

External issues affecting Libraries: an interaction in International and Comparative Librarianship

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Abstract. Natural disasters, wars, economic and political crisis may cause damage to society and also to libraries. Through approach of International and Comparative Librarianship, this qualitative research answers: which surveillances librarians should consider to make libraries more free as possible from negative external causes? The main objective was to analyse major external causes affecting libraries worldwide. It explains about awareness factors focused on international professional cooperation and aid in Librarianship. Based on international knowledge in the motivation to meet the losses by cooperation and aid, this concludes that theoretical aspects and examples allow contribute to the expansion of dialogue among international organizations in the light of the possibilities of cooperative actions and aid to the libraries.

Keywords. External Causes Affecting Libraries. Librarianship Cooperation. Assistance to libraries. Risk Management. Heritage Legislation. International Protection

1. Introduction

Nowadays, worldwide society lives on hard times: civil wars, international conflicts, economic and political crisis, human rights restrictions, racism, terrorism, media censorship, climate change, poverty, endemic diseases. The literature review have shown that certain events impacted negatively libraries, causing budget constraints or disappearance by the inability of their reorganization when they are completely destroyed or impeded of resumption of their activities in accordance with their institutional mission. Some causes may have internal issues concerning to the libraries management such as: irregular displacement of libraries; infestations, stoppage of funds from sponsors, etc. There are others in regarding to external origins such as natural disaster; political or economic crisis, wars. These and other topics almost always come together and may cause irreparable damage to libraries worldwide, affecting whole society too (Abdul Huq 1995, Báez 2006). Libraries have the difficult task of protecting and preserving a specific area of common social cultural heritage (Teijgeler 2007). Digital libraries are not immune against external factors that can compete with failures or other negative impact (Thorhaug,

Jepsen 2011). Not wanting to exhaust this topic, this paper focuses on physical libraries to answer: which surveillances librarians should consider to make libraries free as possible from negatives effects of external causes? The main objective is to analyze major external causes affecting libraries worldwide. Specifically, it aims to analyze awareness factors focused on international cooperation and aid in Librarianship.

2. Theoretical and methodological approach

This qualitative research is based on International and Comparative Librarianship approach regarding the recognition that the traffic of ideas and expertise exchange should be two-way (Sartori 1999, Lor 2010). Data were collected through literature review and critical analysis. In this way, librarians' surveillances about external causes affecting libraries worldwide are underlined on two contexts: international development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Cooperation has long-term goals, seeking to change social and economic structures of countries and regions, in order to combat far more complex source of problems (Robinson 2008). Librarianship cooperation is widely found on local and international academic and professionals forums such as: conferences, congress and symposiums. Humanitarian aid is material or logistical assistance provided for humanitarian purposes, typically in response to humanitarian crisis including natural disaster and man-made disaster (Harvey et al 2010). It aims to alleviate the immediate effects of natural disasters (such as tsunamis or earthquakes) and human (such as wars and violent conflicts). It is usually short-lived, because it ends when the alleviation occurs. In this context, logistics assistance to libraries, essentially, depends on local and international leader institutions by established projects and plans. Both perspectives are based on Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948. From the UNESCO declaration, culture becomes humanized in order to ensure all the free cultural expression and access to cultural goods as a means of development, perpetuating the identity of each human group, through its use for expression, creation, innovation and knowledge to all societies (Mattar 2012).

2.1. International and Comparative Librarianship (ICL)

The most critical and recent literature on International and Comparative Librarianship (ICL), covers the fundamentals, concepts and methods that guide the studies in the area. This has been developed by authors such as: Carroll and Harvey (2001); Lor (2008, 2010); Fuentes-Romero and Rodriguez-Fernandez (2009). Fuentes-Romero and Rodriguez-Fernandez (2009), for example, explain that the use of comparison in Librarianship has been influenced by various scientific areas such as: Natural Sciences, Sociology, Epistemology, Education, Literature and International Law. According to Lor (2010), the sense of 'International' and the meaning of 'Comparative' in Librarianship appeared distinctly in the 1950s. The widespread scientific production in the literature continued to overlap during the 1960s until the 1980s, when much of the studies was intended to distinction between the two areas. For the author, clearer definitions emerged in the mid-1970s. Jackson (1982), for example, explained

that although both terms could be considered as different meanings holders, they are important to understand the Librarianship under a global reach because the International Librarianship is strictly limited to activities involving Librarianship and all aspects across national borders. In this sense, Fuentes-Romero and Rodriguez-Fernandez (2009) add that for this to happen some procedures should guide the analysis: a) determination of the objects being compared, b) in which aspects are comparable; c) following analysis strategies to reach valid conclusions. The scientific validation depends on assessment of research in the area.

2.2. Cluster of motivations in ICL's studies

Within of international studies, Sartori (1999) suggests that the comparison is based on the use of collected parameters without the mediation or the presence of idiographic analysis, i.e., derived from a general theory or some of conceptual scheme that allows the generalization. According to the author, comparison enables researchers define dependent and independent variables of social contexts and limit comparison units in space and time, thus contributing to the development of forms of theoretical generalization. Fuentes-Romero and Rodriguez-Fernandez (2009) explain that under the comparison studies, with international coverage, comparisons may occur based on premeditated goals that must comply with the logic of a common universe to all units undergoing comparison. Lor (2008, 6-10) reflects on the motives of those who wrote about topics that are referenced in the literature in the field, and how they relate to the results, and concluded that "not all the work in International Librarianship has scientific goals". This discussion results in a cluster of motivations by which to assess what motivates professionals and international entities to cooperation and assistance to libraries that face consequences of external forces, such as disasters or wars. The cluster of motivations is: Exoticism. Philanthropy.

National influence. International Understanding. Internationalism. Innovation. Advancement of knowledge. Self-understanding. Concerning to the goals of International Librarianship Cooperation and Professional assistance or humanitarian aid, three of them fit to the capacity to provide some Libraries Disaster Response Plan. *Cooperation* is motivated by effective participation in global forums in order to benefit libraries in several countries with aid, activities and exchange of ideas. The decisions taken should promote understanding of free and fair access to information resources in libraries serving the people of the world. Librarians have a long and honorable tradition in international cooperation. *Advanced knowledge* is driven by international comparisons that can provide insights which are less easily obtained from the study conditions of the library in a single country. Its main feature is the search for the advancement of knowledge which includes: description, analysis, classification and comparison in order to reach generalized statements that explain the phenomena and produce greater understanding to institutions of the countries affected by external forces. *Self-understanding* refers to understanding of internal affairs under a foreign environment. This motivation is distinct from the examination

done only in the comfort zone, "at home". This is because the cooperation and assistance should consider the number of factors outside the Library that determines who uses the libraries, how and why, and what are the barriers inhibiting their use. The essence of this motivation refers to accept own limits to perceive themselves in relation to others; this should be the goal to technical visits and assistance to abroad libraries, especially during periods of crisis (Lor 2010).

3. Results of Literature Review

The problematic of accessing cultural collections is one of the points of greatest interest to the study of the production and circulation of knowledge in social contexts. Given the issues arising with postmodernity, multiple factors such as multiculturalism (Maringelli 2014), preference to use Internet in accordance to broader social scope of developments in technology (Parent 2007) and the need to bridge the digital divide (IFLA/UNESCO 2011) have sensitized all librarians for the development of new strategies for the communication of their collections to the public. In addition, social groups are producers of culture and have sought new uses of technology to legitimate their cultural products (Maringelli 2014). Libraries are no longer the only points of access to information. Yet they remain important institutions for several social issues such as cultural and educational purposes and collective memory safeguard. Because, not everything is or will be in digital form; not everything will be available to fully access based on digital networks (Oppenheim, Smithson 2008). These factors have demanding constant questioning of these cultural facilities seeking to reinvent and rethink their role in society today. These factors are relatively controllable. The literature reports successful initiatives that allow predict a bright future for libraries. But, in the case of uncontrollable external forces such as natural disasters, wars, political and economic crisis, both Society and Libraries tend to suffer the weight of its effects with little opportunity to defend themselves. Reports on the theme prepared by National and International Library Organisations as American Library Association (2012), Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) used to be descriptives and at times denounce some cases where libraries and librarians are facing challenges. These perspectives meet one of the most central discussions within International and Comparative Librarianship (Lor 2010). Van der Hoeven and van Albada (1996, 3) observed that after the Second World War, librarians are well aware of the damage to collections in many ways. The authors explain that in many countries they are already actively engaged in conservation programs, but: "there is no universal panacea yet". Baéz (2006) in his work 'Universal History of the Destruction of Books' examines the causes of destruction of books and libraries, including analysis of the motives, methods and subjects involved. According to the author, destruction and disappearance of libraries according to the ways this occurs are not tied to time or specific regions. The related threads are not simply a set of accumulated facts but rather a web of historical events and their relationship to one another. Regarding to literature review, concepts of external causes and

surveillances for librarians such as risk management, heritage legislation and International Protection can be summarized. Obviously, depending on the geographical conditions, conflicts or internal political issues, external risks are primary forces for certain institutions and for other secondary.

3.1. Natural Disasters

According to the Commission for Disaster Prevention (2000), International Council on Archives, there are two categories of disasters: natural and caused by human action. Natural disasters are those caused by natural phenomena, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons, volcanic eruptions and droughts. Disasters caused by human intervention are those that result from human error, such as water leakage, fire, deliberate or otherwise. Terrorist actions, wars and armed conflicts can also be considered as man-made disasters. According to Spinelli Junior (1997), floods and extreme weather conditions are the most common type of disaster that affects libraries worldwide. The threat of damage caused by water can be divided into two groups. A climate origin have therefore hurricanes, typhoons, hurricanes or floods rivers can result, for example, in heavy rain and overflows. In 1966, the floods in Florence damaged more than two million collections of manuscripts in libraries and archives. The first official helps arrived six days after the beginning of the catastrophe (Tourist guide to Florence 2014). Some non-official aid tried to solve the problems caused by the flood, such as a multitude of young voluntaries of various nationalities, called “the angels of the mud”, who came to Florence to save the books and the works of art from the destruction. However, the damage to the artistic and historical heritage was considerable, in fact in the storerooms of the National Library, thousands of precious volumes were completely destroyed and the world famous picture by Cimabue, the “ Christ Crucified “ was destroyed at its 80%, in spite of the subsequent restoration. Financial help from the government was detonated only to the traders (Tourist guide to Florence 2014). This was a landmark disaster in modern society. The second group is associated with failure of the building where the libraries are located, for example, poor construction materials, and faults in water transport systems (Commission for Disaster Prevention 2000). This risk group by flood water is associated with the administration and also the budget constraint imposed on libraries (Spinelli Junior 1997). Structural damage of buildings libraries are also shaken by other phenomena, such as fires, earthquakes, tsunamis. In event of earthquakes, fires can occur simultaneously. The Portuguese Royal Library was completely destroyed by fire in Lisbon after an earthquake in 1755. In 1986, the Central Library of Los Angeles suffered two fires that resulted in the loss of 400,000 volumes and more than 1,250 works have been damaged by water. In 1988, the largest fire occurred in the Academy of Sciences Library in San Petersburg which resulted in the loss of 300,000 books and more than 3.6 million volumes damaged. Earlier 2015, a fire that broke out in Moscow on the evening of January 30 destroyed the building of the most important social science library in Russia, the Academic Institute for Scholarly Information on Social Science (INION). Around 2 million books and manuscripts were burnt and various

institutes from Russia and other countries have already offered their assistance (Weiss 2015). Some disasters are on the edge of natural and non-natural. Famines may be caused by a combination of natural and human factors. All cause serious impact to society such as loss of life and environmental damages, and they are able to determine the failure of a nation, a region or an institution economy, and of course, for libraries. ALA highlights: "Libraries and librarians worldwide shifted into relief mode after a series of natural disasters. Japan lost lives and libraries in a tsunami. Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee battered the East Coast of USA", many libraries were completely destroyed. In 2010, Haiti suffered an earthquake devastated the island. After four years, the Bibliothèque Nationale still remains destroyed. To attend to last natural events, Unesco, IFLA, ALA and professional library volunteers helped colleagues with funds and technical assistance. Activities on preventions are in progress and experiences are also shared in global forums. Most of them are in regarding to the users community security, the collection preservation and environmental issues. ALA concluded that in USA, more and more libraries are "going green" in both new construction and renovation. A green library is designed to minimize negative impact on the natural environment and maximize indoor environmental quality by means of careful site selection. Preferably, maintaining standards of indoor air quality to ensure the health of the people who inhabit the building (Boyden, Weiner 2001). The Green Libraries approach can also access issues related to: disaster risk management.

3.2. Political crisis and Wars

A political crisis focuses not on the agents involved but the nature of the violation/transgression occurs in the foundational principles of the political sphere. Many examples are reported daily by the media as being political crisis, almost always are linked with local or international wars and economic issues (Thompson 2000). Political crisis reach the materiality of the new order, they supersede the material issues that were previously structured under a particular social context yet of violations and transgressions, which is recognized as being the moment of political crisis (Thompson 2000). A civil war is a violent conflict within a country fought by organized groups that aim to take power at the center or in a region, or to change government policies or, less commonly, between two countries created from a formerly unified state (Fearon 2015). Everyday usage of the term "civil war" does not entail a clear threshold for how much violence is necessary to qualify a conflict as a civil war, as opposed to terrorism or low-level political strife (Fearon 2015). The materiality of knowledge representation, such as libraries and books, is potentially capable in many ways to be economically affected, or censored or even destroyed. In extreme cases, such knowledge institutions may disappear completely or waste a long time to be restructured. In situations of armed conflict, libraries can run serious risks. In this type of situation, there is always the difficulty in anticipating negative events of the building and collections. Recent history has shown that libraries and archives are deliberately attacked with the aim of destroying ethnic records (Knuth 2003). There is also the possibility of theft, vandalism and sabotage. The

most common damage is: total loss of buildings and facilities; loss of collections, damage caused by fire and water (Commission for Disaster Prevention 2000). In 1932, the second IFLA President, William Warner Bishop, in his opening address, summarized all the bleak apprehensions to which he had given voice on earlier occasions in face of the threats to peace and international intellectual cooperation. His analysis of the unbridgeable contrast between opposing political systems was mainly concerned with National-Socialist Germany and the fateful conflict between State and individual, nation and mankind, totalitarian regimes and democratic institutions (Wieder, Campbell 2002). After the Nazi seizure of power, a number of public library officials prepared black lists of prohibited authors. According to Pink Triangle Coalition (2001), the "*Institut für Sexualwissenschaft*", founded by Magnus Hirschfeld, was attacked by *Deutsche Studentenschaft*, resulting in the burning of its library. The books were publicly burned in Opernplatz-Berlin. About 25,000 items were destroyed and users' data and also catalogues were confiscated. During Rwanda's civil war (1959-1995) public libraries no longer existed. The Rwandan genocide was not the inevitable outcome of long standing tribal hatreds. Rather, the presence of a civil war, the reach of the Rwandan state into local areas and the cynical use of ethnicity by the hardliners made genocide a reality (Straus 2008). Several libraries looted, set on fire, damaged and destroyed in various degrees during the 2003 Iraq War (BBC News 2003). The armed conflict in former Yugoslavia was the longest lasting, most destructive and most complex civil war crisis in Europe the international community had to deal with since World War II. More than one thousands of Bosnia's mosques, hundreds of Catholic churches, and scores of Orthodox churches, monasteries, private and public libraries, archives, and museums were shelled, burned, and dynamited, and in many cases even the ruins were removed by nationalist extremists in order to complete the cultural and religious "cleansing" of the land they had seized (Ordev 2008). In 2013, The Timbuktu library (Mali) was burned down by Islamist militia; it contained over 20,000 manuscripts with only a fraction of them having been scanned (Smith 2013). Islamist militants of Isis took the city of Mosul in Iraq in June last year. On February 22, 2015, Isis burned thousands of books and rare manuscripts from Mosul's Public Library (Riyadh Mohammed 2015).

3.3. Economic downturn and budget restraints

National economic downturn and budget restrictions usually affect libraries worldwide. Perhaps, they are the major factors to put libraries in danger and in extreme case their disappearance. For example, fire destroyed the most important social science library in Russia, the Academic Institute for Scholarly Information on Social Science (INION). According to Police Russian the fire broke out due to the short-circuiting of an electric cable. Weiss (2015) accuses the Russian oligarchy as entirely to blame for the fire due budget restraints to maintain the library building in appropriate conditions. Librarians are aware of the problems caused by budget constraints and financial conditions by the providers of financial resources for libraries. The development of qualitative

studies of use and users, the theoretical development for Marketing actions and the management of useful and cooperative technologies are examples of professional integrity. American Library Association, (2012) reported the sprang up of so-called guerrilla libraries in various camps of the Occupy movement, most notably in Zuccotti Park in New York City, where Occupy Wall Street protesters set up the People's Library. By the time police cleared the park on Nov. 15, it held more than 5,500 volumes, showing that information is an essential ingredient to any community. ALA enounces that as the USA national economy continues to struggle toward recovery from the Great Recession, 2011 was a year of grim headlines. The Library of Congress lost about 9% of its budget and 10% of its workforce. Detroit, a city in fiscal crisis, agonized all year over how many library branches to close. In Chicago, Mayor R. Emanuel proposed a budget that would eliminate 268 currently vacant positions and lay off almost 300 from the library system. The Association of Research Libraries reported that rising materials costs associated with economic downturn is causing problems for academic libraries in USA. While current economic trends are definitely causing problems for libraries in USA, there is no doubt that the major underlying problem is the rising costs of library materials, such eBooks (ALA 2012). In some developing countries, such as in South America, the problem is bigger than rich in countries. While librarians in rich countries may face high costs of libraries materials, librarians from others countries face budget restraints that put in checkmate buildings, facilities, collections and human lives. Budget constraints put both the collections and human lives at risk. In the National Library of Argentina, the numismatic section is in the basement of the building with a single output and does not have emergency system in case of fire or other emergency event. In the voice of the librarian responsible for the section: "if there is a fire, all die like rats". In another case, the National Library of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) faces a period of deterioration of the building and its facilities. This library is under the Ministry of Culture of Brazil' control. Funds for National Library come from governmental public sector, the taxes paid by citizens. In 2013, the federal government spent over a million dollars for structural reforms in the building: ventilation and electrical system. However, the problems faced by librarians and users still remain the same. The Brazilian media daily denounces "since 2001, the largest library in South America remains with precarious situation of its structure" (Bibliotecas públicas têm... 2014). In 1993 a fire destroyed part of the Library of the Public University of Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre, Brazil), and in 2014, the same library suffered a flood that destroyed several rare works in the collection. The Cultural Center Liceu de Artes e Ofícios de São Paulo suffered fire, manuscripts; paintings, sculptures and antique furniture were completely destroyed. All these events were caused by lack of funds for restructuring of buildings. The fact is, in recent years, Brazil has the largest number of corruption scandals within the federal government (Jiménez, Borges 2015). In relation to culture and education, in early 2015, the first step adopted by federal government was: substantial cuts 'spent' with libraries, museums, archives, schools and universities in the public sector. Both Argentina and

Brazil, the financier of public libraries is the government sector. This suggests that budget constraints from such public sector reflects government's neglect for culture and education in South Latin countries, all marked by similar historic of dictatorship, when librarians hid books away from the censorship.

4. Risk management, Heritage Legislation, International Protection

There are three levels of surveillance that librarians should be alert. First level refers to internal Risk Management (Commission for Disaster Prevention 2000, University of California 2009). Second level according to national legislation on heritage (Spinelli Junior 1997, Mattar 2012). The third level involves International Protection (Sandell 1996, UNESCO 2001). A major internal factor to prevent disaster is to allocate funds for establishing library disaster prevention and also response plan. In order to minimize the possibility of damage from fire, or other negative causes, and decrease the time needed for recovery after a destructive event, all libraries need a disaster management and recovery plan. This can be an ongoing process which will include professional development following updates in technology for key staff, training for the remaining staff, checking and maintaining disaster kits, review of the disaster plan and security control access to collections. Initially, disaster risk management must consider all risk factors that the external and internal environment can offer.

Concomitantly, the plan should include evaluation of:

- a) the risks that new and old buildings can offer;
- b) packaging locations of collections and storage systems;
- c) protection against water leakage;
- d) risks due to unstable materials within the collection;
- e) fire detection systems and fire suppression;
- f) decision to adopt or not dispersers fire systems;
- g) ventilation systems and exhaust fans;
- h) on-going repair works inside the building;
- i) risk of fire arising from adjacent buildings;
- j) security systems;
- k) duplicate alternative media of information,
- l) setting priorities before armed conflict, considering the strategic organization with several institutions in the country or foreign;
- m) evacuation plan of documents geographically distributed in distinct places;
- n) insurances;
- o) sharing the needs with security bodies, such as: police, army or fire-fighter.

Such preventive actions do not guarantee total protection, but reduce risks. Disaster risk management should consider contingency plans to respond to a disaster, these reflect the responsiveness of the library. The disaster response plans must be pre-recorded and evaluated periodically, considering:

- a) formal establishment of documents on the plan;
- b) definition of emergency events and its levels;
- c) employees' awareness;
- d) all procedures in an emergency;
- e) creating call list of experts in case of disaster;
- f) identification of areas of the building where the value of collections are allocated to ensure priority for protection or rescue;
- g) full knowledge of building plans and areas of services in order to locate the points of water and electricity that can be turned off, and identify areas of the building that can serve as intermediate stations during rescue operations;
- h) emergency equipment, considering reservations, and simple operation;
- i) technical knowledge and developing emergency response teams;
- j) creation of rescue guidelines of damaged documents.

By associating cultural heritage within juridical sphere, national legislation becomes one tool that cultural centres such as libraries, archives and museums can count to support or even protect them. One way of preserving cultural goods is the tipping by law of cultural heritage. This allows librarians may claim immediate government intervention to ensure financial support to library disaster prevention and response plans, and assistance in case of disasters. Some examples can be highlighted. In Canada, cultural goods are subject to the 'Department of Canadian Heritage' whose national legislation is constituted by multiculturalism and the strong cultural presence of the aboriginal people of the country. Due to architectural wealth and art, Italy has the Ministry for cultural assets and activities, 'Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali'. Germany incorporates education and science in its Ministry of Culture, all aspects understood as national value goods. France related communication with the culture and emphasizes the media, the cultural industries, heritage and intellectual creation, giving the Ministry of the country the name of 'Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication'. Mexican culture has its administration headed by the 'Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes' (Conaculta) that integrates the Secretariat of Public Education of the country. According to Mattar (2012), the international community has always been attentive to the safety of the cultural heritage of humanity in the face of armed conflicts and disasters that can make disappear in a short time the cultural icons of human civilization. Many global conventions were based in order to provide coverage of international protection of cultural property. For example: Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague Convention, 1954), Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), and Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore of 1989. In 2001, the 31st UNESCO General Conference was impacted by the terrorist attack occurred in the United States on September 11. This conference resulted in the 'UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity' which reaffirmed the conviction that intercultural dialogue is the best instrument to ensure peace and at the same time reject the

thesis of the 'existence of an inevitable clash of cultures and civilizations'. According to UNESCO's Constitution, the Universal Declaration reaffirms the international recognition that cultural goods and services should not be considered commodities or consumer goods. This statement is based on the understanding that societies are vectors of identity, values and meaning, and therefore cultural rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent. This is therefore the establishment of the means intended to ensure the exercise of cultural rights through the free flow of ideas by word and image, as well as through means that all cultures can express themselves and be known. From these universal treaties, international development cooperation and humanitarian aids were established over time. Projects and proactive programs for libraries and archives emerged, such as: International Council on Archives (ICA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Memory of the World UNESCO, Preservation and Conservation Core Programme (IFLA-PAC). All of them are based on international cooperation and depend on national levels of cultural regulation of legislation heritage and financial funds to guarantee positive action in case of abroad institutions need their help. In turn, local experiences are made of internal changes in the ways of preservation policies. This means that international cooperation and aids can operate based on national experiences and these can be reached through internal experiences through exchanging ideas and regarding the recognition that the traffic of ideas and expertise exchange should be two-way.

5. Conclusions

Disasters, wars and budget restraints can be external forces capable to extinguish libraries. Worldwide librarians can be conscious about negative effects from external causes but it is not enough to prevent them. In this way, Cooperation, Advanced knowledge and Self-understanding are three motivations that should guide International Librarianship Cooperation, and logistics assistance to libraries based on three levels of surveillances: internal, by establishing library disaster prevention plan; national by considering the national legislation heritage and cultural to require financial funds, and if it is necessary, immediate assistance; and international protection by the recognition that any libraries are meanings of cultural expressions and librarians can count on international treaties and prevention programs derived from the professional and international community. The three levels of surveillances are connected each other. Therefore, academic forums and professionals globally should include questions of preservation in every way and in long term. This possibility could increase dialogue driven by international comparisons in order to allow a self-comprehension.

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