

University of Nairobi Library Open Week Forum
23-25 October 2013,
JKML Boardroom

Prof. Lucy W. Irungu
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Research, Production and Extension)

- *Protocol (Who is who)*
- University Librarian
- University staff members and our students,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be with you today to officiate this year's University of Nairobi Library Open Week Forum.

As we all know, the most common avenue for disseminating research findings is by publishing in refereed journals or academic books and dissemination of information can only be effective where there is access to the same information.

Thus the function of the Library is critical in enhancing access to important information.

I am informed that the objective of the UoN Library Open Week Forum is to sensitize students and staff members on effective access to information.

Ladies and gentlemen, one common challenge in Africa is access to local research content or just access to information. The existing research output in developing countries is often not available even within their own borders.

As such, initiatives like the Open Week Forum are important in improving access to information. During this Open Week Forum, we will be sensitized on the resources available in the UoN Library and how we can maximize the use of our libraries.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the achievements that our Library has registered in the past few months.

Through the efforts of the University of Nairobi Library, the UoN now has an Open Access Policy and the UoN Policy on Plagiarism. The Open Access Policy aims at making the wealth of resources that we create, and have access to, freely available to researchers and information specialists globally, making remarkable contribution to increased access to research output.

As such, the Library has set up an institutional digital repository where immense information has been uploaded and can be accessed, including research projects, postgraduate theses and academic publications.

The policy on Plagiarism aims at improving and maintaining a high standard of academic integrity at our University.

The University of Nairobi Library continues to increase the collection of print items as well as subscription to online journals. This achievement has been through normal university resource allocation to the Library as well as entering into beneficial collaborations with like-minded organizations.

Ladies and gentlemen, the challenge that the Library continues to face is underutilization of the resources held and accessed by the Library on behalf of staff members and students. I am informed that currently, the usage of the Library by both staff and students stand at 75%. As such a substantial number of staff members and students are not accessing the resources subscribed to and held by the Library.

It is our hope that through initiatives such as open days and sensitizations, we could increase the Library usage to at least 90%.

It is my hope that this Open Week Forum will sensitize staff and students to optimally utilize the resources that we have. I wish you all a fruitful UoN Library Open Week Forum.

Thank you.