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Exploring Contemporary Library Security Systems

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Research Paper - Library Science

ABSTRACT

Library and information science is an indispensable part of today's society. With the explosion of information and knowledge , Libraries are having additional responsibilities of collection, storage, and dissemination of cumulative knowledge resources. Library collection may be in various forms such as print and non print. These collections must be stored in libraries in intact and usable for years, rather centuries. For this purpose libraries must adopt strong security systems. In the present paper we have discussed varies manual and electronic security measures taken by libraries to protect their valuable assets.

Key Words :

Library Security, CCTV, RFID, Fire alarm system, Software, Insurance

1. Introduction :

A library has been an indispensable part of our society since ancient times. It serves as a place for human interaction with knowledge, aiming to meet both informational and social needs. Libraries hold great significance for a nation as they safeguard its cultural legacy. In today's era, marked by an overflow of information, libraries continue to support society by curating and sharing pertinent information as needed.(Rajat Ari (2017),"Information is an important factor in the growth of people and society.(Bordbar,

S. (2000).Libraries play an important role in dissemination of knowledge among users(Nowkarzi, M. (2004). Librarians facing a serious issue of library security particularly the theft and mutilation of library material (Akinfolarin,W.A.(1992)

The crucial task of libraries is to provide information to all types of users, no matter in which form it is, print and nonprint form, information should be available whenever and wherever it is needed (Allen, R. E. (1984)). Information and library takes humans and nations to a next level of knowledge. It is an ultimate resource necessary for political, economic, socio-cultural and educational development in countries all over the globe. Library plays an indispensable role in development of nations. (Eniekebi Ejiro Regina 2018).The library is an information center where information is collected, processed and disseminated for the benefit of community (Yusup & PriyoSubekti, 2010)

Libraries are the reservoirs of a diverse range of information resources, like manuscripts, scholarly articles, ,ancient literature in the form of books, journals, pamphlets, patents, theses, reports newspapers, CD/DVD, microfilms etc. All these resources are quite valuable for the concerned users. In this context, it is very important that these resources must be preserved and conserved in a deliberate manner, hence libraries have adopted latest security systems to ensure efficacy , reliability and productivity with the help of communication technology.

2. Security system :

Libraries are facing a variety of security issues since long time. There are many difficulties faced by libraries such as replacing the stolen material because this stolen material might be out of print or of inferior quality, or financial problems in purchasing the stolen copy. To overcome such problems, it is better way to protect the available library material by using latest security measures which prevent theft, mutilation and deterioration of valuable library resources. Security systems used in library involves manual and electronic security systems.

Manual Security Systems

Security of Library building :

Library building is the priority for storage and distribution of library collection, therefore security and safety of library building is also an important task. Security of

library building involves following measures. Library building, collection, and furniture should be coated with anti- termite solutions (Sathe Tukaram (2014)

Anti-earthquake building:

Construction of library building should be done taking in consideration of earth quake prone regions. In such regions, library building should follow standards of earthquake proof buildings.

Emergency gate & window:

In case any disaster happens, library personnel and users must have safe way to exit in emergency., in this regard, emergency gate/window is very important in any library.

Security guard :

Library personnel may experience misbehaviour by some users, some users may become violent, so it is very important to have a twenty four hour security guard to maintain peace3 in the library premises

Water pipe line or water sprinkler in the libraries :

Sufficient water supply is essential in libraries as there may be any disaster like short circuit, smoke, fire etc and most of the library material are flammable, sometimes fire can take ferocious form and fire extinguisher may not be sufficient. To control such fire, water sprinklers or water pipeline is necessary requisite.

Fire extinguisher

Fire extinguisher is a device used to control or extinguish fire in emergency, however it cannot be used in huge fire and may require an expertise of a fire bridge, yet adequate number of fire extinguishers is to be installed according to the size of libraries.

Library Insurance

Library insurance is the way to protect library assets. Insurance can be claimed for building, hardware and software, print and non-print material, etc. In India many reputed insurance companies provide insurance facilities to libraries, some of these are, New India Assurance Co, Oriental Insurance Co and National Insurance Co.

ID cards and access authorization

Identification card provided to the users to give access . Identification card must

contain the individual's name, colour photograph or digitized image, the name of the issuing department/organization, date of expiry (maximum five years from date of issue) and a number unique to the card. This record helps in keeping vigilance over the library collection.

Gate registration

Every user intending to see library assets should present their private ID card and always furnish correct personal information at the gate register and should sign the register in person, along with this, single door entry exit system should be there so that gate keeper can keep vigilance over the users

Electronic Security System

Libraries hold the valuable collection that is prone to many unethical practices such as theft, mutilation of valuable information resources. such unethical practices in libraries can be mitigated by the introduction of an Electronic Security System (ESSs) in Libraries. All Libraries who are in need of security, surveillance, and safety have to adopt electronic security systems. Electronic security systems include the use of electrical apparatus to secure library materials. These systems help libraries to mitigate or avoid theft or unethical losses of library material. Different Electronic Security Systems installed in libraries, i.e. Electronic Surveillance Camera (CCTV), 3M Electronic Security Systems (electronic security gates), Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system, Biometric system etc.(Parul Gupta, M Madhusudhan, 2017)

Smoke sensors

Smoke indicates the presence of fire at some place in or near library, also smoke can create a big problems to library collection as well as users, so it is important to install smoke sensors /fire response inductor which can avoid huge problems

2.2.2. Fire alarm System.

Fire alarm system includes number of devices working together to detect fire and warn people through audio-visual appliances when fire, smoke, carbon monoxide or other emergencies arise.

2.2.3 Barcode.

A barcode is an optical machine readable representation of data It is is in the

form of a square or rectangular image containing a series of black lines and white spaces of changeable widths which follows a set of algorithm which printed on a commodity and machine readable. It is considered as information in a pictographic pattern encode by a machine.

There are many advantages of using barcode in libraries. benefits of use Barcode system in libraries few of them enlisted below, Mehendale Amol Pravin (2018).

- Computerized circulation system and application of barcode
- Use of barcode system for Security Check
- Identification of membership at the gate
- Use of barcode system for monitoring Attendance
- Issue of No Dues Certificate
- For Stock Verification and cross- checking

Biometrics

Biometric security system ensure instant verification and authentication of users, because biometric system identifies and evaluates users bodily elements such as fingerprints, facial retina identification etc.

Closed-circuit television (CCTV):

CCTV is also known as video surveillance. video cameras are set to transmit a signal to a specific place, on a limited set of monitors. (P. Lavanya 2017).

Several steps are needed to be considered while installing CCTV which involves location , characteristics of monitoring room, types and feature of cameras, type of storage media, etc. CCTV systems should be able to observe visually, monitor closely and to record. If all standards of installation are considered then CCTV can be an effective surveillance and monitoring system in library security (Rajendran L., Rathina Sabapathy 2014).

RFID Radio frequency identification

RFID technology is used in has the biggest impact on libraries in the University of India. RFID technology is used in charging, discharging, tracking, and stock verification and to sort out the reading material. RFID technology is tremendously important in protecting the library material as well as avoid the theft of documents. 3M Exit Technology

can help the library staff to take total control on library material and almost to fix all the security issues. Here in the selected libraries nobody implemented RFID technology in their libraries.(G.Krishna Reddy, J.Vivekavardhan 021).

Smart Card

Smart cards are extremely beneficial to provide computing and business systems the portable and secure storage of data and value. Integration of smart cards into your system introduces its own security management issues, as people access card data far and wide in a variety of applications.(P. Lavanya 2017),

2.2.8 Data backup:

Data storage devices such as CD ROM, DVD, USB, hard disks are used to keep the back up library data Various software are available for library security.

Conclusion:

Security of libraries and their valuable collection is a challenge to librarians and library personnel, Library collection is valuable wealth of knowledge and information and its security is the priority of library management and security system. Most of the libraries achieve this security by employing various manual and electronic security systems. Electronic security systems such as CCTV, RFID and software have mitigated the labours of library security and are safer in controlling theft and mutilation of library material. Library insurance can provide financial security to libraries.

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