



The Role of the Library in Promoting Research at the University of Nairobi

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Outline



- * **Introduction**
- * **Functions**
- * **Role**
- * **Challenges**
- * **Opportunities and how tapping into them**



Introduction



Aim:

to identify the key characteristics of University of Nairobi library provision to support research.

Introduction



- * **Key entity in any university cutting across all departments**
- * **Libraries keep on evolving; new roles and services**
- * **Concern over:**
 1. **value of the services that the library provides to researchers and other users**
 2. **the contributions that the library makes to institutional research performance**



Introduction



Vision:

To be a World class Information Centre of Excellence in the provision, dissemination and preservation of knowledge

Mission:

To provide quality information services that will empower the University in carrying out its core activities of teaching, learning research, community service and consultancy.



Mandate for:



- * **30 Faculties, Schools, Institutes, Centres**
- * **Over 300 Programmes**
- * **Over 70,000 Students**
- * **2,052 Academic Staff**
- * **3,380 Administrative & Technical Staff**
- * **156,000 Alumni**
- * **Others including Research Associates**



UON Library



- * **Recognized as the largest academic library in the country – 13 libraries serving Colleges, Faculties Institutes and Schools**
- * **More than 750,000 volumes print books, 163,000 e-books and 76,000 e-journals**
- * **Lead library in Open Access Environment**
- * **Fully automated (Vsmart)**
- * **Establishment of 246 staff**
- * **National coordinating institution for the Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium (KLISC)**



Mandate in Research



- * **Help the university to recruit and retain top researchers**
- * **Help researchers win research grants and contracts**
- * **Promote and exploit new technologies and new models of scholarly communication**
- * **Increase visibility of the university and raise its research profile**
- * **Staff work in partnership with academic depts.**



Mandate in Research



- * **Connecting with researchers to fill the gaps in their knowledge and understanding of the researchers needs**
- * **Provide a better work environment for researchers through dedicated spaces (carrels, research commons)**
- * **Mechanisms for easy access to high quality content**



Functions and Activities



Circulation /Access Services:

- * Register Library users**
- * Perform variety of automated circulation functions (charge/discharge, renewals, holds, blocks, reserve loans, overdue fines, clearances)**
- * Communicate with faculty regarding placement of materials on reserve**
- * Process ILL/Document Delivery requests**



Functions and Activities



- * **Organize shelving and supervise stack maintenance**
- * **Identify and send materials for binder repair**

Bindery:

- * **Repair and conserve information resources.**



Functions and Activities



Circulation/ Research & Information Services:

- * Perform comprehensive reference, research assistance & referral services**
- * Perform in-person, telephone, e-mail, and other reference services.**
- * Identify, locate, and interpret sources of information, irrespective of format.**
- * Provide database search assistance**



Functions and Activities



- * **Provide technical support for effective use of information technology.**
- * **Develop, implement, and evaluate library resources and services**
- * **Respond to Help desk queries**
- * **Perform variety of outreach functions(student orientation sessions, graduation)**



Functions and Activities



Technical Services: Acquisitions and Cataloguing

- * Handle materials procurement**
- * Transmit order lists**
- * Perform in-house online cataloging operations (original & adaptive cataloguing, authority control, and bibliographic maintenance functions]**
- * Design appropriate metadata schema to facilitate access to electronic resources and other collections**



Functions and



Systems Unit:

- * Plan, develop, implement, and maintain all mission critical library systems**
- * Ensure effective integration of information transfers, processing, storage, and access across a platform and database environment.**
- * Collaborate with ICT staff to develop and maintain quality web site**



Functions and Activities



Systems Unit:

- * Supervise all aspects of library desktop computing operations for the library.**
- * Monitor systems growth and requirements and recommend systems enhancements**
- * Serve as Library's principal liaison with ICT with respect to network administration issues**



Collections



- * **Graduate Research**
- * **Periodicals**
- * **Electronic Resources**
- * **Institutional Repository**
- * **Archives and Audiovisual**
- * **Reserve**
- * **Africana**
- * **United Nations**
- * **Rare Materials**



Challenges



- * **Keeping up with new technologies (scholarly tools, social networks, mobile environments)**
- * **Staffing to meet new challenges (such as digital scholarship, assessment and instructional technology)**
- * **Lengthy procurement process resulting in delays**
- * **Introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) on books**
- * **Mechanisms for follow up on Research Associates**



Challenges



- * **The increasing population of students has led to:**
 - 1. Shortage of space in all campus libraries. This is more acute during the examination periods.**
 - 2. Overstretched facilities, furniture and equipment**
 - 3. Constant maintenance and repairs is required for buildings, furniture and computers**
 - 4. Strain on the available staff**



Prospects



- * **Software (JAWS for visually impaired)**
- * **Enhance the Helpdesk**
- * **Enhance Remote Access System**
- * **Implement library services through mobile services**
- * **Enhance visibility (website, IR)**
- * **Training for staff to enhance skills**
- * **Training all categories of users through IL**
- * **Create spaces for research commons**



Prospects



- * **Explore IL integration into academic programs**
- * **Enhance electronic updates (current awareness)**
- * **Implement a plagiarism software (Turnitin)**
- * **Enhance security of information resources (RFID, biometric technology)**
- * **Embrace corporate social responsibility by participating in community outreach activities.**
- * **Enhance income generating activities**



Thank you