

Security Measures to Control vandalism IN ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES

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Abstract

Libraries are considered venerable, quite peaceful and safe places for study, learning and research, libraries are soul of the educational institutes and play vital role by providing resources and services according to curriculum of the faculty and students. Library is a social institution preserving and disseminating knowledge in the form of documents so anything which defiles its sanctity, decorum, discipline, beauty concerning library is called as vandalism in library. The present paper is to highlight concept of library crime, vandalism in engineering college libraries, to specify objectives of the research, hypothesis, limitations, methodology and conclusion of the study.

Keywords: Library Crime, Vandalism, Illegal Practices, Theft, Misplacement, Mutilation, Engineering College Library, Vandal, BAMU & SRTMU.

1. INTRODUCTION

Libraries are institutions set up to cater to the educational, cultural, research, recreational and information needs of their users. Libraries have the main objectives of being entrusted with the selection, acquisition, organization, storage and dissemination of information to their patrons. As a working professional in library and information science, it is observed that there is noticeable growth in number of the students and faculty in the colleges, It has ultimately resulted in the growth in library users, hence college libraries are facing the problem to cope up with the rising needs of the users and relevant library facility. The infrastructure available in the library is resulting ultimately in the dissatisfaction among the young users, which sometimes leads the users to do vandalistic activities. The vandal purposely or ignorantly destruct the beautiful, valuable reading material, library building, furniture and equipment of the college libraries, as well as physical and verbal abuse with library staff and other

users. All forms of library abuses and crimes in the library come under vandalism in the library.

Vandalism is recognized as crime, when a person willfully damage or deface the property of others or the commons, some vandalism qualifies as culture jamming on sniggling. It is artistic in nature as well as being carried out illegally or without the property owner's permission. An example of vandalism includes graffiti art, billboard liberation and possibly crop circles. Criminal vandalism has many forms, graffiti, salting lawns, cutting trees, egg throwing, breaking windows, arson, spraying paint on public property tagging placing glue into locks, tire slashing, scratching paint, engraving, ransacking a place and flooding someone's house by clogging a sink and leaving the water on is common in many inner cities as a part of gang culture. Other devastating forms such as rioting, involve the willful destruction of public and private property, vandalism is serious common crime.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A vandal is one who willfully destroys damages or defaces property belonging to others or to the public. Vandalism, therefore, is willful or malicious destruction of public or private property. Historically vandalism has been justified by painter Gustave Courbet as destruction of monuments symbolizing "war and conquest". Therefore, it is often done as an expression of contempt, creativity, or both. Vandalism is only a meaningful concept in a culture that recognizes history and archaeology. Like other similar terms (Barbarian / barbary, and Philistine), Vandals like the Philistines, no longer exist as an identifiable ethnic group. The term in its modern acceptance was coined in January 1794 during the French Revolution by Henry Gregoire, constitutional bishop of Blois, in his report directed to the Republican Convention, where he used word Vandalism to describe some aspects of the behavior of the republican army (Wikipedia 2011).

Cohen (1973) outlined the categories of vandalism, such as acquisitive; tactical; ideological; vindictive; play or malicious; Gouke and Marjorie (1980), studied on periodicals mutilation following an anti vandalism educational campaign. They found that mutilation of the same periodicals studies before the campaign decreased by twenty three percent after the campaign; Hauge (1995), suggested several practical steps for preventing vandalism in school libraries; There were several studies conducted on different aspects of safety and health issues. Manley (1993) nonscientific survey on sexual harassment by library patrons; He found that seventy-eight percent of the females responding said they had been sexually harassed; also conducted a follow up survey to see if this high percentage was warranted; found that 83% of the respondents had been harassed and forty percent had been "physically harassed".

a. Proposed Research

In the context of libraries crime & vandalism occurs in various forms which defiles its sanctity, decorum, discipline, beauty concerning library. The research problem vandalism in library is recognized by many information scientists,

researchers, writers and information professional as a major problem facing library managers.

Library Crime & Vandalism is a serious and widespread problem in all types of libraries like academic, public, crime & vandalism in libraries can be damage to library material, crime & vandalism inside & outside building, vehicles, equipment, arson, furniture etc. apart from this theft, mutilation, loss of books, arson, non return of books, physical and verbal abuse, misuse of reading material, over borrowing, unauthorized borrowing, problem patron behavior, delinquent readership, misplacement, and illegal incidences inside and outside the library constitute vandalism.

Although researchers in developing countries have identified solutions to the problem of vandalism in library, in third world countries such as India, more needs to be done to solve the increasing wave of the vandalism like theft, mutilation, misplacement crime against property and people, over borrowing, book loss and so on from academic library specially college library.

3. Objectives of the study

The present study has been undertaken with a view

1. To identify different types of illegal practices.

4. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study is confined to library crime & vandalism in Engineering College libraries affiliated to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU) Aurangabad & Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (SRTMU), Nanded which is in Marathwada region.

5. POPULATION SAMPLE

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University and Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University both were one of the oldest University in the Marathwada region, according to university dairy and annual report of BAMU (2011), there were total 358 professional and non-professional affiliated colleges, of the total 358 affiliated colleges 168 are Arts, Commerce and Science colleges, which are known as non-professional, while 190 colleges are professional colleges, located in urban and rural areas of Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed and Osmanabad district, of the 168 colleges, 19 colleges were recognized during the year 2009-10 which have been omitted from the study, hence present study includes 23 Engineering colleges. Out of them one was Government college while other 19 colleges were private aided and unaided

The Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (SRTMU), Nanded was established at Nanded by bi-furcating the Marathwada University, Aurangabad on 17th September 1994, the day on which in 1948 Hyderabad State was liberated from rule of the Nizam. Nanded is a district headquarters as well as a holy city situated on the banks of Godavari River in southeastern part of Maharashtra state. The University is to cater for southern part of Marathwada Region of Maharashtra State, specifically

to the districts of Nanded, Latur, Parbhani and Hingoli. The 12 Engineering colleges are from these four districts. Of the total population of 12 engineering college libraries the researcher has randomly selected the sample of 12 college libraries...

6. METHODOLOGY

The present study used survey method to collect the data from Engineering College Libraries affiliated to BAMU, Aurangabad & SRTMU, Nanded, to find out the prevailing situations.

“The survey method is one of the most effective and sensitive instrument of research survey research can produce much needed knowledge” (Kasyap 1969).

6.1 Data Collection

“Data are raw materials of reflection until by comparison, contrast an evaluation they are stepped up to successively higher levels of generation” (Das 1986).

For collecting the data for the present study, the researcher visited the following institutions for referring documentary sources on library crime & vandalism, viz. The data was also collected from annual report of BAMU Aurangabad. The researcher also visited a number of relevant websites on internet. A structured questionnaire was designed separately for users and librarians.

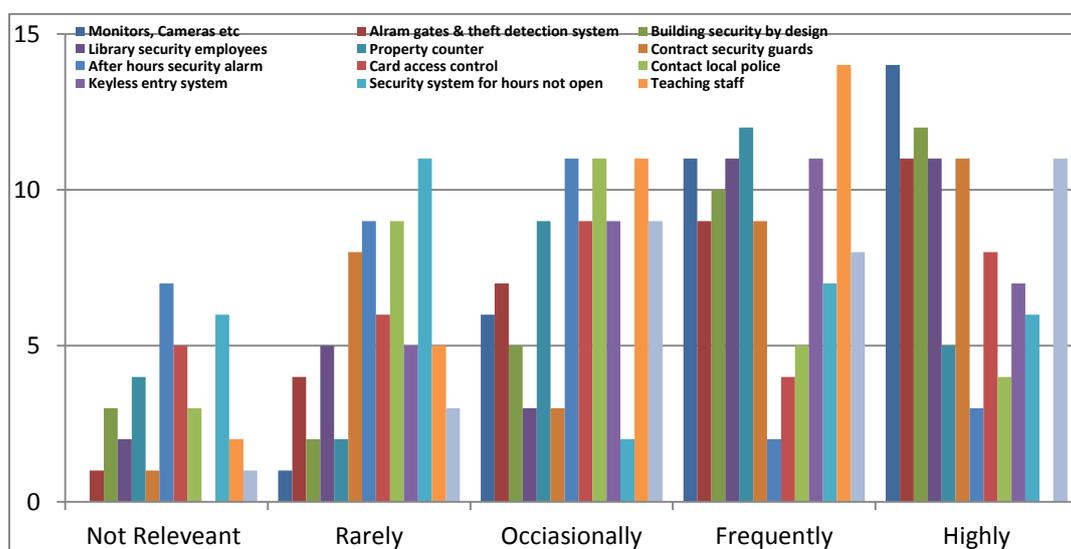
Two separate questions included in the questionnaire on targeted material for vandalism and impact of vandalism on teaching learning and research. It was estimated that it would take about 10 to 15 minutes of user time for responding to the questionnaire.

6.2 Data Analysis & Interpretation

Collected data has been analyzed and presented in tabular as well as graphical form. In graphical form, bar charts, line graphs are used for presentation. For the purpose of analyzing the data collected, the fixed variables were user's place of residence, gender, age, and income group, the statistical software package (i.e. SPSS) has been used.

7. SECURITY MEASURES TO CONTROL VANDALISM

There are various preventive and control measures that can be used to limit the vandalism from college libraries. Hence an attempt was made to find out the respondents preference to be employed to limit the vandalism.

Figure No.7.1 Security Measures to Control Vandalism

The Figure no.7.1 represents the responses received from respondents to various control measures employed by the libraries to limit vandalism. These control measures are installation of modern electronic security systems like monitors and camera, alarm gates and theft detection system, building security by design, appointing security guard, providing property counter, access control, contact police, keyless entry system, security system for hours not open, insurance policy, plantation away from library building education and training for staff, etc. are the some preferred measures.

1. The Figure No.7.1 represents the responses received from respondents on various security measures used in libraries to limit vandalism. On analyzing the data on statistical test WAM 22.43% respondents suggested that building should be designed as per security; 19.93% respondents were using property counter; 19.32% respondents installed after hours security alarm in their library; 17.52% respondents used card access as control measure for library security in ranking order (1st 2nd 3rd and 4th) respectively. While 16.74% respondents gave the rank 5th was to appointing contract security guards in the library is a better solution for vandalism prevention.
2. The other preferred preventive and control measures included by the respondents were (11% to 16.74%) contact police, plant the trees away from library building, keyless entry system, and by installing modern security system like camera, monitors, CC TV etc.
3. The respondents were also indicated to control vandalism, fining & punishing vandals, creating awareness among users, appointing some users as security guard, were the most preferred ones.
4. The Ti-Square statistical test reveals the frequently and highly preferred control and preventive measures used in college libraries to prevent, theft

mutilation, misplacement and deal with the vandalistic activities inside & outside the libraries.

5. Ti- Square test stated that 45.3% respondents indicated frequently and highly indicated, construction of library building and a hall for library by using building security by design, 36.6% respondents thought that by providing property counter to keep personal belongings can prevent vandalism and the security maintained in college libraries, 35.6% respondents applied installing after hours security alarm. All the security measures listed in the table no.7.1 are applied in few responded libraries.
6. The chi-square values 119.462 for the library security by employees is found more significant. Further It is confirmed that except building security by design, all the security measures are more significant at both the level.

7.2 Policies and Procedures

Every library has its rules and regulations to deal with the various activities, services, working, staff and users, but the evaluation of these policy and procedure is most important for its effectiveness. If the policy and procedures are well framed and implemented seriously may reduce the chance of vandal activity in the libraries, hence an attempt was made to find out the existing library policy and procedures to deal with vandal activities. The responses collected showed that of the 32 respondents' 71 (68.2%) respondents were of the opinion that the college library does not have a library policy & procedures to deal with vandal activities. While the 33 (31.8%) libraries have their policy & procedures to deal with vandalism. The respondents specified that checking of identity cards of the users at entrance and then allowing them to enter in the library and a single door used for entrance and exit, books are checked at the time of exit at the exit door of the library, fine and punishment were the specific policy and procedures adopted by the college libraries to control the vandalism. It is clear that majority of the libraries in this area are not much aware about how to frame policies and procedures to limit vandal incidents in college libraries.

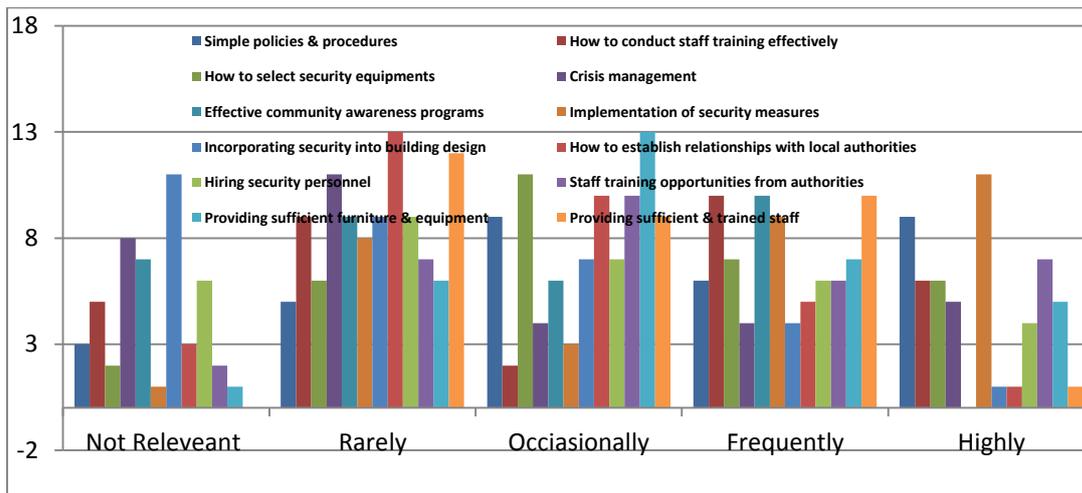
The librarians were asked to indicate their views on adequacy of library policy and procedures, of the total 32 respondents 55.08% were of the opinion that the existing policies and procedures of the college libraries are not adequate to minimize the vandal activities. While 45.02% respondents thought that the policy and procedures are adequate to prevent vandal activities

7.3 Support from Authority

It is assumed that Librarians are most responsible persons for the library security, but the authority must provide the required information, education as they desired on library security and safety. The authority should provide various types of information viz. simple policy and procedure, how to conduct staff training effectively, how to select security equipments, crisis and disaster management, effective community awareness program, implementation of security issues, hiring security personnel, staff training opportunities from authorities, providing sufficient

furniture and equipment and providing sufficient and trained staff are the major information and education required by the librarian to limit the incidences of vandalism in libraries. Hence an attempt was made to find out the steps taken by the college authorities to provide the information on safety and security issues concerned with the college libraries. Library authority plays an important role in library security by providing information to the librarian and staff to deal with security issues in the library. Hence an attempt was made to collect the required information on security by the authorities to staff. The collected data was analyzed and presented in Table and Figure no.7.2

Figure No.7.2 Require information on security by authorities to Staff



1. The Table and Figure no.7.2 shows that all the parameters about information required by the librarian for security was listed and tested on Weighted Arithmetic Mean which shows that 27.88% respondents ranked first the information required for security was how to conduct staff training effectively; 23.57% respondents given second rank to library security can be maintained by providing sufficient & trained staff; and 22.96% respondents were suggested and given third rank to have simple policies & procedures to deal with the security issues or vandalism in the libraries. The 21.56% respondents gave fourth rank to effective community awareness programs and incorporating security into building design was in fifth rank included by the 21.24% respondents and the rest 15% to 20.29% respondents included information required was on how to select security equipments, crisis management, implementation of security measures, how to establish relationship with local authorities, hiring security personnel, staff training opportunities, provision of sufficient and quality furniture and equipment are the preferred information expected by the respondents from their authorities to maintain security in the college libraries.
2. The Ti-Square test revealed that the librarians need frequently and highly information on education from authority indicated by the 65.4% respondents

were in favors of how to conduct staff training effectively; 51% respondents expected provision of sufficient & trained staff; 45.1% respondents needed the information from the authority on creating simple policies & procedures to control vandalism; 42.3% respondents expected information on how to select security equipments and incorporating security in to building design.

3. The types of information on security provided by the authority to library staff was tested on chi-square test & it was found that except to select security equipments and simple policies and procedures, all the information was found significant among the information received by the staff regarding library security, the chi-square value 38.692 represents first for how to conduct staff training effectively..

7.4 Preferred mode of providing information

There are various modes by which librarians and library staff can receive the information education on topics of library security, the respondents were asked to give their opinion by which mode they get the information on the topics library security discussed. The modes are handbooks, manuals, safety and security seminars, on site audits, online learning helps librarian to prevent and control the vandalism from libraries. Hence an attempt was made to find out the preferred modes librarians are using to prevent vandalistic activities from the libraries. The collected responses analyzed and presented in Table no.7.1

Table No.7.1 Preferred mode of providing information

Modes of information on security	Respondents	%
Handbook / Manual: a collection of policies/ procedures, implementation/ training suggestions, etc	11	34.38
Safety & Security Seminar: a day-long seminar with session on staff training, dealing with problem patrons, security policies and procedures, material security, building design, etc	10	31.25
On-site Audits: security experts who will visit libraries to assess security issues and provide recommendations	2	6.25
Online Learning: online education modules, utilizing steaming video where appropriate, on topics referenced above	9	28.13
Total	32	100.00

Note- Cell frequencies indicate number of persons & (%) values

It can be observed from Table no.7.1 that out of the total 32 respondents 35 (33.65%) preferred online learning modes to collect the information and education on security. While 37 (35.58%) preferred safety and security seminar for security information, the 30.77% librarians followed hand books, manuals & on site audits etc are the preferred modes among the surveyed libraries to acquire the information on library security issues.

7.5 Staff training

Staff training on library security is an essential part in library services, librarian should conduct frequently staff training on library security issues in their library to update the staff knowledge about the threats and measures to prevent the problem effectively, hence an attempt was made to find out the frequency of staff training conducted by the engineering college librarians on security issues of the college libraries. The collected data was analyzed and presented in Table no.7.2

Table No.7.2 Frequency of staff training on security

Staff training frequency	Respondents	%
Occasionally	5	15.63
Once a year	12	37.50
Not offered	7	21.88
New employee orientation	5	15.63
Every six months	3	9.38
Total-	32	100.00

Note- Cell frequencies indicate number of persons & (%)values

It can be observed from the Table No.7.2 that out of the total 32 respondents 42 (40.4%) librarians indicated that they were never offered staff training on library security, while 47 (45.2%) respondents had received staff training occasionally or once in a year and the 15 (15.5%) librarians had opined that the staff training on security by arranging orientation is given in every six months.

7.6 Special Security for library Materials and Building

Libraries acquire qualitative and special collection of reference books, non book materials, manuscripts and periodicals its users and provide peaceful and decorative library building with good quality furniture, but it needs special security to control it from vandal acts. Hence an attempt has been made to find out the special security provided by the surveyed engineering college libraries for their collection and building and other areas of the library. The collected data was analyzed and presented in Table no.7.3

Table No.7.3 Special Security for the library material & building

Response	Respondents	%
Reference Books	27	84.38
Non Book Material	19	59.38
Manuscripts	30	93.75
Periodicals & Journals	29	90.63
Exhibits	28	87.50
Charging & Discharging section	18	56.25
Building	32	100.00

* multiple responses

Note- Cell frequencies indicate number of persons & (%) values

The Table no.7.3 showed that 88.4% respondents reported that special security is given for r collection and exhibits, while only 11.6% reported that special security is given to building and circulation sections.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Regarding any specific policy and procedure to limit vandalism followed by college libraries 68.2% respondents does not have specific policy and procedure to deal with vandal acts, while 54.8% respondents indicated that the policy and procedure of the existing college libraries are not adequate for minimizing or to combat the vandalism.
- ❖ According 22.43% respondents their library buildings are made, considering the security by design, the 19.93% libraries provided property counter for personal belongings, where as 19.32% installed after hour's security alarm, the 17.52% respondents adopted card access control as a security measure in their libraries. Sixteen point seventy four percent respondents agreed vandalism can be limited by appointing security guard, while 11% to 16.74% respondents contacted to police, planted tree away from library building, used keyless entry system, by installing modern security system like CCTV cameras, RFID etc. The other measures suggested by the respondents were fining and punishment, creating awareness among users and appointing some users from user group as a security guard.
- ❖ As regards the supports from authority to deal with the security problem WAM test revealed that 27.88% respondents were of the opinion that they require information about how to conduct staff training effectively; 23.57% respondents ranked to provision of sufficient and trained staff; 22.96% respondents' requirement was simple policy and procedures must be there to limit vandalism. The 21.56% respondents gave the rank to community awareness program and 21.24% respondents given preference to building security by design. As well as 15% to 20.29% respondents' expected the information from authority on how to select security equipment, crisis management, implementation of security measures, hiring security personnel, staff training opportunities and provision of sufficient and quality furniture and equipments for security.
- ❖ The 33.65% respondents preferred modes were like online learning; 35.58% respondents acquired information through safety and security seminars and 30.77% respondents had used handbooks, manuals and on site audit as a preferred mode of information on security information.
- ❖ To limit vandalism from college libraries 45.2% librarians gave staff training occasionally or once in a year and 14.5% librarians arranged orientation for staff on security, while 40.4% librarians had not given staff training on security.

- ❖ As regards the special security to the collection 88.4% respondents gave special security, for reference, non-book material, manuscripts, journals and exhibits, while 11.6% libraries gave special security for library building and circulation section.
- ❖ Shortage of library personnel is another cause for library security the 22.1% respondents answered their library system which have only one staff member, while 77.9% respondents answered their library system has more than one staff to perform the duties.

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