

**EVALUATING THE EXTENT OF DESTRUCTION TO LIBRARY
INFRASTRUCTURES AND COLLECTIONS IN CONFLICT AFFECTED AREAS
OF NORTH EAST NIGERIA**

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Abstract

This study assesses the impact of conflict on library infrastructure, collections, and infrastructure in North East Nigeria. The objectives of the study were formulated in line with the specific research question to include: To what extent of physical damage to library buildings in conflict-affected Areas, To What extent of window and door damage in conflict-affected library Buildings, to What extent have loss of library collections in conflict-affected library Buildings, to What extent have electrical and plumbing damage in conflict-affected library Buildings, What strategies and policies can be recommended for restoring libraries in conflict-Affected library Buildings of North-East, State Nigeria? A descriptive survey research design was used for the study. The entire population of the study was 28 librarians in conflict-affected library Buildings. The responses were used to answer the research questions. The instrument was structured on 5-point scale. The instruments were face validated by three experts, two experts from department of Library and Information Science and one from Measurement and Evaluation Unit, Department of Science Education, Federal University, Gashua. The findings reveal severe damage to library infrastructure, substantial loss of library collections, and damage to equipment and technology. The study highlights the importance of rebuilding and revitalizing libraries in conflict-affected areas to promote knowledge preservation, cultural heritage, and community engagement. Recommendations are made for rebuilding and rehabilitating library infrastructure, replacing lost collections, providing equipment and technology, building capacity for library staff, promoting community engagement, and developing policy and advocacy. The study contributes to the existing body of knowledge on the impact of conflict on libraries and library services.

Key: Library Infrastructure, Library Collection, and Library Equipment, Conflict-affected Arrears, Destruction.

Introduction

Libraries serve as essential institutions for education, research, and cultural preservation. However, in conflict-affected areas, they are often destroyed, looted, or neglected. This critical analysis examines existing studies on the destruction of library infrastructure, collections, and equipment in conflict zones, with a focus on identifying patterns, trends, and research gaps. The analysis compares global case studies with the situation in Northeast Nigeria, highlighting the severity of library damage and its implications for education and societal development. A consistent pattern in war-affected regions is the deliberate targeting of libraries, as seen in conflicts in Iraq, Syria, and Bosnia.

Libraries are often viewed as symbols of knowledge and culture, making them prime targets for groups aiming to erase historical and intellectual identity Abareh, (2014). In Northeast Nigeria, insurgents such as Boko Haram have destroyed public and academic libraries, particularly in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states (Abubakar, 2020). Research by Knuth (2012) highlights that in most cases, library destruction follows a pattern of arson, bombing, and looting, which aligns with findings from Northeast Nigeria, where insurgents have burned books, stolen electronic devices, and vandalized library buildings. Furthermore, UNESCO (2023) reports that in many African conflict zones, libraries suffer from secondary damage, such as neglect and abandonment, as communities prioritize basic survival over information access.

Another key trend is the loss of valuable collections, particularly rare manuscripts, academic resources, and historical documents. In Syria, the destruction of Aleppo's library led to the loss of over 150,000 rare books and manuscripts (Abera, 2021). Similarly, in Northeast Nigeria, such as public libraries, community's information centers in Maiduguri and the Federal Polytechnic Mubi have reported massive losses in books, research materials, and archives due to insurgent attacks (Adebayo, 2020). An emerging trend is the increased vulnerability of digital resources. Initially, digital technologies were seen as a safeguard against physical destruction (Ahmad, 2023). However, cyberattacks, power outages, and the destruction of IT infrastructure have crippled digital library services in war zones. In Nigeria, the destruction of library servers, computers, and internet access points has significantly affected academic research and e-learning in conflict-affected states (UNESCO, 2023).

Library destruction has had severe educational consequences, particularly for students and researchers. African Centre for Strategic Studies. (2021). emphasizes that in Bosnia, the burning of the National Library disrupted academic progress for an entire generation. A similar situation is unfolding in Northeast Nigeria, where the destruction of libraries in secondary schools and universities has weakened access to textbooks, journals, and research materials (Adebayo, 2020). In addition, displaced populations face reduced information access, making it harder for affected communities to rebuild. Studies from Afghanistan and Iraq indicate that where libraries remain inaccessible, literacy rates decline, and misinformation spreads more rapidly (Babayi. 2021). This highlights the urgent need for post-conflict library restoration as a strategy for rebuilding education and intellectual capacity in war-torn regions.

Statement of the Problem

The conflict in North Eastern Nigeria has had a devastating impact on library buildings, resulting in significant physical damage. Many libraries have been destroyed or partially destroyed, leaving them in a state of disrepair. This has not only affected the physical structure of the libraries but also the collections, equipment, and services provided. The physical damage to library buildings has resulted in a loss of access to information, education, and research opportunities for the community (Gado & Wasiu, 2019). This has had a ripple effect on the social and economic development of the region. The destruction of libraries has also led to the loss of cultural heritage and historical records, which are essential for preserving the identity and history of the community.

Despite the significance of the problem, to the best knowledge of the researchers there is a lack of empirical research on the extent of physical damage to library buildings in North Eastern Nigeria. For example, while some research has been conducted on the impact of conflicts on education and cultural heritage, studies focusing specifically on libraries remain limited. This study aims to address this gap by assessing the physical damage to library buildings in the region. By understanding the extent of the damage, this study hopes to provide insights that can inform strategies for rebuilding and restoring library services in the region.

Research Questions:

1. What is the extent of physical damage to library buildings in conflict-affected Areas of North-East, State Nigeria?
2. What is the extent of window and door damage to library Buildings in conflict-affected area of North-East, State, Nigeria?
3. What is the extent of loss of library collections in conflict-affected library Buildings of North-East, State Nigeria?
4. What extent have electrical and plumbing damage in conflict-affected library Buildings of North-East State Nigeria?
5. What strategies and policies can be recommended for restoring libraries in conflict-Affected library Buildings of North-East, State Nigeria?

Literature review

Libraries are critical institutions that support education, research, and cultural preservation. However, in conflict-affected areas, they face serious threats, including destruction of buildings, loss of collections, and damage to technological infrastructure. Armed conflicts have historically led to deliberate or incidental destruction of libraries, resulting in setbacks in knowledge preservation and dissemination. The destruction of libraries in war-torn regions like Iraq, Syria, Nigeria, Mali, and Ukraine has raised concerns among scholars and policymakers (Jaber, 2017).

According to Van der Auwera (2012), cultural institutions, including libraries, are frequently targeted during conflicts as part of broader efforts to erase cultural and historical identity. This review explores the extent of damage to library infrastructure, collections, and equipment in conflict zones, identifies trends, and highlights research gaps. Many existing works documented general destruction without detailed empirical analysis of the damage to specific library components.

Adebayo (2020) emphasizes that in Nigeria, the destruction of school and public libraries by Boko Haram insurgents has significantly affected students' access to learning resources, yet no comprehensive database quantifies the exact extent of these losses. This gap

necessitates further research to provide empirical evidence on the damage and formulate strategies for preservation and reconstruction.

One major challenge in assessing the damage to libraries is the lack of real-time documentation. Chambers (2017) notes that during conflicts, information about damaged libraries is often scattered, with reports emerging only after the conflict subsides. This delay hampers efforts to implement timely interventions. Additionally, in regions where government control is weak, data collection is difficult, making it harder to quantify the exact scale of destruction.

Another significant concern is the deliberate targeting of libraries as ideological attacks. Throughout history, libraries have been burned or looted to suppress particular knowledge systems. Knuth (2012) highlights that Nazi Germany's book burnings were aimed at erasing "undesirable" knowledge, a pattern repeated in modern conflicts. In places like Iraq and Mali, insurgent groups have destroyed libraries containing religious or historical texts that contradict their ideologies.

Despite these challenges, some efforts have been made to document and mitigate the destruction of libraries. UNESCO and the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) have launched initiatives to protect libraries in conflict zones (Van der Auwera, 2012, Sharma & Ravishankar, 2022).). However, these efforts are often reactive rather than preventive, indicating a need for stronger policies to safeguard library infrastructure before conflicts escalate. This empirical review provides a detailed examination of the extent of damage to library infrastructure, collections, and equipment in conflict-affected areas. By identifying patterns and trends, the review will inform future research on how to better protect libraries during conflicts.

It will also highlight research gaps and suggest methodologies for conducting empirical studies in this area. One of the most common forms of library destruction during conflicts is the intentional burning or bombing of library buildings. This has been witnessed in several conflicts worldwide. For instance, the Iraq National Library and Archive was deliberately set on fire during the 2003 invasion, resulting in severe structural damage (Al-Tikriti, 2007, Alrahelati & Aljawad, 2017).). Similarly, the Jaffna Public Library in Sri Lanka, which housed over 97,000 rare books and manuscripts, was burned down during ethnic violence in 1981 (Goonetilleke, 2006).

These incidents highlight the vulnerability of libraries to direct attacks during conflicts. In many cases, libraries are not directly targeted but suffer damage as collateral in broader military operations. For example, during the Syrian Civil War, the University of Aleppo Library was hit by airstrikes, leading to the collapse of sections of the building and destruction of thousands of books (Knuth, 2012). Similarly, the ongoing war in Ukraine has damaged over 1,900 cultural institutions, including libraries (UNESCO, 2023). This trend demonstrates how urban warfare puts libraries at risk.

Insurgent groups and terrorist organizations have also played a role in destroying libraries, particularly in Africa. Boko Haram in Nigeria has systematically targeted educational institutions, including school libraries, in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states (Adebayo, 2020). The destruction of these libraries has disrupted learning for thousands of students, exacerbating educational inequality in conflict zones.

Even when libraries are not directly destroyed, conflicts often lead to their neglect. In war-torn regions, maintaining library infrastructure becomes impossible due to instability and lack of funding. For instance, in Iraq, many libraries remained abandoned for years after the 2003 war due to delays in reconstruction efforts (Al-Tikriti, 2007). Similarly, in Mali, damage from the 2012 insurgency left several libraries in a state of disrepair for years. Restoring library infrastructure after conflicts is a major challenge, as resources are often prioritized for more immediate needs such as housing and healthcare. For example, post-war Iraq saw limited efforts in restoring libraries compared to rebuilding roads and government buildings (Al-Tikriti, 2007). The lack of financial and institutional support for library restoration prolongs the negative effects of conflicts on education and research.

Despite these challenges, international organizations have made efforts to protect and rebuild library infrastructure. UNESCO's Blue Shield Initiative aims to protect cultural institutions, including libraries, during armed conflicts (Van der Auwera, 2012). However, enforcement remains weak, and in many cases, libraries continue to suffer damage despite international regulations. While there is documentation of library destruction in major conflicts, research gaps remain regarding the exact quantitative impact of conflicts on libraries, particularly in developing countries.

Adebayo (2020) argues that there is no comprehensive data on how many libraries have been destroyed by Boko Haram in Nigeria. This lack of empirical data hinders efforts to develop effective policies for library protection in conflict zones. One of the most devastating effects of conflict on libraries is the destruction of their collections. Historical and academic materials are often lost permanently when libraries are burned or looted. During the Mali conflict in 2012, Islamist rebels burned thousands of rare manuscripts housed in Timbuktu libraries (Jeppie, 2016). The loss of such irreplaceable documents erases cultural and historical knowledge. Looting is another major issue affecting library collections in war zones. During the invasion of Iraq, looters stole thousands of books and manuscripts from the National Library (Al-Tikriti, 2007). These stolen materials often end up on the black market, making recovery difficult.

The destruction of libraries in conflict zones has severe consequences for education, research, and cultural preservation. This review highlights that libraries are vulnerable to direct attacks, looting, and neglect during conflicts. While international organizations have made efforts to protect cultural heritage, significant research gaps remain in assessing the full extent of damage. Future research should focus on quantifying library losses, developing digital preservation strategies, and implementing stronger international protections for libraries in conflict zones.

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. This design is appropriate for studies that seek to obtain data from a defined population in order to describe existing conditions or assess the status of a phenomenon. The population of the study comprised all 28 staff of the Public Library, Gashua, Yobe State. Due to the small and manageable size of the population, a census sampling technique was employed; hence, the entire population was used as the sample.

The study used a researcher-developed questionnaire titled Extent of Damage to Library Infrastructure, Collection and Equipment (EXDALICE) as the instrument for data collection. The instrument consisted of 25 items structured on a 5-point Likert scale designed to elicit

responses on the extent of damage to physical infrastructure, information resources, and equipment in a conflict-affected library environment. To ensure validity, the instrument was subjected to expert review by two academics in Library and Information Science and one expert in Measurement and Evaluation, all from the Faculty of Education, Federal University Gashua, Yobe State. Their observations and corrections were incorporated before final administration. The researcher personally administered the instrument to the respondents to ensure a high return rate. Data collected were analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics, specifically mean and standard deviation, were used to answer the research questions. A decision rule of 2.50 and above was set as the benchmark for acceptance of an item, while items with a mean rating below 2.50 were rejected.

Result of the Study

This subsection provide results of the study based on the research question

Physical Damage to Library Buildings in conflict-affected area of North-East, State Nigeria.

The first research question sought information on Physical Damage to Library Buildings in conflict-affected area of North-East, State Nigeria. The findings are presented in Table 1

Table 1: Physical Damage to Library Buildings in conflict-affected area of North-East, State Nigeria

S/N	Item Statements	ED	MD	MID	ND	N	Mean	STD	Decision
1	Has the library building's roof been damaged or destroyed due to conflict?	10	8	4	6	28	2.78	0.93	Accepted
2	Have the library building's walls been damaged or destroyed due to conflict?	9	9	4	6	28	2.75	0.91	Accepted
3	Have the library building's windows and doors been damaged or destroyed due to conflict?	8	10	6	4	28	2.78	0.95	Accepted
4	Has the library building's flooring or foundation been damaged or destroyed due to conflict?	10	7	6	5	28	2.78	0.83	Accepted
5	Have the library building's electrical or plumbing systems been damaged or destroyed due to conflict?	10	5	8	5	28	2.71	0.92	Accepted
Grand Mean							2.76	0.91	

Source: Field Survey 2025

Key: ED: Extensive Damage. MD: Moderate Damage. MID: Minor Damage. ND: No Damage.

The mean scores across all five items indicate a significant level of physical damage to library buildings in conflict-affected areas of North East Nigeria. The scores range from 2.71

to 2.78, this suggests that the damage is extensive (Iroeze, 2021). According to Smith (2019), the extent of damage to library buildings in conflict zones is often underestimated. The results show that the library building's roof been damaged, destroyed due to conflict, with a mean score of 2.78. This is consistent with the findings Van der Auwera, (2012). Who reported similar levels of structural damage to buildings in conflict-affected Areas The walls have also been extensively damaged, with a mean score of 2.75.

This is in line with the observations of Williams (2017), who noted that roofs are often the most vulnerable part of a building in conflict zones. The results highlight the need for urgent attention to address physical damage to library buildings. Conducting thorough structural assessments and providing emergency repairs to damaged roofs, windows, and doors are essential steps (Mahmood, 2021) Implementing security measures and developing a long-term plan for rehabilitation and reconstruction are also crucial (Lovecy, 2005). Additionally, providing training and support to library staff is necessary to help them cope with the aftermath of the conflict (Mishra, 2023).

Extent of window and door damage to library Buildings in conflict-affected area of North-East, State, Nigeria.

The second research question sought information on extent of window and door damage to library Buildings in conflict-affected area of North-East, State, Nigeria. The findings are presented in Table 2

Table 2: Extent of window and door damage to library Buildings in conflict-affected area of North-East, State, Nigeria.

S/N	Item Statements	ED	MD	MID	ND	N	Mean	STD	Decision
1	What is the extent of glass breakage and physical damage to windows and doors in the library building?	11	3	9	5	28	2.71	0.90	Accepted
2	How damaged are the frames and supports of windows and doors in the library?	10	4	8	6	28	2.64	0.81	Accepted
3	What level of impact damage is visible on windows and doors in the library building?	8	6	7	7	28	2.54	0.85	Accepted
4	How functional are the locking and security mechanisms of windows and doors in the library?	9	5	6	8	28	2.54	0.93	Accepted
5	How has the damage to windows and doors affected the environmental protection and security of the library building?	10	4	6	8	28	2.57	0.96	Accepted
Grand Mean							2.66	0.89	

Source: Field Survey 2025

Key: ED: Extensive Damage. MD: Moderate Damage. MID: Minor Damage. ND: No Damage.

The Grand mean score of 2.66. With a standard deviation of 0.94. For the extent of window and door damage to library buildings in conflict-affected areas of North East Nigeria indicates that the majority of respondents reported significant damage. The standard deviation

of 0.89. suggests some variation in the responses, the damage to windows and doors is a widespread issue (Yakubu 2021).

This level of damage likely means that many windows and doors are broken or damaged beyond repair, compromising the security and safety of the library building. According to Mishra (2023), Damage to windows and doors can also lead to further damage to library materials and equipment. The results highlight the need for urgent attention to repair or replace damaged windows and doors, ensuring the library can provide a safe and secure environment for its users.

Assessment on the loss of library collections in conflict-affected areas, of North East, State. Nigeria

The third research question sought information on extent of window and door damage to library Buildings in conflict-affected area of North-East, State, Nigeria. The findings are presented in Table 3

Table 3: Assessment on the loss of library collections in conflict-affected areas, of North East, State. Nigeria

S/N	Item Statements	EL	SL	ML	MLI	N	Mean	STD	Decision
1	to what extent are the library resources lost due to conflict-related damage or destruction?	11	4	6	7	28	2.68	0.88	Accepted
2	How many electronic resources (e-books, databases, and digital archives) were lost or rendered inaccessible?	8	6	7	7	21	2.54	0.93	Accepted
3	What is the estimated loss of reference materials, including encyclopedias, dictionaries, and research reports?	6	8	9	5	28	2.54	0.91	Accepted
4	How many periodicals, journals, and newspapers were destroyed or lost?	7	8	8	5	28	2.60	0.87	Accepted
5	What is the number of rare or special collections (manuscripts, historical documents) lost due to conflict?	6	9	7	6	28	2.54	0.90	Accepted
Grand Mean							2.58	0.90	

Source: Field Survey 2025

Key: Extensive losses: More than 1000. Significance loss: 501-1000. Moderate loss: 100-500. Minimal loss: Less than 100.

The loss of library collections in conflict-affected areas of North East Nigeria is a significant concern. The Grand mean score for the extent of collection loss is 2.58, with a standard deviation of 0.90. This suggests that respondents reported a substantial loss of library materials, including books, journals, and other resources. According to Kumar (2018), conflict can result in the destruction of library collections, which can have long-term consequences for education and research.

The loss of library collections can also lead to a loss of cultural heritage and historical records. In this context, the results suggest that the conflict in North East Nigeria has had a devastating impact on library collections, with many materials being lost or destroyed. The results also highlight the need for urgent attention to assess and replace lost library materials, as well as to develop strategies for preserving and protecting library collections in conflict-affected areas. As noted by Iroeze, (2021), this may involve collaborating with international organizations and partners to secure funding and resources for library reconstruction and collection development. The findings imply that sustainable recovery will require collaboration with government agencies, international partners, and donor organizations.

Assessment on Electrical and Plumbing Damage in Conflict-Affected Library Buildings of North-East, State, Nigeria.

The fourth research question sought information on extent of window and door damage to library Buildings in conflict-affected area of North-East, State, Nigeria. The findings are presented in Table 4

Table 4: Assessment on Electrical and Plumbing Damage in Conflict-Affected Library Buildings of North-East, State, Nigeria.

S/N	Item Statements	ED	MD	MID	ND	N	Mean	STD	Decision
1	What is the extent of damage to the electrical wiring and water supply systems in the library?	6	10	6	6	28	2.57	0.90	Accepted
2	How have damaged electrical components (switches, sockets, circuit breakers) and plumbing fixtures (toilets, sinks, faucets) affected the functionality of the library?	7	9	5	6	28	2.54	0.89	Accepted
3	To what extent has damage to lighting fixtures and drainage systems impacted the usability of the library building?	7	9	6	6	28	2.61	0.79	Accepted
4	What safety risks are posed by exposed electrical wiring and broken plumbing systems in the library?	7	8	7	6	28	2.51	0.81	Accepted
5	How has the destruction of electrical and plumbing systems affected the overall maintenance and operation of the library?	8	10	5	5	28	2.75	0.77	Accepted
Grand Mean							2.60	0.83	

Key: ED: Extensive Damage. MD: Moderate Damage. MID: Minor Damage. ND: No Damage.

The electrical and plumbing systems in conflict-affected library buildings in North East Nigeria have suffered significant damage. The Grand mean score for electrical damage is 2.60, with a standard deviation of 0.83, this suggests that respondents reported widespread damage to electrical and plumbing systems, including broken or damaged wiring, pipes, and fixtures. According to Marsden, (2010), damage to electrical and plumbing systems can pose significant safety risks, including the risk of electrical shock, fire, and water damage. The results also highlight the need for urgent attention to assess and repair damaged electrical and plumbing systems in conflict-affected library buildings.

As noted by World Bank (2017), this may involve hiring qualified electricians and plumbers to inspect and repair damaged systems, as well as replacing damaged or outdated equipment. Furthermore, the results suggest that the conflict in North East Nigeria has had a devastating impact on the infrastructure of library buildings, including electrical and plumbing systems. According to Adebayo (2020), this can have long-term consequences for the provision of library services and the preservation of library collections.

Strategies and policies can be recommended in conflict-affected areas for restoring libraries buildings of North-East, State, Nigeria

The fifth research question sought information on extent of window and door damage to library Buildings in conflict-affected area of North-East, State, Nigeria. The findings are presented in Table 5

Table 5: Strategies and policies can be recommended in conflict-affected areas for restoring libraries buildings of North-East, State, Nigeria

S/N	Item Statements	SA	A	D	SD	N	Mean	STD	Decision
1	Develop a National Library Restoration Policy?	9	8	6	5	28	2.75	0.91	Accepted
2	Conduct Damage Assessments and Restore Critical Infrastructure?	10	9	5	4	28	2.89	0.90	Accepted
3	Establish Community-Led Restoration Initiatives?	10	8	5	5	28	2.82	0.85	Accepted
4	Implement Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans?	8	9	6	5	28	2.71	0.88	Accepted
5	Provide Training and Capacity Building for Library Staff?	9	8	5	6	28	2.71	0.96	Accepted
Grand Mean							2.78	0.85	

Key: SA: Strongly Agree. A: Agree. D: Disagree. SD: Strongly Disagree.

The findings indicate a broad consensus on the need for structured and strategic interventions to rebuild library facilities in conflict-affected regions. The strong acceptance of developing a National Library Restoration Policy (Mean = 2.75) highlights recognition that restoration efforts must be guided by a national framework to ensure consistency, accountability, and long-term sustainability. This aligns with global best practices, where post-conflict recovery requires policy-driven reconstruction to prevent fragmented or short-term interventions.

The highest-rated item, damage assessment and infrastructure restoration (Mean = 2.89), underscores the urgent need to evaluate the extent of destruction and initiate immediate repair of buildings, roofs, walls, and essential utilities. This confirms earlier literature (e.g., Van der Auwera, 2012; Kumar, 2018) emphasizing that conflict-damaged libraries require structural evaluation before rebuilding or restocking collections. Also, the respondents strongly support community-led restoration initiatives (Mean = 2.82), suggesting that local participation is vital for effective rebuilding. In conflict settings, community engagement fosters ownership, enhances safety, and speeds up recovery efforts—a point highlighted by Mahmood (2021), who notes that local involvement increases resilience and resource mobilization.

Furthermore, the acceptance of disaster risk reduction and management plans (Mean = 2.71) indicates that staff recognize the need to strengthen preparedness for future threats. Conflict-prone areas remain vulnerable, and integrating risk management ensures that rebuilt library infrastructure is more resilient. In the same vein, the acceptance of capacity building for library staff (Mean = 2.71) reflects awareness that reconstruction should go beyond physical rebuilding to include developing staff competencies in crisis management, trauma recovery, resource protection, and modern library practices. This supports Mishra (2023), who argues that human capacity is central to post-conflict library service restoration.

The respondents accept the all strategies and policies that can be recommended for restoring library buildings in conflict-affected areas of North East Nigeria. According to Iroeze, (2021), collaboration with international organizations and partners is crucial for securing funding and resources for library reconstruction in conflict-affected areas. UNDP. (2021). also emphasizes the importance of conducting thorough assessments of damaged library buildings to identify priorities for repair and reconstruction. The results also highlight the need for policies and procedures that protect library collections and equipment during conflicts. As noted by Shrivastava (2017), this can include developing emergency response plans, identifying safe storage locations for valuable materials, and providing training to library staff on disaster response and recovery.

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated the devastating impact of conflict on library infrastructure, collections, and services in North East Nigeria. The findings highlight the need for urgent attention to rebuild and rehabilitate library infrastructure, replace lost collections, and provide equipment and technology to support library services. The study's recommendations emphasize the importance of prioritizing library development in conflict-affected areas to promote knowledge preservation, cultural heritage, and community engagement.

The reconstruction and rehabilitation of libraries in conflict-affected areas are crucial for promoting knowledge, education, and cultural preservation. It is essential, that we prioritize the rebuilding of libraries, not just as physical spaces, but as vibrant hubs of knowledge, learning, and community engagement. By working together, we can revitalize libraries, promote knowledge preservation and cultural heritage, and support the recovery and development of conflict-affected communities.

Recommendations:

1. Rebuild and rehabilitate library infrastructure: The Nigerian government and international organizations should prioritize the rebuilding and rehabilitation of library infrastructure in conflict-affected areas.
2. Replace lost collections: Efforts should be made to replace lost collections, including rare and valuable materials, to promote knowledge preservation and cultural heritage.
3. Provide equipment and technology: Libraries in conflict-affected areas should be provided with modern equipment and technology to support library services and promote digital literacy.
4. Build capacity for library staff: Library staff in conflict-affected areas should receive training and capacity-building programs to enhance their skills and knowledge. Also Libraries in conflict-affected areas should engage with local communities to promote literacy, education, and cultural heritage.
5. Develop policy and advocacy: The Nigerian government and international organizations should develop policies and advocacy programs to support the development of libraries in conflict-affected areas.

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