UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

SPEECH BY

PROF. DANIEL MUGENDI NJIRU,

VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF EMBU DURING

THE FIFTH POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

WORKSHOP ON E -RESOURCES

HELD ON

THURSDAY, 22nd JULY, 2021

AT 8.30 A.M.

IN COMPUTER LAB 3

- Members of University Management and Senate
- Workshop organizers Facilitators and Resource Persons
- Staff
- Postgraduate students
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,

It is with great pleasure that I join you this morning for the Electronic Resources Workshop. This workshop brings together about eighty postgraduate students of the University of Embu. It comes at a time when the University has invested heavily in subscriptions to electronic resources to enhance access to information and knowledge for our staff and students.

The objective of the training is to equip you with hands-on skills on how to access electronic resources. It is an

indication of the University's commitment and dedication to strengthening the quality of the research output of our postgraduate students.

I acknowledge the organizers of the workshop the Director, BPS Prof. Nancy Budambula and Mr. James Njue, the University Librarian for their commendable effort.

Allow me now to mention some of the prevailing issues related to information resources and your academic work that you need to know to make your studies here more fruitful and enjoyable.

1. Academic Integrity

As you are aware, the University expects all students to adhere to ethical behavior and practices in accessing and using information. I urge you to avoid the following unethical practices:-

a. Plagiarism,

b. Falsification of documents.

c. Copyright infringements.

d. Cheating or hiring people to do your work.

Plagiarism defeats the purpose of assignments which is meant to help you to 'learn and grow'.

2. Subscription to My Library at the fingertips mobile and web application

This year, the University has subscribed to a remote access tool that is called MyLOFT; (My Library on My Fingertips). MyLOFT is a mobile and web application with enabled proxy to provide seamless access to all institutionally subscribed e-resources. Some of the features available on this application include;

a. Single login to access all e-resources

b. Offline reading and saving articles for future reference.

c. Article sharing through user's favorite application like WhatsApp, Messenger e.tc.

I am happy to learn that the provider of MyLOFT is also here to train you how to use software.

3. Publishing in the right place

Selecting the right and appropriate journal to publish in is very critical to your studies. Please beware of predatory publishers and conference organisers who are out to reap from you through deceiving authors into paying for non-existent publication services. I am happy to learn that the Director (BPS) has given our staff and students a lot of guidance on how to find good and legitimate journals. Please follow the guidance from BPS whenever you want to publish.

4. Similarity reports

The University has a robust anti plagiarism software. The Turnitin is able to reveal how much you have borrowed from other sources. The software generates a similarity

report that gives an overall percentage. The acceptable similarity level in this University is below 15%.

It has been noted that; majority of the similarity reports submitted are at 14%. This shows that some students do not make any effort to review their work once it meets the minimum requirement. This is not right. I urge you to use the similarity report correctly by reducing your similarity to lower levels. Remember, originality makes your work more acceptable by publishers.

5. Attendance of postgraduate trainings

The different trainings organized in the University, are intended to build your research capacity and improve your student experience. I note with concern that some students do not attend these trainings. It is my hope that all postgraduate students should attend these trainings and a record of attendance should be kept by BPS.

6. Electronic Resources Usage

The use of e-resources is now commonplace among academics in many universities the world over. University of Embu has invested in both print and electronic journals. In spite of this investment, the usage statistics for e resources is 42%. This implies that over 58% of the resources are not utilized. I encourage you to maximize the use of these resources. I wish like to see improved uptake and indeed maximum utilization of all the databases, especially so by postgraduate students.

7. Ranking of University of Embu at position one

The University of Embu has been ranked the best in performance amongst all the state corporations. The ranking was based on a criterion that includes evaluation of performance of the core mandate, operational performance, absorption of externally mobilized funds and resources allocated by the treasury, projects' completion rate, access to government procurement

opportunities, youth internships and corruption prevention measures, amongst others. This shows that the University is committed to providing quality services. I urge you to play your respective roles to ensure that the University maintains this position.

In conclusion, I urge all the participants in this workshop to aim at acquiring the most out of it. The University of Embu anticipates major improvements in original research and quality publications by all our postgraduate students after this training. I wish you all a very fruitful time.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With those remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare the Access to Electronic Resources Training for Postgraduate students officially opened.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru, Ph.D

VICE-CHANCELLOR