

Evaluating Collection Security Practices Against Loss and Damage in University Libraries

Dr. Pinky Raghuwanshi¹, Meenakshi Dayal²

¹Rabindranath Tagore University Bhopal, India

²Scope Global Skill University Bhopal, India

Abstract

University libraries face ongoing challenges in safeguarding their physical collections from loss, theft, and damage. Books, especially paper-based materials, are vulnerable to tearing, misplacement, or intentional removal, which can undermine access to knowledge and disrupt academic continuity. This study assesses the current implementation of collection security measures in university libraries, focusing on how effectively policies, infrastructure, and staff practices protect materials. Through a combination of field observation, staff interviews, and document analysis, the research identifies key strengths and gaps in existing systems. Findings suggest that while many libraries have basic safeguards in place, enforcement and monitoring vary significantly. Recommendations are offered to enhance protection strategies, ensure long-term preservation, and promote a culture of accountability among library users and staff alike.

Keywords: Collection Security, University Libraries, Library Materials, Physical Collections, Preservation Strategies, Library Management, User Accountability, Library Policy Implementation, Theft Prevention, Book Loss and Damage