

**LOGISTIC REGRESSION MODELLING OF DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AND  
BIBLIOMANIA AMONG LIBRARY USERS IN NIGERIA**

**MODELADO DE REGRESIÓN LOGÍSTICA DE FACTORES DEMOGRÁFICOS Y  
BIBLIOMANÍA ENTRE USUARIOS DE BIBLIOTECAS EN NIGERIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

**Objective.** This study investigates the logistic regression modelling of demographic factors and bibliokleptomanism o bilbiomania among library users in Nigeria. **Design/Methodology/Approach.** This research was guided by positivist paradigm, therefore questionnaires were used as an instrument of data collection. Four hypotheses were formulated and tested with binary logistic regression model to ascertain the factors that predict bibliomania (tendency to steal books) among library users. **Results/Discussion.** The findings of the study revealed that the majority of library users in Nigeria report a low incidence of book theft. This study provides valuable insights for library administrators and policymakers to develop effective strategies for book theft prevention. The rejection of the null hypothesis indicates a significant relationship between respondents' age and the likelihood of stealing books. Younger individuals (ages 15-24 years) are less likely to engage in book theft compared to older users. Furthermore, the research revealed that individuals

with lower educational levels are less likely to steal books in the library. In contrast, the study suggests that socioeconomic status alone may not be a significant predictor of bibliomania in Nigerian libraries. **Conclusions.** The research provide valuable guidance for library administrators and policymakers seeking to address the issue of book theft effectively. By understanding the demographic factors associated with this behaviour, libraries can tailor their prevention efforts to target high-risk groups while simultaneously implementing broader measures to safeguard their collections and promote a culture of respect for intellectual property within the community. **Originality/Value.** The research presents valuable insights into the prevalence, predictors, and implications of book theft in Nigerian libraries, with implications for both practice and future research in the field of library science.

**KEYWORDS:** Bibliokleptomania, bibliomania, book stealing, library, compulsive stealing, information resources.

## RESUMEN

**Objetivo.** Este estudio investiga el modelado de regresión logística de factores demográficos y bibliocleptomanismo o bibliomanía entre usuarios de bibliotecas en Nigeria. **Diseño/ Metodología/ Enfoque.** Esta investigación estuvo guiada por el paradigma positivista, por lo que se utilizaron cuestionarios como instrumento de recolección de datos. Se formularon y probaron cuatro hipótesis con un modelo de regresión logística binaria para determinar los factores que predicen la bibliomanía (tendencia a robar libros) entre los usuarios de la biblioteca. **Resultados/ Discusión.** Los hallazgos del estudio revelaron que la mayoría de los usuarios de bibliotecas en Nigeria reportan una baja incidencia de robo de libros. Este estudio proporciona información valiosa para que los administradores de bibliotecas y los formuladores de políticas desarrollen estrategias efectivas para la prevención del robo de libros. El rechazo de la hipótesis nula indica una relación significativa entre la edad de los encuestados y la probabilidad de robar libros. Las personas más jóvenes (entre 15 y 24 años) tienen menos probabilidades de robar libros en comparación con los usuarios mayores. Además, la investigación reveló que las personas con niveles educativos más bajos tienen menos probabilidades de robar libros en la biblioteca. Por el contrario, el estudio sugiere que el nivel socioeconómico por sí solo puede no ser un predictor significativo de la bibliomanía en las bibliotecas nigerianas. **Conclusiones.** La investigación proporciona una valiosa orientación para los administradores de bibliotecas y los encargados de formular políticas que buscan abordar el problema del robo de libros de manera efectiva. Al comprender los factores demográficos asociados con este comportamiento, las bibliotecas pueden adaptar sus esfuerzos de prevención para dirigirse a grupos de alto riesgo y, al mismo tiempo, implementar medidas más amplias para salvaguardar sus colecciones y promover una cultura de respeto por la propiedad intelectual dentro de la comunidad. **Originalidad/ Valor.** La investigación presenta información valiosa sobre la prevalencia, los predictores y las implicaciones del robo de libros en las bibliotecas nigerianas, con implicaciones tanto para la práctica como para la investigación futura en el campo de la biblioteconomía. **PALABRAS CLAVE:** Bibliocleptomanía, bibliomanía, robo de libros, biblioteca, robo compulsivo, recursos de información.

## Introduction and background to the Study

Bibliokleptomania is a term conceived to label the act of compulsive stealing of books, which has become a bewildering and intriguing occurrence among library users. Libraries are considered as sanctuaries of knowledge and havens for book enthusiasts. In spite of this, the environment is not immune to the abnormal attraction of bibliokleptomania (Knuttsen, 2014).

Bibliokleptomania is not a contemporary predicament. Instances exist of book theft for as long as books exist (Thompson, 1944). However, the stimuli behind this conduct is diverse and difficult to pinpoint. Some bibliokleptomaniacs steal books just for the excitement of the act, the adrenaline rush connected to the illegal act. Some other people may be driven by a compulsive and uncontrollable craving to possess and hoard books, obsessed by a sense of possession over having access to knowledge (Abbott, 2001). The act of stealing books, maybe considered a self-seeking form of theft, with a long history dated back to the commencement of libraries operation, when books were scarce and not readily available to increase the temptation (Alana, 2017). Considering the mindset and psychology behind bibliokleptomania is essential in addressing and stopping such behavior because of the implication for loss of information resources. Some individuals may have

challenges relating to kleptomania, which is a mental health disorder regarded as the powerlessness to repel the desire to steal books (Pobochoa, 2012).

Libraries are regarded as an arena fostering intellectual and scholarly development and sharing of knowledge (Marcinkus, 2012). Bibliokleptomania, on the other hand, unsettles the harmonious operation of these institutions. Recurrent thefts of library resources can lead to huge financial losses, disturbing the capacity to acquire new materials and meet the information need of the community they serve (Vernay, 2021). Additionally, the loss of rare, uncommon or unique books can lead to irreplaceable and irreversible consequences for the cultural and historical worth of a library's collection (Jimoh, 2014).

As a result of the inability of libraries not meeting their information needs, it is imperative to take proactive measures to restrain the problem of bibliokleptomania through enhanced security systems. Surveillance cameras and vigilant staff training are among the strategies employed to deter likely thieves (Ratcliffe, 2019). This measure would help to strike a balance between maintaining open and welcoming atmosphere of libraries at the same time safeguarding invaluable collections (Wilkie, 2011).

While it is important to secure library resources, it is of equal importance for the library authority to address the underlying issues leading to bibliokleptomania in which libraries should collaborate with mental health expert to create awareness, make available relevant support, and assist with resources to deal with library users struggling with compulsive stealing behaviors (Higgins, 2015).

studies have discovered various aspects of bibliokleptomania, exposing its occurrence, fundamental psychological mechanisms, and possible interventions. For instance, Smith et al. (2018) showed a cross-sectional study in the US, identifying age and socioeconomic status as substantial predictors of bibliokleptomania. In the same vein, Wang and Chen (2020) observed a sample in China and established that gender and educational level to be vital determinants.

Whereas these studies offer insights, the applicability of their discoveries to the Nigerian context remains unclear owing to cultural, economic, and social differences. Consequently, this research seeks to make meaningful contribution to the current and extant literature by concentrating on the Nigerian population and scrutinising how factors such as age, gender, education level, and socioeconomic status affect bibliokleptomania tendencies.

By using logistic regression analysis, this research aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the demographic correlates of bibliomania among library users in Nigeria. The findings will not only enrich the scholarly discourse on bibliokleptomania but also inform library management strategies and public policies aimed at curbing this behavior.

## **Statement of the Problem**

Bibliokleptomania does not only have fallouts in financial losses for libraries that are constantly battling with lean budgetary allocation but also disrupts the access to information by users which comes with negative consequences to knowledge acquisition and lead to poor performance by the students. As challenging as this issue may be, libraries must rise up to the occasion to enhance the experience for their patrons and protect their valuable resources.

Bibliokleptomania is the compulsive urge to steal books. This predicament comes with significant challenge to the integrity of library collections and the overall user experience. This has been established by (Higgins, 2015, Jimoh, 2014, Vernay, 2021). Regardless of being acknowledged as a prevailing issue, there is however a drought or scarcity of widespread studies and research in exploring the multidimensional aspects of bibliokleptomania.

Since bibliokleptomania is considered a compulsive desire to steal books, this has placed librarians in a dilemma to ascertain the causes of stealing whether it is psychological, practical, or ethical factors. Tackling

the fundamental psychological issues requires expertise that goes beyond the characteristic responsibilities of librarians, experts in the field of psychology and psychiatry are better suited to deal with this challenge.

Finally, Libraries often complain of limited financial resources, making it an uphill task to invest up-to-date security architecture or to implement wide-range security measures like advanced surveillance systems to curb the incidences of book theft. This problem is compounded as a result of low budget allocation to education in Nigeria. For instance, UNESCO's recommendation for the educational sector is between 15 – 20 per cent but the 2024 budget proposal stands at less than seven per cent but only a fraction of the financial commitment will go to the library (Usman, 2023).

### **Significance of the Study**

The significance of this research is anchored on the impact and relevance in terms of the potential contributions of the study to the academic, practical, and broader societal context. This study established the value and the positive impact that dealing with the challenges of bibliokleptomania will bring to society. This study has established the gap in knowledge in the area of bibliokleptomania based on the fact that the subject matter remains somewhat unexplored within the academic landscape of library and information science. Evidently the available literature remains scarce, and there is a remarkable lack of comprehensive research that addresses the multifaceted aspects of this issue. Therefore, the inadequate information accessible highlights the urgency for scholars to initiate in-depth investigations through collaboration with scholars in other fields like psychology, psychiatry and counselling to contribute to the development of a robust knowledge base.

This research is significant because it recommended programs which include information sessions, workshops, and awareness campaigns highlighting the consequences of book theft and the importance of ethical library use. Allied to this, there should be periodical update of surveillance systems, security checks, and access control measures to ensure a safe library environment without compromising rights of individuals. Policy must be enforced to ensure regular inventory checks, Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, and conspicuously located surveillance equipment that can discourage theft and aid in the timely identification of missing items. Digital tracking technologies should be acquired in libraries to track stolen materials.

Finally, this research is essential for libraries, researchers, and policymakers for them to gain insights into the prevalence, causes, and consequences of bibliokleptomania. Findings from this research contributed to the development of evidence-based strategies for preventing book theft, safeguarding library collections, and fostering a conducive environment for knowledge dissemination.

### **Purpose of the study**

This study is investigating the logistic regression, modelling of demographic factors, and bibliomania among library users in Nigeria. The research questions of the study are:

#### **Research questions:**

Research Question 1: To what extent is book theft prevalent among library users in Nigeria?

Research Question 2: What is the socio-demographic profile (age, gender, educational qualification, occupation and socio-economic status) of library users in Nigeria?

#### **Hypotheses:**

1. There is a significant relationship between respondents' age and their likelihood of stealing a book, with younger individuals being more likely to engage in book theft.

2. Educational level is associated with bibliomania, where individuals with lower levels of education are more likely to have stolen books.
3. There is a significant relationship between respondents' socioeconomic status and bibliomania, with individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds being more likely to steal books.
4. There is a significant relationship between respondents' gender and bibliomania, with males being more likely to steal books.

## METHODOLOGY

This research was guided by positivist paradigm, rooted in the philosophical foundation that there is an objective reality that can be observed, measured, and studied systematically, hence, questionnaires was used as an instrument of data collection, this research aligns with the quantitative research approach, which aims to gather numerical data that can be analyzed statistically to draw objective conclusions (Rehman & Alharthi, 2016).

The study was aimed at examining the relationship between demographic factors and bibliomania among library users in Nigeria. Three hundred and sixteen (316) copies of questionnaires were returned with useful responses, this instrument was administered among university students who utilize the library. The sample size of 316 may be statistically significant, especially since the population of participants has homogenous characteristic related to the research question. Another justification for the sample size is anchored on the aims of the research which is to explore trends, gain insights, or establish associations rather than making precise population estimates, in situation like this, a smaller sample is sufficient.

This research presents the analysis of the data collected from the field, the first part presents the analyses of the research questions while the second part presented the testing of the research hypotheses. Hypotheses were tested in this research to provide a clear direction for the research by formulating specific predictions or expectations about the relationships between variables. They help researchers focus on specific aspects of the study and guide the research process towards testing specific ideas (Barroga & Matanguihan, 2022).

### Questionnaire Response Rate

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

**Table 4.1:** Questionnaire Response Rate

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

A response rate of 97.8% indicates a strong engagement from the study participants. This enhances the representativeness of the sample and boosts the reliability of the findings. With this high response rate, the risk of non-response bias is reduced significantly. Non-response bias occurs when the respondents differ systematically from non-respondents, potentially affecting the generalizability of the results.

### 4.2. Research Questions

Data collected on the variables were analyzed with descriptive statistics. This was done to describe the dependent variable (Bibliomania) and explanatory variables (library users' demography).

Research Question 1: To what extent is book theft prevalent among library users in Nigeria?

**Table 3.** Have you taken a book without permission before?

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
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 theft is less prevalent in Nigerian libraries. This result highlights the urgency for proactive measures to mitigate the occurrence of book theft.

Research Question 2: What is the socio-demographic profile (age, gender, educational qualification, occupation and socio-economic status) of library users in Nigeria?

**Table 4.3:** Descriptive Statistics for Independent Variables (Socio-Demography)

<b>Explanatory Variables</b>		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	155	50.2
	Female	154	49.8
	Total	309	100.0
<b>Age</b>	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	
<b>Educational qualification</b>	SSCE	48	15.5
	First degree	211	68.3
	Masters	38	12.3
	PhD	12	3.9
	Total	309	100.0
<b>Occupation</b>	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
<b>Socio-economic status (SES)</b>	Low	31	10.0
	Medium	254	82.2
	High	24	7.8
	Total	309	100.0

The analysis of the demographic characteristics of the participants in Table 4.2 provided insights into the composition of library users in Nigeria 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 libraries in

Nigeria. The age distribution of the participants indicates that the majority, constituting 69.9%, were with 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 and 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 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 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.

### Hypothesis Testing

Four hypotheses were formulated and tested with binary logistic regression model to ascertain the factors that predict Bibliomania (tendency to steal books) among library users. Several studies have shown that behavioural issues are linked to demographic factors. These factors were taken into account to determine their impact on Bibliomania. 309 samples were drawn through convenience sampling from the population of library users in Nigeria. The logistic regression binary response model is chosen [No (1)/ Yes (0)] for book theft, and five important demographic factors that might affect Bibliokleptomania are chosen. The binary logistic regression model allowed the researcher to identify demographic characteristics that are indicative of users who are likely to engage in stealing of books in the library, and use those characteristics to enact policies that could prevent book theft in libraries.

Hypothesis 1: There is a significant relationship between respondents' gender and bibliomania, with males being more likely to steal books.

**Table 4.4:** Binary logistic model of relationship between gender and bibliomania

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I. for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
Male users	.121	.294	.170	1	.680	1.129	.635	2.007
Constant	-1.548	.212	53.381	1	.000	.213		

**Notes:**

Reference category: Females

The Omnibus Test,  $\chi^2(1, N = 309) = 0.680, p = .680$ , indicated the model's overall goodness of fit.

The -2 Log Likelihood value was 295.294.

Cox & Snell  $R^2 = .001$ , Nagelkerke  $R^2 = .001$ .

The result of hypothesis one is presented in Table 4.4. The result showed that, the coefficient ( $B = 0.121, p >.05$ ) was not statistically significant at a probability level of 5%. Hence, that there is no significant relationship between respondents' gender and bibliomania. Based on this result, the null hypothesis was rejected. The constant term ( $-1.548, p <.05$ ) was statistically significant, showing that when gender is held constant, the odds of book theft decrease by a factor of 0.213. This result implies that there is no significant relationship between gender and the tendency to steal books among users. The overall model demonstrated a low predictive capability based on Cox & Snell  $R^2 (.001)$  and Nagelkerke  $R^2$  values (.001). This result shows that gender does not predict bibliomania among library users.

Hypothesis 2: There is a significant relationship between respondents' age and their likelihood of stealing a book, with younger individuals being more likely to engage in book theft.

**Table 4.5:** Binary logistic model of relationship between age and bibliomania

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I.for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
Young users	-.840	.302	7.745	1	.005	.432	.239	.780
Constant	-.947	.231	16.784	1	.000	.388		

**Notes:**

Reference category: Older users

The Omnibus Test,  $\chi^2 (1, N = 309) = 7.570, p = .006$ , indicated the model's overall goodness of fit.

The -2 Log Likelihood value was 287.895.

Cox & Snell  $R^2 = .024$ , Nagelkerke  $R^2 = .039$ .

A binary logistic regression of the relationship between age categories (young and older users) and the tendency for book theft is shown in Table 4.5. The result showed that there is a significant relationship between age and bibliomania ( $B = -0.840, p < .05$ ). The odds ratio (Exp(B)) for young users, compared to older users was 0.432 (95% CI [0.239, 0.780],  $p = .005$ ) suggests that, young users had significantly lower odds of stealing books compared to older users. In other words, younger users (ages 15-24 years) are less likely to engage in the stealing of books compared to older users in the library. The model indicates a good fit in predicting bibliomania (Omnibus Test:  $\chi^2 = 7.570, df = 1, p = .006$ ), suggesting that the model can be used to predict bibliomania.

The Cox & Snell R Square and the Nagelkerke R Square values provide an indication of the amount of variation in the dependent variable (bibliomania) explained by the predictor (users' age). The Cox & Snell and Nagelkerke  $R^2$  values are .024 and .039, suggesting that age explained between 2.4% and 3.9% of variability in book theft. Hence, the null hypothesis which states that, *there is a significant relationship between respondents' age and their likelihood of stealing a book, with younger individuals being more likely to engage in book theft* was rejected. This means that the converse is true. In a nutshell, library age predicts the tendency to steal books in the library, with the influence stemming from older users.

Hypothesis 3: Educational level is associated with bibliomania, where individuals with lower levels of education are more likely to have stolen books.

**Table 4.6:** Binary logistic model of relationship between educational level and bibliomania

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I.for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
Lower education	-.795	.352	5.110	1	.024	.452	.227	.900
Constant	-.847	.309	7.538	1	.006	.429		

**Notes:**

Reference category: Higher educational status (MSc and PhD)

The Omnibus Test,  $\chi^2 (1, N = 309) = -.797, p = .024$ , indicated the model's overall goodness of fit.

The -2 Log Likelihood value was 290.684.

Cox & Snell  $R^2 = .015$ , Nagelkerke  $R^2 = .025$ .

The result of hypothesis three is shown in Table 4.6. The result showed that there is a significant association between educational status and tendency to steal books in the library ( $B = -0.795, p < .05$ ). The odds ratio (Exp(B)) for lower educational status (SSCE and BSc), compared to higher educational status (M.Sc and PhD)



was 0.52 (95% CI [0.227, 0.900],  $p = .024$ ) suggesting that, users who had lower educational status were less likely to steal books compared to those with higher educational status. The model fit was good (Omnibus Test:  $\chi^2 = -0.797$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p = .024$ ), indicating support for the model. The Cox & Snell and Nagelkerke  $R^2$  values are .015 and .025, suggesting that educational status explained between 1.5% and 2.5% of variability in book theft. Therefore, the null hypothesis: *educational level is associated with bibliomania, where individuals with lower levels of education are more likely to have stolen books* was rejected. This result indicates the opposite. By implication, educational status predicts the likelihood of engaging in book theft among library users.

Hypothesis 4: There is a significant relationship between respondents' socioeconomic status (SES) and bibliomania, with individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds being more likely to steal books.

**Table 4.7:** Binary logistic model of relationship between socioeconomic status (SES) and bibliomania

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I. for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
High SES			2.875	2	.238			
Low SES	1.052	.733	2.059	1	.151	2.864	.681	12.050
Medium SES	.410	.639	.413	1	.521	1.507	.431	5.270
Constant	-1.946	.617	9.940	1	.002	.143		

**Notes:**

Reference category: High SES

The Omnibus Test,  $\chi^2 (1, N = 309) = -2,758$ ,  $p = .252$ , indicated the model's overall goodness of fit.

The -2 Log Likelihood value was 292.707.

Cox & Snell  $R^2 = .009$ , Nagelkerke  $R^2 = .014$ .

A binary logistic regression of the relationship between age categories (young and older users) and the tendency for book theft is shown in Table 4.7. The result showed no association between SES and bibliomania (Omnibus Test,  $\chi^2 (1, N = 309) = -2,758$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). The odds ratio (Exp(B)) for Low SES, compared to older users was 2.864 (95% CI [0.681, 12.050],  $p = .151$ ) suggesting that, users with Low SES are 2.864 times more likely to steal books compared to users in the High SES. However, this result is not significant. More so, the odds ratio (Exp(B)) for Medium SES, compared to older users was 1.507 (95% CI [0.431, 5.270],  $p = .521$ ) indicating that, the odd of stealing books is 5.270 times higher among users with Medium SES. Nevertheless, this result is not significant. The model indicates a good fit in predicting bibliomania (Omnibus Test:  $\chi^2 = -2.758$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $p = .25$ ), suggesting that SES can be used to predict bibliomania among library users.

The Cox & Snell R Square and the Nagelkerke R Square values provide an indication of the amount of variation in the dependent variable (bibliomania) explained by the predictor (SES). The Cox & Snell and Nagelkerke  $R^2$  values are .0009 and .014, indicating that SES explained between 0.09% and 1.4% of variability in book theft. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that, *there is a significant relationship between respondents' socioeconomic status (SES) and bibliomania, with individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds being more likely to steal books* was rejected. This means that socioeconomic status is unconnected to bibliomania in Nigerian libraries.

**DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY.**

The relatively low proportion of respondents reporting book theft occurrences may be interpreted in several ways. It could imply that the majority of library users adhere to ethical standards and do not engage in book theft. Alternatively, it may also suggest that book theft is underreported, and the actual occurrences might be higher than indicated by the respondents.

The finding underscores the importance of implementing proactive measures to mitigate the occurrence of book theft in Nigerian libraries. Despite the relatively low reported incidence, recognizing the need for preventive strategies is crucial for maintaining the integrity of library collections and ensuring a conducive environment for all users.

**Possible proactive measures may include:**

1. Enhanced Security Measures: Implementing improved security systems such as surveillance cameras, electronic book tagging, and increased staff presence to deter potential book thieves.
2. User Education Programs: Conducting awareness campaigns and educational programs to inform library users about the consequences of book theft and the importance of respecting shared resources.
3. Community Engagement: Fostering a sense of community responsibility by encouraging users to report suspicious activities and promoting a culture of shared respect for library materials.
4. Inventory Management: Regularly auditing and updating library inventories to identify missing items promptly and address potential cases of book theft.

The analysis of the socio-demographic profile of library users in Nigeria, as presented in Table 4.3, provides valuable insights into the composition and characteristics of the study participants. The nearly equal distribution between male and female library users suggests a relatively balanced representation, indicating that both genders are actively utilizing library services in Nigeria. The age distribution reveals a significant concentration (69.9%) within the 15-25 years age group, indicating a predominantly young library user population. This suggests that libraries in Nigeria are frequented by a substantial number of young individuals, possibly students and young professionals. The data highlights that a majority of library users have attained at least a first degree (68.3%), reinforcing the importance of higher education in the library user population. This information is crucial for tailoring library resources and services to meet the educational needs of the majority of users. The dominance of students (66.0%) as library users aligns with the youth-centric age distribution, emphasizing the educational role of libraries. Additionally, the diversity in occupations suggests that libraries cater to a wide range of professionals and individuals with different needs. The majority of library users fall within the medium of socio-economic status, highlighting the importance of considering varying economic backgrounds when designing library services. Understanding the socio-economic distribution helps in tailoring services to meet the diverse needs of users.

The result of the first hypothesis suggests that there is no significant relationship between respondents' gender and bibliomania at the 5% significance level. The p-value for the coefficient of male users is greater than 0.05, leading to the acceptance of the null hypothesis. This means that there is insufficient evidence to conclude that the likelihood of stealing books differs significantly between males and females. The significant constant term indicates that, when gender is held constant, the odds of book theft decrease by a factor of 0.213. However, this should be interpreted cautiously as the overall model's predictive capability is low, with both Cox & Snell  $R^2$  and Nagelkerke  $R^2$  values being very close to zero.

The analysis provides a clear and thorough examination of the relationship between respondents' age and the likelihood of engaging in book theft (bibliomania). The findings suggest that age is a predictor of the tendency to steal books in the library, with older users having a more significant influence. This insight has practical implications for developing targeted interventions or security measures to address book theft, especially among older library users. Overall, the analysis is well-structured, and the presentation of results is clear and informative. The inclusion of statistical significance, odds ratios, and model fit statistics add depth to the interpretation of the relationship between age and bibliomania in the library setting.

The practical implication of this result is that educational status can serve as a predictor of the likelihood of engaging in book theft among library users. Libraries could potentially tailor preventive measures or educational campaigns based on users' educational backgrounds.

Finally, the provided analysis presents a binary logistic regression model investigating the relationship between respondents' socioeconomic status (SES) and bibliomania, particularly exploring whether individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are more likely to steal books. The analysis concludes that there is no

significant relationship between respondents' socioeconomic status (SES) and bibliomania in Nigerian libraries. The odds ratios for Low SES and Medium SES, although indicating increased likelihood, are not statistically significant ( $p > 0.05$ ). The Cox & Snell and Nagelkerke R Square values suggest that SES explains only a small percentage of variability in book theft.

#### **Further Considerations:**

1. The non-significant p-values indicate that the observed associations are likely due to chance, emphasizing the importance of caution in drawing definitive conclusions.
2. The interpretation of odds ratios should consider the confidence intervals, which, in this case, include 1, signifying non-significance.
3. External factors and contextual nuances specific to Nigerian libraries may influence the observed relationships.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, while the majority of library users in Nigeria report a lack of book theft occurrences, the need for proactive measures is highlighted to prevent potential incidents and maintain the integrity of library resources. This study provides valuable insights for library administrators and policymakers to develop and implement effective strategies for the prevention of book theft in Nigerian libraries. The socio-demographic profile analysis underscores the diverse nature of library users in Nigeria, with a significant focus on young individuals pursuing higher education. This information is valuable for libraries to customize their services, resources, and outreach efforts to better meet the needs of their user base, fostering inclusivity and relevance within the community.

Based on the analysis, the research does not find support for the hypothesis that gender significantly predicts bibliomania among library users. The low model predictive capability suggests that other factors not included in the model might influence the tendency to steal books. Researchers may consider exploring additional variables or refining the research design to improve the model's explanatory power.

The rejection of the null hypothesis supports the assertion that there is a significant relationship between respondents' age and their likelihood of stealing a book. Specifically, younger individuals (ages 15-24 years) are less likely to engage in bibliomania compared to older users.

The findings from the logistic regression analysis provide support for the idea that educational level is associated with bibliomania, with individuals having lower educational levels showing a reduced likelihood of stealing books in the library. This outcome contributes valuable insights for both academic research and practical implications in the context of library management and user behavior.

Finally, the findings suggest that socioeconomic status alone may not be a significant predictor of bibliomania in Nigerian libraries, urging further exploration of additional factors that could contribute to book theft behaviors.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Given the occurrence of book theft in 18.4% of cases, it is advisable to strengthen security measures within Nigerian libraries. This may include implementing surveillance systems, enhancing access control, and improving inventory management to deter potential thieves.

Develop and implement user awareness programs to educate library patrons about the consequences of book theft and the importance of respecting library resources. This can include signage, informational materials, and outreach campaigns to promote a sense of responsibility among users.

Conduct regular inventory audits to track missing books and identify potential instances of theft. This proactive measure can help libraries identify trends and take corrective actions before the problem escalates.

Review existing library policies related to security and theft prevention. Ensure that these policies are up-to-date, clearly communicated to users, and reflect best practices for deterring and handling book theft incidents.

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