

PRINCIPAL'S SPEECH ON 16TH JUNE 2017 ON LIBRARY DAY CELEBRATIONS AT DEANS GARDENS

16th June 2017

- The Chief Guest
- The VC
- The university Librarian
- Other guests from the main building
- Dear colleagues , student leaders, ladies and gentlemen

I wish to welcome all the guests especially

For visiting the college on this very important celebration of world library day.

Allow me thank the University Library Director who accepted our request to host and even host from the our college, defying the traditional celebrations venue at main campus.

I want to wish you wonderful celebrations and nice stay at Mak CHS.

Albert Cook: Library has been in existence for a long time and has supported this college and the medical school to grow and consolidate the excellent track record in health professional training and research which has ultimately enhanced the university visibility and ranking to the current position of 2nd in Africa in research and over all No. 3; There are many other factors that contribute to this but the library also contributes positively in this case especially the quality of resources/collections and the services it provides to researchers, students and the public .

Our library has contributed greatly in the following ways:

1. Helping our researchers win research grants and contracts

2. Promoting new technologies and new models of scholarly communication and have helped our researchers, students to exploit the full benefit.
3. Opportunities of the networked world of knowledge using open access and social media- creating the fastest way of sharing knowledge
4. Creation of D space, uploading all thesis, research papers, other publications, in form of reporting, this has also improved ranking.
5. Embracing the digital revolution has continued to facilitate our researchers to access resources without physically being in the library that is great convenience
6. Bridged the space gap, providing a home for the majority of our PHD and Masters students and staff, as a place to work and do private study from, since the College population has outgrown the available space especially the rentable/ reserved space- public
7. Continued to provide high quality content, crucial to research; this goes with a high cost subscription and purchase.
8. Albert cook library is an enduring feature of the College of Health Sciences, central to our values and the practices of scholarship and a lasting academic legacy.

Library to us in the College continues to play a big role, for over a decade, the sub element of the book bank has progressively dwindled to levels that cannot match our student numbers, due to wear, aging, thefts, poor care and maintenance, coupled with dwindling funds to purchase new books yet text books are very valuable in student learning especially in the PBL Dispensation where self-study/ self-directed learning is very key; particularly to needy students, who may not access a personal computer or phone leave alone affording the MBS for internet when off campus.

I wish to request Management to uphold the budget for new books, to stock the book banks or to change policy to ensure that every new student comes with a computer on admission to access online resources.

- Library functional fees should be sent to the College Libraries to facilitate many activities that improve service to our users:
Including helping to subscribe to many journal groups online textbooks and purchase of enough computers for the Library instead of 12 computers of the oldest generation still being used in our Library.

Challenges

1. Space no longer matches student numbers
2. Dilapidation, dust
3. Digital error, making hard copy books A bitter pill
4. Inadequate airtime(wireless)- in some college areas
5. Very few computers/ sockets-library
6. Little/ old furniture
7. Limited access to some International resources

Measures taken to mitigate challenges

1. The Research Support Centre building – Increased space – by 110 reading areas
2. Renovations done last year give it a slightly good look.
3. Resource mobilization to renovate old infrastructure is on going with many engagements
4. Encourage students to buy computers and provision of sockets
5. Wireless internet over the College
6. Tight measures on the book bank
7. Timely and regular subscription for online journals and books (E-recourses)

8. Sharing these resources from our partners that is; WHO , Duke University
9. Plan to increase more space , archive old books and journals and upload all thesis on D space creating more space for reading
10. Plans to revamp, renovate and expand through the Alumni project that has began
11. Make it a must for all researchers to include items for Library in all grant applications and support for books.
12. Negotiations with computer companies to provide computers at affordable prices.

Library has benefited from several donations of books, equipment, furniture and grants by Library staff, partners and alumni.

I wish to request the chief guest and Vice Chancellor to take special recognition of a recent grant of 22,000pounds that brought in many new medical books that have enriched our reserve section.

Many thanks to Dr. DeoMunube and Department of Pediatrics; who I request you to recognize by presenting to him this certificate award.

I want to thank the Librarian, the staff here at Albert cook, all the partners who contributed to Furniture and previous student's efforts to buy sockets. I thank library staff for maintain the library despite the hardships.

I Thank all the staff .

I Thank you all for coming

Together we build for the future