

## REPOSITIONING THE DR. LAWRENCE OMOLE LIBRARY, OSUN STATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ILESA FOR AESTHETICS AND INCREASED USERS' PATRONAGE

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**ABSTRACT:** The research took a survey of the present condition of the library in the areas of aesthetics and patronage. It has been revealed that the library needs a holistic repositioning ranging from the internal arrangement down to the external environment. There are junks and obsolete equipment that need evacuation and outright replacement; this will pave way for new facilities such as telephone booth eatery, very important personalities corner (VIPs), art works and also improvement on the existing facilities such as convenience, ventilation, lighting, secretarial bureau, information centre, cloak room, locked and other [go to the back]. Library aesthetics is a serious business hence librarians and information practitioners must of necessity place much premium on it for increased patronage which is an important indicator for relevance and recognition in the academic community.

**Key words:** Repositioning, Library, College, Education, Aesthetics, Users, and patronage

The present condition of the Dr. Lawrence Omole library calls for an overhauling of the entire arrangement in order to attract more users to boost the patronage of the library thus giving life to the various books and materials on the shelves. It is only when these materials are utilized for various tasks by the users that are emerge justification for the huge funds that have been expanded on its acquisition.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Libraries promote reading and research which are processes that could lead to transformation of the society. Essentially, the place where knowledge enterprises take place must of necessity be a dynamic environment which can accommodate new ideas and interventions, foster adaptation of technologies and encourage cross fertilization of ideas (Akande et al. 2024)

The central objective of any library is to further the right to education and access to knowledge, and ideas of members of the community (Ogbona and Ezeani 2020).

Therefore, the realization of this objective is contingent on the necessity to provide a conducive atmosphere for the users in order to increase patronage to the library.

This assertion is akin to a dictum that says 'The place makes the event'. Essentially, if the library is not attractive users, no matter the number of materials and resources available, the patronage will be abysmally low. The reason being that users want a maximum comfort for themselves when it comes to incubation of knowledge. Knowledge acquisition is a serious enterprise which cannot be treated with a kid glove.

### II. PROBLEM STATEMENT/JUSTIFICATION

The present layout of the library coupled with the arrangement of facilities in the library needs a holistic reorganization and overhauling in order to fit in as a truly 21st century library.

The exterior surface, entrance, lobby, floor, reading rooms, offices including the furniture and equipment need to be aesthetically redesigned, repositioned and wear a face lift for increased patronage otherwise, these may pose an encumbrance and great setback for the library.

The study therefore aims to investigate the following:

- 1) The present layout/design of the libraries and arrangement of books and resources.
2. To suggest and procure some vital facilities that may boost library patronage.

It has been observed that innovation and creativity are necessary for library patronage. Therefore, for any library to be on the top gear there must be flexibility and adoption of innovation and creativity. For instance, the library rules have to be relaxed and users' friendly in order to accommodate users. These rules include, do not eat, drink or make phone calls and others. In an actual fact, food can attract rodent and insects which can be destructive but non the less, certain areas can be designated for such services in the library for patronage.

Multimedia can enable users to watch television in a designated corner without necessarily leaning the library to watch an important match outside in fact, this can even attract more user to the library. Art works and green area will equally stimulate learning and research and really make the place attractive.

### III. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study is carry out a survey of the areas through which the library can be aesthetically repositioned in order to increase patronage of the library.

### IV. MAJOR OBJECTIVE

The major objective of this study is to be conduct a survey of the present areas of the library and how the facilities and resources are arranged with a view to rearrange and lace the place with materials and facilities which can stimulate learning and research.

#### THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 1) To identify the arrangement of the library facilities and innovation needed,
- 2) To ascertain if there is room for improvement and type of facilities and innovation that is suitable for the place.

### V. LITERATURE REVIEW

Libraries all over the world need to be dynamic in order to be relevant and meet the yearnings of its teeming users. The utilization of books and materials in the library is contingent on its attractions and how convenient is the place to users. Therefore, library has to rebrand and this has to be a continuum because of the changing dynamic in our society. Things are not static hence libraries should be constantly upgraded not only when accreditation is fast approaching but as a routine

The library environment needs to be aesthetically fortified with flowers, both inside and outside and laced with beautiful window blinds, good set of furniture in the reception area and in offices and other facilities. A dictum says "The place makes the event" this means, whatever activity you want to carryout in a place, the condition of the place will really determine the output patronage

This shows that library has to be constantly funded to meet the changing need in order to fulfill its statutory obligation of a knowledge hub.

Library should be conducive to learning, attractive to users and meet some of the needs of the users.

Arumure (2020) opined that libraries need to reposition in order to be at the fore in the creation and dissemination of information so that it will not be relegated to mere store of knowledge. Lehman (2023) corroborated this absorption by saying that libraries serve as not only depositories for books and manuscripts but on social gathering place for local communities and they frequency taking on broader takes and programmer. Libraries are shifting from a collection- centre institution to a people\_ centre service and the importance of special collection is on the rise.

Given the major climate, social and economic challenges as well as the environmental degradation and increase of social inequalities. The library of the future is also about resistance resisting the commercialization of public space civic institution and identifying new ways of doing things.

Ajani et al (2024) asserted that libraries are currently undergoing a significant currently transformation emerging as dynamic advocate for environmental sustainability surpassing their conventional roles as mere repositories of knowledge.

Akande et al (2024) argued that bringing creativity and innovations to libraries imply that librarians will have to be proactive and constantly update their knowledge to strap the emerging trends in library service provision. Most of the innovations suggested were phone booth, green area, research common for various users including disability, eatery, exhibition corner, cared for very important personalities etc.

Library aesthetic has to do with the design and beauty of the library in way that is attractive and appealing to the taste of library users (Usuka, E. I. 2019).

Ibrahim F.L and Sakiyo J. (2013) also believed that 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 citing, ventilation, temperature and signage/direction. It has often been said that the way you present yourself determines the way people respect you. Therefore, library aesthetic and design have a lot of impact on human health, comfort and performance.

Fasola O. S. (2023) corroborated this assertion that adequate aesthetics both internal and external should be put in place to capture users' interest.

Bakare Fatungase O.D (2024) also supported this opinion that there is a formidable impact of library aesthetics on library patronage cum academic performance (increased visitations, improved proficiency in courses, acquisition of additional skills and success in class texts.

There is a significant relationship between library aesthetic facilities and utilization. Library needs to be relevant and be concerned with visual image for beautification (Ibrahim F.L. and Sakinyo J. 2016)

Library should be homely. This means that the relative comfort that is available at home should be provided for users. Such that they will be encouraged to patronize the place. Library patronage is very important because it shows relevance and its impact in the society. Research is a continuum therefore; users must be able to constantly patronize the library for their research needs.

Khan, Z .L. (2025) stated that visually appealing interiors, comfortable and flexible furniture's pleasant atmosphere and clear synapse are essential component for fostering engagement he also affirmed that aesthetics improvement in libraries have a direct impact on user satisfaction and engagement. He therefore posited that library should be able to prioritize there design element to enhance the overall library experience and address the challenged such as budget and space constraints to consider the functionality and usability of libraries while enhancing the aesthetics environment.

Haying (Cynthia) Hou et al (2024) posited that the indoor environment of building encompassing elements such as air, quality, temperature, lighting and noise levels significantly influences occupants satisfaction productively and overall performance across various building types

Esan A.O et al (2023) strongly supported this assertion. They believed that for academic libraries to remain relevant especially in the era of information explosion librarians must continually provide resources services and facilities that will make the library attractive to the users and one way of doing this is through the appearance and functionality of the library building. If the library is not appealing the users will naturally protest by refusing to patronize the place but when it is aesthetically positioned, users will naturally react by increasing their patronage.

However, the repositioning of the library for users' patronage is not limited to the library building but includes the functionality of its facilities such as convenience, provision of wheelchair ramp for easy access, socket installation to charge devices, internet access, sufficient furniture, for sitting and reading, adequate cloak enough ventilation central location of the library are provision of car packs etc

### **Step by step approach for library beautification**

There are some steps to be taken before any beautification enterprise in the library.

These include assessment and planning, Decluttering and organization, design and layout, furniture and fixture, lighting and color scheme, artwork and décor, landscaping and outdoor spaces, maintenance and evaluation.

#### **1. Assessment and planning**

We need to conduct a general assessment of the whole library with the objectives of identifying areas that need over handling and quick intervention. The process includes an engagement with library personnel and users generally on their areas of needs and their perception of their present arrangement. This will enable the management to have a definite benefit for the programme with timeline.

#### **2. Decluttering and organization**

This involves removal or unnecessary materials from the library and re-organization.

This can only be shortened if there is a maintenance plan to sustains the nearly organized` space.-

#### **3. Design and layout**

There will be some designated area already identified for re \_organization. The layout should be in comfily with objective of transforming the library.

There will be signage and other attractive materials to encourage library users repeat their visit. In the wise, there should be comfortable setup area and collaborative spaces not only for reading but for publication seminars, lectures and other needs.

#### **4. Furniture and Fixtures**

Library furniture has to be comfortable eco friendship and durable and functional.

The arrangement should not unpaid the users movement. It should promote flow and accessibility.

#### **5. Lighting and colour scheme**

Lighting is very important in the library. They should be contract power supply and in the alternative solar power is desirable with different lights to suit the patron needs.

#### **6. Artwork and Decor**

The peace of m in the library is very important. Art generally stimulates reading and assort patron to think and acquire more insights and imaginations in their area of research. Art works can be dis played in conspicuous areas for aesthetics. It can equally project the works in student in the department of find and apply arts.

#### **7. Landscaping and outdoor spaces**

There should be green areas in the library both outside and inside the library.

These are ornamented flower plants that can be planted at the entrance to enhance the library ambiance.

### 8. **Maintenance and Evaluation**

There is need for routine maintenance of facilities if beauty is to be retained and moreover equipment and other facilities can deteriorate vast if care is not taken because of the degree of use by the users. Therefore, these facilities have to be evaluated and definite budget should be set aside for replacement within a short time.

## VI. METHODOLOGY

The total measurement of the library will be carried out with a view of identify the appropriate areas needed for intervention. An architect was consulted to design a model to validate the appropriateness of the material needed for aesthetics and innovations' acceptability when finally re-arranged and installed. The facilities that are acceptable to the researchers though group discussion will be installed will be clearly identified.

The facilities and type of innovations preferred by the researchers and users will be packaged for procurement.

### Result/ outcome

The researchers carried out the survey of the areas for aesthetics and equally validated the findings through interview and observation.

Although the researchers were unable to commission an architect to design a model that affected areas for beautification but expert opinion was obtained from an architect on the facilities which can be procured within the limited resources: The identified areas include the reception, circulation lobby, passage to the bindery, offices and reading room.

Artificial flowers were procured, window blind were provided, rearrangement, evacuation and professional advice on future needs such as no new sets of furniture, eatery, telephone booth the facilities for sustainability purposes.

### Recommendations and conclusion

It has been observed that the library needs some modern gadget to be in turn with 21st century standard. Such gadget include telephone booth, brailled machine for physically challenged, photocopier and scanning machine for users including big printer where users can print with ease. In addition to this, certain rules and regulations have to be reviewed such rule include, do not eat in the library, no phone call, no group discussion, and others. It should be noted that users are human beings and when there is too much restriction in a certain place especially in a public area like worry, it will definitely send a worry signal to them and hence certain inhibition will manifest.

Funding is a big factor when it comes to aesthetics therefore money should be available or certain budget should be set aside to constantly improve the condition of the library to attract more users.

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