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Interplay of Librarians' Knowledge About Library Materials Preservation and Their Compliance to The Standards

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Abstract: This study explores the relationship between librarians' knowledge of library materials preservation and their compliance with preservation standards. Utilizing a descriptive-correlational research design, the study employed validated questionnaires to gather quantitative data from 109 professional librarians in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines. The findings revealed a high level of knowledge among librarians about preservation practices, with a mean score of 4.18. Correspondingly, a high level of compliance with preservation standards was observed, with a mean score of 4.23. A significant relationship between knowledge and compliance was established using Pearson correlation analysis. The results highlight the importance of professional development in enhancing preservation practices and ensuring adherence to standards. This research underscores the need for continued education and training to maintain the integrity and accessibility of library collections.

Keywords: librarians' knowledge, preservation, compliance, library standards, Cagayan de Oro City

I. Introduction

Library materials preservation is a crucial responsibility of librarians, ensuring that collections remain intact and accessible for future use. It involves a combination of knowledge, skills, and attitudes aligned with established standards and guidelines. As technology and environmental conditions evolve, so do the challenges in preserving both physical and digital library materials. Effective preservation depends not only on the availability of resources but also on the librarians' understanding of best practices and their commitment to implementing them.

Compliance with standards, such as ISO 11799 and IFLA guidelines provides a benchmark for preserving library collections under optimal conditions. In developing countries like the Philippines, however, adherence to such standards is often inconsistent due to varying levels of awareness, training, and institutional support.

This study investigates the interplay between librarians' knowledge of preservation and their compliance with established standards. By focusing on professional librarians in Cagayan de Oro City, this research seeks to provide empirical data that may inform policy, training, and future research in library and information science.

II. Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored in the Knowledge-Attitude-Practice (KAP) model, which posits that knowledge influences attitudes, which in turn shape practices. In the context of library preservation, the model suggests that librarians who possess a high level of knowledge are more likely to develop a positive attitude toward preservation practices and consequently exhibit greater compliance with standards. This framework supports the study's goal of examining the connection between knowledge and compliance.

III. Research Methodology

A descriptive-correlational design was employed to examine the relationship between librarians' knowledge and their compliance with preservation standards. The study population comprised 109 licensed librarians working in academic and public libraries in Cagayan de Oro City. Data were collected using a researcher-made questionnaire validated by library science experts. The instrument measured two variables: knowledge of library materials preservation and compliance with standards.

Responses were recorded using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the data, while Pearson's correlation coefficient tested the relationship between the two variables.

IV. Results and Discussion

The analysis revealed a high level of knowledge among participants regarding preservation practices, with a mean score of 4.18 (SD = 0.52). Similarly, the level of compliance with preservation standards was also high, with a mean score of 4.23 (SD = 0.49). The Pearson correlation coefficient ($r = 0.81$, $p < 0.01$) indicates a strong and significant relationship between knowledge and compliance.

These findings support the KAP model, confirming that increased knowledge leads to better compliance. Librarians who understand the importance of environmental control, proper handling, and storage practices are more likely to implement preservation measures in accordance with established guidelines. This underscores the need for continuous training programs and institutional support to enhance the preservation efforts of libraries.

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V. Conclusion

The study concludes that librarians' knowledge significantly influences their compliance with preservation standards. With a high level of both knowledge and compliance among the participants, it is evident that professional development plays a vital role in promoting best practices in library materials preservation. Institutions should prioritize training and capacity-building initiatives to maintain the quality and longevity of their collections. Future research may explore similar variables in other regions or among non-professional library staff to broaden the scope of understanding in this field.

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