

Effects of Electronic Surveillance System on Security and Theft in Four Central University Libraries in U.P.

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ABSTRACT

The study focused on impact of electronic surveillance systems on book theft and mutilation in Central Universities ,U.P. In this study, electronic surveillance is the use of modern technological security devices to detect book security and theft in Central Universities ,U.P. Descriptive survey design was used as design of the study. The population of the study was library users drawn from the Libraries in four Central Universities in U.P. Sample size for this study was made up of entire population. Research instruments was Questionnaire and interviewed guide developed by researchers. It was recommended among others that there should be policy on theft and vandalism, detective bar-code machines should be provided; installation and maintenance of electronic surveillance system, provision of adequate resources and photocopying services to check book security and theft.

Keyword: Electronic Surveillance, Security and theft, Universities Library.

INTRODUCTION

Libraries do not only provide information services but also catered for users informational needs such as the provision of physical and bibliographic access to information sources. University libraries are often plagued with collection security which includes theft and mutilation. This affects the realization of its primary goal of providing resources for teaching, learning and research. **Ogunyade (2005)** Book theft is an intentional removal of books from the library in an unauthorized manner. Theft and security in university libraries have become a major concern to researchers, information professionals; University and the society. Thus, it has been suggested in many fora that electronic security systems can help control these practices in university libraries since the traditional way of manually checking patrons are found to be ineffective and unfriendly. This will ensure a better, safer and effective way of dealing with security of library materials from theft and security (**Mckean, 1985; McComb, 2004**).

Threats to information resources, including stealing books and equipment, mutilating books, vandalism, fire, late fines, and rearranging materials, have badly impacted libraries in the Uttar Pradesh. Catastrophe such a fire, infestation of insects or rats, or flood. Numerous manual methods have been tried to address this, but they have all failed. The installation and routine usage of electronic security systems is the only dependable security measure that is susceptible to this issue.

The efficiency and efficacy of collection protection in academic libraries would surely rise with the regular usage of electronic security devices in this era of technological advancement (**Maidabino, 2012**)

Systems of electronic security are devices that help libraries control, mitigate, or prevent library material theft and unethical losses. They are used in conjunction with electrical apparatus to secure library items . **Odaro (2011)** Electronic surveillance cameras (CCTV), 3M library security systems (electronic gates), radio frequency identification (RFID) systems, perimeter alarm systems, movement detectors, and fire alarm systems are a few significant electronic security systems that can be extremely helpful to academic libraries (**Osayande, 2011**) The electronic security systems are reliable and have undergone testing. Since electronic security solutions can help us reduce these threats, there is no need to constantly spend money replacing library materials that are lost as a result of information resource vulnerabilities.

Objectives of the study

1. Determine the causes of security and theft in Central Universities in U.P.
2. Determine the impact of electronic surveillance systems on security and theft in Central University Libraries.
3. Suggest possible measures to prevent security and theft in Central University Libraries.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted descriptive research design. The population of the study was library users drawn from the Four (4) in Central University , U.P. Sample size for this study was made up of entire population. Research instruments was Questionnaire and interviewed guide developed by researchers.

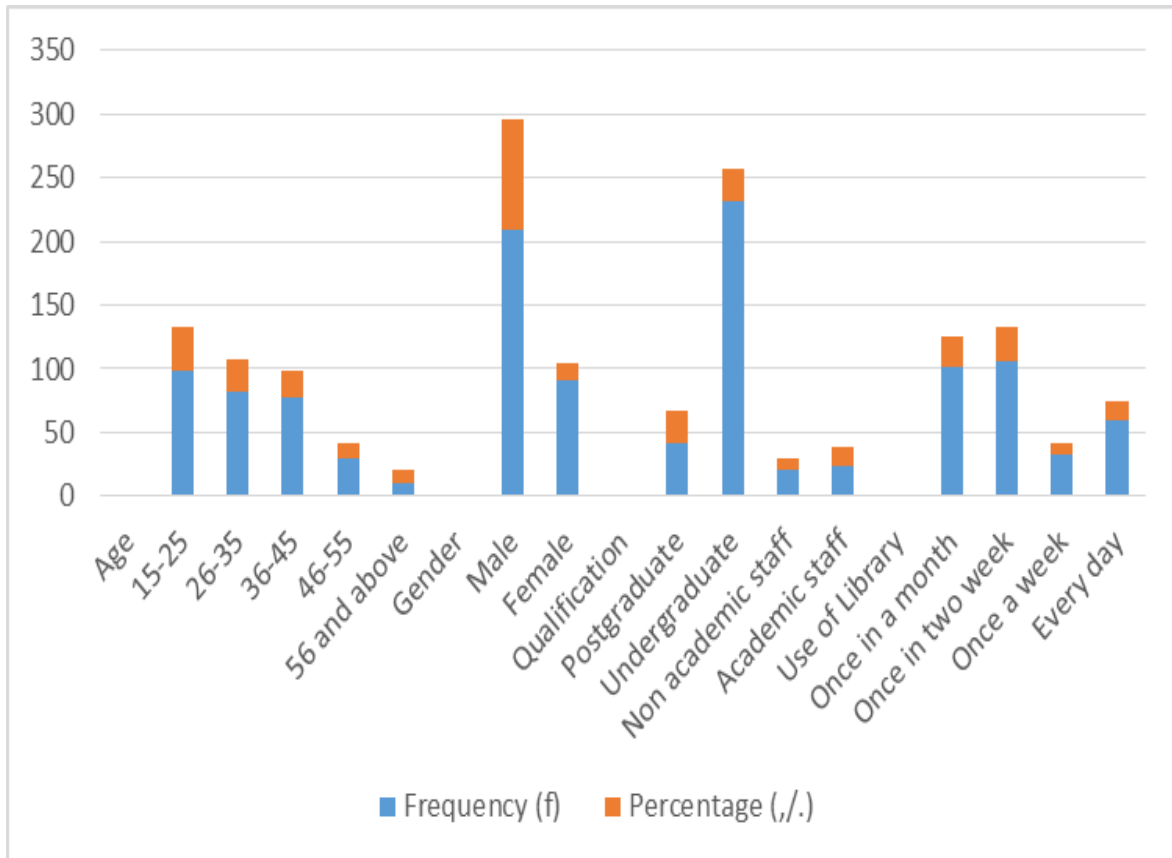
Results and Discussion

Table 1 revealed that respondents age bracket were 15-25 years (34.0%), 26-35 years (24.9%); 36-45 years (20.1%), while 46-55 were (11.6%) and 55 years (9.4%). Results on gender revealed that male (87.05) and female (13.0%). Their qualification revealed that undergraduates (52.9%), postgraduates (10.4%), non academic (5.2%) and academic staff (6.0%). On use of library, once in two weeks (26.3%); once in a month (25.1%), every day (14.9%) and once a week (8.2%).

Table 1: Percentages of Demographic Information of Respondents in four Central Universities of U.P.

S.N.	Variable	Frequency (f)	Percentage (./.)
1	Age		
	15-25	99	34.0
	26-35	82	24.9
	36-45	78	20.1
	46-55	30	11.6
	56 and above	11	9.4
2	Gender		
	Male	209	87.0
	Female	91	13.0
3	Qualification		
	Postgraduate	42	25.1
	Undergraduate	231	26.3
	Non academic staff	21	8.2

	Academic staff	24	14.9
4	Use of Library		
	Once in a month	101	25.1
	Once in two week	106	26.3
	Once a week	33	8.2
	Every day	60	14.9



These findings revealed that the highest percentage (34.0%) use the library more than any other age range. It also showed that male (87.05) undergraduate used the library. This contradicts **Ogunyade (2005)** findings that more female undergraduate used the library but confirms **Mansfield (2007)** that most book theft and mutilation are perpetuated by young offenders, predominantly male undergraduates. More users patronize the library once in two weeks (26.3%).

Table 2 : Types of Surveillance System in four Central Universities of U.P.

Sl. No.	Type of Surveillance system	Name of Central University Library			
		AU	AMU	BHU	BBAU
1.	Dome Camera	No	No	Yes	No
2.	Wireless Camera	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
3.	Wall Camera	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Bullet-proof Camera	NO	No	No	No
5.	Hidden Camera	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Infrared Camera	No	No	No	No

7.	Wireless Video Camera	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
8.	Wifi IP Camera	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	Access CCTV footage on mobile devices	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Reference to assessment of professionals responders were asked to provide the kind of Surveillance system used in their university libraries. The related data compiled in Table 02 shows that AU, BHU & BBAU are using Wireless Camera , whereas BHU are using the Dome Camera. Also , AU , BHU & BBAU are using Wireless Video Camera. All university libraries are using both security system in Wifi IP Camers & CCTV Footage on mobile devices & Hidden camers. Wireless camera is not using to AMU. Interestingly , none of the libraries is using the Bullet -proof & infrared camera. Maxmium university libraries are using the WALL CAMERA , Hidden camera & WifiIP camera & CCTV footage on mobile camera.

Table -3 : Types of Surveillance System Components

Surveillance system compnents			
Name of Library	Camera	Monitors	Recording Units
AU	Y	Y	Y
AMU	Y	Y	Y
BBAU	Y	Y	Y
BHU	Y	Y	Y

Conclusion

Security and theft of library materials is a serious problem that affects the educational development of students and endangers the efficiency of library services for better users. Some problems like vandalism have been addressed recently, but not much has been done regarding security or theft, as the perpetrators of these crimes could beat up the library administrators or call someone for help at the checkpoint. while they commit these crimes or even throw them through open windows when someone stands to pick them up. Although much has been done in the area of book theft and security, there are still gaps as not much has been done to curb/prevent this anti-social crime by using electronic security system. Although the government and individuals have spent a lot of money on other aspects of information resources, the goal is not achieved if library resources are vandalized or stolen every day. Therefore, safety measures must be implemented to ensure the safety of these materials.

Recommendations

1. There should be adequate provision of funds for funding of the library and its surveillance systems.
2. Library staff should be properly trained to handle gadgets.
3. Power supply should be improved and there should be a standby power generating plant to supplement power failure or outage.

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