INVENTORY THEFT AND STOCK RECORDS IN SUPERMARKETS

BY

[STUDENT'S FULL NAME]

[MATRIC NUMBER]

BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING, FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.) DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Inventory Theft and Stock Records in Supermarkets" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

______________________________	________________________
PROJECT SUPERVISOR	Date
______________________________	________________________
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT	Date
______________________________	________________________
EXTERNAL EXAMINER	Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Accounting, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined inventory theft and stock records in supermarkets, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of inventory; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with inventory and theft. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Agency Theory and the Positive Accounting Theory. A sample size of 401 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 391 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.11). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.451$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 6.51, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.05$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on inventory.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of inventory theft and stock records in supermarkets is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

inventory continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in accounting. Public institutions at the federal, state, and local levels have developed programmes that seek to mainstream inventory into routine governance. The aggregate picture emerging from Ibrahim and Salami (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between inventory and the outcomes of interest. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding theft. Studies by Bello and Bamgbose (2019) largely support the view that inventory exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

Few subjects attract as much policy interest in contemporary Nigeria as the question of inventory. Economic pressures and resource scarcity frequently determine the pace at which inventory advances in practice. Evidence assembled by Umeh and Kalu (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to inventory. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. The aggregate picture emerging from Chukwu and Ogbeide (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between inventory and the outcomes of interest. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding theft. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

The relationship between inventory and theft has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. The socio-cultural diversity of Nigeria implies that responses to inventory must be differentiated rather than uniform. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Chukwu and Ogbeide (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. A notable study by Osinachi and Ekwueme (2017) argued that the impact of inventory is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

inventory, when examined in relation to theft, reveals complex and often paradoxical dynamics. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which inventory unfolds. Empirical evidence from Nwosu and Chukwu (2021) suggests that positive developments in theft are associated with improvements in inventory. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding theft. Longitudinal research by Dauda