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**Library Environmental Factors and Students' Patronage of Library Services in the
University of Uyo Main Library**

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Abstract

This study examined the influence of library environmental factors on students' patronage of library services in the university of Uyo main library. The factors under investigation are library aesthetics, library lighting, library ventilation, library spacing and students' patronage of library services. Four specific purposes were coined using the factors. Four research questions and hypotheses coined from the specific purposes were stated to guide the study. The descriptive survey design was used for the study. The study was conducted in Akwa Ibom State using the University of Uyo main library as a case study. The population was 150 respondents, comprising level 300, 400 and 500 students of the department of petroleum engineering, University of Uyo in the 2019/2020 session. Since the population size was manageable, all the population were used as the sample using census sampling. The researcher-made instrument entitled "Library Environmental Factors and Students Patronage of Library Services Questionnaire (LEFSPLSQ)" was used for data collection. The instrument was face validated by 3 experts, 2 experts in library science and one expert from tests and measurement all from the University of Uyo. The instrument after validation was then administered to 20 students in the Department of Physics, university of uyo to determine the reliability. Cronbach alpha was used to ascertain the reliability coefficient. The result gave an index of 0.87. Based on the high reliability coefficient, the instrument was deemed fit for the study. The instrument was then administered to the students and retrieved within a period of 15 school days. The data collected was collated, coded and analysed using descriptive statistics of Bar chart and Mean to answer the research questions and Chi-Square to test the null hypothesis at .05 alpha level. From the findings of the study, it was concluded that there is a significant influence of library environmental factors on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library. It was recommended that Library administrators provide adequate lighting in the library for its patrons and the spacing in the library should support individualistic learning and provide for privacy of library patrons in the course of research or study.

Keywords: library environment, Aesthetics, Lighting, Ventilation, Space, Patronage

Introduction

The university library environmental factors involves all the circumstances, people, things, and events around the library. The university library surrounding or physical environment plays important role in stimulating users' special interest on the university library by considering her as one of the best places to spend leisure time in the university. Affirmatively, Amusa & Iyoro (2013) averred that the design of a library can influence users' behaviour and satisfaction; in the same way that the physical environment and organisation of a library can. Library environment ought to be a favourable or positive influence on the objectives of establishing the library. Ogbonna & Okenyi (2006) noted that the environment of academic libraries has undergone changes resulting from lack of financial resources, poor architectural designs, climatic conditions and the rising wave of technologies. They went further to note that the environment of the library has moved from the aesthetic beauty, the architectural designs etc, to the development and use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the organisation of libraries. Environmental factors is considered important because it includes anything that may impact on any of the five senses of sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste. It also includes landscape, architecture, interior layout and decoration, lighting, air quality and temperatures, and human relationships and interactions. The university library environment ought to be a convivial and welcoming space to the library users. A space designed to motivate the information, teaching, research and learning seeking behaviour of the users. The environment of the library can be a place that prioritises aesthetic, lighting, ventilation, space according to the taste and desirability of users.

Aesthetics is a mechanism for attraction, admiration and acceptance. It's expedient for comfort, reliance and relaxation. Aesthetic appearance attracts attention, therefore, the university library can create user friendly environment, full of glamour and splendour that earns users' frequent patronage. Aesthetics enhance library identification and personality conveyed by exterior signs, attractive ground and adequate parking space, good learning space, and environment landscape. Library aesthetics illustrates that designers of libraries shift their focus to creating people-oriented libraries. Aesthetics of the library entails the design and facilities in the library building that makes patrons experience a memorable one. Library aesthetics is the philosophy of the beauty, refurbishment and art or exhibition of the library. Consequently, Ibrahim & Sakiyo (2015) stated that aesthetics facilities are those items in 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 same vein, Ugwuanyi, Okwor & Ezeji (2011) specifically opined that aesthetics is an important factor in the library building. New library buildings should pay attention to the expression of beauty as representing knowledge and culture. This idea is shown in the combination of such aspect as exterior look, interior layout, artistic design and natural environment. Aesthetics concentrates on development and constitution of a viable and enabling learning environment (Logan, Medford & Hughes, 2011).

Lightning is an essential environmental facility that illuminates the library to be attractive. According to Malman (2001) proper lighting is very important to the overall success of a library building. Thus, good lighting design in library buildings is the result of both technical skill and art on the part of the designer. The lighting design must fulfil needs for glare control, spatial definition, orientation, and variety, and these may have more bearings on the perception of "good lighting" than achieving certain lighting levels. Increasingly, there is an expectation that daylight, controlled sunlight, and fresh air should be provided in all or most public parts of the library (Edwards, 2011). Library lighting designs consistently incorporate direct/indirect lighting systems as an accepted method of creating visually comfortable and consistent spaces. Malman (2001) further suggested that "direct and indirect lighting are often combined in suspended fluorescent fixtures that have a mostly-up light distribution and a small well-shielded down light component, approx. 80% up light and 20% down light. Hohmann (2006) affirmed that differentiated lighting improves orientation, highlights and creates atmosphere. Daylight varies in brightness and colour constantly. However, a single, consistently uniform, lighting system must be provided for sufficient illumination and for the most intensive task: lighting stacks.

Ventilation is the intentional introduction of outside air into a space. For Sustainable building design ventilation, Lomas, Cook & Eppel (1999) suggested appropriate techniques including: wind- and buoyancy-driven natural ventilation, daylighting, night cooling and the use of combined heat and power plants. Air is the prime supporter of life; health; and life as a phenomenon depends on the purity of the air. A healthy library environment is obviously needed by all, but sometimes the interests of energy efficiency and book conservation can undermine the internal quality of light and air. People tend to like daylight and natural ventilation, so every effort should be made to maximize their presence in the library (Sands, 2008).

One of the most important goals of academic library design must be to restore and rejuvenate communal library spaces. Ugwuanyi, Okwor & Ezeji (2011) recommended that space is a very important concept in designing and planning academic library as a place.

Therefore, they suggested three basic elements to consider and harness together in provision and maintenance of space in the library; which are function, usability and attractiveness. The interior designers and architects are concerned with the shape arrangements that encourage the workability of the spaces. This calls for collaboration among the librarians, interior designers and architects in library building design and space management. Space is a precious and expensive resource and planning new space is a serious business. Consequently, Librarians Registration Council of Nigeria (2014) suggested: sufficient space for staff offices; adequate space for toilet facilities; adequate space for snacks and coffee room; adequate cooling Systems; adequate cross ventilation and sufficient lighting. Library users deserve conducive, comfortable and convivial learning and studying space that is aesthetical, tasteful and appealing. A space that makes them convenient, relaxed (in fact inducing in the feeling of home away from home) and entertained during patronage. Users' library visits or patronage is very essential to sustain the university library existence. The physical library building serves as the centre of information services and source for the library users.

Library patronage entails library users visit to the library to consult its information resources; and the services that it offers in order to satisfy their information needs. Patronage entails that one party offers something that the other party desires; and the desiring party comes to get that thing. In essence, the library offers information services that the users desire; thus, they patronize the library by coming to the library to seek for the services, in order to satisfy their needs. Even though the influence and implementation of information and communication technology (ICT) in library practices enables users to remotely patronize the services of the library, there is need also to influence their patronage of the physical library services. The university library has the mandate to strategize and adopt workable modalities to ensure users' frequent patronage. Oyedum (2011) opined that for effective patronage of university libraries to be achieved, they should not only provide and preserve information materials for all categories of users but should endeavour to keep the reading environment inviting and attractive. University library users on daily basis patronise the library building for various educational purposes (research, reading, group discussion, doing of assignment etc); to consult the library services and also for social and entertainment activities. Against this background, the study is conducted to explore library environmental factors and students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library.

Statement of the Problem

The university library environment is expected to be a convivial and welcoming space to the library users. A space designed to motivate the information, teaching, research and learning seeking behaviour of the users. The environment of the library should be a space that prioritises the taste and desirability of users. However, it has been observed that virtually all service institutions and information infrastructure adopt the philosophy of aesthetics, lighting, ventilation, and space in the design of their service institutions but how these factors earn and encourage users' patronage of library services is yet to be fully determined or known. Therefore, there is need to explore how library environmental factors earn and encourage users' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to determine the influence of library environmental factors on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library, while the specific objectives are to:

1. Determine the influence of library Aesthetics on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library.
2. Examine the influence of Lightning on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library.
3. Investigate the influence of Ventilation on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library.
4. Find out the influence of space on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library.

Research Questions

This research work would be guided with the following research questions:

1. What is the influence of library Aesthetics on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library?
2. What is the influence of lightning on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library?
3. What is the influence of ventilation on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library?
4. What is the influence of library space on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are postulated to guide the study:

1. There is no significant influence of library Aesthetics on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library.
2. There is no significant influence of lightning on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library.
3. There is no significant influence of ventilation on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library.
4. There is no significant influence of space on students' patronage of library services in the University of Uyo main library

Methodology

Descriptive survey design was adopted for the research study. The design was adopted because it is fact-finding in nature. This study was conducted in the University of Uyo main Library. The University of Uyo was established on October 1, 1991 by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The population of the study consisted of undergraduate students of the faculty of Engineering, department of petroleum Engineering, University of Uyo during the 2019/2020 academic session. This is because the main library is mainly used by the students of this faculty. The census sampling technique was adopted to select 150 respondents. This sampling technique was considered since every member of the total population were included in the study. The instrument for data collection was a researcher- designed questionnaire; entitled "library Environmental Factors and Students' patronage of Library Services Questionnaire (LEFSPLSQ)". The researcher personally distributed copies of the questionnaire to all the respondents. Research questions were answered using bar charts while chi square was used in testing hypotheses.

Results

Research Question 1

Is there any influence of library aesthetics on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library?

Table 1: Bar Chart Presentation for influence of library aesthetics on students' patronage of library services

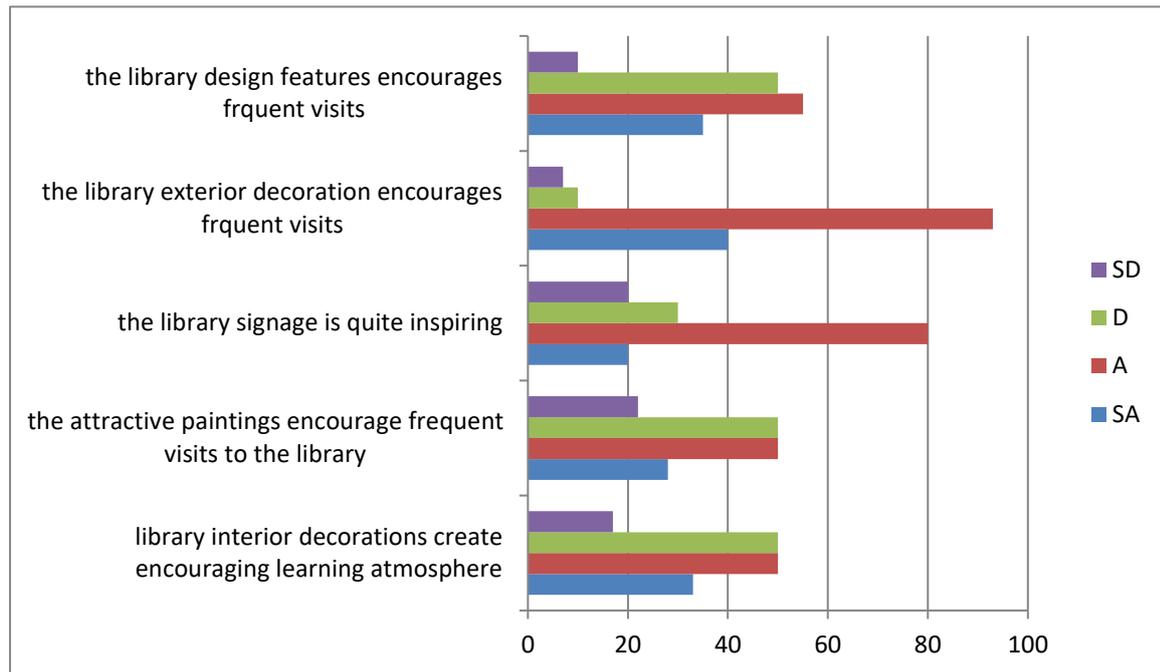


Table 1 shows the responses of students in the petroleum engineering department on how library aesthetics influence their patronage. The result shows that on whether the library interior decorations encourage learning, 33 students strongly agreed, while 50 agreed. However, 50 students also disagreed and 17 strongly disagreed that the library interior decorations encourage learning. On whether the attractive paintings encourage frequent visits, the result shows that 28 respondents strongly agreed, 50 agreed, while 50 also disagreed and 22 strongly disagreed. On whether the library signage is inspiring, the result shows that 80 agreed, with 20 strongly agreed and 30 disagreed, while 20 strongly disagreed. On whether the library design features encourages frequent visits, 55 respondents agreed, 35 strongly agreed, while 50 also disagreed and 10 strongly disagreed. Thus, the analysis of the data shows that although aesthetics influence patronage, there is minimal level of influence of library aesthetics on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library.

Research Question 2

Is there any influence of library lighting on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library?

Table 2: Bar Chart Presentation for influence of library lighting on students' patronage of library services

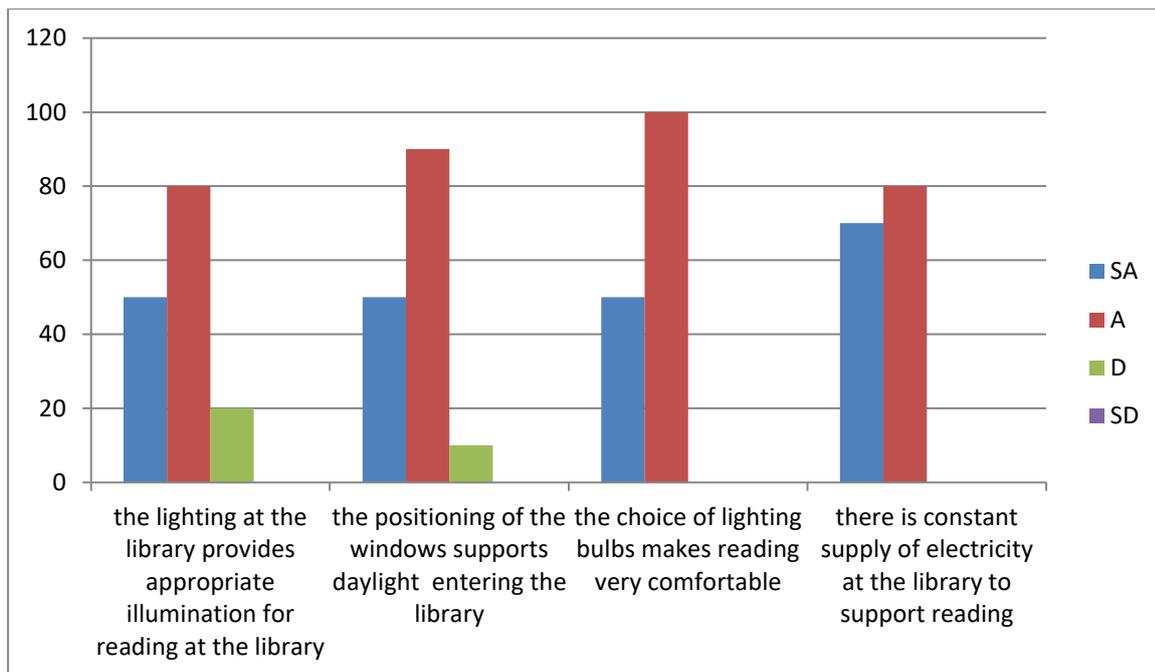


Table 2 shows the responses of respondents depicted through a bar chart. The result shows that when asked about appropriate illumination at the library, 50 respondents strongly agreed, 80 respondents agreed while 20 disagreed. The result also showed that 50 respondents strongly agreed the positioning of the windows supports daylight entering the library, while 90 agreed and 6 respondents disagreed. On whether the choice of lighting bulbs makes reading more comfortable, 50 respondents strongly agreed, while 100 agreed. On constant electricity supply at the library, 80 respondents agreed and 70 respondents strongly agreed. From the analysis, it is clear that library lighting influences students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library to a great extent.

Research Question 3

Is there any influence of library ventilation on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library?

Table 3: Bar Chart Presentation for influence of library ventilation on students' patronage of library services

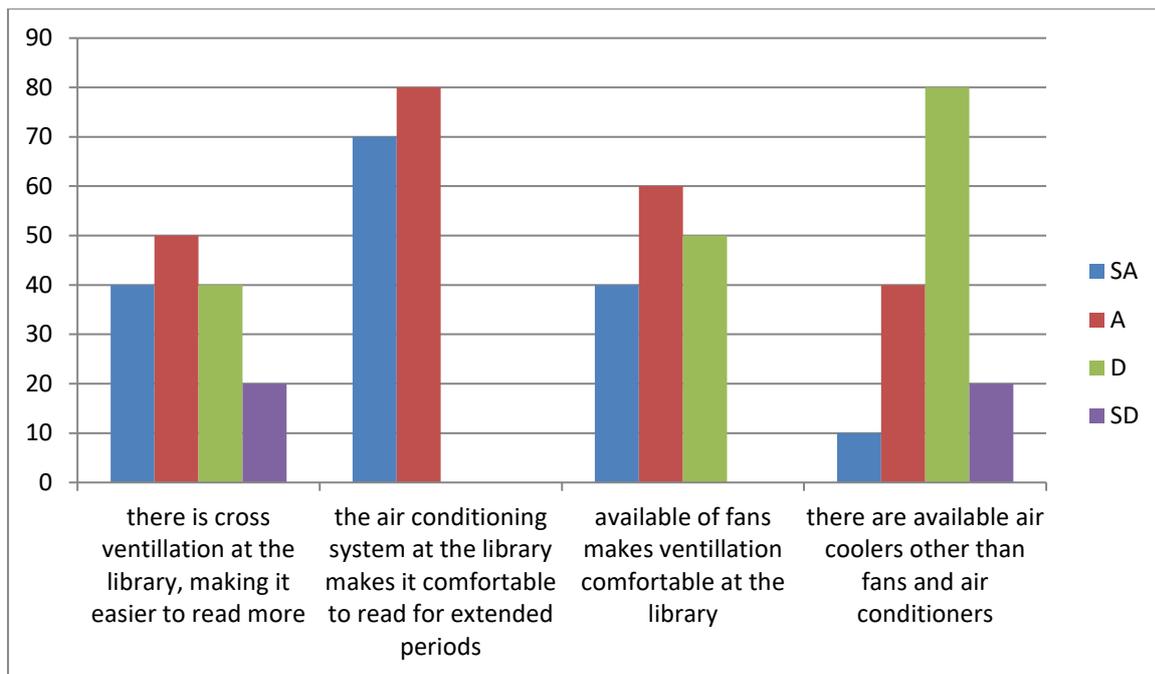


Table 3 shows the responses of respondents presented using a bar chart. The result shows that when asked about cross ventilation at the library, 40 respondents strongly agreed, 50 respondents agreed while 40 and 20 disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. The result also showed that 70 respondents strongly agreed that the air conditioning system is effective at the library and supports reading, while 80 agreed. On whether available fans make ventilation comfortable, 60 respondents agreed, 40 strongly agreed, while 50 strongly disagreed. On whether there are other types of coolers at the library, the chart shows that 40 respondents agreed while 80 disagreed. From the analysis, library ventilation influences students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library to a great extent.

Research Question 4

Is there any influence of library spacing on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library?

Table 4: Bar Chart Presentation for influence of library spacing on students' patronage of library services

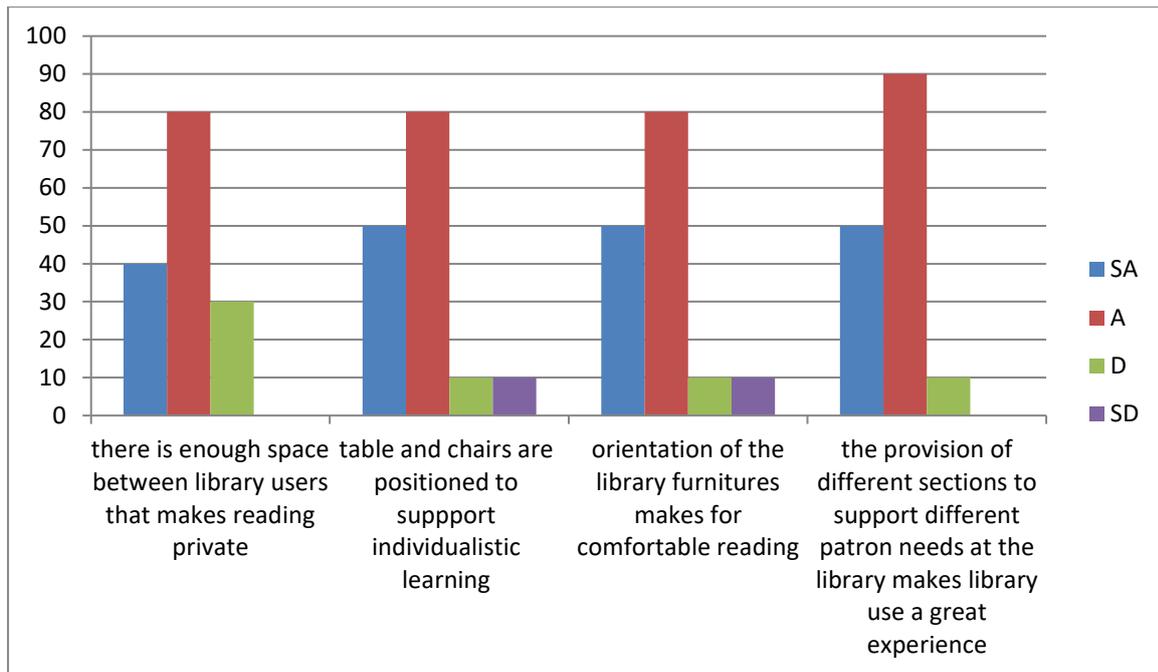


Table 4 shows the bar chart presentation of how library spacing influence students' patronage of library services. The summary of responses shows that on enough spacing between library users, 40 respondents strongly agreed that there is enough spacing between users at the library, 80 agreed, while 30 disagreed. On the item on table and chairs positioned to support individualistic learning, 50 respondents strongly agreed and 80 respondents out of a total of 150, agreed that there are enough space for individualistic learning. 10 each disagreed and strongly disagreed that there are enough space for individualistic learning. On the provision of different sections to support different patron needs, 90 respondents agreed while 50 strongly agreed. The findings shows that library spacing influence students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library to a great extent.

Research hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested at .05 alpha level

H₀₁: There is no significant influence of library aesthetics on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library.

Table 5: Summary of Chi Square Test for influence of library aesthetics on students' patronage of library services

	SA	A	D	SD	ROW TOTAL	df	X^2_{cal}	X^2_{crit}	Decision
library interior decorations create encouraging learning atmosphere	33	50	50	17	150	12	53.71	23.34	Reject Ho
the attractive paintings encourage frequent visits to the library	28	50	50	22	150				
the library signage is quite inspiring	20	80	30	20	150				
the library exterior decoration encourages frequent visits	40	93	10	7	150				
the library design features encourages frequent visits	35	55	50	10	150				
COLUMN TOTAL	156	328	190	76	750				

Table 5 shows the summary of the chi square test for influence. The result shows that the X^2_{cal} is 53.71. The critical X^2 value at degree of freedom (4-1)(5-1) at .05 alpha level is 23.34 since the X^2_{cal} is greater than the X^2_{crit} the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there is a significant influence of library aesthetics on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library.

Ho2: There is no significant influence of library lighting on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library

Table 6: Summary of Chi Square Test for influence of library lighting on students' patronage of library services

	SA	A	D	SD	ROW TOTAL	Df	X^2_{cal}	X^2_{crit}	Decision
the lighting at the library provides appropriate	50	80	20	0	150			15.51	

illumination for reading at the library						8	79.59		Reject Ho
the positioning of the windows supports daylight entering the library	50	90	10	0	150				
the choice of lighting bulbs makes reading very comfortable	50	100	0	0	150				
there is constant supply of electricity at the library to support reading	70	80	0	0	150				
Column Total	220	350	30	0	600				

Table 6 shows the summary of the chi square test for influence. The result shows that the X^2_{cal} is 79.59. The critical X^2 value at degree of freedom (4-1)(3-1) at .05 alpha level is 15.51 since the X^2_{cal} is greater than the X^2_{crit} the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there is a significant influence of library lighting on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library.

Ho3: There is no significant influence of library ventilation on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library.

Table 7: Summary of Chi Square Test for influence of library ventilation on students' patronage of library services

	SA	A	D	SD	ROW TOTAL	df	X^2_{cal}	X^2_{crit}	Decision
there is cross ventilation at the library, making it easier to read more	40	50	40	20	150	9	98.147	16.92	Reject Ho
the air conditioning system at the library makes it comfortable to read for extended periods	70	80	0	0	150				

available of fans makes ventilation comfortable at the library	40	60	50	0	150				
there are available air coolers other than fans and air conditioners	10	40	80	20	150				
Column Total	160	230	170	40	600				

Table 7 shows the summary of the chi square test for influence. The result shows that the X^2_{cal} is 98.147. The critical X^2 value at degree of freedom (4-1)(4-1) at .05 alpha level is 16/92 since the X^2_{cal} is greater than the X^2_{crit} the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there is a significant influence of library ventilation on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library.

Ho4: There is no significant influence of library spacing on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library.

Table 8: Summary of Chi Square Test for influence of library spacing on students' patronage of library services

	SA	A	D	SD	ROW TOTAL	df	X^2_{cal}	X^2_{crit}	Decision
there is enough space between library users that makes reading private	40	80	30	0	150	9	128.07	16.92	Reject Ho
table and chairs are positioned to support individualistic learning	50	80	10	10	150				
orientation of the library furnitures makes for comfortable reading	50	80	10	10	150				
the provision of different sections to support different patron needs at the library makes library use a great experience	50	90	10	0	150				
COLUMN TOTAL	190	330	60	20	600				

Table 8 shows the summary of the chi square test for influence. The result shows that the X^2_{cal} is 128.07. The critical X^2 value at degree of freedom (4-1)(4-1) at .05 alpha level is 16.92 since the X^2_{cal} is greater than the X^2_{crit} the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there is a significant influence of insecticides on effective protection of information resources in university of uyo main library.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study are hereby discussed

Influence of Aesthetics on Students' Patronage of Library Services

The result shows that on whether the library interior decorations encourage learning, 33 students strongly agreed, while 50 agreed. However, 50 students also disagreed and 17 strongly disagreed that the library interior decorations encourage learning. On whether the attractive paintings encourage frequent visits, the result shows that 28 respondents strongly agreed, 50 agreed, while 50 also disagreed and 22 strongly disagreed. On whether the library signage is inspiring, the result shows that 80 agreed, with 20 strongly agreed and 30 disagreed, while 20 strongly disagreed. On whether the library design features encourages frequent visits, 55 respondents agreed, 35 strongly agreed, while 50 also disagreed and 10 strongly disagreed. Thus, the analysis of the data shows that although there is aesthetics influence on patronage, there is minimal level of influence of library aesthetics on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library. The corresponding hypothesis test shows that there is a significant influence of library aesthetics on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library. This finding is supported by Ibrahim and Sakiyo (2015) who found out that aesthetics add to the beauty and attractiveness of libraries, thus, prompting curiosity and likeability among patrons. A well designed library has the capacity to lure visitors by stirring up positive emotions that may attract patrons to the library.

Influence of Library Lighting on Students' Patronage of Library Services

The result shows that when asked about appropriate illumination at the library, 50 respondents strongly agreed, 80 respondents agreed while 20 disagreed. The result also showed that 50 respondents strongly agreed the positioning of the windows supports daylight entering the library, while 90 agreed and 6 respondents disagreed. On whether the choice of lighting bulbs makes reading more comfortable, 50 respondents strongly agreed, while 100 agreed. On constant electricity supply at the library, 80 respondents agreed and 70 respondents strongly agreed. From the analysis, it is clear that library lighting influences students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library to a great extent. The related hypothesis test reveals a significant influence of library lighting on students' patronage of library services in

university of uyo main library. This finding is corroborated by Hohmann (2006) who found out that proper and effective library lighting influences the ambience around the library, makes reading less strenuous to the eyes, reduces discomfort and supports longer reading hours.

Influence of Library Ventilation on Students' Patronage of Library Services

The result shows that when asked about cross ventilation at the library, 40 respondents strongly agreed, 50 respondents agreed while 40 and 20 disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. The result also showed that 70 respondents strongly agreed that the air conditioning system is effective at the library and supports reading, while 80 agreed. On whether available fans make ventilation comfortable, 60 respondents agreed, 40 strongly agreed, while 50 strongly disagreed. On whether there are other types of coolers at the library, the chart shows that 40 respondents agreed while 80 disagreed. From the analysis, library ventilation influences students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library to a great extent. The related hypothesis test reveals a significant influence of library ventilation on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library. This finding is in line with Saanwald (1998) who found out that the library should be cool, dry and well ventilated. The library must consider the varied needs of patrons with respect to physical health. All library ventilation designs are for comfort cooling.

Influence of Library Spacing on Students' Patronage of Library Services

The summary of responses shows that on enough spacing between library users, 40 respondents strongly agreed that there is enough spacing between users at the library, 80 agreed, while 30 disagreed. On the item on table and chairs positioned to support individualistic learning, 50 respondents strongly agreed and 80 respondents out of a total of 150, agreed that there are enough space for individualistic learning. 10 each disagreed and strongly disagreed that there are enough space for individualistic learning. On the provision of different sections to support different patron needs, 90 respondents agreed while 50 strongly agreed. The findings show that library spacing influence students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library to a great extent. The related hypothesis test reveals a significant influence of library spacing on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library. This finding is in line with McDonald(2006) which found that library spaces should be functional, adaptable, accessible, interactive, conducive, safe and secure. Academic libraries should have enough sitting facilities, shelving and display cabinets. The spacing should be enough to allow for interaction but also support individualistic learning.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This study examined the influence of library environmental factors on students' patronage of library services in the university of uyo main library. The factors under investigation are library aesthetics, library lighting, library ventilation, library spacing and students' patronage of library services. From the findings of the study, it is concluded that there is a significant influence of library environmental factors on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library. Specifically, there is a significant influence of library spacing, aesthetics, lighting and ventilation on students' patronage of library services in university of uyo main library.

Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that

1. Library administrators should provide adequate lighting at the library for its patrons.
2. Library administrators should provide proper ventilation at the library to promote comfort and easy study.
3. The air conditioners at the library should be routinely serviced and maintained for comfort cooling.
4. The spacing at the library should support individualistic learning and provide for privacy of library patrons in the course of research or study.
5. In the design of the library, its aesthetic features should be enhanced for greater appeal.

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