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Beliefs and Ethical Perceptions of Book Theft as Predictors of Bibliokleptomanism among Library Users

The purpose of the article was aimed at examining beliefs and ethical perceptions of book theft as predictors of bibliokleptomania among library users in Nigeria. **Research methods**. The survey, questionnaire, analysis and synthesis methods were used to carry out the research. **Scientific novelty.** The survey research of the correlational type was used for the study with population comprising of library users in Nigerian universities. This was drawn up in line with the objectives of the study. Three hundred and sixteen (316) copies of questionnaire were randomly administered to participants who utilize the library. **Conclusions.** Findings reveal that library users believe that it is wrong to take library books without permission and majority of the respondents also perceive that the cost of books was a barrier in accessing books. The analysis indicates a high level of consensus among library users in Nigeria that stealing books is ethically wrong. The majority opinion supports a positive ethical culture within the academic community. However, the presence of a minority with differing views suggests the potential benefit of targeted intervention programs, and the proposed policy implication underscores the importance of instituting measures to prevent and address book theft within academic library settings. The analysis highlights the connection between the perceived cost of books, financial challenges faced by library users, and the potential impact on library services, particularly in terms of book theft and missing books. It suggests that a significant portion of users may be deterred from accessing books due to cost, and this insight has broader implications for how libraries can enhance accessibility and address the financial constraints faced by their user community.

K e y w o r d s: Book theft, perceptions of book theft, Library materials, Library users, bibliokleptomania.

Relevance of the research topic. Bibliokleptomania has far reaching consequences for the library and other library users with the attendant cost of having to replace the stolen books and not being able to access it by users. This has far-reaching consequences for Nigerian libraries that are presently plagued by dwindling resources and lack of funds. However, as challenging as this may be, the library still has to find ways to curb this behaviour in users. Curbing a behaviour effectively entails getting to the root of the behaviour. A number of reasons ranging from lack of funds to purchase books to compulsive urge to steal books. This issue has proved herculean for libraries to solve.

Despite the severity of book theft however, there appears to be a dearth of literature on the concept and what could be responsible for it. The limited literature on bibliokleptomaniac seem to focus on the act rather than the underlying factors that could be responsible for it. This

research therefore aims to investigate two variables of culprits' belief and ethical perception of book theft. Could the belief that book theft is a lesser kind of theft and therefore inconsequential be a factor in bibliokelptomania? The overall perception of the user towards book theft could also be an extenuating factor in bibliokletptomanism?

In the face of dwindling library funds leading to reduced power to purchase information materials and provide adequate security for the available library resources, there is need to investigate factors that may predict bibliokleptomania so as to nip it in the bud. None of the available studies on bibliokleptomania seem to have focused its attention exclusively on how belief and ethical perception of book theft predict bibliokleptomanism in library users in Nigeria. This therefore, is the gap in literature that this study sets out to fill.

This research will explore the beliefs library users hold regarding the act of book theft. By understanding the cognitive processes that contribute to bibliokleptomania, libraries can tailor educational programs and awareness campaigns to challenge and reshape these beliefs. Moreover, uncovering the ethical perceptions surrounding book theft will provide valuable insights into the moral frameworks that either discourage or rationalize such behaviour.

This research is significant because libraries can use the insights gained to design more effective security measures and implement targeted interventions to address the root causes of bibliokleptomanism. By aligning policies with the psychological and ethical dimensions identified in the study, libraries can create a more secure and ethical environment for their users.

Educational initiatives can play an important role in preventing bibliokleptomania. This study will be significant in the design of educational programs that target specific beliefs and ethical perceptions identified as predictors of book theft. By providing users with a deeper understanding of the consequences of bibliokleptomania and fostering a sense of responsibility through the design of educational programmes, workshops and seminars, libraries can contribute to a culture of respect for shared information resources and reduce, if not totally eradicate book theft.

The findings of this study will also be significant since it will add to the body of knowledge in the area of library management, psychology, and library security.

Analysis of research and publications. Libraries are crucial institutions for promoting intellectual and communal development because they are storehouses of cultural heritage and knowledge. In spite of this admirable goal, libraries continue to face an issue that threatens the core of their existence: bibliokleptomania, or book stealing. Bibliokleptomania is a compulsive desire to steal books [4]. Book theft incidents persist in spite of security measures and awareness efforts, which highlight the need for a deeper comprehension of the psychological and ethical factors that motivate such action. The act of stealing books from libraries not only jeopardizes the accessibility of resources but also challenges the ethical fabric upon which library services are built.

Book theft and other acts against literary materials such as book vandalism and book mutilation are not new issues in the library. The library has over the years had to grapple with these issues in order to effectively discharge its duties as a gatekeeper of literary materials. Libraries have tried to curb this issue by putting in place several measures to curb this menace ranging from human checks to more sophisticated security systems. Despite all of these measures, the problem does not seem to abate. Bibliokleptomania has no age or status barrier as people that engage in it have been shown to come from all walks of life [2].

History demonstrates that some of the most egregious book thieves came from the ranks of respectability and piety rather than the criminal underworld [1]. One of the numerous German librarians working at the Russian Imperial Public Library in St. Petersburg, is the Bavarian theologian Dr. Elois Pichler. He carried out the greatest known theft of books from a European library between 1869 and 1871. In 1871, he was apprehended with roughly 4,000 volumes. He carried his pilfered books inside a special inner pouch that was attached to his bag, in a heavy

overcoat. His collection consisted of numerous commonplace objects unrelated to his research as well as rare and precious volumes.

Several cases are reported of book theft by individuals. Farhad Hakimzadeh, Stanislas Gosse and John Mark Tillman [3]. Farhad is said to be an Iranian businessman who tore off pages from rare books at the British and Bodleian libraries and stuck them to his own books in order to increase their value. A map worth over 42,000 dollars was contained in one of the pages he tore. Stanislas Gosse was reported to have used a secret passage way to break into the Mont Sainte-Odile, a French monastery, steal very old and valuable books and then used the same secret passage way to escape. On being caught and charged to court, the defence he put up was that the books were not being used and the thrill of adventure was also a factor.

Looking at the examples given above, it is obvious that one could not say categorically that poverty or lack is a reason for bibliokleptomania. In order to address the complex problem of bibliokleptomania, this study focuses on library users' ethical attitudes and beliefs as potential predictors of this disorder.

Significance of the study

The purpose of the article was aimed at examining beliefs and ethical perceptions of book theft as predictors of bibliokleptomania among library users in Nigeria.

Presentation of the main research material. The following research questions will therefore guide the conduct of this study: What is the perception of users towards the stealing of books in Nigeria libraries? What is the level of belief regarding stealing of books among library users? How does library users perceive the cost of books as a barrier to accessing them?

Hypothesis of the article. Library users who perceive book theft as ethically wrong are less likely to have stolen books compared to those who don't see it as ethically wrong. The belief that the cost of books is a barrier to access is positively associated with bibliokleptomania among library users.

This study uses the descriptive survey research of the correlational type. This has been exposed to be most suitable for the study since it investigates the relationship among the variables in the study. The study showed the relationship between the independent variable's beliefs and ethical perception and the dependent variable of bibliokletomanism. The descriptive survey research of the correlational type is also suitable to accommodate the large sample used in the study. The instrument of the study is the questionnaire which was designed using google form. A total of 316 copies of the questionnaire, which was sent to university students that use the library, were returned with insightful answers. The 316-person sample size could be statistically significant, particularly given that the participant population has similar characteristics to the research issue. A smaller sample size is adequate in situations when the goal of the research is to investigate trends, obtain insights, or establish relationships rather than establishing exact population estimates. These goals provide additional support for the sample size. Data analysis was done using simple statistics of frequency count and percentages for the demographics and research questions while Binary logistic model was used to answer the three hypotheses posed.

Table 1.

Questionnaire Response Rate

Questionnaire Response Rate	
Number of questionnaires administered	316
Number returned	309
Percentage number of return	97.8%

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Out of the 316 copies of questionnaire distributed to the study participants, 309 were returned. This resulted in 97.8% response rate. The response rate is presented in table below:

Table 2.

Descriptive Statistics for Independent Variables (Socio-Demography)

Demography	Category	Frequency	Percentage %
Gender	Male	155	50.2
	Female	154	49.8
	Total	309	100.0
Age	15-20 years	101	32.7
	21-25 years	115	37.2
	26-30 years	27	8.7
	31-35 years	16	5.2
	36-40 years	9	2.9
	41-45 years	20	6.5
	46-50 years	11	3.6
	Above 50 years	10	3.2
	Total	309	100.0
Educational qualification	SSCE	48	15.5
	First degree	211	68.3
	Masters	38	12.3
	PhD	12	3.9
	Total	309	100.0
Occupation	Librarian	4	1.3
	Student	204	66.0
	Entrepreneur	28	9.1
	Civil servant	47	15.2
	Clergy	12	3.9
	Unemployed	4	1.3
	Self-employed	10	3.2
	Total	309	100
Socio-economic status (SES)	Low	31	10.0
	Medium	254	82.2
	High	24	7.8
	Total	309	100.0

Source: Author's computation (2024)

The analysis of the demographic characteristics of the participants in Table 2 provided insights into the composition of library users in Nigerian libraries. The study reveals that 50.2% of the participants were male, while 49.8% were female. This finding suggests a slight predominance of male library users in Nigeria. The age distribution of the participants indicates that the majority, constituting 69.9%, were within the age group of 15–25 years, indicating relatively young library users in Nigeria. The highest educational qualification in the study are B.Sc holders, with 68.3%, followed by SSCE (15.5%), Masters (12.3%) and PhD (3.9%). The prominence of B.Sc suggests that the majority of library users have pursued higher education, which is beneficial for enhancing or addressing life issues. Sixty-six percent (66.0%) of the participants were students, suggesting a large part of the library users used the library for educational purpose, as expected. A larger percentage (82.2%) of the library users indicated a moderate level of socioeconomic distribution, followed

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by low SES (10.0%) and high (7.8%). By implication, a large share of the library users belongs to moderate socioeconomic group. Understanding the level of socioeconomic status of library clientele could help Nigerian libraries in customizing services or resources to uniquely address the requirements of users within each SES group.

Research Questions: Data collected on the variables were analysed with descriptive statistics. This was done to describe the dependent variable (Bibliokleptomanism) and explanatory variables (beliefs and ethical perception).

Research Question 1: What is the perception of users towards the stealing of books in Nigeria libraries?

Table 3.

Have you taken a book without permission before?

	Frequency	Percentage
No	252	81.6%
Yes	57	18.4%
Total	309	100.0%

Table 3 represents the proportion of book theft occurrences among users in Nigerian libraries. The result showed that 81.6% (n=256) of the response shows instances, where book theft has not occurred in Nigerian libraries and 18.4%, corresponds to situations where book theft has occurred. This result shows that minority of library users are involved in book theft, suggesting that book is an issue in Nigerian libraries. This result highlights the urgency for proactive measures to mitigate the occurrence of book theft.

Research Question 2: What is the level of belief regarding stealing of books among library users?

Table 4.

Do you believe that stealing of books is ethically wrong?

	Frequency	Percentage
No	12	3.9%
Yes	297	96.1%
Total	309	100.0%

Table 4 represents users' ethical belief towards the stealing of books. The result showed that 91.6% (n=297) indicated that book theft is ethically wrong while 3.9% disagreed that book theft is wrong. The substantial percentage of users who believe that stealing of books is ethically wrong suggests a robust societal agreement against this attitude. In spite of the substantial majority, the few participants in support of book theft, could suggest a need for targeted intervention programs to address misconceptions in understanding users' ethical attitudes. The policy implication could suggest the enactment of anti-book-theft policies and crusades within academic libraries in Nigeria.

Research Question 3: How does library users perceive the cost of books as a barrier to accessing them?

Table 5.

Have you ever felt that the cost of books is a barrier to accessing them?

	Frequency	Percentage
No	110	35.6%
Yes	199	64.4%
Total	309	100.0%

The finding of Table 5 shows that 35.6% of respondents have felt that cost of books does not deter them from stealing books, while the majority 64.4% agreed. Since, approximately a third of the library users expressed that cost has hindered their access to books, this could suggest that affordability is a serious issue among a larger portion of library users when it comes to purchasing books. This could have implications for the stealing and missing of books in the library. Understanding that cost of books acts as an impediment could also imply that there are financial challenges facing users with regard to accessing books.

Hypothesis Testing. Two hypotheses were formulated to model the beliefs towards book theft and the cost of books in predicting Bibliokleptomanism among library users using binary logistic regression.

Hypothesis 1: Library users who perceive book theft as ethically wrong are less likely to have stolen books compared to those who do not see it as ethically wrong

Table 6.

Binary logistic model of the relationship between perceptions of book theft and bibliokleptomanism

Do you believe that stealing books is ethically wrong	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I.for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
No	1.214	.605	4.022	1	.045	3.365	1.028	11.018
Constant	-1.550	.153	103.059	1	.000	.212		

Notes:
Reference category: Yes

The Omnibus Test, χ^2(1, N = 309) = 3.633, p = .057, indicated the model's overall goodness of fit.

The -2 Log Likelihood value was 291.832.

Cox & Snell R^2 = .012, Nagelkerke R^2 = .019.

A binary logistic regression was used to model the relationship between the belief towards book theft and the tendency for book theft is shown in Table 6. The result showed that there is a significant relationship between book theft belief and bibliokleptomanism (B = 1.214, p<.05). The odds ratio (Exp(B)) for users with negative belief on book theft, compared to users with positive beliefs was 0.45 (95% CI [1.028, 11.018], p = .005). This suggests that users who believe that stealing books is ethically right had significantly higher odds of stealing books compared to those who had positive belief. The model indicates a good fit in predicting bibliokleptomanism (Omnibus Test: χ^2 = 3.633, df = 1, p = .057), suggesting that the model can be used to predict bibliokleptomanism.

The Cox & Snell R Square and the Nagelkerke R Square values provide an indication of the amount of variation in the dependent variable (bibliokleptomanism) explained by the predictor (users' book theft belief). The Cox & Snell and Nagelkerke R^2 values are .012 and .019, suggesting that users' mindset towards library books explained between 1.2% and 1.9% of variability in book theft. Hence, the null hypothesis which states that, *Library users who perceive book theft as ethically wrong are less likely to have stolen books compared to those who don't see it as ethically wrong* was rejected. This means that Library users who perceive book theft as ethically wrong are less likely to have stolen books compared to those who don't see it as ethically wrong.

Hypothesis 2: The belief that the cost of books is a barrier to access is positively associated with bibliokleptomania among library users

Table 7.

Binary logistic model of relationship between cost of books and bibliokleptomanism

Do you believe that stealing books is ethically wrong	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I.for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
No	-.422	.322	1.712	1	.191	.656	.349	1.234
Constant	-1.349	.175	59.242	1	.000	.259		

Table 6 shows the relationship between the cost of books and the tendency for book theft. According to the result, the cost of books has no significant influence on the tendency to steal books among library users in Nigeria (B = -.422, *p*>.05; 95% CI [.349, 1.234], p = .191). The model indicates a poor fit in predicting bibliokleptomanism (Omnibus Test: χ^2 = 1.799, df = 1, p = .182), implies that the model cannot be used to predict bibliokleptomanism. The Cox & Snell R Square and the Nagelkerke R Square values provide an indication of the amount of variation in the dependent variable (bibliokleptomanism) explained by the predictor (cost of books). The Cox & Snell and Nagelkerke R² values are .006 and .009, suggesting that the cost of books explained between 0.06% and 0.09% of variability in book theft. Hence, the null hypothesis which states that, *the belief that the cost of books is a barrier to access is positively associated with bibliokleptomania among library users* was accepted. By implication, the cost of books is not associated to bibliokleptomanism in Nigerian libraries.

The data analysis suggests that libraries in Nigeria attract a diverse user base, including a mix of genders, age groups, and educational backgrounds. Understanding these demographic characteristics is essential for library administrators and policymakers to customize services and resources effectively. The high percentage of students indicates the library's importance as an educational resource. Libraries can focus on enhancing resources and services that cater to the academic needs of students. The socioeconomic status information highlights the need for libraries to consider the economic backgrounds of their users. Customizing services based on socioeconomic status can contribute to a more inclusive and accessible library environment. The findings can guide library management in resource allocation, collection development, and the design of programs and initiatives that resonate with the predominant characteristics of their user base.

The provided analysis suggests that the majority of responses (81.6%) indicate instances where book theft has not occurred in Nigerian libraries, while 18.4% of responses correspond to situations where book theft has occurred. Here's a breakdown and interpretation of the findings

1. Prevalence of Book Theft. The data indicates that the majority of library users (81.6%) reported that book the ft has not occurred in Nigerian libraries according to their experiences. This is a positive aspect as it suggests that the majority of library users are not engaging in or witnessing instances of book theft.

2. Minority Involvement in Book Theft. The result further reveals that a minority of library users (18.4%) have reported instances of book theft. While this is a relatively small percentage, it still raises concerns as it suggests that there is a subset of library users who are involved in or witness book theft.

3. Implications for Library Management. The analysis implies that book theft is an issue in Nigerian libraries, albeit to a lesser extent. The fact that some users are engaging in book theft or witnessing it suggests the need for proactive measures to address and mitigate the occurrence of such incidents.

4. Urgency for Proactive Measures. The conclusion emphasizes the urgency for proactive measures to address book theft in Nigerian libraries. Proactive measures

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could include the implementation of enhanced security systems, awareness campaigns, educational programs, and stricter library policies to deter and prevent book theft.

5. Need for Further Research. While the data provides valuable insights, it may be beneficial to conduct further research to understand the underlying factors contributing to book theft. This could involve exploring the motivations, demographics, and ethical perceptions of individuals involved in book theft.

6. Community Engagement. The findings underscore the importance of engaging with the library community to raise awareness about the consequences of book theft and to foster a sense of shared responsibility for maintaining the integrity of library resources.

7. Policy Considerations. Library administrators and policymakers may need to review and strengthen existing policies related to book theft. This could involve developing and implementing policies that clearly outline consequences for those found guilty of stealing library materials.

8. Collaboration with Users. Collaborating with library users in designing and implementing preventive measures can enhance the effectiveness of interventions. Engaging with users to understand their perspectives and concerns can contribute to the development of targeted strategies.

The analysis of data provides valuable insights into users' ethical beliefs regarding book theft. Here's an examination of the key findings and the suggested responses

The analysis of the belief regarding the stealing of books among library users, as presented in Table 4, indicates a significant consensus among users that book theft is ethically wrong. The results reveal that 91.6% of the respondents, comprising 297 individuals, believe that stealing books is ethically wrong. This substantial majority suggests a strong societal agreement against engaging in the unethical practice of taking books without authorization.

The findings underscore a positive ethical orientation among the majority of library users, aligning with established societal norms that regard the act of stealing books as morally unacceptable. This collective belief in the ethical wrongness of book theft is a positive aspect for the academic community and library management, as it signifies a shared commitment to respecting intellectual property and promoting a culture of honesty and integrity.

However, the analysis also notes that a small percentage, specifically 3.9% (n=13), expressed disagreement with the belief that book theft is ethically wrong. While this minority opinion is relatively small, it suggests the presence of a subset of library users who may hold misconceptions or differing ethical perspectives on the matter. This minority viewpoint warrants attention and consideration, as it may indicate the need for targeted intervention programs.

The suggestion for targeted intervention programs implies that there could be an opportunity for educational initiatives aimed at addressing misconceptions and fostering a deeper understanding of users' ethical attitudes toward book theft. Such programs might include awareness campaigns, educational workshops, or informational materials that emphasize the importance of ethical conduct in the use of library resources.

Moreover, the policy implication proposed in the analysis involves the enactment of anti-book-theft policies and crusades within academic libraries in Nigeria. This policy recommendation aligns with the proactive approach to address the issue by establishing clear guidelines and consequences for book theft. Implementing anti-book-theft policies can serve as a deterrent and reinforce the ethical norms upheld by the majority of library users.

The analysis provided explores the relationship between the cost of books and its potential impact on users' behavior, particularly their likelihood to steal books. Let's break down the key points

1. Perceived Barrier to Access. The analysis begins by stating that 64.4% of respondents agreed that the cost of books deters them from stealing books, while 35.6% disagreed. This

indicates that a significant majority of respondents see cost as a factor influencing their behavior to steal books in the library.

2. Affordability as a Serious Issue. The interpretation suggests that the 35.6% of respondents who feel that the cost of books does not deter them from stealing books might imply that affordability is a serious issue among a larger portion of library users. In other words, a substantial number of library users face financial challenges when it comes to purchasing books.

3. Implications for Library Theft and Loss. The analysis suggests a potential connection between the perception of book costs as a barrier and the stealing or missing of books in the library. This implies that if users find it challenging to afford books, it may contribute to an increased likelihood of theft or loss within the library.

4. Financial Challenges and Access to Books. Understanding that the cost of books acts as an impediment implies that there are financial challenges facing users in accessing books. This statement goes beyond the act of stealing books and suggests a broader issue related to the financial capacity of library users to access and own books.

5. Broader Implications for Library Services. The overall analysis implies that addressing the affordability issue is crucial not only for preventing book theft but also for ensuring that library users can access and benefit from the library's resources. It suggests that libraries may need to consider strategies to enhance book accessibility, possibly through initiatives that address financial constraints.

The analysis hypothesis provided examines the relationship between library users' beliefs about book theft and their likelihood of engaging in bibliokleptomania (the act of stealing books). Let's break down the key components of the analysis

1. Binary Logistic Regression. The study used binary logistic regression to model the relationship between users' beliefs about book theft and their tendency to engage in book theft. This type of regression is suitable for predicting binary outcomes, such as whether someone engages in a particular behavior or not.

2. Significant Relationship. The result of the binary logistic regression indicates a significant relationship between users' beliefs about book theft and bibliokleptomania. The coefficient (B) is 1.214, and the p-value is less than 0.05 ($p<.05$), suggesting that the relationship is statistically significant.

3. Odds Ratio (Exp(B)). The odds ratio (Exp(B)) for users with negative beliefs on book theft, compared to users with positive beliefs, is 0.45 (95% CI [1.028, 11.018], p = .005). This implies that users who believe that stealing books is ethically right had significantly higher odds of stealing books compared to those with positive beliefs.

4. Model Fit. The model fit is assessed using the Omnibus Test, and it indicates that the model can be used to predict bibliokleptomania (χ^2 = 3.633, df = 1, p = .057). While the p-value is slightly above the conventional significance level of 0.05, the model is still considered to have a reasonable fit.

5. R Squared Values. The Cox & Snell R Square and Nagelkerke R Square values are 0.012 and 0.019, respectively. These values represent the proportion of variability in bibliokleptomania explained by users' beliefs about book theft. In this case, it suggests that users' mindset towards library books explains between 1.2% and 1.9% of the variability in book theft.

6. Rejection of Null Hypothesis. The analysis concludes by stating that the null hypothesis is rejected. The null hypothesis posited that library users who perceive book theft as ethically wrong are less likely to have stolen books compared to those who don't see it as ethically wrong. The rejection of the null hypothesis means that there is evidence to suggest that users who perceive book theft as ethically wrong are indeed less likely to have stolen books.

The final statement reinforces the rejection of the null hypothesis, reiterating that library users who perceive book theft as ethically wrong are less likely to have stolen books compared to those who don't see it as ethically wrong.

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Conclusion. The analysis of demographic characteristics provides valuable insights into the composition of library users in Nigeria, offering a foundation for informed decision-making and strategic planning within the library system. The analysis suggests that while a majority of library users report no instances of book theft, there is still a minority engaged in or witnessing such activities. The call for proactive measures underscores the importance of addressing this issue promptly to safeguard library resources and maintain a positive and secure environment for all users.

The analysis indicates a high level of consensus among library users in Nigeria that stealing books is ethically wrong. The majority opinion supports a positive ethical culture within the academic community. However, the presence of a minority with differing views suggests the potential benefit of targeted intervention programs, and the proposed policy implication underscores the importance of instituting measures to prevent and address book theft within academic library settings.

The analysis highlights the connection between the perceived cost of books, financial challenges faced by library users, and the potential impact on library services, particularly in terms of book theft and missing books. It suggests that a significant portion of users may be deterred from accessing books due to cost, and this insight has broader implications for how libraries can enhance accessibility and address the financial constraints faced by their user community.

The analysis provides statistical evidence supporting the idea that users' beliefs about the ethicality of book theft are associated with their likelihood of engaging in biblikleptomania. The rejection of the null hypothesis implies that there is a meaningful relationship between these variables in the context of the study.

Based on the findings, here are some recommendations and considerations: 1. *Implement Proactive Security Measures*: Given the minority of users engaged in or witnessing book theft, it is crucial to implement proactive security measures within library settings. This may include enhancing surveillance systems, improving security protocols, and raising awareness about the consequences of book theft. 2. *Targeted Intervention Programs:* Develop targeted intervention programs to address the minority of users with differing views on the ethicality of book theft. Educational initiatives, workshops, and awareness campaigns can help promote a positive ethical culture within the academic community. 3. *Policy Implementation:*

Establish and enforce policies to prevent and address book theft within academic library settings. Clearly communicate the consequences of such actions and ensure that users are aware of the ethical standards expected in the library. 4. *Financial Accessibility*: Recognize the connection between the perceived cost of books, financial challenges faced by library users, and the potential impact on library services. Explore options for reducing financial barriers, such as expanding digital collections, offering subsidies for certain materials, or implementing interlibrary loan programs to enhance access. 5. *Collaboration with Stakeholders*: Collaborate with educational institutions, publishers, and other stakeholders to explore ways of making books more affordable. Negotiate for bulk purchases, explore open-access resources, and advocate for policies that support affordable access to educational materials. 6. *Promote Ethical Culture:* Continue promoting a positive ethical culture within the academic community. Emphasize the importance of academic integrity, respect for intellectual property, and responsible use of library resources. 7. *Data-Driven Decision-Making:* Continue using statistical evidence and data analysis to inform decision-making processes. Regularly assess the effectiveness of implemented interventions and policies through ongoing analysis of user behavior and feedback. 8. *Explore Alternative Access Models:* Investigate alternative access models, such as collaborative purchasing programs, digital resource sharing, and partnerships with other libraries. These models can help mitigate the financial challenges faced by users while ensuring the availability of diverse resources.

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БІБЛІОКЛЕПТОМАНІЯ СЕРЕД КОРИСТУВАЧІВ БІБЛІОТЕК: ЯК ЗАПОБІГТИ КНИЖКОВИМ КРАДІЖКАМ

Мета статті полягала в дослідженні переконань та етичних уявлень про крадіжку книг як провісників бібліоклептоманії серед користувачів бібліотек у Нігерії. **Методи дослідження.** Для здійснення дослідження було використано методи опитування, анкетування, аналізу та синтезу. **Наукова новизна.** Анкетування кореляційного типу було використано для дослідження громадян – користувачів бібліотек нігерійських університетів. Триста шістнадцять (316) копій анкети було випадковим чином роздано учасникам, які користуються бібліотекою. **Висновки** показують, що користувачі бібліотек вважають неправильним брати бібліотечні книги без дозволу, а більшість респондентів також вважають, що вартість книг була перешкодою для доступу до книг. Аналіз свідчить про високий рівень консенсусу серед користувачів бібліотек у Нігерії щодо того, що крадіжка книг є етично неправильною. Думка більшості підтримує позитивну етичну культуру в академічній спільноті. Проте наявність меншості з іншими поглядами свідчить про потенційну користь цільових програм втручання, а запропоновані наслідки для політики підкреслюють важливість упровадження заходів для запобігання та вирішення проблеми крадіжки книг у бібліотеках закладів освіти. Аналіз підкреслює зв'язок між передбачуваною вартістю книг, фінансовими проблемами, з якими стикаються користувачі бібліотеки, і потенційним впливом на бібліотечні послуги, зокрема з точки зору крадіжки книг і зникнення книг. Це свідчить про те, що значна частина користувачів може бути позбавлена доступу до книг через вартість, і це розуміння має ширші наслідки для того, як бібліотеки можуть покращити доступність і вирішити фінансові обмеження, з якими стикається спільнота користувачів.

К л ю ч о в і с л о в а: карадіжки книг, сприйняття крадіжок книг, бібліотечні фонди, каористувачі бібліотеки, бібліоклептоманія.

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