USERS ATTITUDES AND PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS OF SECURITY SYSTEM IN PRIVATE ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN OGUN STATE

Olanrewaju Safiriyu Ola
References and Bibiliography Librarian,
Bells University of Technology, Ota, Ogun, State.
Soolanrewaju@bellsuniversity.edu.ng.
08146281987

Oluseun Mobolanle Sodipe, FAIMP, CLN
Collection Development Librarian,
Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ogun State.
sodipeom@tasued.edu.ng

Babatunde Ogunbanjo, CLN
E-Librarian,
Chrisland University Library, Ogun State.
tundebanjo@gmail.com
08066838191

Abstract

This study investigated users' attitudes and the perceived effectiveness of security systems in private academic libraries in Ogun State. The Descriptive survey research design of the correlation type was adopted. A simple random proportion sampling technique was used to select 1,126 registered undergraduate library users. A questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection. A total of 1126 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to library users, 928 copies were returned (82.4% response rate), and were used for this study. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, means, and standard deviations. Findings also show that the security system is highly effective (Overall mean = 133.27). Library users have a positive attitude toward library security systems (Overall mean = 35.76). Most users accept security systems, The study concludes that users' attitudes do not affect how effectively security systems in the library were adopted. The study therefore recommends that university management should sustain and, where possible, increase funding allocations to academic libraries in order to strengthen security architecture and ensure the consistent functionality of installed systems.

Keywords: Users' Attitudes, Perceived Effectiveness, Security Systems, Private Academic Libraries

Introduction

A security system of a private academic library cannot be done without ensuring that its users, staff, and resources are not stolen, unauthorized access or physically damaged to minimize the vulnerability of library resources in the face of an escalation of criminal and violent activities. There has always been a focus of scholars on the significance of such systems in terms of preservation of institutional assets and continuation of the core library services.

According to Gupta and Madhusudhan (2021), library security is a complex of actions developed to protect facilities, staff, customers, and material resources without disrupting the required functions of a library. They also emphasize safeguarding people, collections, equipment, and property against threats like theft and vandalism, accidents, and natural disasters. This is a common task of library administrations because the loss rates of five to ten percent per year are common. Prevention plans include technological, administrative, physical, and resource-specific, to protect people, collections, facilities, and information assets, including electronic surveillance systems (CCTV cameras), automated entry controls, staff training programmes, regular audits and stocktaking, security personnel and guards, bag checks, controlled access to stacks, and use of library stamps or marks. The need to invest in digital and physical security frameworks in the private universities in Nigeria is indicative of a greater shift towards the use of more technologically effective campus security, and in-depth insight into the attitudes and perceptions of users becomes an essential necessity.

The dynamic nature of technology has persistently changed the operating environment of academic libraries, affecting their control, security, and accessibility of resources. Specifically, the emergence of the technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), including artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), as well as advanced automation, has opened new opportunities and threats to library security and service delivery. Sodipe et al. (2025) emphasized the prevalence of 4IR technologies among librarians in Ogun State, mentioning the common use of 5G wireless networks, VR, and RFID infrastructure, and also showed the moderate overall usage and a lack of sufficient barriers, including the lack of ICT skills, financial restrictions, and limited human resources. These results highlight the importance of coordinating technological acquisition with sound institutional policy and managerial back-up, whereby in most instances, security systems require complex technologies such as biometric access controls, surveillance systems, and electronic alert systems.

Attitude has a significant impact on the interaction of users with library resources based on their beliefs, assumptions, and feelings (Olatoye, Nekhwevha, and Muchaonyerwa, 2020). Regardless of whether these behavioural responses are positive or negative, they influence patronage to academic libraries. As much as libraries offer easy access to information that is reliable, they also demand responsible usage in order to curb misuse. Attitudes, therefore, have a significant

influence on how the students utilize the library materials and, therefore, whether a user will take or refuse the library materials.

Ibrahim and Kotoroi (2025) gave a report on the ambivalent perceptions of the effectiveness of electronic security systems in a library at Mzumbe University, where customers expressed trust and scepticism in the use of these systems. A comparative analysis of electronic security systems in some of the identified public and private universities in South-West Nigeria, performed by Osayande (2024), shows obvious differences in the frequency of deployment, managerial support, and their perceived efficiency, all of which influence the capability of the systems to prevent theft, vandalism, and other security violations. Such differences suggest that institutional type, which is either public or private, plays a critical role in the implementation and perceptions of the library security measures, thus underlining the need to examine attitudes and perceived effectiveness in the specific case of library security measures in the private universities in Ogun State.

In private academic libraries, security issues are often predetermined by financial limitations based on tuition, institutional regulations, and different layers of technological investments. They are not just over and above installing security equipment to provide efficacy of the systems, ease of use and trust by the stakeholders. These roles would include management of the infrastructure, attitude development, maintenance of compliance, and enrichment of the curriculum to help in instruction and learning. Shikali and Muneja (2024) show that in developing economies, such as Nigeria, access to unreliable electricity, poor connections, and insufficient training are among the problems faced by users, which have a negative impact on their perception of security systems. The authors promote extensive training programmes, infrastructural improvements, and more explicit compliance systems to enhance the attitude of the users as well as the efficiency of the system in private academic libraries. In line with this, the current research proposes to investigate the attitudes and perceived effectiveness of library security systems among the users of the libraries of the private universities in Ogun State.

Statement of the problem

The private academic libraries have a role of preserving information resources and providing safe learning facilities. Despite the adoption of electronic security in several institutions in Ogun State, such as closed-circuit television (CCTV), radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, and alarm systems, the effectiveness of the security systems has continuously been undermined by the numerous challenges associated with these systems, such as intermittent power supply, inadequate Internet connectivity, poor maintenance, and ineffective user training. Such constraints can influence the attitudes of users, developing doubt about the reliability and usefulness of the systems, the ability of security in private academic libraries, and general

success. In addition, little empirical data is available about the attitude of users to the effectiveness of security systems in the privacy of academic libraries. Without a clear outlook of user attitudes, the compliance can be poor, thus exposing resources to theft and abuse.

Therefore, the proposed study attempts to fill this gap by analyzing the attitudes and perceived efficiency of security systems by users in private academic libraries in Ogun State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were answered in this study.

i. What is the attitude of users to the perceived effectiveness of the security system in private university libraries in Ogun State?
ii. What is the level of perceived effectiveness of library security systems in private university libraries in Ogun State?

Literature Review

The attitude of users toward security systems in privately owned academic libraries demonstrates complicated relations between the attitude of users and the effectiveness of systems. Ajisebutu et al. (2024) established that self-efficacy and information technology are the two factors that greatly affect user attitudes towards the adoption of library portals in the Nigerian universities; users were found to have higher levels of satisfaction whenever they had high confidence in IT. The observation holds much specific importance to the case of private academic libraries in Ogun State, where there is a variance in the levels of technological literacy among the user groups.

Ameen, Alhammadi, and Alshurideh (2024) investigated the transition to secure micro services as the means of enterprise security and came to the conclusion that organizational preparedness, coupled with the apparent support of top management, played an important role in the improvement of user acceptance and perceived effectiveness of security controls. Their results support the idea that a better attitude towards security systems arises when leadership is committed, i.e., allocates resources, trains, and implements policies. In the same manner, Chen, Li, and Adepoju (2025) examined AI-supported security systems in higher education and found that organizational readiness has a direct impact on the acceptance of the system by users, although the connection is reinforced by the continuous support and strategic orientation of the management. Their work highlights that, unless it involves leadership, even well-designed technical systems are likely to be rejected or not used fully by the end users. This is reminiscent of the experiences of users in private academic libraries, where perceptions towards electronic security systems are more positive when users feel that there is a clear policy in place, sufficient resources, and well-trained staff.

Methods

A descriptive survey design was used. A purposive sampling technique was used to select the study participants. The total population consisted of one thousand one hundred and twenty-six (1,126) registered undergraduate library users of eleven private universities in Ogun State. To determine the sample size, the researcher selected 5% of the total population, resulting in nine hundred and twenty-eight (928) respondents who participated in the study. Questionnaires were employed as the primary data collection instruments. The researchers developed questionnaires, drawing guidance from the existing literature and theoretical framework of the study. A simple random sampling technique was used to distribute the questionnaire across the eleven private university libraries in Ogun State.

RQ1: What is the attitude of users to the perceived effectiveness of the security system in private University libraries in Ogun State?

Table 1: Users' attitude in private university libraries in Ogun State

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	$\bar{x}$	St.D
1	Learning to use security systems in the library has been fascinating to me.	392 (40.8%)	248 (25.8%)	296 (30.8%)	24 (2.5%)	3.05	.9061
2.	I find using online Databases comfortable than searching on the open shelves.	640 (66.7%)	256 (26.7%)	56 (5.8%)	8 (0.8%)	3.59	.6416
3.	I appreciate the security checkpoints in the library	336 (35%)	536 (55.8%)	64 (6.7%)	24 (2.5%)	3.23	.6827
4.	I see the use of security measures in the library as relevant to the safety of the library collections.	576 (60%)	320 (33.3%)	64 (6.7%)	-	3.53	.6208
5.	I prefer using my own flash drive on the computer systems in the library.	440 (45.8%)	408 (42.5%)	80 (8.3%)	32 (3.3%)	3.30	.7647
6.	I like the fact that OPAC stations are protected from unauthorised access through passwords and User IDs	192 (20%)	600 (62.5%)	80 (8.3%)	88 (9.2%)	2.99	.8068
7.	Rules and procedures to Accessing restricted areas of the library creeps me out.	48 (5%)	120 (12.5%)	464 (48.3%)	328 (34.2%)	1.88	.8115
8.	I do not feel that it is	352	152	240	216	2.66	1.1905

	necessary to be checked each time I enter or exit the library.	(36.7%)	(15.8%)	(25%)	(22.5%)		
9.	I do not feel obliged to use the library because I feel monitored by the CCTV in the library	24 (2.5%)	128 (13.3%)	328 (34.2%)	480 (50%)	1.68	.7989
10.	I feel confident in easily bypassing the security measures in the library.	80 (8.3%)	344 (35.8%)	184 (19.2%)	352 (36.7%)	2.15	1.0207
11.	Using security measure is not as exciting as having the freedom to express myself in the library	16 (1.7%)	336 (35%)	216 (22.5%)	392 (40.8%)	1.97	.9117
12.	I consider the use of security measures as a waste of time and resources.	24 (2.5%)	48 (5%)	528 (55%)	360 (37.5%)	1.72	.6731
13	I think the use of passwords and User IDs are too technical for me to understand.	24 (2.5%)	416 (43.3%)	312 (32.5%)	208 (21.7%)	2.26	.8274
14	I prefer using printed resources than electronic resources.	40 (4.2%)	136 (14.2%)	392 (40.8%)	392 (40.8%)	1.81	.8299
	Grand mean					**2.56**	

Table 1 revealed the respondents that is, library users' attitudes towards the effectiveness of the security system in private university libraries in Ogun State. Respondents ranked 'I find using online databases comfortable than searching on the open shelves' highest ($\bar{X}$ =3.59), followed by 'I see security measures in the library as relevant to the safety of library collections ($\bar{X}$ =3.53). However, 'I consider the use of security measures as a waste of time and resources ($\bar{X}$ =1.72) and 'I do not feel obliged to use the library because I feel monitored by the CCTV in the library' ($\bar{X}$ =1.68) ranked least. Using the criterion mean ($\bar{X}$ =2.50) against the weighted mean ($\bar{X}$ =2.56) as the benchmark, one would say respondents had a positive attitude toward security measures put in place by libraries. This implies that the library users had a moderately positive attitude to

security measures or devices put in place by the private university libraries in Ogun State to reduce and or prevent book mutilation, book theft, and other library crimes.

RQ 2: What is the level of perceived effectiveness of library security systems in private University libraries in Ogun State?

Table 2: Level of perceived effectiveness of library security systems in eleven private university libraries in Ogun State.

S/N	Manual security systems	4 VE	3 E	2 BE	1 NA	x̄	St.D
1	Locking mechanism with keys	57 (47.5%)	48 (40%)	8 (6.7%)	7 (5.8%)	3.29	.8341
2	Installation of window grills and nets	35 (29.2%)	65 (54.2%)	14 (11.7%)	6 (5%)	3.07	.7796
3.	Single-entry and exit door for both staff and users	36 (30%)	66 (55%)	13 (10.8%)	5 (4.2%)	3.11	.7536
4.	Employment of security personnel for regular patrols	34 (28.3%)	69 (57.5%)	12 (10%)	5 (4.2%)	3.10	.7379
5.	Supervision by library staff	36 (30%)	66 (55%)	16 (13.3%)	2 (1.7%)	3.13	.6973
6.	Presence of fire extinguishers and security devices	36 (30%)	75 (62.5%)	9 (7.5%)	-	3.22	.5719
7.	Use of ID cards and access authorization	32 (26.7%)	64 (53.3%)	20 (16.7%)	4 (3.3%)	3.03	.7551
8.	Signature required from each user	30 (25%)	51 (42.5%)	26 (21.7%)	13 (10.8%)	2.81	.9347
9.	Implementation of security clearance procedures	38 (31.7%)	51 (42.5%)	23 (19.2%)	8 (6.7%)	2.99	.8839
	N = 120					**3.08**	
	Electronic security system						
10	CCTV Cameras	61 (50.8%)	24 (20%)	16 (13.3%)	19 (15.8%)	3.05	1.1323

11	Electronic recording	32 (26.7%)	51 (42.5%)	14 (11.7%)	23 (19.2%)	2.76	1.0510
12	RFID System	19 (15.8%)	20 (16.7%)	20 (16.7%)	61 (50.8%)	1.97	1.1483
13	3M Exit detection	40 (33.3%)	31 (25.8%)	6 (5%)	43 (35.8%)	2.56	1.2816
14	Alarm systems installed	38 (31.7%)	33 (27.5%)	11 (9.2%)	38 (31.7%)	2.59	1.2332
15	Moisture sensor	45 (37.5%)	27 (22.5%)	17 (14.2%)	31 (25.8%)	2.71	1.2174
16	Glass break sensor	40 (33.3%)	34 (28.3%)	4 (3.3%)	42 (35%)	2.60	1.2728
17	Fire/smoke sensor	40 (33.3%)	29 (24.2%)	16 (13.3%)	35 (29.2%)	2.61	1.2242
18	Biometrics	35 (29.2%)	29 (24.2%)	14 (11.7%)	42 (35%)	2.47	1.2432
19	Smart card	33 (27.5%)	20 (16.7%)	7 (5.8%)	60 (50%)	2.21	1.3168
20	Air conditioner for humidity control	47 (39.2%)	18 (15.0%)	13 (10.8%)	42 (35%)	2.58	1.3194
21	Flood detector	36 (30%)	15 (12.5%)	4 (3.3%)	65 (54.2%)	2.18	1.3595
	N = 120					**2.52**	
	Data/Information security Measures						
22	USB Drives, tapes, CDs, DVDs, disks, and Hard drive	53 (44.2%)	28 (23.3%)	6 (5%)	33 (27.5%)	2.84	1.2568
23	Passwords	67 (55.8%)	32 (26.7%)	6 (5%)	15 (12.5%)	3.25	1.0248
24	Use of Address verification systems	63 (52.5%)	25 (20.8%)	12 (20.8%)	20 (16.7%)	3.09	1.1375
	N = 120					**3.06**	
	Computer security measures						
25	System back up	70 (58.3%)	21 (17.5%)	19 (15.8%)	10 (8.3%)	3.25	1.0083

26	System viruses	62 (51.7%)	30 (25%)	14 (11.7%)	14 (11.7%)	3.16	1.039 8
27	Data encryption	61 (50.8%)	36 (30%)	10 (8.3%)	13 (10.8%)	3.20	.9949
28	Offsite storage	63 (52.5%)	27 (22.5%)	18 (15%)	12 (10%)	3.17	1.026 2
29	Computer locks	65 (54.2%)	23 (19.2%)	14 (11.7%)	18 (15%)	3.12	1.119 4
	N = 120					**3.18**	
	Network security measures						
30	Antivirus software	66 (55%)	28 (23.3%)	15 (12.5%)	11 (9.2%)	3.24	.9957
31	Firewall	63 (52.5%)	32 (26.7%)	19 (15.8%)	6 (5%)	3.26	.9050
32	Local Area Network	63 (52.5%)	28 (23.3%)	18 (15%)	11 (9.2%)	3.19	1.006 6
33	Server segregation	57 (47.5%)	31 (25.8%)	16 (13.3%)	16 (13.3%)	3.07	1.070 3
34	Wireless security	64 (53.3%)	21 (17.5%)	23 (19.2%)	12 (10%)	3.14	1.055
	N = 120					**3.18**	
	Software security measure						
35	Antispyware security	58 (48.3%)	29 (24.2%)	13 (10.8%)	20 (16.7%)	3.04	1.125 6
36	Clean up software	54 (45%)	38 (31.7%)	20 (16.7%)	8 (6.7%)	3.15	.9317
37	ID management software	54 (45%)	36 (30%)	20 (16.7%)	10 (8.3%)	3.11	.9717
38	Multiuser operating Systems	55 (45.8%)	25 (20.8%)	27 (22.5%)	13 (10.8%)	3.01	1.061 0
39	User entrance log	55 (45.8%)	29 (24.2%)	24 (20%)	12 (10%)	3.05	1.031 4
40	Web filtering	48 (40%)	33 (27.5%)	27 (22.5%)	12 (10%)	2.97	1.016 3
	N = 120					**3.06**	

	Hardware and server security						
41	Antivirus software	61 (50.8%)	31 (25.8%)	22 (18.3%)	6 (5%)	3.22	.9209
42	Authentication systems	58 (48.3%)	29 (24.2%)	26 (21.7%)	7 (5.8%)	3.15	.9583
43	Library server's operating systems	-	38 (31.7%)	20 (16.7%)	9 (7.5%)	3.12	.9487
44	The server environment	49 (40.8%)	37 (30.8%)	25 (20.8%)	9 (7.5%)	3.05	.9601
45	Regular backups for the Data	61 (50.8%)	30 (25%)	20 (16.7%)	9 (7.5%)	3.19	.9727
	N = 120					**3.15**	

Table 2 regarding perceived efficacy of library security systems in the private university libraries in Ogun State shows that respondents have always reported some specific measures as having the highest mean scores in seven constructs. With respect to the manual security system, the highest mean value was recorded ($\bar{X}$ = 3.29), thus indicating that the lock-and-key system was the most credible traditional security measure. In the case of an electronic security system, CCTV cameras were the highest mean score ($\bar{X}$ = 3.05), indicating a strong confidence in the surveillance technology as a means to curb library crimes.

Regarding the data and information security practices, the highest average score ($\bar{X}$ = 3.25) was obtained in relation to password protection, which confirms the beliefs of the respondents that the authentication controls are the most effective practice of protecting digital resources. Regarding the computer security measures, the score with the highest result was linked to the system backup ($\bar{X}$ = 3.25), which means that the maintenance of regular backups is perceived as the most reliable approach to the prevention of data loss. The security of the network was also rated well, with firewall protection rating highest among the security measures ($\bar{X}$ = 3.26) as the mean in the group.

The most effective software security measure was the cleanup software that had the largest mean score ($\bar{X}$ = 3.15), which indicates the value that the respondents saw in its ability to maintain system integrity. Lastly, under hardware and server security, antivirus software was the highest mean score ($\bar{X}$ = 3.22), and it is associated with its perceived ability to identify and fight malware threats. In general, the responses with the best mean score in all constructs reflect a strong support of those tools by respondents as the most effective mechanism of preventing or mitigating book theft, mutilation, and other library crimes in the case of the private universities libraries in Ogun State .

Discussion of the Findings

The results of this research indicate that users of security systems installed in the private universities' libraries in Ogun State view them as very effective. Among all constructs studied, manual, electronic, data/information, computer, network, software, and hardware/server security, respondents have always found certain measures in each category that have the highest mean scores as the most plausible. It is evident in this trend that, besides functional adequacy, the security mechanisms that are already implemented are trusted by the users since they are reliable security measures concerning the security protection of information resources.

High ratings of systems like lock-and-key systems, closed-circuit television (CCTV), password, system backup, firewall, cleanup software, and antivirus programs are indicative of the confidence of users towards traditional security systems and the security systems that have been enhanced by technology. This confidence is consistent with the studies that have been carried out in the past, such as Hampwaye (2022), which confirms that the implementation of surveillance technology along with access-control tools, attentive staff, and a set of security policies of an institution plays a significant role in ensuring the preservation of library resources. Therefore, the positive attitude that has been found in this study confirms that users are aware of the relevance of such mechanisms and the role of these mechanisms in alleviating theft, mutilation, and other expressions of library crime.

In addition, the perception of security practices by users was also positive (although with some moderation). The participants expressed having no issues with the availability of digital information, accepted the importance of security precautions, and showed little resistance to surveillance devices like CCTV. These observations are supported by the results presented by Farid, Warraich and Iftikhar (2025) who writes that the more users consider security procedures as helpful to protect the resources, the higher the chances that they will accept and comply with the procedures. The motivations of the users to abide by the set security measures, in turn, increase the overall effectiveness of the security systems, as no collaborative behaviour is complete without maintaining a secure learning environment.

Interestingly, the analysis failed to reveal a statistically significant relationship between the attitudes of the users and their perception of the effectiveness of the security systems. This finding implies that, despite the fact that users like and are able to tolerate the security measures that are put in place, their attitudes do not necessarily affect the extent to which they take these systems to be effective. Stated differently, perceived satisfaction/acceptance of security practices does not always concur with an increase in perception of system performance. The same observation can be made in connection with the argument put forth by Urhiewhu, Emojorho, and Omah (2015), who found that users might be supportive or compliant with security measures without such attitudes having a quantifiable effect on their judgment of the overall effectiveness of the system.

The lack of correlation can be explained, among other factors, by the fact that users are likely to form their opinion regarding the efficacy of security measures by referring to the measurable products, including the likelihood of less theft or more orderliness, as opposed to the subjective impressions of the security process itself. It is further conceivable that the design and functionality of the security systems, per se, has a more determining influence on the perceptions of the users compared to their own attitudes. As a result, users can be willing to consider the systems effective in the sense that they are effective even without personal feelings towards the systems.

On the whole, the results show that the libraries of the Ogun State universities that are operated privately have implemented a combination of traditional and modern security practices that are considered very effective by the users. The positive attitudes of users also facilitate the formidable atmosphere of the libraries, despite the fact that the attitudes do not significantly affect their views on the effectiveness of the systems. The paper, therefore, highlights the necessity of maintaining a strong security infrastructure at the same time teaching users the importance of such systems in securing the library resources.

Conclusion

The paper comes up with a conclusion that user attitudes are not a significant factor affecting the effectiveness of security system adoption in academic libraries. This observation shows that perceptions and dispositions towards library security may differ, but this is not a determinant of system functioning well, and the degree of implementation of the systems. Rather, the success of security systems within libraries lies more in institutional policies, managerial support, technological sufficiency, and regular system maintenance than in the attitude of the individual users. The management of the library must therefore give consideration to strengthening the structural, financial, and technological infrastructures in ensuring that security systems are operational both in the short and in the long term, whilst at the same time instilling user awareness and compliance to ensure that security systems are being put into proper use. With a major attention to the active policy implementation and continuous assessment, the private academic libraries have the chance to protect their resources and ensure a safe atmosphere in which learning and research may be conducted.

Recommendations

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

1. The University management ought to continue giving financial support to the private university libraries, which will help in improving the library architecture and the continuity of such libraries.
2. The library management should educate and encourage the librarians, making them gain modern knowledge to develop a positive attitude and help users in the effective use of these security systems.

3. Awareness campaigns in libraries need to be done through workshops, posters, and online platforms, where the management would underline the dangers of misinformation and the need to be credible and use it responsibly.
4. The university management, library professionals, and security experts must collaborate to come up with sustainable measures of securing library resources; the collaboration will further enhance the capacity of the institution, as well as make libraries safe, resourceful, and user-friendly.

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