spot and return the duly completed questionnaire to the researcher or the assistants.

In addition, out of twenty-nine university librarians scheduled to be interviewed with the interview schedule, twenty-seven were available for the interview. The remaining two university librarians were not available for the interview. The researcher was however able to fill the gap by collecting useful information relating to the interview schedule from the deputy librarians of the university libraries selected for the study.

All the sampled 5800 newspapers in twenty-nine university libraries were placed on observation by the researcher and research assistants by using the observation guide. A list of instructions was designed by the researcher for the observation guide (Appendix V). This was to be adhered strictly to by the researcher and the research assistants. The aspect of data collection came last in order to allow objectivity.

### **3.9 Data analysis**

Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistical techniques. Correlation and multiple regression analysis were also used. The research questions were subjected to descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation and percentages. The responses of the university librarians and the observation guide were subjected to descriptive analysis, while the hypotheses were tested with Pearson Moment Correlation and multiple regression analysis. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for the data analysis.

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## CHAPTER FOUR

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on presentation of data, analysis of results and discussion of findings obtained from respondents. It also presents the results from the test of the six hypotheses formulated. For each hypothesis, the statistical tests of significance selected and applied to the data are described and followed by a statement indicating whether the hypothesis are accepted or rejected.

All the 29 copies of questionnaire administered on the serials librarians from 14 federal and 15 state universities were retrieved. In addition, they were correctly filled and found useful thereby giving a response rate of 100%. All the 1,450 questionnaires administered on users were retrieved, but only 1,425 were found useable for the study thereby giving 98% response rate.

The researcher was only able to interview 27 university librarians by using the interview schedule shown in the appendix which gave a response rate of 88.9%, while 100% was achieved on the observation guide. The useable returned questionnaires, interview schedule and observation guide are shown in Table 4.1. The data were analysed using SPSS statistical package.

**Table 4.1: Retrieved questionnaire, interview schedule and observation guide**

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>No of copies of questionnaire administered</b>	<b>Number useable</b>	<b>Response rate in Percentage</b>
Serials librarians	29	29	100
Users	1450	1425	98
University librarians	<b>Interview schedule</b>		
	29	27	88.9
University libraries	<b>Observation guide</b>		
	29	29	100

## 4.2 Presentation of results

The background information is first presented before detailed results in accordance with the research questions and hypotheses.

### 4.2.1 Background Information of the respondents

Twenty-nine (29) serial librarians, twenty-nine (29) university librarians and one thousand four hundred and fifty (1425) users from fourteen federal and fifteen state university libraries participated in this study. There were no contradictions on the year of establishment from the serials librarians' response and the interview schedule used to elicit information from the university librarians. The year of establishment of the universities studied by the researcher covers the period of 1948 – 2005. University of Ibadan was the oldest while Nasarawa and Adamawa state universities were the youngest, both were established in 2002. The significance of this is that federal and state universities were represented in the study.

**Table 4.2: Demographic information of the Respondents**

The data in Table 4.2 shows the demographic information of the respondents.

<b>Serials Librarians</b>		
<b>Demographic Information</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	20	69.0
Female	9	31.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>University Librarians</b>		
<b>Demographic Information</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	24	82.8
Female	5	17.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Users</b>		
<b>Demographic Information</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	891	62.5
Female	534	37.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1425</b>	<b>100.0</b>



Twenty 20 (69.0%) serials librarians were males, while 9 (31.0%) were females. From the interview schedule, 24 (82.2%) were males while 5(11.1%) were females. The users' questionnaire had 891 (62.5%) males, while 534 (37.5%) were females. All these indicated that both gender were fairly represented in the study except that in each case, majority of the respondents were male. The reason that can be given for more male users could be due to the fact that they users visit the newspaper section in the university library to read newspapers more frequently than female users.

Analysis of the respondents by years of working experience indicated that majority of the serials librarians fall within 6-10 (37.9%) years and 10 years (37.9%) and above working experience. This was closely followed by those with 1-5 (24.1%) working experience. This implies that majority of the serials librarians have experiences as librarians. Therefore, they know the importance of newspapers in university libraries and should be able to comment on newspaper utilisation and its value in university libraries in Nigeria. Analysis of the academic qualification of the serials librarians revealed that 27 representing 93.1% had MLS/MLIS as their minimum qualification while just 2 (6.9%) had a Ph.D. This shows that the respondents had adequate professional training as librarians.

**Research Question One:** How many and which titles of Nigerian newspapers are subscribed to by University Libraries in Nigeria? The data in Table 4.3 are used to answer this question.

**Table 4.3: Subscription to Nigerian newspapers**

Number of newspaper titles subscribed to	Year 1948-2001		Year 2002-2010	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1-2	-	-	9	31.0
3-4	-	-	6	20.7
5-6	10	34.5	8	27.6
7-8	13	44.8	4	13.8
9-10	6	20.7	2	6.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>

In providing response to this research question, item 9 in the serials librarians' questionnaire was used. The entire twenty nine (29) serials librarians answered in the affirmative that their libraries subscribe to newspapers; this gave a response rate of 100%. Table 4.3 shows the frequency of numbers of titles of newspapers subscribed to by each university library between 2002-2010 and 1948-2001. Between 2002 and 2010, the highest frequency was between one and two titles of newspapers (31.0%). Between 1948 and 2001, 13 (44.8%) universities subscribed to seven to eight titles of newspapers, while 6 (20.7%) universities subscribed to nine to ten titles of newspapers.

The titles subscribed to by each university varied depending on the geographical location and the ones consulted frequently by users in each university library studied. The common titles were: The Guardian, The Nation, The Punch, This Day, and The Sun. Titles such as The Vanguard, The Nigerian Tribune, The N, The Compass, The Daily Trust, The Nigerian Observer, The Daily Champion, Independent Newspaper, Leadership, The Mirror and Triumph, were subscribed to by university libraries within the geographical location where they are published.

The researcher observed from the observation guide item 11 that the numbers of each title of newspapers subscribed to at present by each university library has dropped significantly. Thus, about four readers circle round a title in order to read the contents because the copies and titles in circulation are not adequate for users of newspapers. The drop is because most university libraries have reduced the number of newspapers subscribed to. The reasons given are due to the increase in price, proliferation of different titles by newspaper publishers and dwindling financial resources.

**Research Question Two:** How much is expended on the acquisition of newspapers annually in university libraries in Nigeria?

In providing response to this research question, item 13 in the university librarians' interview schedule was used and the result is shown in Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4: Expenditure on newspapers**

<b>Amount (Naira)</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
100,000-00	9	31.0
200,000-00	6	20.7
300,000-00	8	27.6
400,000-00	4	13.8
500,000-00	2	6.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The lowest amount is one hundred thousand with a frequency count of 9 (31.0%), while the highest is five hundred thousand with a frequency count of 2 (6.9%). The reasons given for a drop in the subscription of newspapers is shown in Table 4.5.

**Table 4.5: Drop in newspaper subscription**

<b>Drop in subscription of newspapers</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>%</b>
No response	1	3.5
Financial constraint	18	62.0
Insufficient budget allocation	10	34.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Majority of the respondents, that is 62.0%, claim that the drop is due to financial constraint, 34.5% attributed it to insufficient budget allocated to the university library, while 3.5% did not respond to the question. From the response above, financial constraint means that the fund is not adequate to accommodate more newspaper titles as well as more copies of each title, and insufficient budget allocation means that the budget is not large enough, therefore, the library cannot subscribe to more titles of newspapers on the stand.

To the question: ‘Do you have a budget for the library?’, all the university librarians answered in the affirmative, but only two gave a figure of three hundred thousand naira (#300,000-00) only as budget for newspapers. The others did not give

any figure. This implies that most university libraries do not have a constant budgetary allocation for newspapers.

**Research Question Three:** What are the frequency of use and categories of users who utilise newspapers in University libraries in Nigeria?

Users such as staff and students who visited the newspaper section at the time when the questionnaire were distributed responded to the question. The respondents cut across various departments in the universities. 118 staff representing 8.3% and 1307 students representing 91.7% responded to the question

Economics department had the largest respondents of 116 (8.1%), followed by Microbiology 108 (7.6%), Library and Information Science 104 (7.3%), Computer Science 101 (7.1%), History 104 (7.3%), Physics 78 (5.5%), Political Science 78 (5.5%), Teacher Education 63 (4.4%), Religious Studies 55 (3.9%), Geography 55 (3.9%), Law 54 (3.8%), Mathematics 52 (3.6%), Petroleum Engineering 52 (3.6%), Sociology and Anthropology 46 (3.2%), Electrical and Electronics 46 (3.2%), Accounting 41 (2.9%), Public Administration 40 (2.8%), Agricultural Engineering 40 (2.8%), Banking and Finance 30 (2.1%), Botany 27 (1.9%), Zoology 24 (1.7%), Medicine 24 (1.7%), Animal Science 23 (1.6%), Chemical Engineering 20 (1.4%), International Relations 20 (1.4%), Architecture 10 (0.7%), Anatomy 7 (0.5%) and Guidance and Counselling 6 (0.4%). This showed that newspapers are consulted by users from different diverse disciplines offered in the universities studied to meet their various needs.

In providing response to the research question on the frequency of newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria, items 1-14 in the users' questionnaire and items 10 and 11 from the observation guide were analysed. The result is shown in Table 4.6.

**Table 4.6: Utilisation of newspapers by users**

S/N	Statements	NT	OT	T	VT	Mean	SD
1	I consult newspapers frequently	231 16.2%	408 28.6%	401 28.1%	385 27.0%	2.69	0.05
2	I consult newspapers to meet my information needs	94 6.6%	290 20.4%	478 33.5%	563 39.5%	2.68	0.87
3	I find back issues on newspapers in good condition	336 23.6%	262 18.4%	533 37.4%	294 20.6%	2.51	0.04
4	Information obtained from newspapers are valuable to me	93 6.5%	211 14.8%	333 23.4%	788 55.3%	2.46	0.82
5	I consult back issues of newspapers from the library	421 29.5%	293 20.6%	354 24.8%	357 25.1%	2.36	0.11
6	Digitisation aids quick access to newspapers	301 21.1%	173 12.1%	323 22.7%	628 44.1%	2.26	0.93
7	Reading newspapers on Internet is very expensive	370 26.0%	95 6.7%	422 29.6%	538 37.8%	2.17	0.89
8	I have heard/read about newspaper digitisation	467 32.8%	77 5.4%	491 34.5%	390 27.4%	2.12	0.93
9	I have access to back issues of newspapers on the Internet	676 47.4%	278 19.5%	265 18.6%	206 14.5%	2.10	0.20
10	I read hard copies of newspapers only	477 33.5%	166 11.6%	213 14.9%	569 39.9%	2.05	0.97
11	There are some constraints to reading hard copies of newspapers in the library	609 42.7%	209 14.7%	269 18.9%	338 23.7%	2.05	0.10
12	I have heard/read about microfilm	691 48.5%	112 7.9%	397 27.9%	225 15.8%	1.95	0.04
13	I read electronic version of newspapers only	1043 73.2%	239 16.8%	94 6.6%	49 3.4%	1.67	0.17
14	I have read newspapers using the microfilm reader	1095 76.8%	152 10.7%	115 8.1%	63 4.4%	1.53	0.03

Key: NT-Not True, OT-Occasionally True, T-True, VT-Very True

Users of newspapers responded to this question by giving various reasons. Below is the descriptive analysis of frequency of newspaper utilisation in university libraries as prioritised by the respondents.

'I consult newspapers frequently, (mean=2.69, SD=1.05) ranked highest by the mean score and was followed in succession by 'I consult newspapers to meet my information needs' (mean=2.68, SD=0.87); 'I find back issues of newspapers in good condition' (mean=2.51, SD=1.04); 'Information obtained from newspapers are valuable to me' (mean=2.46, SD=0.82); 'I consult back issues of newspapers from the library' (mean=2.36, SD=1.11); 'digitisation aids quick access to newspapers' (mean=2.26, SD=0.93); 'reading newspapers on the Internet is very expensive, (mean= 2.17, SD=0.89); 'I have heard/read about newspaper digitisation' (mean=2.12, SD=0.93); 'I have access to back issues of newspapers on the Internet' (mean=2.10, SD=1.20); 'I read hard copies of newspapers only' (mean=2.05, SD=0.97); 'there are some constraints to reading hard copies of newspapers in the library' (mean=2.05, SD=1.10); 'I have heard/read about microfilm' (mean=1.95, SD=1.04); 'I read electronic version of newspapers only' (mean=1.67, SD=1.17); and 'I have read newspapers using the microfilm reader' (mean=1.53, SD=1.03) respectively.

The researcher observed from items 10 and 11 of the observation guide that users are only allowed to read newspapers within the serials unit/newspaper section only. They are not allowed to borrow them out of the library but they can make photocopies of the pages they need from them only within the library premises. This is done in order to prevent users from mutilating the newspapers.

**Research Question Four:** What proportion of newspapers on the average has been lost to deterioration in university libraries in Nigeria?

**Table 4.7: Newspapers lost in the library**

<b>A-Newspapers lost to deterioration</b>		
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
21-30%	8	27.6
61-70%	21	72.4
Total	29	100.0
<b>B-Newspapers lost to theft</b>		
10-20%	26	89.7
21-30%	2	6.9
31-40%	1	3.4
Total	29	100.0
<b>C-Newspapers lost to disaster (e.g termite invasion)</b>		
10-20%	21	72.4
21-30%	3	10.3
51-60%	4	13.8
61-70%	1	3.4
Total	29	100.0
<b>D-Mutilated newspapers</b>		
41-50%	2	6.9
51-60%	6	20.7
61-70%	21	72.4
Total	29	100.0
<b>E-Newspapers lost to others</b>		
31-40%	2	6.9
51-60%	4	13.8
61-70%	9	31.0
71-80%	14	48.3
Total	29	100.0

Table 4.7A-E shows the percentages of newspapers on the average lost to deterioration, theft, disaster, mutilation and other types of negative occurrences such as termite invasion and fungi in all the universities studied. Table 4.7A shows that 72.4% of the newspapers have each been lost to deterioration, 89.7% has been lost to theft. In Table 4.7B, 72.4% has been lost to termite invasion and mutilation in Table 4.7C and D, while Table 4.7E shows that 48.3% has been lost to other types of negative occurrences.

**Research Question Five:** What are the present modes of preservation of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria and how adequate are they?

In providing response to this research question, item 7 in the serials librarians' questionnaire, item 14 in the university librarians' interview schedule, items 6 and 8 from the observation guide were used.

The serials librarians that responded to this question revealed that majority of the university libraries, that is 24 or 82.8%, preserved their newspapers by binding them, while 5 or 17.2% keep them in their original format. The other options provided by the researcher were not ticked by any of the serials librarians. The response of the university librarians to the research question did not contradict the response of the serials librarians. In addition, from the researcher's observation, most of the university libraries preserve their newspaper collections by binding them.

Items 36-41 in the serials librarians' questionnaire had questions bothering on microfilming and digitisation of newspapers. Though all the serials librarians responded 'yes' to the question 'have you heard or read about microfilm and digitisation of newspapers; at present, none of the university libraries had microfilmed nor digitised its newspaper collections due to lack of fund. This implies that users still have to go through large, hefty volumes of newspapers in their original or bound format to locate the information they need at any point in time.

As a follow up to question five, university librarians were asked what plans they have for preserving their newspaper collections for the future. The findings are shown in Table 4.8.



**Table 4.8: Future plans for newspaper preservation**

<b>Future plans</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Not decided	4	14.8
Working towards new preservation devices	17	63.0
Binding previous volumes	4	14.8
Keeping them in newspaper boxes	2	7.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Item 15 from the university librarians' questionnaire revealed in Table 4.8 that 63.0% of them are working towards new preservation devices, 14.8% have not decided on what to do with their newspaper collections, 14.8% responded by saying they would bind the previous volumes, while 7.4% said they would keep them in newspaper boxes. This indicates that majority of the university librarians know the worth of newspapers in the library. Therefore, they would like to preserve them for use. The researcher observed from item 8 in the observation schedule that the way university libraries store their newspaper collections by keeping them in basements, stores and odd places in the library is not appropriate. Rather, it would have been appropriate for university libraries to bind and keep their newspaper collection on the shelves, or store them in an environment that would not hasten deterioration pending the time when they would convert them to microfilm or digitisation.

**Research Question Six:** What are the problems confronting university libraries in Nigeria in storage and preservation of newspapers? The data in Table 4.9 are used to answer this question.

**Table 4.9: Problems of newspaper storage and preservation**

<b>A-Serials librarians response</b>		
<b>Problems</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Large stock of newspapers	20	69.0
Lack of fund	9	31.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>B-University librarians interview checklist</b>		
Lack of space	15	55.6
Financial constraints	12	44.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Item 28 in the serials librarians' questionnaire, item 7 in the university librarians' interview schedule and Item 8 in the observation guide were used to elicit response to the research question in Table 4.9. University libraries have a large stock of back issues of newspaper collections in whatever format they choose in their libraries, thus they are confronted with the twin problem of preservation and storage. 69.0% of the serials librarians responded to large stock of back issues of newspapers as the problems confronting their university libraries in preserving their newspaper collections, while the remaining 31.0% responded to lack of fund. The university librarians' interview schedule revealed that 55.6% indicated lack of space, while 44.4% responded to financial constraints.

From the researcher's observation, all the university libraries studied lack enough space to keep the original format of their newspaper collections. In addition, they lack enough fund to preserve their newspapers. This has always been a twin problem to university libraries

**Research Question Seven:** How effective are the bibliographic control methods utilised in providing access to newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria? Table 4.10 provides answer to this question.

**Table 4.10: Effectiveness of bibliographic control tools**

<b>Options</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Effective	10	34.5
Fairly effective	12	41.4
Not effective	7	24.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.10 shows that, 34.5% of the serials librarians claim that they are effective, 41.4% claim that the bibliographic control methods used in providing quick access to newspapers in their libraries are fairly effective, while only 24.1% claim that they are not effective. From the researcher's observation in item 9 of the observation guide, different newspaper retrieval tools are used in the university libraries studied to facilitate quick access to retrospective and current newspapers. They are cataloguing, newspaper cuttings, captioning of major headlines and indexing and abstracting.

The researcher asked the serials librarians the question: 'Is there any type of bibliographic control of newspapers in your library'. 86.2% of the serials librarians answered 'yes' to the question. This could be because each university library has its own way of exerting bibliographic control on its newspapers to facilitate quick access to its collection and it has been successful.

The researcher is of the opinion that there should be uniformity over bibliographic control of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria. The uniformity would assist users in gaining quick access to current and back issues of newspaper collections in any university library they visit in Nigeria.

**Research Question Eight:** What training programmes are available for library and information professionals in the management of newspaper collections? The data in Table 4.11 provides answer to this question.

**Table 4.11: Training programmes available**

Training programmes	Frequency	Percentage
In-house seminar/ workshop	18	62.1
Seminar/workshop outside the institution	3	10.3
Orientation	6	20.7
Others	2	6.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>

In providing response to this research question, item 31 from the serials librarians' questionnaire was used and the result is shown in Table 4.11. It indicated that 62.1% of the university libraries provide in-house seminar/workshop for their staff, 20.7% conduct orientation, 10.3% provide seminar/workshop outside the institution, while 6.9% indicated others. These shows that majority of the university libraries know that their staff must be up-to-date in their profession. Even when they cannot afford to send their staff on training outside the institution, they provide in-house training and/or orientation for them. These trainings are mostly not related or relevant to newspaper collection, handling, bibliographic control, preservation and storage.

**Research Question Nine:** To what extent has information technology affected access, storage and preservation of newspapers?

Items 36-47 from the serials librarians' questionnaire and item 21 from the university librarians' interview schedule were used in providing response to the research question.

**Table 4.12: Effects of Information Communication Technology on newspapers**

<b>Effects of Information Communication Technology</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
It saves time spent in searching for original copy	23	79.3
It prolongs the life span of original format from wear and tear	2	6.9
It saves considerable space occupied by newspapers	4	13.8
It reduces the danger of losing records	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.12 revealed from the serials librarians' response that 79.3% of them know the importance of Information Technology as it affects access, storage and preservation of newspapers in the university library. 6.9% are of the opinion that Information Technology prolongs the shelve life of the original format from wear and tear, while the remaining 13.8% respondents state that it saves considerable space occupied by newspapers. None of them responded to the last item provided in the table. However, the university librarians responded that there is Internet facilities in the university libraries to which students have easy access to.

From the researcher's observation however, majority of the libraries studied have not converted their newspaper collections to microfilm, neither have they been digitised. They also do not have Internet facilities in their serials section for users to read newspapers. As a result, users still have to take turns to read hard copies of

newspapers in the newspaper section. All the university libraries had the electronic or virtual library facility in their university libraries from which users can read newspapers and get other information they need. Nevertheless, the facilities are not adequate for users due to their large population.

### 4.3 Test of Hypotheses

#### 4.3.1 Hypotheses

Table 4.4.1 presents correlation matrix among variables of interest. Hypotheses one to four were tested using simple correlation analysis, while hypotheses five and six were tested using multiple regression analysis. The outcome of hypotheses one to four is contained in the correlation matrix Table 4.4.1. The outcome of hypothesis five is contained in the multiple regression Table 4.4.2a, while Table 4.4.2b shows the outcome of hypothesis six.

**Table 4.4.1: Correlation Matrix among variables of interest**

		Newspaper utilisation	Funding	Staff training on Newspaper preservation	Bibliographic control	Preservation of newspapers
Newspaper utilisation	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.516	-.188	.514	.264
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.004	.330	0.28	0.026
	N	29	29	29	29	29
Adequacy of funding	Pearson Correlation	.516	1.000	-.100	.537**	-.408*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.004		.604	.003	.028
	N	29	29	29	29	29
Staff training on newspaper preservation	Pearson Correlation	-.188	-.100	1.000	-.694**	.021
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.330	.604		.000	.912
	N	29	29	29	29	29
Bibliographic control	Pearson Correlation	.514	.537**	-.694**	1.000	.021
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.28	.003	.000		.913
	N	29	29	29	29	29
Preservation of newspapers	Pearson Correlation	.264	-.408*	.021	.021	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.026	.028	.912	.913	
	N	29	29	29	29	29

\*\*Correlation significant at 0.01 level (2-tailed)

\* Correlation significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed)

**Research Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant relationship between funding and newspaper preservation in university libraries in Nigeria.

The result of hypothesis 1 as shown in Table 4.4.1 confirmed that there was significant relationship between newspaper utilisation and funding of newspapers ( $r = 0.516, P < 0.05$ ). Therefore, hypothesis one was not upheld.

**Research Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant relationship between staff training and preservation of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria.

On the contrary, it was clearly seen from Table 4.4.1 that there was no significant relationship between newspaper utilisation and staff training on preservation ( $r = -0.188, P > 0.05$ ). Here hypothesis two was upheld.

**Research Hypothesis 3:** There is no significant relationship between preservation and newspaper utilisation in university libraries Nigeria.

From Table 4.4.1, there was significant relationship between preservation of newspapers and newspaper utilisation ( $r = 0.264, P < 0.05$ ) in university libraries in Nigeria. Therefore hypothesis three was not upheld.

**Research Hypothesis 4:** There is no significant relationship between bibliographic control and newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.

It was also revealed that there was significant relationship between newspaper utilisation and bibliographic control of newspapers ( $r = 0.514, P < 0.05$ ) in university libraries in Nigeria. Thus, hypothesis four was not upheld.

**Table 4.4.2a: Summary of Regression Analysis of newspaper utilisation on independent variables**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std Error of the Estimate	
1	.413 <sup>a</sup>	.171	.032	2.3636	
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Regression	97.590	4	24.398	4.37	.023 <sup>a</sup>
Residual	134.080	24	5.587		
Total	161.671	28			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Funding, Staff training, Preservation and bibliographic control

b. Dependent Variable: Newspaper utilisation

**Research Hypothesis 5:** There is no significant joint effect of preservation and bibliographic control on newspapers utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.

Nevertheless, the test of hypothesis five using multiple regression analysis in Table 4.4.2a shows that there was joint effect of funding of newspapers, staff training on preservation and bibliographic control of newspaper on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria ( $F(4,24)=4.37$ ,  $P<0.05$ ). The joint effect of funding of newspaper, staff training on preservation, bibliographic control of newspapers and preservation of newspapers accounted for (3.2%), ( $R^2=0.032$ ) variability in explaining newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.

**Table 4.4.2b: Summary of relative effects of independent variables on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.**

Model	Unstandardised Coefficients		Standardised Coefficients	T	Sig
	B	Std Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-66.013	61.485		-1.074	.294
Funding	2.565E-05	.000	.117	.387	.702
Staff training on preservation	1.284	15.836	.025	.081	.936
Bibliographic control	9.159	15.455	.227	.593	.559
Preservation of newspapers	62.691	46.635	.308	1.344	.191

a. Dependent Variable: Newspaper utilisation

**Research Hypothesis 6:** There is no significant relative effect of funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.

In testing the individual effect of the independent variables on newspaper utilisation, Table 4.4.2b showed that funding has relative effect of 11.7% on newspaper utilisation, while staff training on preservation has relative effect of 2.5% on newspaper utilisation; bibliographic control of newspaper has relative effect of 22.7% on newspaper utilisation and finally, preservation of newspaper has relative effect of 30.8% on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.



Furthermore, it is evident in Table 4.4.2b that the four factors which are funding, staff training, bibliographic control and preservation of newspapers when combined made significant contribution to newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. However, preservation of newspapers (Beta = 0.308) and bibliographic control of newspapers were the factors that had greatest relative effects on newspaper utilisation (B=0.227), in university libraries in Nigeria.

#### **4.4 Discussion of Findings**

The discussion section is organised in line with the major issues from the research questions and research hypotheses.

##### **4.4.1 Subscription to newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria**

The result of the findings showed that all university libraries in Nigeria subscribe to different titles of national newspapers because they know their worth in the library. They subscribe to different titles of newspaper because they have different amount of money allocated to newspaper subscription in their university libraries. This is in line with the research findings of Bello and Ajala (2004). They stated that one of the means through which information is transmitted is newspaper. The Florida University Library (2013) also supports this view by stating that one of the primary missions of university libraries is to provide collections contained in a variety of media, newspapers inclusive and organised in such a manner that learners can retrieve what they need to support their academic work.

Moreover, the findings of the research affirm the findings of Igbeka (2010) who reported in her study that newspapers provide up-to-date information on local, state/provincial, national and world issues. Therefore, they are widely read by people of all ages and walks of life in the community. The findings of the research support Aguolu (1980) and Sangowusi (2004) who both submitted that newspapers are vital instruments for the dissemination of news and provision of information on current affairs, financial and political matters.

The result of this study further revealed that from the year of establishment of the oldest to the youngest university, they all have a rich collection of newspapers. It is only the titles and copies subscribed to that vary from one university library to the other. The titles subscribed to by each university library are determined by what is

available in their geographical locations and the newspaper frequently consulted by users in each university library studied.

The findings in this study showed that presently, 8 (27.6%) university libraries among those studied subscribe to between 5 and 6 titles of newspapers while in the past 13 (44.8%) university libraries were subscribing to between 7 and 8 titles of newspapers and 10 (34.5%) university libraries were subscribing to between 5 and 6 titles of newspapers. This is in line with the findings of Ibrahim and Agaja (2002) that running from 1948 - 2001, university libraries were subscribing to almost all the issues of newspapers available locally because the economy of the nation was booming during the period.

In addition, the findings revealed that though university libraries still subscribe to newspapers, there has been a notable reduction in newspaper subscription in all the university libraries studied. The university and serials librarians attributed this to financial constraint (62.0%), insufficient budget allocation and/or the fact that there was no special fund allocated to newspapers (34.5%). The result agrees with the assertion of Salam (2002) and Ajidahun (2006) that libraries have had to cut down on the number of newspapers they subscribe to because of their cover prices have increased. This is contrary to Peterson and Boylan (1988) findings in the United States of America. They reported that newspapers are inexpensive because some newspapers are not paid for. Therefore, they are not difficult to acquire.

The findings of this study also revealed that for university libraries to achieve their objectives and satisfy their various users there is need for them to be recognised by the authority of such establishment particularly with respect to funding. The finding is in agreement with Opaleke (2005) and Oyelude and Ola (2008). This is because funding plays a prominent role in newspaper subscription and increase in the number of titles and copies. Moreover, users support is very important in the use of newspapers in university libraries. If the users feel the library's impact, they would make demands on the library's behalf. To this end, there must be appropriate funding for university libraries to plan for their expenses on newspaper subscription for a certain period of time.

#### **4.4.2 Expenditure on newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria**

The result of the findings shows that the level of funding of university libraries in Nigeria on newspapers is very low. Majority of the university libraries (31.0%)

have an expenditure of 100,000.00 naira on newspapers, 27.6% have 300,000.00 naira, while 20.7% have an expenditure of 200,000.00 naira. 13.8% have 400,000.00 naira as expenditure and 6.9% have 500,000.00 naira as expenditure on newspapers. This indicates that the level of funding is low and also varies from one university library to the other. However, the results of the findings in this study revealed that funding of newspaper in federal universities was relatively better than state universities.

Thus, funding in university libraries should be looked into for sustenance and improvement of newspaper collection. This is necessary to ensure a steady supply at a period when the cover price increases at short notices. In addition, it is in accordance with the findings of Opaleke (2005). If university libraries are to meet their objectives, they should be well funded to enable them function well and provide adequate newspaper services for their numerous users. It then becomes important that newspapers should be an important component of university libraries acquisition. In view of this, there should be an increase in newspaper budgets in university libraries in Nigeria. Moreover, it is necessary for university librarians to cultivate the culture of budgeting for newspapers. This is in accordance with the findings of Oyelude and Ola (2008) that university libraries are complex entities with enormous resources that require planning and budgeting. Librarians should be given a free hand to operate by making the library autonomous so that they can perform effectively and efficiently in rendering services to their users.

#### **4.4.3 Categories of users and frequency of newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria**

The result of the findings revealed that different categories of users such as academic, non-academic staff and students make use of newspapers in university libraries for different reasons. Some claim that they use newspapers for their assignments, research work, to be up-to-date in politics, science, for leisure, entertainment, art and sports. The finding is in accordance with the research finding of Latood (1967). He justified the research value of newspaper by examining the statistics of reader's use of newspapers in the Library of Congress. He noted that no form of publication has been known to capture the day-to-day life of a community and its citizens better than the local newspapers.

Out of the fourteen (14) items on the users' questionnaire, the frequency of newspaper utilisation ranked highest with a mean score of 2.69 and the reason why users consult newspaper which is to meet their information needs followed closely with a mean score of 2.68. From the users' response, 'reading newspapers on the Internet is expensive'. This was placed on the seventh position with a mean score of 2.17. 'I read the electronic version of newspapers only' ranked second to the last with a mean score of 1.67 while 'I have read newspapers' using the microfilm reader' was scored last with a mean score of 1.53.

Findings of this study reveal that many respondents frequent the university library to consult newspapers to meet their various needs because they are sources of relevant and timely information. This finding is in line with the British Newspaper Library (1987) which submitted that for decades even hundreds of years after publication, researchers of all kinds, all over the world turn to newspapers for information relating to a wide variety of research needs. This is also in agreement with the findings of Okojie (1993), Bello and Ajala (2004), Wei Zhang (2006) and Cheney, Knapp, Alan and Czaplá (2006) which state that despite the growing presence of news on the Internet, radio and television, the current newspaper collections of libraries continue to play a vital role in the academic community.

#### **4.4.4 Disaster plan for newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria**

The results also showed that newspapers are acidic and fragile in nature. As a result, they deteriorate faster than textbooks because of the type of paper used in their production (Cunningham, 1988 and Woods, 1988) the interplay of some factors such as air pollution, biological agents and acidity (Popoola, 2003) and Akussah (1991), the 'harsh' environment in which they are kept. In Nigeria, temperature is high all the year round. Feller (1973), Bank (1979) and Abe (1994) in their studies opine that if temperature in which books and newspaper prints are stored is hot, they get warm and this hastens their deterioration. Therefore, newspapers have to be stored in an atmosphere conducive for them, and handled with care. Constantly unfolding and closing a newspaper to view it harm the newspaper (Mwiyeriwa, 1988; Ferber, 2009). Alegbeleye (1999) asserts that librarians and information specialists should no longer claim ignorance of the need for preservation and conservation in libraries.

Moreover, newspapers are prone to different types of disasters e.g. flood, mutilation and termite invasion in the library while the university library itself is

subject to disasters leading to loss of precious newspapers, materials and information. The findings of the results showed that university libraries in Nigeria lack a disaster control plan, in their libraries. Though seen by some libraries as very remote, disasters in libraries as asserted by Adinku (2005) are real, and have happening since ancient times. (A most recent fire outbreak occurred at the university library of the Lagos State University, Ojo in December, 2011). Studies carried out by Kemoni (1996); Akussah (2001); Fosu and Akussah (2002) revealed that there was lack of disaster control plan, neither do they have a disaster policy in the libraries surveyed. The findings of the study showed that university libraries were not organising periodic training and disaster drills for staff and users to prepare them for any disaster that may occur. This is in accordance with the findings of Fosu and Akussah's (2002) on academic libraries. The findings of the study discovered that no university library organised disaster drills for staff and student neither did they do periodic building maintenance inspection. Periodic building maintenance inspection has to be done regularly for early detection of problem areas in order to save the libraries numerous collections when disasters happen.

In addition, university libraries in Nigeria do not have any formal or informal agreement with emergency services, experts and external agencies for assistance during disasters. All the universities studied claim that they have fire extinguishers in case there is fire outbreak. 48.3% claim that they have smoke detectors, 17.2% claim that they have burglary alarm system, while 34.5% have water sprinkler method to control fire events. From the researcher's observation, in some libraries where the fire preventions were visibly present, some of the fire extinguishers had expired. Water was not running from taps in some libraries. Hence, water sprinklers were not working, while smoke detector and burglary alarm system were not functioning. There was also no precise action to take in the event of a disaster or emergency evacuation of collections in the libraries.

#### **4.4.5 Mode of preservation of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria**

Preservation of newspapers in university libraries is important in order to ensure long-term access to information. The need to preserve newspapers arises from their format, the environment which they are stored and frequent handling and use (Ngulube, 2002). Therefore, to keep them on the library shelf for a long period for use, university libraries have to embark on preservation programmes for newspapers.

Data collected revealed that 82.8% of university libraries bind their newspapers in order to preserve them. The remaining 17.2% keep them in their original format due to financial constraints. This supports the position of Harvey (1993), Conway (1996) and Igbinosa (1998) that newspapers have to be preserved because newspapers exhibit certain fragility due to poor paper quality and lack of binding covers (Delaunay (1992). In addition, (IFLA, 1996) reported that newspapers may crumble away in 20 or 30 years or even less if they are not properly preserved. For newspapers to be preserved, they have to be converted to other medium such as microfilming or digitisation.

This is in accordance with the case under study that newspapers have to be preserved by university libraries in Nigeria from deterioration in order to prolong their shelf life as it is done in developed countries. Their preservation would also ensure the protection of information of enduring value for access by present and future generations. University libraries should have a disaster control policy to always fall back on in order to preserve their newspaper collections.

#### **4.4.6 Problems confronting newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria**

It is therefore disheartening to note that the findings showed that a lot of back issues of newspapers have been lost to different types of negative occurrences in university libraries such as deterioration, theft, disaster, mutilation, termite invasion, fungi and flood. None of the libraries fumigate their university libraries in order to prevent biological agents' invasion (e.g. termite, cockroach, rodent and ant) and microbiological agents (e.g. fungi, bacteria). All these are not ideal for newspaper collections in university libraries.

Data collected revealed that 69.0% university libraries studied are confronted with large newspaper stock while 55.6% do not have space to keep their newspaper collections. These twin problems affect newspaper utilisation in university libraries.

#### **4.4.7 Effects of bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria**

We hardly need to be reminded of the importance of prompt access to information. The findings showed that little has been done in the area of

bibliographical control of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria yet, bibliographic control of newspapers cannot be overlooked by librarians.

It was discovered that there are no specific cataloguing rules for newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria partly because resources to achieve this are limited (Sangowusi, 2004). In developed countries according to Upham (1988), patrons access newspaper files through the use of a combination of geographic location, title and date. This enables users to identify the existence of newspapers useful for their purpose rather than going through large, hefty volumes of newspapers or scanning reels on microfilm to source for information from newspapers. Woods (1998) submits that bibliographic control of newspaper is very important because it aids prompt access to users. This is in line with the position of Upham (1988) that unless newspaper has been indexed or bibliographically controlled, searching for the desired information can be a tiresome quest. It is also in agreement with the findings of Okojie (1993) that information is valuable only if it can be retrieved as and when needed. Fourie and Burger (2007) in their study asserted that newspapers are supposed to be listed in a systematic manner and in such a way that users can be aware of information in them and also have quick access to them by having an effective national and universal bibliographic control over them.

Each of the university libraries studied have adopted different bibliographical control tools for their newspapers such as captioning of major headlines, dates and title of the newspaper. Some adopted indexing, abstracting or newspaper cuttings to manage their newspaper collections in order to provide quick and easy access to users on current and back issues of newspapers. The researcher is of the opinion that all university libraries should come together to form a consortium to work on a universal bibliographic control tool and method for newspapers that would aid users to have quick access to current and back issues of newspapers just like they have for textbooks.

From the findings of the study, the researcher suggests that the National library should create a department of newspaper indexing services with qualified and experienced newspaper indexers. It should organise a workshop with the active participation of the National Library Association, the Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigeria, the National Archives and other interested bodies. This is in agreement with the view of Adeyemi (1987) that the National Library, Abuja which

has national bibliographic function and is directly funded by the federal government, should take responsibility for newspaper indexing services in Nigeria.

#### **4.4.8 Effects of staff training on preservation of newspaper collection in university libraries in Nigeria.**

Newspaper managers in university libraries have to be up-to-date by going through different training programmes in order to keep back issues and present hard copies of newspaper in good condition so that they can have a long shelf life. Therefore, university library staff are admonished to do everything possible to develop themselves by attending in-service-training programmes, workshops, seminars and conferences in and outside the country. They should do everything possible to get relevant training on newspaper preservation and make other staff development programmes as seamless as possible to their daily living. The study revealed that staff training programmes on newspaper preservation have influence on the way library staff handle, preserve and store newspaper collections.

At the international level, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) have played important roles in training on preservation of library materials. University libraries should collaborate with these organisations and encourage their staff to attend their workshops and seminars. In such training programmes, librarians would be exposed to training and awareness about preservation of library and archival materials. Lending credence to this, Archer (2001) and Adanu (2007) stressed the need for librarians to engage in continuing professional development activities. Staff development on newspaper preservation is the only way to build a crop of librarians who are intellectually alert to meet the challenges of providing adequate services for their users in university libraries in Nigeria. Moreover, library schools that are yet to include preservation and conservation in their curriculum should do so and endeavour to teach their students the practical aspect of preservation and conservation.

#### **4.4.9 Effects of ICT on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria**

The study revealed that libraries have large newspaper collections which are voluminous, bulky, fragile and occupy a lot of space. Besides, finding information in newspapers can be a challenge. This makes it necessary to transfer newspapers to another medium. Aina (2002) observed that there are generally three methods of



preserving library materials, namely: photocopying, microfilming and digitisation. Alegbeleye (1996) also reported that Kenneth Dike library, university of Ibadan was one of the first university libraries to develop its micrographic section but from findings none of the university libraries studied has a micrographic section while that of Kenneth Dike library, university of Ibadan, is no longer functioning.

Studies have shown that the Library of Congress in the United States and the British library in the United Kingdom have been microfilming newspapers for decades in order to preserve the historical records. Microfilming, according to the Records Management Handbook (1974), is used to achieve better physical management of newspapers. A research titled 'guidelines for accessing newspapers (2010)' accessed on the Internet also states that microfilming has the advantage to be a rather stable medium and it may form the basis for subsequent transfer of the newspaper to a digital format. This corroborates Ian and David (2003) who state that digitisation is the process of converting traditional library materials that are in the form of books and papers to electronic form where they can be stored and manipulated by a computer. However, the consensus among American preservation officers is that digitisation alone does not constitute newspaper preservation and should not be a replacement for microfilming or other preservation activities. This is because the technology is fairly new and still suffers from limitations. For instance, when viewing image files over the web, one can experience poor quality and the quirks of media players.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter consists of summary of findings, conclusion and recommendations drawn from the analysis of the research data. Suggestion for further research is also presented.

#### 5.2 Summary of Findings

This study examined the effects of funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. In order to achieve the objectives of the study, nine (9) research questions were answered and six (6) null hypotheses were formulated and tested which provided the basis for data analysis. The findings revealed the following:

1. The result showed that though university libraries subscribe to newspapers, there has been a significant drop in the titles of newspapers subscribed to by all the university libraries studied running from 2002 - 2009 because of inadequate funding. In 1948 - 2001, a large percentage of university libraries studied were subscribing to newspapers ranging from seven and above, but at present, they now subscribe to as low as two titles of newspapers per day.
2. It was also discovered from the expenditure on newspapers that the university libraries have a budget of between 100,000 and 500,000 naira on subscription of newspapers per annum which is not adequate for newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria. As a result, they subscribe to few titles and copies of newspapers per day. In addition, because the budget is inadequate, it has not provided university libraries with the opportunity to preserve newspaper collections by using other technological processes such as microfilming and digitisation.
3. The findings showed that different categories of users make use of current and back issues of hard copies of newspapers in the university libraries. However, 91.7% of the students use newspapers in the libraries. This is far more than the staff. This could be because students cannot afford to read newspapers from the Internet. Therefore, they need to consult the library to read hard copies or make use of the university libraries Internet

facilities via the electronic library. On the other hand, staff can afford to buy hard copies of newspapers on the stand or read from the Internet. However, when it comes to back issues of newspaper collections, they usually consult the library.

4. The findings revealed that newspapers have been lost to different types of disasters in the libraries studied. The highest frequency is newspapers lost to deterioration and mutilation by users. 21 out of the 29 university libraries studied indicated that they have lost between 61-70% of their newspapers to deterioration and mutilation by users. This is followed closely by 14 universities that indicated that they have lost between 71-80% of their newspapers on other types of negative occurrence in the library.
5. The findings on the present mode of preservation of newspapers in university libraries showed that majority 24 (82.8%) of the libraries studied still preserve their newspapers in bounded format, while 5 (17.2%) keep them in their original format. Most newspapers in Nigeria are made of newsprint, a low quality paper brand that is less resistant to the vagaries of the tropical climate. The findings thus revealed that adequate preservation measures for newspapers are lacking in the university libraries studied. Newspapers, both old and new need adequate attention and management just as books and journals to increase the frequency of use. Keeping newspapers in bounded format by university libraries is a mode of preservation. Other preservation options such as microfilming which has inherent advantages which include an effective preservation of the newspaper content, effective security and improvement of access and quick retrieval of back issues should be looked into by university libraries in Nigeria.
6. The findings showed that university libraries have problems with large stock of newspapers and lack of space. This is due to the fact that newspapers are subscribed to on daily basis and in addition, they are large in size and voluminous. The findings of the study revealed that newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria occupy a huge space, therefore, they constitute space problem if they are only kept in their original format and nothing is done to their size. Thus, microfilming of

newspapers by university libraries which can later form the basis for digitization is a worthwhile venture. The chunk of newspapers in university libraries studied need to be properly managed for intellectual exploitation by users. Microfilming or digitization of newspapers by university libraries in Nigeria is a good measure. They would also release space for other library use.

7. The findings on the effectiveness of bibliographic control methods utilised in university libraries in Nigeria for retrieval of newspapers showed that the tool utilised by each university library is fairly effective. Though there are several bibliographic control methods for newspapers such as union catalogues, bibliographies, indexing and abstracting. The findings showed that each university library adopted different bibliographic control methods to identify and control their newspaper collections to aid quick retrieval and access by their users. The bibliographic control methods they use have assisted newspaper users to be aware of the information they need and also to locate it as at when needed. In addition, the bibliographic control methods used by each university library has assisted in providing order and consistency in the organisation of newspapers in such a manner that would ensure easy and useful access to them.
8. As far as training programmes are concerned, all university librarians know the importance of training programmes for their staff. To this end, 62.1% of the university librarians claim that they organise in-house seminars/workshops or conduct a form of orientation for their staff in order to keep them up-to-date on how to handle, manage and preserve newspapers for posterity. However, the in-house training and orientation programmes for library staff are not enough. They should be encouraged to attend both local and international seminars. Moreover, the training should not only be on preservation, but also should include training on indexing of newspapers.
9. On the issue of the effects of Information Communication Technology (ICT) on access, storage and preservation of newspapers, the result shows that (ICT) has contributed immensely to newspaper access, storage and preservation all over the world. It has improved access to newspapers online. This notwithstanding, university libraries in developed and

developing countries still subscribe to hard copies of newspapers because they are portable and easy to carry around.

In Nigeria, power supply is not stable. Thus it is not every user of newspaper that can afford to use generator to power their laptops/desk top computers to read the online version of newspaper. In addition, users may not always be able to afford to buy credit on their phones or afford Internet modems to read newspapers online. Therefore, they resort to hard copies provided by university libraries. Besides, there are times when users go online to read newspapers only to find out that the website for some newspapers cannot be accessed because it is temporarily offline. Comments like 'website is currently down for maintenance' are often found. In addition, users have to subscribe financially to some newspapers online in order to get access to some information they might need.

Notwithstanding, ICT has helped in the storage and preservation of newspaper in that if hard print copies of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria are converted to other medium such as microfilm or if digitised, it helps to save considerable space occupied by back issues of newspapers. In addition, it prolongs the shelf life of original format from wear and tear. It also saves time spent in searching for back issues of original print copies.

10. The findings showed that there was significant relationship between funding and newspaper utilisation. Adequate funding should be provided for effective use of newspaper collection in university libraries. University libraries must be up-to-date in newspaper subscription, and at the same time, must allow users access to its newspaper collection. The findings revealed that university libraries in Nigeria need regular and adequate funding to make them satisfy the needs of their users. The true measure of the adequacy of funding lies in the ability to finance their services which include subscribing to all newspapers published locally to meet the needs of its users. The library is the university's central organ, therefore it must be properly supported financially.
11. The findings showed that there was a significant relationship between newspaper utilisation and staff training on preservation. According to the findings of the study, staff training on newspaper preservation is important

for university librarians to extend the shelf life of newspapers for utilisation. The findings revealed that staff training comes in form of seminars, workshops, local and international conferences, and all these are veritable tools for staff to improve on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.

12. The summary that can be drawn from the significance of preserving newspapers for use is that 63.0% of the university libraries claim to be working towards the current preservation methods in use in developed countries such as microfilming and digitisation apart from binding, keeping newspaper collection in newspaper boxes and storing hard print copies of newspapers on the shelves. But it is of importance to mention that there are no better methods as research has shown in developed countries, such as the United Kingdom, Canada and United States of America, than microfilming or digitisation of newspaper collections. This is because this method saves space and facilitates quick access to newspapers especially back issues. To this end, university libraries in Nigeria should key into digitisation.
13. The findings also showed that there is a significant relationship between bibliographic control and newspaper utilisation. This is because all university libraries know that the existence of newspapers is important to their stock. Therefore, they all subscribe to different titles of newspapers, and have newspaper collections which they have to control by using bibliographic control methods. The most common being indexing, abstracting and newspaper cuttings. But the bibliographic control methods adopted are not uniform. However, there is a clear absence of indexing and abstracting system for newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria
14. The findings showed that there is joint effect of preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. Appropriate bibliographic control is an essential component to the success of newspaper preservation programme and utilisation in university libraries. The findings of the study revealed that newspapers are still a major means of communication in university libraries in Nigeria. Therefore, any attempt at preserving newspapers without providing

bibliographic control over them will only exacerbate the problems of utilisation by users.

15. The findings showed that there is relative effect of funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. Newspapers cannot be treated in isolation of funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control. The findings revealed that the frequency of newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria depends upon adequate funding because no university library can meet its goals and objectives without sustainable funding. It also depends on preservation, bibliographic control and the staff that provide them. If users are to enjoy reading newspapers, it will take proper organisation, accessibility, availability, dedicated and well trained staff. These are crucial to effective newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria since newspapers are veritable sources of information for researchers and students.

### **5.3 Implications of the Study**

The result of the research has implications for librarians, archivists, information professionals and the library management. The result of this research study has resulted in some implications for newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.

- i. One of the basic implications of this study is that funding, preservation and bibliographic control have effect on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.
- ii. A policy on newspaper subscription in university libraries in Nigeria would increase the frequency of newspaper utilisation by users.
- iii. Librarians and information scientists should have a policy on newspaper preservation in university libraries in Nigeria.
- iv. A universal bibliographic control for newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria would aid quick access to newspapers and increase the frequency of newspaper utilisation.

- v. Library management should spare no effort in ensuring that librarians are actively involved in relevant staff training programmes on newspaper preservation.

#### **5.4 Conclusion**

Libraries are established in the university system to provide high quality information service delivery in different areas and disciplines in order to support teaching, learning and research for academic staff members as well as acquisition of knowledge by the students. Thus, the librarian has to stock the library with not only textbooks but also other materials such as newspapers, journals, audio visual materials and Internet services. Therefore, subscription to adequate titles and copies of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria is not negotiable and it is desirable to users in order to be up-to-date.

Another conclusion that could be inferred from adequate subscription of newspapers is that in order for university libraries to be able to meet the demands of their users, there should be a significant level of funding earmarked for newspaper subscription and also preservation.

It is not out of place to submit that preserving newspapers from deteriorating in order to prolong their shelf life and prevent them from other forms of negative occurrences by having a disaster control plan is important in university libraries. The conclusion that could be derived is that there should be adequate staff training on preservation in every university library in Nigeria. This would increase the frequency of newspaper utilisation by users.

Nevertheless, the present study finds out that subscribing to enough titles and copies of newspapers by university libraries in Nigeria is not enough. Rather, each newspaper should be bibliographically controlled in order to make back issues and current issues easily accessible to users. This can be well achieved if there are effective and universal bibliographical control methods adopted by all university libraries in Nigeria for newspapers just like they have for textbooks.



## 5.5 Recommendations

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

1. University libraries in Nigeria should make back and current issues of hard copies of newspapers easily accessible to users. This can be done if they microfilm or digitise their collections.
2. Librarians should cultivate the culture of budgeting for newspapers because they contain valuable information and require enormous resources for subscription and preservation.
3. Though the researcher recommends microfilming or digitisation for newspaper collections in university libraries in Nigeria, not all of them can fund the project. In that case, the researcher therefore recommend that university libraries that cannot afford it should collaborate with other university libraries or form a kind of partnership with newspaper organisations, The National Archives, Abuja or the National library of Nigeria, Abuja that have digitised some of their newspaper collections. By doing this, university libraries that do not have enough budget allocated to newspaper preservation in their libraries can make copies of digitised newspapers from these newspaper organisations or the National library of Nigeria, Abuja. Several copies can then be duplicated by the university libraries for their users.
4. University libraries in Nigeria should have a disaster control plan in place. This plan should be reviewed every two years. In addition, all university library staff should be trained to respond swiftly to disasters in the library.
5. University libraries in Nigeria should have a preservation policy for the safe keeping of newspaper collections. It should be used, checked and revised if and when the need arises.
6. University libraries in Nigeria should collaborate with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), newspaper section in Africa to garner knowledge on what is going on globally on newspaper preservation and bibliographic control.
7. There should be a Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities (CULNU) to fund a project on microfilming and digitisation of newspapers for university libraries in Nigeria.

8. A universal bibliographic control method(s) such as indexing and abstracting should be universally adopted in controlling newspapers in all university libraries in Nigeria.
9. Project of National indexing of all newspapers should be initiated by either research libraries or the National Library Association (as it is done for textbooks through the cataloguing and classification section) with the collaboration of all newspaper houses. The National Library Association should organise national workshop to work out modalities for a uniform newspaper indexing system for university libraries in Nigeria.
10. There should be workshops and conferences on newspaper collection in Nigeria. This forum will allow university libraries to discuss extensively on newspaper preservation and bibliographic control methods for newspapers.
11. University library staff/information professionals in Nigeria should be encouraged to attend local/international seminars, workshops and training programmes on preservation and conservation of newspapers.

#### **5.6 Contribution to Knowledge**

This is a large scale investigation into funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria. The study unearths the level of newspaper degradation and the near absence of bibliographic control over newspapers. It emphasises the neglect of newspaper preservation in university libraries in Nigeria inspite of their well known value as sources of information and research.

It will also bring some changes in the attitude of librarians in the handling of preservation and bibliographic control of newspapers in order to provide quick access to them for their various users in the library.

The study also suggests better funding of newspaper collections by possibly having a special fund for newspaper acquisition and staff training on preservation of newspapers in university libraries in Nigeria to prolong their shelve life for use.

#### **5.7 Limitations of the Study**

The study focused only on federal and state university libraries in Nigeria. Federal and state university libraries that were newly established in the last five years when the study was carried out and private university libraries were exempted from

the study. This was due to the fact that some were yet to take off academic activities, while some were relatively new and had few resources, especially newspapers.

Also, the researcher did not study the on-line version of newspapers; it was only the hard copies of newspapers that were studied.

Another limitation was the failure of twenty-five respondents to complete the information for some sections in the users' questionnaire and the non-availability of two of the university librarians for interview schedule. The reasons given for their non-availability was a tight schedule of work. Nevertheless, the gap was filled by the deputy librarians. Therefore, twenty-five users' questionnaires that were not duly completed were not analysed.

Despite the limitations, the study is considered valid. In addition, the study has given adequate suggestions for further research.

## **5.8 Suggestions for Further Research**

Since it is practically impossible for any single study to investigate the entire variables that could affect the Funding, staff training, preservation and bibliographic control on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria, the following are suggested for future researches:

1. The effects of Funding, staff training, bibliographic control and preservation methods on newspaper utilisation in private university libraries in Nigeria.
2. The effects of digitisation and microfilming on newspaper utilisation in university libraries in Nigeria.

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## APPENDIX I

### List of selected federal and state university libraries in Nigeria.

#### Federal Universities

1. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi.
2. University of Abuja, Abuja.
3. University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.
4. Ahmadu Bello University, zaria.
5. Bayero University, kano.
6. University of Calabar, Calabar.
7. Federal University of Technology, Akure.
8. Federal University of Technology, Minna.
9. University of Ibadan, Ibadan.
10. University of Ilorin, Ilorin.
11. University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri.
12. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.
13. University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt.
14. University of Uyo, Uyo.

#### State Universities

1. Lagos State University, Ojo.
2. Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti.
3. Benue State University, Markurdi.
4. Delta State University, Abraka.
5. Enugu State University of Science & Technology, Enugu.
6. Evans Enwerem University, Owerri.
7. Kano State University of Tech, Wudil.
8. Gombe State University, Gombe.
9. Kogi State University, Anyingba.
10. Nasarawa State University, Keffi.
11. Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye.
12. Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba.
13. Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso.
14. Adamawa State University, Adamawa.
15. Rivers State University, Port-Harcourt.

## APPENDIX II

Department of Library, Archival  
& Information Studies  
University of Ibadan  
Ibadan  
24<sup>th</sup> April, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **QUESTIONNAIRE ON FUNDING, STAFF TRAINING, PRESERVATION, BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL ON NEWSPAPER UTILISATION IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA**

I am a doctoral student in the Department of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of Ibadan and carrying out a research on “newspaper utilisation by readers in Nigerian university libraries.”

This questionnaire is designed to elicit responses on how newspapers are preserved, accessed and bibliographically controlled in your library. You are please requested to respond to the questions as truthfully as possible. All information given will be treated confidentially.

Thank you

**Oyewumi, O. O. (Mrs.)**

## SECTION A

### BACKGROUND

1. Name of institution.....
2. Year of Establishment.....
3. Position/Rank.....
4. Gender: M..... F.....
5. Age.....
6. Highest educational qualification.....
7. How long have you been in the institution? (a) 1–5 years.....(b) 6-10 years..... (c) Over 10 years.....(Please specify)
8. How long have you been on your present post? (a) 1–5 years.....(b) 6-10 years..... (c) Over 10 years.....(Please specify)

## SECTION B

### Subscription to newspapers

**Instruction:** Kindly tick (x) in the space provided where applicable.

9. Does your library subscribe to newspapers? Yes ( ) No ( )
10. How many types of newspapers does your library subscribe to?

	No. of newspapers Purchased	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	Above 10
A	Daily						
B	In the past						
C	At present						

11. What are the titles subscribed to? (List the titles in the space provided)  
(1)..... (2)..... (3).....  
(4)..... (5)..... (6).....
12. Has there been a drop in subscription? Yes ( ) No ( )
13. If yes, why? Please state.....

## SECTION C

**Newspaper Storage and Security (You can tick more than one option where necessary)**

**14.** Does your library store newspapers? Yes ( ) No ( )

**15.** If yes, where are they stored?

- a. On metal shelves ( )
- b. In metal cabinets ( )
- c. In the basement ( )
- d. Cupboards ( )
- e. Vaults ( )
- f. Boxes ( )
- g. Others (specify)

**16.** If no, why are they not stored? Please state.....

**17.** What is the stock level of newspapers in your library?

- a. 1 – 20,000 ( )
- b. 20,001 – 40,000 ( )
- c. 40,001 – 60,000 ( )
- d. 60,001 – 80,000 ( )
- e. 80,001 – 100,000 ( )
- f. above 100,001 ( )

**18** In what format are they stored?

- a. Bounded format ( )
- b. original format ( )
- c. Digitized format ( )
- d. Microfilm format ( )
- e. Others..... ( )

**19.** Does the library building have any of the following fire fighting facilities?

- a. Burglary alarm system ( )
- b. Smoke detector system ( )
- d. Water sprinkler system ( )
- e. Fire extinguishers ( )
- f. Thermometer ( )
- g. Others (specify) ( )

## SECTION D

### Consultation of newspapers by users

20. Are newspapers consulted by users within the library? Yes ( ) No ( )
21. Kindly state the period/hour when users must return the newspaper.  
.....
22. Are users allowed to borrow newspaper out of the library for the following?
- a. Consultation Yes ( ) No ( )
  - b. To make photocopies Yes ( ) No ( )
  - c. Others (specify).....
23. How does the library provide access to back issues of newspapers?
- a. By going through the packs of original newspapers ( )
  - b. By checking out information from the computer ( )
  - c. By checking the index on newspapers ( )
  - d. By going through paper cuttings of newspapers ( )
  - e. Others (please state).....
24. Is there a sort of inter-library co-operation between your library and other libraries? Yes ( ) No ( )
25. (a.) If no, why is the library not involved in one?  
(b.) if yes, kindly state benefits.....
26. Is there a sort of inter-library co-operation between your library and newspaper houses? Yes ( ) No ( )
27. (a) If no, why is the library not involved in one? .....  
(b) if yes, kindly state benefits.....

## SECTION E

### Preservation of newspapers

28. What are the problems confronting your library in trying to preserve newspapers?
- a. Large stock ( )
  - b. Lack of fund ( )
  - c. Lack of technical expertise
  - d. Lack of interest ( )
  - e. Destruction of some newspapers by termites
  - f. Others (specify).....
29. What proportion of newspapers on the average has been lost to the following in your library.?

		10- 20%	21- 30%	31- 40%	41- 50%	51- 60%	61- 70%	71- 80%	81- 90%	91- 100%
a.	Deterioration									
b.	Theft									
c.	Disaster									
d.	Mutilation									
e.	Others									

**30.** How has the library been preserving its newspaper collections?

- a. By binding ( )                      d. Deacidification ( )  
 c. Microfilming ( )                      e. Others ( )  
 c. Digitization ( )

**31.** What are the training programmes put in place for staff so as to acquire technical skills to tackle preservation problems?

- a. In house seminars/workshops ( )  
 b. Seminars/workshop outside the institution ( )  
 c. Orientation ( )  
 d. Others (specify).....

## SECTION F

### Bibliographic control of newspapers

**32.** Is there any type of bibliographic control over newspapers in your library?

Yes ( ) No ( )

**33.** If yes, what are the bibliographic control tools used for newspapers management in your library?

- a. By binding ( )                      h. Cataloguing ( )  
 b. Bibliography ( )                      i. Publishers guide ( )  
 c. Abstracting ( )                      j. Current contents ( )  
 d. Newspaper cutting ( )                      k. Others ( )
- e. Captioning of major headlines ( )  
 f. Selective dissemination of information ( )  
 g. Indexing ( )

34. If no, why has there been non?.....
35. How effective is the bibliographic control tools used for management of newspapers in your library?
- |                   |     |                     |     |
|-------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| a. Very effective | ( ) | c. Fairly effective | ( ) |
| b. Effective      | ( ) | d. Not effective    | ( ) |

## SECTION G

### Microfilming and digitization of newspapers

36. Has your library ever tried microfilming its newspaper collections?  
Yes ( ) No ( )
37. If yes, has it been successful? Please state reasons for its success?  
.....
38. Have you heard/read about newspaper digitization? Yes ( ) No ( )
39. What do you think about digitization of newspapers?.....  
.....
40. In your opinion, do you think newspaper digitization can help in preserving newspaper collections? Yes ( ) No ( )
41. Please give reasons for the alternative picked above?.....  
.....
42. In your opinion, do you think newspaper digitization will help to provide quick access to newspaper collections?
- |                                  |         |        |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| a. Current newspapers only       | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| b. Back files of newspapers only | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| c. Both                          | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
43. Is your library automated? Yes ( ) No ( )
44. Does your library have internet facility? Yes ( ) No ( )
45. Do you have computer facilities in the serial section to access newspapers online? Yes ( ) No ( )
46. If yes, kindly list the complaints you receive from users when they cannot access back files of newspapers on the internet.....  
.....
47. How far has information technology affected access and preservation of newspapers in your library?
- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| a. Saves time spent in searching for original copy | ( ) |
|--|-----|

- b. Prolongs the life of original format from wear and tear ( )
- c. It cuts down the danger of losing records ( )
- d. Information on several newspapers can be checked on internet ( )
- e. Saves considerable space occupied by newspaper (minimal storage space is needed) ( )
- F. Others.....

**48.** Give a general comment on preserving, accessing and bibliographic control of newspapers?.....  
.....  
.....

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN



**APPENDIX III  
USERS QUESTIONNAIRE**

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON NEWSPAPER UTILISATION IN UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARIES IN NIGERIA**

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire is aimed at gathering information on newspaper utilisation in university libraries Nigeria. Kindly respond to the items as honestly as you can. All your response will be treated with confidence.

Thank you,

Oyewumi, O. O. (Mrs.)

**SECTION A**

**Background**

1. Institution.....
2. Department.....
3. User: (a) Staff..... (b) Student.....
4. Level.....
5. Gender: M..... F.....
6. Age: (a) 15-20years..... (b) 21-30.....(c) 31 and above.....

**SECTION B: Newspaper usage**

(Please respond to the following items by a tick in front of the response that depicts your opinion) NT - Not True, VT - Very true, T - True, OT - Occasionally True

S/N	Items	NT	VT	T	OT
1	I consult newspapers to meet my information needs				
2	I consult newspapers frequently				
3	I consult back issues of newspapers from the library				
4	I find back issues of newspapers in good condition				
5	I have access to back issues of newspapers on the internet				
6	I read electronic version of newspapers only				
7	I read hardcopies of newspapers only				
8	There are some constraints to reading hard copies of newspapers in the library				
9	Information obtained from newspapers are valuable to me				
10	I have heard/read about microfilm				
11	I have read newspapers using the microfilm reader				
12	Reading newspapers on internet is very expensive				
13	I have heard/read about newspaper digitization				
14	Digitization aids quick access to newspapers				

**APPENDIX IV**  
**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS**

**SECTION A:**

**Background information**

1. Name of university.....
2. Name of library.....
3. Year of establishment.....
4. Position/Rank.....
5. Gender: M..... F.....
6. Qualification(s).....

**SECTION B:**

**Interview schedule**

7. How long have you been a staff of these institution?.....
8. How long have you been the university librarian?.....
9. How many newspaper does your library subscribe to at present?.....
10. How many where you subscribing to in the past?.....
11. Is there any fund set apart for newspapers?.....
12. Do you have a budget for the library?.....
13. What is the average annual budgetary allocation to newspaper management in your library?.....
14. What efforts have you made in preserving newspapers?.....
15. Is there any plan in place to preserve newspapers?.....
16. What are the plans?.....
17. What are the constraints faced in the management of newspapers in your library?.....
18. Is there any policy for newspaper management?.....
19. Is there any equipment maintenance policy for newspaper management?
20. Has the library suffered any type of disaster? Please state them.....
21. What efforts have you made in exerting bibliographic control over newspapers?.....
22. Please state the efforts made in allowing users easy access to newspapers via the internet.....
23. Please state the complaints you receive from the serial librarian regarding newspaper management and preservation.....

**APPENDIX V**  
**OBSERVATION GUIDE FOR PRESERVATION AND BIBLIOGRAPHIC**  
**CONTROL ON NEWSPAPER UTILISATION IN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**  
**IN NIGERIA**

**Rating scale**

S/N	Observation guide	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	To check a minimum of 200 copies of newspapers in each library										
2	To test the edges of the newspapers to determine the level of brittleness										
3	Observe if there is a preservation programme which includes painting inner parts of the library walls and ceilings to reduce the temperature of the library										
4	Observe if newspapers are de-acidified by checking if they are brown or yellow										
5	Observe if the environment where newspapers are kept is appropriate by using a temperature gauge. (That is are there air conditioners, is the light filtered etc)										
6	Observe if newspapers have been digitized using compact disc read only memory CD-ROM), diskettes etc										
7	Observe if newspapers are prone to possible disasters such as natural, man-made, biological and environmental hazards										
8	Observe the way the library preserve its newspaper collections										
9	Observe the tools used for bibliographic control of newspapers. Do they have or not										
10	Observe the frequency of usage of newspapers by library patrons										
11	Observe if the copies of newspapers are adequate for users										

Note: The rating scale is from lowest to highest. The appropriate number is to be ticked.