

WORLD LIBRARY DAY BRIEF

The World Library Day is celebrated internationally in different parts of the World since 1897. In Uganda, the Library Day was first celebrated at Makerere University Library on 22nd May 2009. The second Library Day was celebrated on 23rd May 2010. Since then, it has become an annual event. This year's celebrations will be held on Tuesday 31st May 2011. The **theme of the day will be: "Libraries for Academia: Integration, Innovation and Information for all"**. This is in line with the current theme of the international body governing libraries (IFLA), which is: 'Libraries beyond Libraries: integration, innovation and information for all'. Various activities are planned during the month of May to make the celebrations.

The aim of this special day is to draw attention of the policy makers, administrators, Library users and all stakeholders to the role of the Library in the functions of the University and beyond. As an academic library, the theme of Makerere University Library day focuses on Academia because its primary role is to provide access to information resources in support of study, teaching and research. In addition, the Library is one of the legal deposit units and acts as a National reference Library. Furthermore, Makerere University Library has been instrumental in supporting other libraries in Uganda and beyond (University libraries in Southern Sudan, Sokoine in Tanzania, Winneba in Ghana and six libraries in Nigeria) as part of its outreach activities.

The activities to mark this year's World Library day celebrations at Makerere include:

- i. Community Outreach: Makerere University Library will extend its professional expertise to Non-CUUL (Consortium of Uganda University Libraries) institutions in Uganda from 9th -20th May 2011. Information literacy sessions focusing on electronic resources' access and use will be conducted for librarians, researchers and academics in those institutions. Six non-CUUL institutions will benefit. The training is targeting non-CUUL institutions because CUUL had already drawn up a programme for training its member institutions this year.
- ii. Debate: The Library has organised a public debate on the following:
Proposer:
 - o Integration and innovations in academic libraries **enhance access** to information resources.**Opposer:**
 - o Integration and innovations in libraries **may not** mean information for all African Academia.
- iii. Exhibition: Publishers have been invited to show-case their products. The Library will also exhibit and demonstrate some of its services.
- iv. Awards: Highest contribution of quality articles in the Uganda Scholarly Digital Library (USDL). One male and one female Ugandan author/researcher will be recognised. The institutional digital repository has improved the webometrics ranking of Makerere University, as well as enhancing global access to Makerere University's research output.

- v. Cocktail and Entertainment at Makerere University Guest House to crown the day.