

"AN ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF OPEN ACCESS RESOURCES IN KENYAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES",

Library Hi Tech News, Vol. 30 Iss: 6, pp.17 – 21, 2013

By [Jotham Milimo Wasike](#)

Abstract

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to review the use of open access (OA) resources in Kenyan university libraries with the gist of the discussions being the status of the universities in the implementation of OA, usefulness, challenges and recommendations.

Design/methodology/approach

The study employed descriptive research by engaging respondents in formal interviews and brief discussions. It also reviewed existing related literature on OA resources with specific reference to four university libraries in Kenya.

Findings

Kenya as a developing country is still at the intermediate stage of embracing OA. The university libraries are among the forefront institutions helping in the adoption of OA for research, empowerment, education and information. However, compared to other universities in Africa, Kenyan universities are far many steps ahead in embracing OA.

Research limitations/implications

The study limited itself to descriptive survey supported by face to face interviews, informal discussions and literature. This may not give 100 percentage accurate results for the study. However, the triangulation of the instruments were sufficient enough to have credible study findings.

Practical implications

OA to information is not a simple technological issue. It raises issues of information policies, such as availability, reliability, infrastructure, technical knowledge, legal barriers and production/creation. As the Kenyan Government enhances its efforts in going digital, universities and especially the libraries have become key stakeholders in the arranging and availing of this information through OA. It is therefore important to review the gains made and the challenges encountered by Kenyan university libraries in as far as OA is concerned.

Originality/value

This paper discusses OA status in university libraries in Kenya, which is a new development in the information cycles in Africa.

Keywords:

[University](#), [Research](#), [Open access](#), [Library](#)

Type:

Research paper

Publisher:

Emerald Group Publishing Limited