



# UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

SPEECH BY  
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DURING  
ACADEMIC STAFF SENSITIZATION  
ON  
OPEN ACCESS IN LIBRARY  
ON  
THURSDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022  
AT 9.00 A.M.

- Members of University Management Board
- Facilitators and Resource Persons
- Academic staff
- University Librarian and library staff
- Librarians from neighboring institutions
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,

It is with great pleasure that I join you this morning for the Open Access week sensitization. This workshop brings together about seventy academic staff of the University of Embu. The workshop comes at a time when the University has



greatly benefited from the open access products. Remarkably, the University Library has registered over 60 open access electronic databases at the Library website. In addition, the library has been using open access solutions such as Koha Library management system, Dspace repository management solution, Mendeley referencing solution and the recent online book verification application. This is a clear indication that the University has immensely benefited from open access initiatives. The University has also invested in purchase of electronic resources such as the Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium, (KLISC) Law Africa, Turnitin plagiarism tool and My Library on the finger tips (MyLoft) application. It is my expectation that this training will equip you with hands-on skills on access to electronic resources. This training is indeed an indication of the University's commitment and dedication to strengthening the quality of the research output of our academic staff.

I take this opportunity to thank the organisers of this workshop, the Director BPS Prof. Nancy Budambula and Mr. James Njue, the University Librarian for putting together this training. Allow me to draw your attention to eight items on open access and electronic information resources.

### 1. Theme for Open Access Week 2022:

The theme for **Open Access Week 2022** is “Open for Climate Justice”. Climate Justice is an explicit acknowledgement that the climate crisis has far-reaching effects, and the impacts are not be[ing] borne equally or fairly, between rich and poor, women and men, the older and younger generations. These power imbalances also affect communities' abilities to produce, disseminate, and use knowledge around the climate crisis. Openness can create pathways to more equitable knowledge sharing and serve as a means to address the inequities that shape the impacts of climate change and our response to them.

### 2. Partnering with library

To enhance access to electronic resources, the Library has organised several activities such as exhibition on electronic resources at the Library car park, training for selected members of academic staff, Turnitin registration and Library competition. Lecturers should encourage students to use reliable electronic resources.

### 3. Taking action



University of Embu has invested substantially in Electronic Information resources. This year we have paid for the following resources;

- a. 39 electronic information resources databases provided through Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium (KLISC).
- b. Turnitin Similarity Detection tool
- c. MyLoft; My Library on the fingertips apps

Due to limited financial funding, I have encouraged the University Librarian to promote more usage of electronic resources and buy less print books. Kindly make use of the electronic books and other resources. In view of this, I encourage you to take the following actions:

Have a conversation with your department and students about open access publishing and open educational resources in your discipline;

Remember to ask how you can retain your rights as an academic author when you publish research; and

Visit the library website for detailed information on open access databases the link is: <https://library.embuni.ac.ke/>

Also, visit the SPARC website; <https://sparcopen.org/> for detailed information about Open Access, Open Education, and Open Data, from one of the Open movement's leading organisations.

I would like to advise you to explore successes of impact shared by people who have benefited from open access scholarships and apply for the same.

Finally, I urge you to explore the Open Educational Resources (OER) at the library website guide to find openly-licensed learning materials.

#### **4. Academic Integrity**

As you are aware, the University expects all staff to adhere to ethical behavior and practices in accessing and using information. I urge you to avoid unethical practices such as plagiarism and ask you to discourage the students from this vice. Plagiarism defeats the purpose of writing assignments which is to 'learn and grow'.

#### **5. Publishing in the right place**



Selecting the right and appropriate journal to publish in is very critical to your research. Please beware of predatory publishers and conferences.

I note, with great appreciation, that the Director (BPS) has given a lot of guidance on how to find good and legitimate journals. As a result, more and more of our scholars are being recognized globally for quality publications.

## 6. Similarity reports

The University has a robust anti-plagiarism software; Turnitin. The acceptable similarity level in this University is below 15 %. I have noted that; majority of the reports and theses submitted are at 14%. This shows that the students do not make any effort to review their work once it meets the minimum requirement. This is not right. I urge you to encourage the students to improve their work by reducing the similarity to lower levels. Remember, originality makes the work more acceptable by publishers.

## 8. Electronic Resources Usage

The use of e-resources is now common place among academics in many universities the world over. University of Embu has heavily invested in both print and electronic journals. In spite of this investment, the usage statistics for e-resources is 59 %. This implies that over 40% of the resources are not utilized. I encourage you to maximize the use of these resources. I would like to see maximum utilization of all the databases especially by lecturers.

**In conclusion**, I urge all participants to aim at gaining the most out of this workshop. The University anticipates continuous improvement in original research and quality publications from all areas of knowledge.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish you a very fruitful time and I hope that you will benefit immensely from this training.

**It is now my pleasure to declare the Open Access Week officially opened.**

Thank you and God bless you all.

Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru, Ph.D



# VICE-CHANCELLOR

