

**SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR –ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AT THE LIBRARY  
END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS, 2013**

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- The University Librarian, Makerere University
  - Members of Mak Univ academic and administrative staff
  - The various librarians and library staff present
  - Ladies and gentlemen
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*\*Soft spot for library/\*HRC - Univ of Texas at Austin*

Libraries are a key factor to ensuring quality teaching, learning and research. In the past, a library was known as a collection of books. However, over the years, a library has evolved to mean a collection of sources, resources, services, that is to say a structure in which resources are housed and managed for access and use. It has in itself acquired a secondary meaning – a collection of useful material for the sole purpose of intellectual immersion, in a conducive atmosphere where silence used to be strictly observed, but now some spaces for collaborative work and discussion are provided e.g. in the new Main Library building extension. At this point we ought to pause and ask ourselves, why has a library become so important to the world to the extent of putting aside special days, just to acknowledge libraries?

Today's libraries are not only repositories and access points for electronic, print, audio, and visual materials; they are the foundations of the evolution of the world!

Of late, Makerere Univ Library has become innovative. Innovation in knowledge structures is composed of a learning philosophy, strategic direction, and trans-functional beliefs within an individual and institution. It defines and directs the individual and institution's learning and teaching strategies and acts towards specific innovation-enabling competencies and processes. These innovation-oriented competencies are in the areas of resource output. This output has led many like Karl Benz, a German, who many have suggested created the first true automobile in 1885/86, to be known to the world as a great innovator.

With the integration of research, mainly done by reading, and innovation, the significance of a library, like the Makerere University Library, is realized and celebrated.

No academic institution can exist without a library. It is a crucial resource in the life of an institution. I want to believe that this is why the standards of the National Council for Higher Education require 10% of the university's budget to be spent on the library. In this regard, I

pledge my support to the library concerning the budgets for weekend duty, evening transport, maintenance of equipment and facilities, generator fuel and the renovation of the old library building which is leaking. Furthermore, I have taken note of the issue raised by the Librarian about Council resolution of 2007 for sustaining the Carnegie project, which is supposed to be facilitated by the Library Development fees, as well as the inadequate book budget which has made it difficult for the Library to buy books in the last two years. Makerere University will continue to make strides in as far as increasing library resources is concerned, thanks to the generous support of our development partners, and the Makerere university Council and the leadership of the Makerere University library.

As the oldest university in Uganda and one of the oldest in Sub Saharan Africa, and given the fact that the Univ library is both an academic and National reference and legal deposit unit, this library has not only served the Makerere community, but the nation and beyond.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Library staff for the significant achievements you have realized, as highlighted by the University Librarian Prof. Maria G.N. Musoke. The library has been able to realize these achievements due to the hard work of your leaders, staff and from the moral and financial support of the University Management, Senate, Council and the development partners. I pledge my continued support.

We have also supported the implementation of information systems to ensure the transformation of the library resources from manual to digital. With the digital resources, the information in the library can be accessed by people beyond the library walls. We do congratulate the Library for implementing the Library info system and demystifying the belief that information systems have not worked in Makerere.

As you may all be aware, Makerere University has continued to rise in the webometrics university rankings. It is currently at the 4<sup>th</sup> position in Africa as of August 2013. This marked improvement is attributed to the continuous populating and updating of the institutional repository with research publications by librarians and academics at Makerere University. This improvement rallies us on that we can indeed realize the University's vision; *'to be the leading institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa'* if we put the library at the centre of this transformation.

It is pleasing to learn that through your capacity building and networking programmes, Makerere University Library staff have gone ahead to assist other universities in Uganda, Sudan,

Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria, in realizing their potential. These knowledge transfer partnerships are indeed vital in reinforcing Makerere's commitment to remain relevant to development needs. Ladies and gentlemen, Merry Christmas and Happy new year! Thank you for your kind attention. ***We Build For The Future.***