

University of Nairobi Moves into Electronic Age

Computerization of the University of Nairobi Library is at an advanced stage. The project started in 2001 with data conversion, which is now complete. The whole catalogue is now in electronic form and is available on the net. The automation project is in two parts:

- Automation of library services
- Access to internet-based electronic resources

Automation of library services focuses on computerization of the normal services like

- √ Borrowing and returning of library material
- √ Reservation of library material
- √ Electronic catalogue
- √ Electronic provision of library material.

The process will enable library users in the University network will be able to access the library and search for information electronically from their offices without having to go physically to the library. There are plans to set up computer laboratories in the library to provide access to those users who will not have computer facilities in their offices/rooms. Already one computer laboratory has been set up on the first floor of JKML. The electronic services will enhance the efficiency of accessing information in the library.

Efforts are being made to extend the electronic services to the sub libraries on various campuses. Plans are at an advanced stage to network the libraries to facilitate sharing of information on all campuses. If this is achieved, it will be possible to know from any campus what resources are available on all other campuses without physically going there. It will also facilitate better communication between the libraries.

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Electronics Resources Workshop



PERI Workshop

Through the Programme of Enhancement for Research Information (PERI), the University of Nairobi Library is accessing over 10,000 full text journal articles from over 12 databases in all subject areas. This is a golden opportunity for research at the University. A lot of advantages come with this facility:

- *Effective Retrieval:* The resources are well indexed. It is therefore easy to retrieve what is relevant to your needs within a very short time, in comparison with manual environment
 - *Currency:* E-resources are very current. It is possible to access articles as current as only one week old
 - *Simultaneous access:* E-resources facilitate simultaneous access. Many users are able to access the same document at the same time enhancing information sharing.
 - *Meta search:* Electronic environment facilitates ability to search several databases at the same time (Meta search).
 - *Morale boosting:* E-resources boosts the morale of the user. It is fun and enjoyable
- The Library staff has been trained to assist users with the new electronic environment.

It is hoped that by the year 2006, the University of Nairobi Library will have fully computerized its services.

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