

KLISC CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS AT THE ANNUAL EMERALD KNOWLEDGE AMBASSADORS FORUM 20th, SETEMBER 2017 SPEECH AT JKUAT

PROF. JOSEPH M.KAVULYA

Chair, Executive Committee

Kenya Libraries and Information Services Consortium (KLISC)

and

University Librarian, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa

- ❖ The Vice-Chancellor, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology
- ❖ The DVC Academic Affairs, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology
- ❖ Members of the University Management Board, JKUAT
- ❖ Our host, Dr. Roselyn Mangir'a, University Librarian, JKUAT and Chair of the Special Needs Committee.
- ❖ Our distinguished Partner and Sponsor of this event, Mr. Soji
- ❖ Members of the KLISC Executive Committee,
- ❖ Our dear Knowledge Ambassadors and presenters.
- ❖ Other invited guests,
- ❖ Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

It is my pleasure to make a few remarks at the beginning of this Forum

The Vice-Chancellor, we all delighted to be at Jomo University of Agriculture and Technology

We thank you for accepting that we gather here for this important Forum, The Knowledge Ambassadors Forum

We thank you for the warm welcome we have received and the hospitality we continue to enjoy

Your staff, led by our colleague Dr. Mangira, University Librarian, JKUAT, who is also the Chair of the Special Needs Committee of KLISC, have ensured that we feel at home at JKUAT.

Our dear Vice-Chancellor,

Allow me to say a few words about our organization, Kenya Libraries and Information Services Consortium (KLISC) of which your university is a member and the reason for today's Forum

The consortium was born of necessity. About 15-20 years ago, many universities and research institution had ceased subscription to scholarly journals, which negatively impacted research and innovation activities in the country.

The increasing costs of research information, coupled with declining budgets amidst increasing need for scientific information as a research, teaching, learning resource made Library and Information Science professionals in the country think of developing a consortium to assist their parent institutions in pooling together financial and human resource to acquire scientific information in electronic format and promote their use among students, researchers, faculty members as well as other citizens.

One of the key objectives of KLISC is to promote affordable access to electronic information resources and therefore the consortium is a catalyst for quality in research, teaching and learning in universities and evidence-based practice across the various professions in the country.

The endeavour for improved access included a transformation of our libraries into digital libraries, promotion skills of information retrieval and ethical application of scientific information among the members of the academic community. This is where the Knowledge Ambassadors comes in.

As progressed in our journey, we realized quite early in our efforts that if the members of the academic community and other communities are to embrace and effectively use the e-library resources then we needed to partner with them. That is how the idea of knowledge Ambassadors was born.

Knowledge Ambassadorship is therefore a partnership between Librarians in any institution and its key stakeholders, the students, to promote awareness and use of e-library resources. We want to thank our Knowledge Ambassadors from various universities for the good work you are doing.

To our knowledge Ambassadors, mine is to wish a joyous and fruitful interaction with your peers. Have fun and may the best team win.

We also want to thank Emerald Publishers for continued sponsorship of this annual event. We are indeed proud of this partnership between KLISC and Emerald. We congratulate Emerald as you as you 50 years since inception.

We are most grateful our dear VC, for the support we as KLISC have received from the leadership all universities. The message we would like you to pass to your fellow vice-Chancellors when you meet in your various Fora is that KLISC exists to support quality in the academic and research processes and we are happy to serve their clients, staff and students.

Kindly impress on them that we in KLISC appreciate the support they continue to grant us. They always allow their staff to spend part of their time to work for KLISC because KLISC has no single paid staff but is managed through volunteerism from Librarians across the country. They provide venues and logistical support for our meetings, seminars and workshops. Majority of the institutions make timely payments of subscription and membership dues that support KLISC programmes. However payment of KLISC dues is an area that need improvement to avoid disruptions of access to member institutions.

We want to assure them through you of our commitment support teaching and research endeavors by facilitating affordable access to the best scientific information of what is globally available. We shall continue to build capacities in these institutions aimed at facilitating better access and utilization of the rich global information resource.

Finally, in a special way we want to thank your administration here at JKUAT for warmly welcoming us and making us feel comfortable in the university. For this we thank you from the deepest of our hearts.

Thank you very much and God Bless

Prof. Joseph M. Kavulya

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