

AESTHETICS AND USER PATRONAGE IN TWO UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to find out whether or not library aesthetics could be influencing library patronage. The study employed the research design and questionnaire was used to collect data. Crombach Alpha was used for the reliability test of the questionnaire at 0.84. The population of the study consisted of 600 undergraduate students from two private universities in Oyo state (Ajayi Crowther University and Lead City University, both in Oyo state). These were randomly selected and administered the questionnaire. Five hundred and four (504) copies of the questionnaire were turned and found useable for data analysis. Frequency counts and simple statistics and mean were used to analyze the result of the study. The findings showed that the two private universities studied have a high mean of available aesthetics at 3.03, the perception of users about the aesthetics available in the library was also high at 2.09; the influence of library aesthetics was also high at 2.91. The majority of the respondents perceived that there are several challenges facing library aesthetics at the libraries studied with a high mean of 3.01. Spearman Correlation was used to test the only hypothesis posed and it showed that there is a strong relationship between library aesthetics and user patronage. Recommendations made include that university management should always consult librarians and specialist when library buildings are to be constructed. This will ensure that adequate aesthetics, both internal and external would be put in place to capture users' interest. Secondly, funding has been observed as one of the challenges of library aesthetics. This should be made available to take care of funds to beautify the library. Lastly, users' opinions should be sought before public buildings are erected. This is not usually the case in the Nigerian setting. Doing this would ensure that those to use the public building, especially the library, can also contribute to its aesthetics.

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Introduction

Libraries are believed to be knowledge repositories, a place one can go to, to have access to the knowledge of the world, both past and present. A library is invested with the function of acquiring information resources in various formats, processing information resources, organising them, storing the information resources and disseminating them through the process of making them available for users. Since academic libraries are set up to support the parent institution in carrying out its goals of teaching, learning and research, user patronage becomes very important to see if these objectives are being met. Libraries, as store houses of knowledge can only be said to be performing their function when there are users to exploit the information. However, the opposite seems to be the case as personal observation and literature have shown that

user patronage in libraries and information centres is declining (Adulsalami and Efosa, 2020; Adeg and Hayatu, 2020). Several reasons have been adduced for this development ranging from quality of service to the attitude of librarians. However, the literature indicates that the causes of low patronage could also be aesthetics. That is, the appearance of the library. Humans are affected by beauty and a pleasing appearance is said to ward off wrath. Literature has shown that organisations that cater for the general public are usually concerned about aesthetics. The study by Panni et al. (2020) showed the importance of interior design such as aesthetics, décor, and lighting on user patronage of eateries at Ahmadu Bello University. Studies have also shown that the physical appearance of the library could influence one to constantly want to make

use of it or just even enter into it (Uzuka, Nwachukwu and Nwachukwu, 2019; Chauhan, 2021). A building that is well built, beautifully lit, beautifully painted, with a well-manicured landscaped environment coupled with good interior design in the form of well-hung pictures and good lighting is usually appealing to the human psyche. Such a building is likely to elicit admiration and a desire to be constantly in that environment. The same can be said for a library that is not only well-equipped with information resources but also appeals to the psyche through its beautiful appearance and interior (Worlu, 2021). It is easy to be put off by an unappealing appearance in humans, buildings and the environment. While the external environment such as landscaping, colour of the building, flowers and greenery, is important, the internal environment such as the colour scheme, decorations and wall hangings like picture frames and quotes, big airy reading spaces, large windows, infrastructure like fans and air conditioners, bright lighting and clean hygienic conveniences are also important. A building that is externally attractive but does not have any internal attractiveness may also affect patronage. The aesthetics of a public building like the library is of utmost importance since unlike private residences, one does not have control over its entrances as this is what makes it a public building. Patronage is of utmost importance in such buildings. Sufar et al. (2012) posited that the physical interior of a library was an essential feature to be considered in constructing a library, especially a public library. Such features as good lighting, paintings, signage, furniture etc can influence psychologically and could also be used to look at the correlation between it and user patronage. Human emotions are sometimes shaped by the things around them, both physical and otherwise. Humans also tend to positively react to beauty. The assumption here concerning the quote by Churchill ‘*We shape our buildings, thereafter, they shape us*’ is that, the library, as a building is always shaped by man, thereafter, their appearance affects how man relates to it.

University libraries are equipped with both physical and electronic information materials for the use of the students, staff and researchers of the parent institution. The value of these resources lies in their usage. A situation where the resources are not optimally used by patrons calls for investigation. Therefore, this Study examines the influence of aesthetics on library patronage.

Statement of the problem

Academic libraries have been witnessing a dearth in the number of users despite their function of being a support facility for teaching, learning and research. Several factors ranging from librarians’ attitude to user perception of the library have been put forward by research. However, since beauty and attraction are also factors to consider in the use of a facility, the study examines the possible influence of aesthetics on library use.

Objectives of the study

This study aims to examine how library aesthetics influences library patronage in Ajayi Crowther University Library and Lead City University Library, both in Oyo state, Nigeria. Specifically, the objectives are to;

1. examine the aesthetics of the two university libraries
2. ascertain the perception of the students about aesthetics of their universities libraries;
3. determine the influence of library aesthetics on patronage of the university library;

Research questions

1. What are the aesthetics of the two university libraries?
2. What is the perception of the students about aesthetics of their universities libraries?
3. What is the influence of library aesthetics on patronage of the university library?

Hypothesis

Ho1: There is no significant influence of aesthetics on university library patronage.

Literature review

Library aesthetics has been a subject of research as there have been several studies to investigate users’ patronage of

the library. The library as an entity requires patronage for it to survive. A library without patronage is as good as a museum. Therefore, library patronage forms the crux of the being of the library.

Aesthetics, according to the Merriam Webster English Dictionary simply means 'pleasing in appearance'. The word is used to describe the attractiveness or beauty of a thing or a person. Applied to the library, aesthetics means a library that is pleasing to look at in appearance. Aesthetics can be defined as a passion for beauty and a matter of personal preference. Aesthetics facilities, according to Ibrahim and Sakiyo (2015), are components in the library that enhance the appeal and alluringness of library use instead of the internal and external surroundings, such as captivating landscaping, bright and attractive combinations of colours, interior decorations like natural and artificial flowers, wall decorations, paintings; lighting, well-ventilated space, conducive temperature, and instructive and clear signage/direction (Udo and Edidiong, 2022). These aesthetic facilities just as they brighten the home and also make it habitable, add attraction to the library when they are available. The library has evolved from the old concept of shabby drab appearance with stuffy books to spaces away from home where readers can relax while actualising their information needs through the resources provided. It is, therefore very crucial that the library be aesthetically appealing to both the physical, emotional and psychological senses of the users to encourage library patronage. The aesthetics of a library are vital for improving users' library experiences, making them enjoy their stay in the library, and earning their regular library patronage. According to Oyedum (2006), unattractiveness in physical facilities have an impact on the patronage of university libraries. If the library's physical facilities are well-built, adequately lite and decorated, then the use of the library's information resources will also increase.

Kuliga, Dalton, and Holscher (2013) researched on the Seattle Public Library's aesthetic and emotional assessment and its relationship to spatial configuration.

They looked at aesthetic and emotional evaluation in terms of general evaluation, beauty, security, and privacy for specific library locations including entrance areas and meeting rooms, as well as the library as a whole. They looked at how a building's spatial arrangement affects aesthetic evaluation and emotion. As a result, the researchers concluded that a structure's success or failure is mostly influenced by how a building feels from a contextual viewpoint, as well as how patrons may act on and engage with their environment simply and intuitively. Their findings show that whether or not a user finds the building attractive or functional is as a result of their perception of what they believe aesthetics or functionality to be.

Oyewumi et al (2007) investigated three hundred postgraduate students of Ladoko Akintola University's perception of library aesthetics and physical environment as motivating factors for improved reading found that the majority of the students did not seem to be satisfied with the interior aesthetics of the university. The respondents did not consider the library to be aesthetically attractive as they were not satisfied with the items in the library that portray attractiveness. Their findings further revealed that the respondents thought that library aesthetics would improve library patronage as the attractiveness of the library would prompt usage. One can, therefore, deduce that library aesthetics is a motivator for library usage in the opinion of the respondents.

In a similar study, Amusa and Iyoro (2013) investigated the impact of library environments, instructional programmes, and user-librarian partnerships on undergraduate students' library use. To conduct their research, they used 2,676 students from six universities in South-West, Nigeria as respondents. The findings revealed that low patronage of academic libraries in the universities investigated was due to a variety of variables, including a poor library atmosphere. Although other factors were also found to be responsible for low patronage in the academic libraries studied, the fact that poor library environment was among the factors indicates that aesthetics both in and

around the library was a factor that needs to be seriously considered in trying to improve user patronage.

A similar study to that of the foregoing is the research by Ogbomo, Eserada and Akpojoto (2023) found that the libraries studied had poor physical aesthetics and this led to a small percentage of the students making use of the libraries. Their research showed that the public university libraries in Delta State studied had poor aesthetics and this resulted in low library patronage aesthetics can be correlated with library patronage.

Akwang and Okon (2018) in a study of 390 respondents from the University of Akwa Ibom to find out whether or not the library's physical environment influenced the utilisation of library resources found that there was no significant relationship between utilization of library resources and the library's physical environment. However, their study showed that the majority of the respondents did not use the library for study or research purposes due to many reasons ranging from lack of aesthetics in the library, to lack of toilet facilities, limited access to resources, and the poor design of the library taking the lead as per the reason for its lack of usage. The study shows that aesthetics was very influential in the respondents' non-usage of the library.

The study of Ibrahim and Sakiyo (2015) investigated the impact of aesthetics on the use of academic libraries in North Eastern part of Nigeria. The research involved 300 respondents. The findings of the research showed that library aesthetics was significantly correlated with user patronage of the library investigated. It was also revealed that the library had good aesthetics.

The study of Clee and Maguire (1993) studied how library surroundings affect user patronage and found that while it could be argued that several individual factors in the library environment had an impact on the perceptions of users, the environment taken in its entirety posited the greatest effect. Their findings revealed that although it seemed as if several of the users did not notice the interior or exterior décor in the library, they would like to see changes and additions to things that contribute to the

aesthetics of the library. In a nutshell, users gravitate towards an aesthetically pleasing library.

Libraries like other institutions in Nigeria face several challenges. The most common of the challenges being faced is the problem of funding. The issue of funding is a major problem that needs to be tackled. The usual cry of public parastatals in Nigeria is lack of funding. For private universities, however, the issue of funding becomes compounded as they do not get any subvention from any tier of government like their government-owned counterparts. Even the federal and state-owned universities who get subvention from the government are complaining of being underfunded. Azenabor (2021) stated that the federal government allocated between 5-7% of the total budget of 2021 to education as against the 25% recommended by the United Nations. This percentage is minuscule considering the fact that the money would be spread to all strata of the education system in the country, including the parastatals in education. Funding of public educational institutions may be considered better when compared to that of private universities. These universities are financed by the school fees generated through student enrolment and in a few cases, inadequate subvention from the owner organisation in the case of church-owned universities. Since the student population of these private universities is few, funds are usually a major cause of concern and the library is also affected when it comes to funds.

Methodology

The study uses the descriptive survey method of the correlational type to look at how library aesthetics impacts library patronage in two private universities in Oyo State, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo and Lead City University, Ibadan. The questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The reliability of the instrument was tested with Cronbach Alpha giving a mean of 0.84. This was electronically constructed using Google form and the link was sent to the students through various Whatsapp platforms such as departmental and faculty groups and individual links. The population of the study consists of

students from both universities. The simple random sampling techniques was used to randomly select 300 students from each of the universities to make a total of 600 respondents. 504 respondents completed the questionnaire and data was analyzed using simple statistics such as frequency counts, mean, and standard deviation. Spearman Correlation was used to test the hypothesis put forward, at 0.05 level of significance.

FINDINGS

Demographic information of the respondents is shown in table 1

Table 1: Demographic information of the respondents

Variable	Responses	Frequency	Percent
Sex of respondents	Male	210	41.7
	Female	294	58.3
	Total	504	100.0
Age Distribution	15-20	239	47.4
	21-25	179	35.5
	26-30	67	13.3
	31-35	19	3.8
	Total	504	100.0
Level of study	1 st year	37	7.3
	2 nd year	96	19.0
	3 rd year	185	36.7
	4 th year	127	25.2
	5 th year	59	11.7
	Total	504	100.0
Institutions	Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo	268	53.2%
	Lead City University, Ibadan	236	46.8%
	Total	504	100%

Table 1 shows the demographic data of respondents in the order of age, gender, level of study, Faculty and institution. Demographics on gender shows that there were more female respondents than males at 58.3%. 52.6% of the respondents were between the age range of 15-20 with 47.4%. For level of study, there are more 300 level respondents at 36.7%. From the universities studied, Ajayi Crowther University had a majority of respondents with 53.2%.

Answer to Research Questions

Research Question 1: *What are the aesthetics of the two university libraries?*

Answers to research question 1 is shown in Table 2 below

Table 2: Library Aesthetics (attractiveness)

S/N	Variables	Degree of Agreement				Measurement		Remarks
		Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)	Mean	S.D.	
1	The library's bright, dazzling atmosphere.	110 (21.8%)	311 (61.7%)	57 (11.3%)	26 (5.2%)	3.03	0.74	GE
2	Availability of concise and understandable wayfinding materials.	232 (46.0%)	189 (37.5%)	59 (11.7%)	24 (4.8%)	3.25	0.84	GE
3	The inside of the library is tastefully and professionally designed.	112 (22.2%)	296 (58.7%)	69 (13.7%)	27 (5.4%)	3.03	0.76	GE
4	The library building's facade has a lovely layout.	153 (30.4%)	248 (49.2%)	72 (14.3%)	31 (6.2%)	3.04	0.83	GE
5	The library has a comfortable landscape	250 (49.6%)	155 (30.8%)	72 (14.3%)	27 (5.4%)	3.06	0.81	GE
6	The library's walls are covered in imaginative and motivational paintings.	276 (54.8%)	110 (21.8%)	85 (16.9%)	33 (6.5%)	2.92	0.80	LE
7	The library is outfitted with contemporary cabinets and furnishings.	261 (51.8%)	131 (26.0%)	79 (15.7%)	33 (6.5%)	3.07	0.82	GE
8	Conductive ventilation of the library	254 (50.4%)	140 (27.8%)	82 (16.3%)	28 (5.6%)	3.03	0.84	GE
9	The area is big enough for social and cultural events.	139 (27.6%)	255 (50.6%)	81 (16.1%)	29 (5.8%)	3.00	0.82	LE
10	The layout of the floor design is stylish and lovely.	124 (24.6%)	267 (53.0%)	86 (17.1%)	27 (5.4%)	2.97	0.79	LE
11	The restroom facilities are clean and comfortable.	130 (25.8%)	255 (50.6%)	81 (16.1%)	38 (7.5%)	2.95	0.85	LE
12	The library building's hue selection is lovely.	134 (26.6%)	262 (52.0%)	76 (15.5%)	30 (6.0%)	3.09	0.80	GE
Cluster mean						3.03	0.81	GE

Table 2 shows how good the aesthetics of the two libraries are. However, if the mean criterion is 2.5 and above, it means that the library aesthetics (attractiveness) is accepted. Given this, the mean for library aesthetics (attractiveness) is 3.03. This infers that the two university libraries studied have good aesthetics.

Furthermore, the table also shows the mean range for the response of students on the aesthetics available in the academic libraries. Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 12 are above the Cluster mean of 3.03 while items 6, 9, 10 and 11 are below. This indicated that to a great extent, the library is well-lighted and illuminating in nature, availability of concise and understandable way finding materials, the exterior of the library building is attractively designed, the inside of the library is beautifully and professionally designed. Conductive ventilation and comfortable landscape, availability of modern furniture and cabinets and the library building's hue selection is lovely.

The result also showed that to a low extent, the library's walls are covered in imaginative and motivational paintings, the floor plan is trendy and beautiful, and the library area is big enough for social and cultural events.

The Cluster Mean of 3.01 for all the items implies that to a great extent aesthetics is available in the academic libraries.

Research Question 2: *What is the perception of students about aesthetics in their university libraries?*

Showing the responses of the respondents about aesthetics in their university libraries

Table 3 Perception of Library Users about Library Aesthetics

S/N	Variables Statement	Degree of Agreement				Mean	S.D.	Remarks
		Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)			
1.	I am delighted as I see and adore the aesthetic splendour of the library.	53 (10.5%)	329 (65.3%)	105 (20.8%)	17 (3.4%)	2.83	0.65	LE
2.	I love going to the library since it's lovely.	146 (29.0%)	242 (48.0%)	98 (19.4%)	18 (3.6%)	3.02	0.79	GE
3.	My focus is on the library building's functionality.	92 (18.3%)	266 (52.8%)	128 (25.4%)	18 (3.6%)	2.86	0.75	LE
4.	The library's atmosphere has given me the desire to read more.	106 (21.0%)	261 (51.8%)	122 (24.2%)	15 (3.0%)	2.91	0.75	GE
5.	I am constantly drawn to the library because of its lovely outside and interior design elements.	92 (18.3%)	266 (48.0%)	126 (25.0%)	20 (4.0%)	2.93	0.98	GE
6.	I don't mind going to a library that has or doesn't have attractive features.	98 (19.4%)	260 (51.6%)	121 (24.0%)	25 (5.0%)	2.86	0.78	LE
7.	The appearance and layout of the library particularly attract me.	102 (20.2%)	257 (51.0%)	121 (24.0%)	24 (4.8%)	2.98	0.75	GE
8.	I frequently spend my downtime in the library since I find it to be very appealing.	106 (21.0%)	266 (52.8%)	116 (23.0%)	16 (3.2%)	2.92	0.75	GE
9.	When I use the library, I feel at ease and calm because of its attractiveness.	125 (24.8%)	242 (48.0%)	120 (23.8%)	17 (3.4%)	2.94	0.79	GE
Clustered mean						2.91	0.78	GE

Table 3 shows the perception of library users about their university libraries' aesthetics. In consonance with the stipulated mean criterion of 2.5, the grand mean is 2.91. It means that it is accepted. One can then conclude that the perception level of library users about library aesthetics is high.

The result in Table 3 also shows the mean range for the response of students on their perception about aesthetics of their university libraries. Items 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 are above the cluster mean of 2.91 while that of items 1, 3 and 6 are below. This is an indication that to a great extent, the students love going to the library since it is lovely, and they have a perception that the library's atmosphere has given them the desire to read more, they are always attracted to visit the library because they have a perception of its beautiful exterior and interior design features, they have much interest in the look and design of the library and when they use the library, they feel at ease and calm because of its attractiveness.

The result also showed that, to a low extent, their focus is on the functionality of library buildings and they do not mind using a library whether or not it has aesthetic features. The Cluster Mean of 2.91 for all the items implies that, to a great extent, the library users have a good perception of the aesthetics of the libraries studied.

Research Question 3: *What is the influence of library aesthetics on user patronage on university libraries?*

The table below shows the influence of aesthetics on user patronage on university libraries

Table 4: Library aesthetics and user patronage in T.Y Danjuma Library and Lead City University Library

S/N	Variables Statement	Degree of Agreement				Mean	S.D.	Remark
		Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)			
1	I read a lot in the library since it has a beautiful setting that fosters a positive learning environment.	50 (9.9%)	309 (61.3%)	136 (27.0%)	9 (1.8%)	2.78	0.62	LE
2	The library's decor makes researching enjoyable.	141 (28.0%)	253 (50.2%)	95 (18.8%)	15 (3.0%)	3.03	0.76	GE
3	Due to the library's unattractive features and facilities, I find it uncomfortable to use it.	88 (17.5%)	287 (56.7%)	112 (22.2%)	17 (3.4%)	2.88	0.72	LE
4	I frequently utilise the library for educational purposes because of its attractiveness.	106 (21.0%)	256 (50.8%)	128 (25.4%)	14 (2.8%)	2.89	0.75	LE
5	I read in the library during my free time since I find its aesthetics to be generally stimulating.	86 (17.1%)	277 (55.0%)	123 (24.4%)	18 (3.6%)	2.86	0.73	LE
6	I appreciate reading in the library as it's a relaxing place to study.	118 (23.4%)	274 (54.4%)	100 (19.8%)	12 (2.4%)	2.99	0.72	GE
7	Since it is so peaceful and pleasant, the library is where I prefer to study.	98 (19.4%)	284 (56.3%)	109 (21.6%)	13 (2.6%)	2.92	0.74	GE
8	I frequently utilise the ICT area because it is beautifully constructed to conduct my study.	99 (19.6%)	285 (56.5%)	99 (19.6%)	21 (4.2%)	2.91	0.74	GE
9	Given that the shelves are nicely decorated and organised, I use the library materials for my assignments.	109 (21.6%)	280 (55.6%)	104 (20.6%)	11 (2.2%)	2.96	0.71	GE
Cluster Mean						2.91	0.64	GE

The result in Table 4 shows the influence of aesthetics on user patronage of the two private university libraries studied. Going by the stipulated mean criterion of 2.05, the grand mean is 2.91 showing that the mean is acceptable. It is therefore safe to conclude that library aesthetics greatly influences user patronage.

The result shows the mean range for the response of students on how the library aesthetics influence their patronage of the library. Items 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are above the Cluster mean of 2.91 while items 1, 3, 4 and 5 are below. This indicated that to a great extent, the students enjoy using the library because the library's decor makes researching enjoyable, given that the shelves are nicely decorated and organised, they use the library materials for their assignments, and they frequently utilise the ICT area

because it is beautifully constructed to conduct their study since it is so peaceful and pleasant, the library is where the students prefer to study.

The Cluster Mean of 2.91 for the entire items indicates that, to a great extent the library aesthetics influences user patronage.

Test of Hypothesis

H₀₁: There is no significant influence of aesthetics on university library patronage

The correlation between library aesthetics and user patronage is shown in the table 5.

Table 5: Summary Table Showing Spearman Correlation between library aesthetics on user patronage.

N	r	P	Remark
504	.625	.000	Sig

The result in Table 5 shows that there is a significant relationship between library aesthetics on user patronage ($r = .625^{**}$, $N = 504$, $P < .05$). The implication of this is that 5% change in library aesthetics will result in 62.5% change in user's patronage. It also indicates a strong positive relationship between library aesthetics and users' patronage. This implies that an increase in library aesthetics will yield a corresponding effect on the dependent variable, causing an increase in users' patronage in academic library. Hence, it could be deduced that aesthetics in the two private university libraries influenced user's patronage in academic libraries in the study. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Discussion of findings

The findings from research question one that sought to investigate the aesthetics available in the Ajayi Crowther University Library and Lead City University Library, showed that both of the libraries studied were aesthetically attractive to the respondents as the items showed a high mean cluster of 3.03. All the items such as good ventilation, attractive interior and exterior, well-written

signage and availability of good conveniences for both libraries were shown from the data. The finding is at variance with the findings of Oyewumi et al. (2017), Akwang and Okon (2018) and Ogbomo et al. (2023) who found in their study that the respondents were not satisfied with the aesthetics of the libraries they studied. The findings from research question two revealed the perception of students about aesthetics in the two private university libraries studied. It was revealed that the students had a very high perception of the aesthetics available in libraries as it recorded a mean cluster of 2.91. This finding corroborates that of Clee and McGuire (1993) who found that the patrons of a library had a very positive perception of the aesthetics of the library.

The finding also supports that of Uzuka, Nwachukwu and Nwachukwu (2019) that the attractiveness of the library was a driving force for the patronage of the library. Library attractiveness could be likened to the attractiveness of any building as humans are bound to be highly perceptive of an attractive building or environment as indicated by the quotation from Churchill.

The findings of this study on the relationship between library aesthetics and user patronage is consistent with that of Oyedum (2011), who found that the physical attractiveness of infrastructure is one of the environmental factors that can impact library patronage. The null hypothesis postulated was rejected as there was a correlation between library aesthetics and user patronage. The Spearman correlation showed that a 5% increase in aesthetics will lead to over 65% of user patronage. This shows that the aesthetics of the library has a great influence on user patronage. This finding negates the finding of Akwang et al (2018) who found no correlation between library aesthetics and user patronage.

Conclusion

This study concludes that library aesthetics greatly influences user patronage. There are library aesthetics such as good lighting and good ventilation with big, spacious

and well-spaced windows in both Lead City University Library and Ajayi Crowther University Library. These aesthetics are also coupled with others such as well-placed signage giving directions to each section of the library, wall hangings depicting pleasing quotes on reading and literacy, comfortable sitting spaces and good well-maintained conveniences. The study also showed that the students had a very good perception of the available aesthetics in the library and that these aesthetics influenced user patronage.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations have been made:

The university management should always consult librarians and specialist when library buildings are to be constructed. This will ensure that adequate aesthetics, both internal and external would be put in place to capture users' interest. Lastly, more effort should be put in place by the library management to ensure adequate maintenance of the library facilities through cleaning and proper use.

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