

Association of Commonwealth Universities Print Journal Project



The ACU journal project is an initiative aimed at making journals available to selected African Commonwealth member universities at a small fraction of the publisher price.

This project has taken into consideration the fact that the cost of journals has kept on increasing over the years while budgets for most African Universities have kept on decreasing. This situation has caused a lot of concern for both publishers and the universities. Responding to this situation, the Association of Commonwealth Universities initiated the "**Protection of African Universities Project**" to enhance access to journals in a way that both benefits the institutions and the publishers. The scheme started as a pilot project in 2002 with six universities and ten publishers. The ACU undertakes the publicity of the project to the Universities, takes orders and payments and passes them on to the publishers. The publishers distribute the journals for the orders endorsed by ACU.

The University of Nairobi took part in the project in 2003/2004 and was placed in Band A which receive journals at 10-20% of the normal institutional subscription rate. As a whole, the University has spent Ksh 5,841,963.05 for subscription to 192 journal titles in 2003 and 139 titles in 2004. These journals cover all disciplines. It is hoped that libraries will publicise the availability of these journals to users. In the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library, the Periodicals Section has started displaying the Table of Contents (TOC) page of received journals on the journal display racks on the ground floor. This is an attempt to improve the usage of these journals.

Agatha N. Kabugu

Periodicals Librarian.



University Librarian addresses a meeting at the medical library.