

Disaster Management and Preparedness in Kenya National Library Services; A Case of Narok Branch.

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ABSTRACT

Libraries and information centers are vulnerable to a whole range of disasters such as fire, flooding, break-ins and theft. All these incidents can be costly in terms of damage and loss of material some of which may be unique equipment and facilities. The study sought to carry out an assessment of disaster management and preparedness at Kenya national libraries services (KNLS), a case of Narok branch. The study used both quantitative and qualitative approaches. It targeted the census of 13 staff comprising of the top management, the junior staff, senior staff and the subordinate members. Questionnaires were the key data collection tools which were supplemented by interview schedule. The collected data was analyzed statistically using SPSS and content analysis. The study found out that libraries were prone to a number of disasters which include fire, flood, wars and or theft, negligence and poor maintained buildings. Nonetheless, libraries have not put in place some mitigation measures for such disasters. Thus, the study concluded that libraries should be more proactive by adopting a strategic approach of properly planned and managed disaster management process. Thus, the study proposed a number of recommendations which include; improving the effectiveness of the disaster management program; the top management should sufficiently provide resources required for disaster management such as personnel, facilities, equipment and financial resources that will help in ensuring that disaster management activities are adequately provided for. Furthermore, library rules and regulations should be regularly reviewed, revised and updated for effective implementation. All this measures will help address threats of negligence, vandalism and other forms of disasters that may occur due to poor rules and regulations. This will aid in fostering discipline among library users. There should be a Disaster management plan, which should help mitigate any disaster that the library may face at any time. The plan should clearly document the procedures to follow in case of disaster. In addition, there should be a disaster management team put in place comprising of the representatives of all library users and headed by the librarian.

Key words: Disaster preparedness; Kenya National Library services; Libraries; Disaster mitigation measures