

Aesthetics and Utilization of University Libraries in North East Zone of Nigeria

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Abstract

Relationship between library aesthetic facilities and utilization of university libraries in North-East zone of Nigeria was examined through a descriptive survey. Out of the 300 respondents sampled, 260 responded to the research instrument tagged Questionnaire on Library Building Variables and Utilization (QOLBUVAU) making a return rate of 86.6%. A proportional sampling technique was adopted as the respondents vary in size and compositions of lecturers and students (undergraduates and postgraduates). Three objectives guided the study that focused on utilization and a null hypothesis to determine if there was a relationship between aesthetic facilities and utilization of university libraries. Descriptive statistics of means and standard deviation was used for the research questions while Pearson Product Moment Correlation was employed for the hypothesis. The findings of the study revealed that lecturers and postgraduate students frequently used the library more than undergraduates; and also lecturers used reference services, short term loan and inter-library loan facilities more than other category of users. The study also revealed that there was a significant relationship between library aesthetic facilities and utilization of libraries in federal universities in North-East zone of Nigeria.

Introduction

A university library accommodates staff, users, books and non-book resources. It therefore must have distinct needs that the building must meet for the library to be functional. That is why longevity must be built into their construction for longer lasting utilization. Otherwise, mistakes of “wrong location of toilets, walls, poor ventilation and vulnerable staircases and

exits will remain with the library staff and readers for many years to come (Ifidon and Ifidon, 2007:98), and this will affect utilization of the library and make collections unworthy of the time, energy and money spent in their acquisition. Therefore, it is not only the “size of the collections combined with its quality that ensure library adequacy” (Aguolu, 1989:12) but also its building which would obviously have

impact on the quantity and quality of its patronage and utilization.

In Nigeria, university libraries perform several functions for the achievement of higher education goals and national development. Some of these functions as identified by Emerole and Ogugua (2007:97) are to:

- a. Provide resources necessary for research in fields of special interests to university.
- b. Aid the university lecturer in keeping abreast of development of his field.
- c. Provide library facilities and services for making all formal programmes of instructions a success.
- d. Bring books, students and scholars together under conditions which encourage reading for pleasure, self-realization, personal growth and development in sharpening of intellectual curiosity.

A university library is therefore an integral part of the institution; the "... hub from which all intellectual activities should radiate to all academic and research programmes" (Aguolu, 1989:6). A place that performs such services and roles in a community should be an edifice that is conducive and comfortable to users. It should be a place where users can feel at

ease using, as it provides them with a sense of security because users of university library spend considerable hours in the library, reading, browsing, researching and studying. Thus the library needs to be a building that takes users' needs uppermost in its design and construction. A well designed library building will support its users (Knirk, 1993) by addressing a broad spectrum of issues that include occupant-related issues such as comfortable environment, adequate lighting, temperature and noise control.

Library utilization can also be influenced by the structure and location of the library in relation to students' hostels, classrooms and other places of congregation such as mosques or churches. This was supported by Ritterbush (2009:350) who found a "significant positive correlation between resident student populations and library usage statistics, particularly with regard to library gate counts, inter-library loan requests and in-person reference transactions".

The researcher's preliminary observation noted that most Federal University libraries in Nigeria are underutilized for one reason or the other. This is evidenced by some of the reviewed literature in this study. Thus, this prompted the need to look at other

possible factors other than the identified that might have been responsible for under utilization in these libraries.

Statement of the Problem

In recent years university libraries have been witnessing low patronage by the user community; this low patronage or under utilization has been ascribed to other things to include inadequate space and unconducive environment for study (Yelwa & Baba (2002), Abdullahi, (2009).

Other studies focused on services, resources, or epileptic I.C.T provision for under utilization; this study examined factor of library aesthetics facilities and utilization of libraries in federal Universities in North-East zone of Nigeria. Library underutilization is not only resources based but can also be building related. Relationship between libraries aesthetic facilities affect the utilization in positive way as evidenced from a study by Shill and Tonner (2004) that identified “comfortable seats, plus spacious well-lit tables and carrel surfaces as factors that have a positive impact on usage of an enhanced facilities”. Various reasons have been advanced for university libraries under utilization ranging from inadequate resources and lack of awareness (Fawowe (1989) and Boakye

(1999) and epileptic internet provision (Afebende & Ebaye (2008). This low patronage has also been linked to inadequacy of resources where available (Elogie,(2004). All these studies have focused on resources, services or ICT inadequacies; on have looked into the library building (aesthetic facilities) as an under utilization factor. Thus, this informed the need for the present study.

This study therefore examined the library building conditions that might be responsible for under utilization. The problem of the study therefore was to determine the strength of relationship between library building variable of aesthetic facilities and utilization of libraries of Federal Universities in North East Zone of Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were to determine:

1. The frequency of utilization of the library by users.
2. The length of time users spends in the library.
3. The services of the library more frequently utilized by users

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study

1. How often do the users utilize the library?
2. What is the length of time users spend in the library?
3. What services of the library are more frequently utilized by the users?

Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis was formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between library aesthetic facilities and utilization of libraries of Federal Universities in North East Zone of Nigeria.

Literature review

Aesthetic facilities are those items in academic libraries that add to the beauty and attractiveness of library usage in terms of indoor and outdoor environment such as good landscaping, colour, interior decoration, lighting, ventilation, temperature and signage/direction. In the article creating the library identity Kirby (1985; 120) observed that library needs to be relevant and be concerned with visual image and with being recognizable even within a system. It also emphasized on the

appropriate use of colours and furnishing for both users and staff at the different service points of a library.

A study by Schultz Leah observed that not just library usage is enhanced with aesthetics facilities but library web page design also. This was confirmed in the study in which “simple changes in the graphical content of a library Web page can significantly affect the users first impression of the page.” The implication is that libraries do need to spend significant time in planning the aesthetic appearance of their pages as well as other factors in designing web pages

Indoor environment quality is also highlighted to be of importance in any building not just library. This is so because any defect in poor design of building, poor layout, building materials etc can have a negative influence on human health, comfort and performance (Ali, Almomeni and Hindeih, 2009:170). In another related study by Bernardi and Kowaltowski (2006:160) on relevance of good environmental comfort, the authors identified that for any architectural design to be termed “humanised”, decorative elements and vegetation in the form of landscaping should be present.

Appropriate colour in a building play a significant part in usage of such facility as was observed by teachers in a study of classroom behavior over effect of light and color. It was found that there was positive reduction in inappropriate behaviour, reduction in restlessness and pleasantness of the room related to color (Sydoriak, 1985). Investigating lighting appropriateness in building, several writers have opined about the relevancy of proper lighting, such as absence of glare direct or reflected, varied type of light in the library for people to choose areas that fit their needs, good fixture lighting, avoidance of glossy surface etc (Mason, 1975; Metcalf, 1975, Bennet, 1987). Also in the same vein, Walters and Winters (1987:330) went further to say that “better design of lighting in libraries bring lasting added value to architecture”. In another write up by De-Silver and Turny (1993), such facilities in library as shelving height, fire exit, signage, smoke detector, high windows with verticals to allow walls to be used for posters and display, floor covering, appropriate to climate condition are highlighted as being very important to maximize usage.

Temperature and humidity control facilities are also relevant in building especially libraries where users spend quite

a number of hours to study. Library building therefore, should be devoid of sick building syndromes (SBS) that could impede utilization. This is so because in a survey study of some libraries in Great Britain (Morris and Dennison, 1995), which were found to be exhibiting Sick Building Syndrome [SBS] in air-conditioned library more than those in naturally ventilated library. This was attributed to poor maintenance due to financial constraints. Similarly in another study in Sweden by Alsmo and Homberg (2007) on indoor and built environment on schools, they found out that poor indoor air in schools has become a problem with serious effect on occupant health. This usually results in absenteeism, truancy, building alteration or demolition. It also showed that indoor school environments had high air borne pollution levels to a degree that probably causes health problems for many people. It was therefore highlighted that considerations should be given to choices in activities and furnishings of the building. A well lighted library will keep users busy in utilizing the resources because there is no stress to the eyes that could occur due to glare (direct or reflect). When light is provided to serve different users’ requirements, users can choose areas that fit their needs. That is why

Waters and Winters (1987:330) stressed that “better design of lighting in libraries bring lasting added value to architecture” Good lighting promotes energy efficiency and enhances quality of the interior environment. Too much light is considered poor quality light and glossy reflection from books or notes are a further source of deleterious effect (Lam, 1975). Appropriateness of lighting in the various areas of the libraries might make users spend more time in utilizing the resources to the maximum.

In another development Herzog(2011) advocated the offering library users what is not usually obtainable from internet and another digital information providers; that is physicality, architecture, qualia , light, human guidance, among others, to attract users to libraries. In enhancing aesthetics LaGuardia (2013) suggested other criteria to meet library users need. These include building libraries that draw people to them, library that people can use and use easily, environmentally friendly, balance the aesthetics with the practical and libraries with infinitely expandable capabilities for electrical outlets.

Thus the respect that libraries give to users is demonstrated by the attention paid to the appearance, comfort and aesthetics attention given to it. Colour schemes and work do

create beautiful and welcoming space. Also natural light has also been proved to improve learning, productivity and attitudes (Johnson, 2010). Fowley (2012) advocated library building appearances to attract users to library .Among the criteria identified that can boost library usage are good signage and way finding, clean and tidy spaces such as dustbin ,restrooms, and other spaces creating a brand for the library for effective mission and vision and also gives a focused identity.

Library utilization connotes usage and use pattern among users in terms of frequency, resources use, services, opening hours, purpose of usage and so forth. A study by Andrew (1991) showed users frequency of library use ranges from once a week to 2-3 times a week. On the other hand Nwezeh and Shabi (2011) observed that frequency of library use to be related to level of study of the students. They observed that postgraduate students and final year undergraduates frequently use the library more than other undergraduates. Length of time spent in the library also differs among users of university libraries. Gunasekera’s(2010) study observed that majority of the respondent spent few hours on a daily basis; while only 23% spent time in the library when necessary.

Services offered in the university libraries include reference, short term loan, inter-library loan, and user education. Lee (2004) observed that lack of current awareness services affected use of library of off-campus students. Also Gunasekera (2010) pointed out that about 95% of the students surveyed in University of Peradeniya (Sri Lanka) library borrowed reference materials and 93% photocopying services. In the same study about 80% have not used inter-library loan facility and e-journals for their information need. However; Olanlokun (1993) identified lack of current resources as hindering users of university libraries in optimal exploitation of resources. Likewise, Obiozor (2007) identified current resources as most preferred sources of university community users.

Research Methods

The study adopted the descriptive survey design. This design involves finding out opinions of public through the use of questionnaire complimented by interview. Survey design was adopted because it utilizes a variety of instruments and procedures to study relationships and comparisons between groups. According to Busha and Harter (1980) survey method is the most suitable technique with which to

discern the attitudes and opinions of library users in terms of the utilization or otherwise of the library services. Survey design also “permits inferences from and generalization to populations that would be too expensive to study as a whole” (Denga and Ali, 1989). The study covered Federal Universities in the North East Zone of Nigeria. This area consists of six states namely Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe States. There are state universities in Adamawa, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States but the study limited its coverage to libraries in the following Federal universities. University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi; and Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola. The population of the study consisted of 14,726 registered users identified through the registers study. These categories of users consisted of lecturers and students (undergraduates and postgraduates). The distribution of the categories in each university is as shown in Table 1. of the libraries in the study area representing the various categories of users of the libraries under investigation.

Research questions were analysed using descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation. Pearson Product-Moment-Correlation (PPMC) was employed to test

hypothesis. The decision rule for the research questions as represented in the QOLBUVAU scale is that the higher the mean score (X) the higher the frequency of utilization implying a decision of low, (1.0 to 1.49), moderate, (2.50 to 3.49) and higher (3.50 and above) mean score. The decision rule on the hypothesis is when the calculated

value is greater than ($P >$) the critical value the hypothesis is rejected but when the calculated value is less the hypothesis is retained.

Table 1: Population of Study and their Categories in the Study Area

Institutions	Lecturers	Undergraduate	Postgraduates	Total
Ramat Library, Unimaid.	453	4,650	358	5,461
Ibrahim Babangida Library Mautech	503	1071	316	1,890
Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Library Bauchi	352	5,523	1,500	7,375
Total	1308	11,244	2,174	14,726

Source: Library registers of the study Universities. (2010).

The samples for this study were 300 which were drawn from the population of users of the university libraries under study. A Proportional Stratified Random Sampling Technique was employed through balloting to arrive at the sample using lecturers, undergraduate and post graduate students as strata. This sampling technique is best for

sampling subjects/respondents of varying sizes.

Table 2: Sample Size in each Stratum

Institutions	Registered Users			Sample Size
	Lecturers	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	
Ramat Library, Unimaid	35	41	16	92
Ibrahim Babangida Library Mautech	38	10	15	63
Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Library, Bauchi	27	49	69	145
Total	100	100	100	300

The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire to elicit responses from the respondents tagged Questionnaire on Library Building Variables and Utilization

Institution	Frequency	Percentage(%)
ATBU Library Bauchi	131	50.4
IB Library Yola	46	17.7
Ramat Lib.M/guri	83	31.9
Total	260	100.0

(QOLBUVAU).

The distribution and collection of the questionnaire was done within a period of two weeks among the Federal Universities. This was to give respondents enough time to respond and allow the researcher enough

time to go back and collect the instrument; as the distribution was among the three university libraries under study. Only two hundred and sixty (260 copies) were retrieved, found usable and screened for analysis. This gives a return rate of 86.6%. The analysis in the study was based on the 260 respondents. ATBU Library Bauchi, had the highest respondents with 131(50.4%) followed by Ramat Library Unimaid with 83(31.9%) and IB Library (Mautech) 46(17.7%). The distribution is illustrated in Table 3.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Libraries

Out of the 260 respondents for the study; the undergraduate users accounted for 98(37.7%) while Postgraduate students and lectures accounted for 85(32.7%) and 77(29.6%) respectively as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Status

Users	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Undergraduates	98	37.7	37.00
Post graduates	85	32.7	70.40
Lecturers	77	29.6	100.00
Total	260	100.00	

Research Question One: How often do the users utilize the library?

Table 5: Frequency of Utilization of Libraries by Respondents

Results and Discussion

Frequency	Undergraduates		Postgraduates		Lecturers	
	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD
1-3 times/weeks	3.25	1.35	3.76	0.97	3.53	1.14
4-5 times/weeks	2.93	1.38	3.32	1.17	3.09	1.12
Occasionally	3.00	1.50	2.72	1.06	3.27	1.24

Table 5 showed the differences in frequency of time the category of users spend using the library based on the QOLBUVAU scale. The categories of users included 98 undergraduates, 85 postgraduates and 77 lecturers. From the Table 5, the most frequently used period of library by all categories of users was between 1-3 times per week with a mean score of $\bar{x}=3.25, \pm 1.35$ by undergraduates,

postgraduates $\bar{x}=3.76, \pm 0.97$ and lecturers have a mean score of $\bar{x}=3.53, \pm 1.14$. More lecturers and postgraduates students used the library within this frequency than undergraduate users. Usage of library between 4-5 times per weeks is less by all the users with a mean score of $\bar{x}=2.93, \pm 1.38$ by undergraduates, while postgraduates have mean score of $\bar{x}=3.32, \pm 1.17$ and lecturers have mean score of $\bar{x}=3.09, \pm 1.12$. The use of library

occasionally also recorded low patronage with lecturers mean score of $\bar{x}=3.27, \pm 1.24$ as earlier identified, postgraduates have a mean score of $\bar{x}=2.72, \pm 1.06$ and undergraduates mean score of $3.00, \pm 1.50$. The analysis revealed that lecturers and

postgraduates did not use library occasionally but frequently

Research Question Two: What is the length of time the users spent in the library?

Table 6: Length of Time and Utilization of Library by Respondents

Hours	Undergraduates		Postgraduates		Lecturers	
	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD	S	SD
1-2	3.47	1.25	3.70	1.08	3.72	0.99
3-4	3.06	1.35	3.10	1.19	3.63	1.09
5-6	2.62	1.30	2.94	1.28	2.74	1.03

On number of hours spent in the library, analysis shown on Table 6 revealed that the means score of lecturers use of the library between 1-2 hours is $\bar{x}=3.72, \pm 0.99$ followed by postgraduates with mean score of $\bar{x}=3.70, \pm 1.08$ and undergraduates mean score of $\bar{x}=3.47, \pm 1.25$. The use of library for much longer hours (3-4) is also recorded for lecturers $\bar{x}=3.63, \pm 1.09$, postgraduates mean score of $\bar{x}=3.10, \pm 1.19$ and undergraduates have the mean score of $\bar{x}=3.06, \pm 1.35$. All category of users

recorded less use of libraries for five (5) hours and above. Undergraduates have mean score of $\bar{x}=2.62, \pm 1.30$, while postgraduates have a mean score of $2.94, \pm 1.28$ and lecturers have a mean score of $2.74, \pm 1.03$. This shows that most users in the study do not use library for longer than three (3) hours at a stretch.

Research Question Three: What are the services of the library more frequently utilized by the users?

Table 7 Services and Utilization of Libraries by Respondents

Services	Undergraduates		Postgraduates		Lecturers	
	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD
Reference	3.55	1.19	3.63	0.94	3.90	0.92
Short term loan	2.92	1.23	3.05	1.33	3.94	1.06
Inter library loan	2.65	1.21	2.74	1.30	3.29	1.30
User education	3.33	1.21	3.35	1.09	3.66	1.17

Data on Table 7 indicated that services being utilized in the library from the study included references, short term loan; inter library loan and user education. A mean score of $\bar{x}=3.55, \pm 1.19$ of undergraduates identified to use reference materials, while mean score of $3.63, \pm 0.94$ of postgraduates use reference services and lecturers has a mean score of $\bar{x}=3.90, \pm 0.92$ usage of reference services. In other words the reference services were highly used by the lecturers, postgraduates and then undergraduates in that order. With regard to Short term loan, Table 8 showed that the lecturers made use of the short term loan more with a mean score of $\bar{x}=3.94, \pm 1.06$ followed by postgraduates with a mean score of $\bar{x}=3.05, \pm 1.33$ and undergraduates has the means score of $\bar{x}=2.92, \pm 1.23$. The reason for this difference between the respondents might be alluded to the fact that lecturers were more aware of this service and exploited it more for their research and teaching responsibilities; they were also more certain of returning the materials.

Inter-library loan was another service that helped library users to bridge gap in their information need of a library. A mean score of $\bar{x}=3.29, \pm 1.30$ of the lecturers used this service against a mean score of $\bar{x}=2.74, \pm 1.30$ of the postgraduates and mean score of $\bar{x}=2.65, \pm 1.21$ of undergraduates. User education is a service rendered to assist user to maximizing usage of library resources. As shown in the Table 8, lecturers utilize it with a mean score of $\bar{x}=3.66, \pm 1.17$ followed by postgraduates mean score of $\bar{x}=3.35, \pm 1.09$ and undergraduates mean score of $\bar{x}=3.33, \pm 1.21$. Therefore, the entire study group made use of user education as mean of utilizing the library maximally.

Hypothesis Testing:

Ho: There is no significant relationship between library aesthetic facilities and users utilization of libraries in Federal Universities in North East zone of Nigeria

Table 8: Mean Score and Pearson Correlation between Study Variables.

Variables	N	\bar{x}	Df	r-value	r-critical.	Decision
Aesthetic facilities	260	3.06	258	0.251	0.138	Sig
Library utilization	260	3.47				

Significant at 0.05 level

Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis was conducted to examine if aesthetic facilities in a library could be related to library utilization. Table 8 showed the summary of means, standard deviation and correlation coefficient between the variables as measured by the instrument (QOLBUVAU). Table 8 revealed that the mean score for aesthetic facilities was 3.06 while library utilization had a mean of 3.46. The calculated r-value was .251 and critical value was 0.138 with df of 258. Since the calculated r-value was greater than the r-critical value; therefore the null hypothesis was rejected.

The results showed a positive significant correlation between aesthetic facilities and utilization of libraries ($r=0.251$; $P \leq 0.05$). This suggests that where there was adequate aesthetic facilities high level of utilization of library was likely to occur. The hypothesis which stated that there was no significant relationship between library aesthetic facilities and utilization was rejected and the alternative hypothesis that there is a significant relationship between library aesthetic facilities and users' utilization of libraries in federal universities in North East zone of Nigeria was accepted.

Summary of Findings of the Study

1. Lecturers and post graduate students frequently use the library more than under graduates.
2. All users do not use the library for longer than 3 hours at a stretch.
3. Lecturers also use reference materials, Short-term loan materials and inter-library loan facilities more than other users. The users exploit user education as much as their need demands it.
4. There was a significant relationship between Library aesthetic facilities and utilization of libraries of Federal Universities in North East Zone of Nigeria.

Based on the research questions raised which sought to determine the different usage of the libraries by the respondents, the result revealed differences in utilization of the libraries. Lecturers patronized libraries less in a week according to the findings of the study than either of the group. Lecturers spend between 1-3 times per week in the library against 4-5 times per week of the postgraduates and undergraduates users. This finding is consistent with Fawowe's (1989), Gunasekera's (2010) and Adeniran's (2011) studies by frequency of use by undergraduate students were higher than other category of users. This finding is similar to the present study as it reveals

more undergraduates use of library than lecturers.

Hours spent in libraries also differ among the study subjects. All categories of users recorded less use of library for 5 hours and above. This finding conformed to Nwezeh's and Shabi's (2011) study, in which time spent in library, is less than 5 hours. In fact the present study reveals that lecturers and postgraduate students use library for less than 3 hours at a stretch, while undergraduates use the library for longer period of time. This also conforms to studies by Omehia, Obi and Itohowo (2008), Oyadonghan (2011) and Adeniran (2011).

Services rendered in academic libraries include reference services, short term loan of materials, inter-library loans and users' education services. In the reference services, lecturers utilize the services more than postgraduates and undergraduates, lecturers also utilized short-term loan and inter-library loan services than undergraduates and postgraduates. User education service is utilize according to the needs and demands of all categories of users. Thus, the use of these library services is related to level and research activities undertaken by the user. However, because the lecturers are involved in teaching and research, they tend to exploit these services

more than other users. This study confirms earlier studies by Olanlokun (1983), Ajayi (1993) and Houghland (1996) in which use of library is related to research needs and activities of users in a library and also the extent of user education a library user is exposed to. Aesthetic facilities as the name imply connote items that enhance usage of library services and activities. In this study, items of aesthetic facilities include: colour, landscaping, directors/signage, natural light, artificial light, and decoration, flooring and thermal condition. These items were looked at to determine how their combination can influence usage of university libraries.

Findings of the study revealed that a relationship existed between library aesthetic facilities and utilization of the libraries by users. The result of the present study showed a correlation of $r = 0.251$, $n = 260$, $p < 0.01$ alpha level. The direction of the correlation clearly shows a much stronger correlation with utilization. The two variables also shared a variance of 6.3% which indicated that aesthetic facilities helped to explain nearly 6.3% of the variance in respondents' scores on the utilization of libraries scale of measurement (QOLBUVAU). Items of aesthetics that users of libraries under study responded to favourably in enhancing utilization of

libraries are decoration and directors/signage of the libraries. These are followed by artificial light and thermal condition of the libraries. Without proper signage/directors in any library system, users may find it difficult to navigate the different sections of the service points in a library. Furthermore, university library is basically research based; the issue of interior décor of the library might have direct bearing on maximal usage. With proper decoration in the library, it might also help the library environment to be more humane, allowing people opportunity to avoid many stressful situations and permitting both users and staff the opportunity to be as effective as possible in their pursuits.

The present study also support previous literatures of Metcalf (1975), Sydoriak (1985), Veatch (1987), and Bennet (1987) in terms of need for aesthetics to be built into a library structure to maximize patronage and utilization. Even though colour, flooring and landscaping were scored low as aesthetic contributory to library utilization, they nevertheless have a bearing on library usage. In addition to this, the high respondents score on thermal condition of the libraries agreed with previous literature of Mason (1975) who opined that ventilation must be distributed in

the library at the proper volume, temperature and from proper distance because air blown from diffusers located too close to the reader greatly exaggerate the temperature.

Conclusion:

Based on the findings of the study the following conclusions were drawn. Library utilization differs among the three categories of users. Lecturers visit the library less than 3 times in a week than either postgraduates or undergraduates, and spend few hours in the library than either group. Lecturers also utilize reference services, short-term loan and inter-library loan services more than either postgraduates or undergraduates. All users exploit user education service for their needs. The study revealed that there was a significant relationship between library aesthetics facilities and utilization of University libraries in North - East zone of Nigeria

Recommendations

1. Since utilization of libraries varies among users of university libraries, there should be more research materials in both print and non-print formats.
2. The university libraries should provide more up-to-date resources/materials in all formats for all categories of users.

3. More leisure lounge areas should be provided so that users can have places they can relax when not using the library for academic or research purposes.
4. The available aesthetic facilities in the study libraries could be improved upon to enhance further usage.
5. Library administrators and architects should take note of aesthetics of library building and design to maximize usage to libraries. Libraries should be built with these in mind so that effective utilization can be made of them.

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