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## DEVELOPING AN APPROPRIATE STRATEGY FOR MANAGING ELECTRONIC THESES AND DISSERTATIONS AT UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AND AFFILIATED COLLEGES

VICTORIA N. KALUNGI

MEDICAL & HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIAN  
UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE –MENGO

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## OUTLINE

- ▶ INTRODUCTION
- ▶ STUDY OBJECTIVES
- ▶ FINDINGS FROM LITERATURE
- ▶ METHODOLOGY
- ▶ RESULTS
- ▶ CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS
- ▶ PROGRESS
- ▶ REFERENCES

## INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Acknowledged that theses & dissertations are primary sources of scholarly information
- ▶ Challenges with print format at UCU
- ▶ Institutional repository was a possible solution
- ▶ Anticipated improved access

## Study objectives

- ▶ Develop appropriate strategy for e-management of Theses and Dissertations
  - Identify current practices of managing Theses and Dissertations at UCU
  - Benefits of e-management of Theses and Dissertations
  - Challenges and sustainability measures of e-management
  - Current National and international Trends of e-management of Theses and Dissertations

## Key findings from literature

- ▶ Relevant literature was reviewed to provide baseline information
  - Theses and dissertations are faced with challenges including management, preservation and access
  - Advances in ICT provide a golden opportunity to Librarians
  - Theses and dissertations are already produced in electronic format by students
  - Information seeking behaviour of users has changed
  - Many Libraries are currently embracing access to electronic resources

## Research methodology

- ▶ Majorly Qualitative research using a case study method
- ▶ Two South African Universities with well-established repositories were examined & their managers interviewed
- ▶ A structured interview schedule was used to collect information from:
  - Selected staff at UCU including Faculty Deans, Librarians, Research Assistants & Head of Technical Services
  - Selected repository staff at Makerere University

## Key insights gained from SA

- ▶ Attachment of more value to importance of e-resources to embrace the changing reading culture and information seeking behaviour of Library users
- ▶ Information changes rather fast and hence need to provide platforms that ensure access to up- to- date resources
- ▶ Librarians need to align with the changes in the information age- embrace digital era
- ▶ Librarians have an important role in enabling research

## Most important issues surfaced at UCU

- ▶ There has been a struggle for limited print resources by users- access issues
- ▶ Students still prefer print format especially undergraduates
- ▶ More emphasis has been put in facilitating research and access to e-resources through training
- ▶ Learning commons unit established- foster access to research
- ▶ Academic staff brought on board to help in embracing e-resources

## Results

Research showed that UCU had to address the following key essential areas:

- ▶ Adopt an holistic approach by involving key role players like IT personnel, academic staff , students, administration & librarians
- ▶ Collaborate with institutions with 'already established' repositories like Makerere
- ▶ Adopt well documented and approved policies
- ▶ Appoint competent staff – essential
- ▶ Proper funding – to ensure sustainability

## Conclusions and recommendations

- ▶ Managing theses and dissertations in Print format poses many challenges at UCU
- ▶ Many of these can be solved if UCU adopted electronic management of their documents
- ▶ A holistic approach is required
- ▶ Further research necessary to investigate the possibility of establishing a national digital library
- ▶ A national digital effort will minimise the costs of managing the documents as well as improve access to wide range of other resources

## Progress since research was completed

- ▶ Currently UCU has established an institutional repository – still in the start-up phase
- ▶ Research & e-resources position was established to streamline submission process and smooth running of IR
- ▶ Dissertation shared with the new Research & e-resources Librarian
- ▶ Knowledge and Information obtained have helped me assume a new position

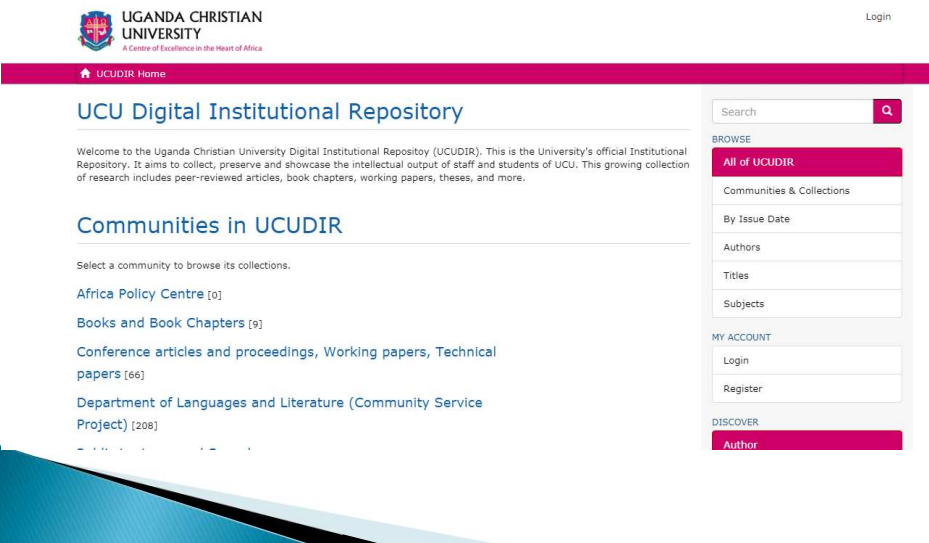
## Progress cont'd

- ▶ UCU has procured a plagiarism software– Urkund since last year
  - Trial period
  - Subsidized rate (for 3 years) through EIFL negotiates cost on behalf of Uganda through consortium
  - Operates for only post graduate students
  - Package to accommodate 1000 documents
  - So far 535 submissions
- ▶ IR policy for undergraduates is yet to be passed
- ▶ Meetings started with CUUL to discuss National Repository

## My new position

- ▶ Headship and supervisory role of the Library at newly established UCU School of Medicine in Mengo
- ▶ Involves establishing a Library from scratch and building stock
- ▶ Ensure student's utilisation of e-resources
- ▶ Liaison with Head of department and academic staff to ensure smooth operations
- ▶ Need for training as a medical/ Health Sciences Librarian

## Repository interface: URL: <http://ucudir.ucu.ac.ug/>



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UCUDIR Home

### UCU Digital Institutional Repository

Welcome to the Uganda Christian University Digital Institutional Repository (UCUDIR). This is the University's official Institutional Repository. It aims to collect, preserve and showcase the intellectual output of staff and students of UCU. This growing collection of research includes peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, working papers, theses, and more.

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- + Theses and dissertations (Master and Doctoral) [38]  
This is a collection of Masters and Doctoral theses and dissertations submitted in electronic format to the Uganda Christian University.
- + Work in progress [5]

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- ▶ VIJAYAKUMAR, J.K. & VIJAYAKUMAR, M., 2007 Importance of doctoral theses and its access: a literature review. *The Grey Journal*, Vol. 3 (2), 67-75



**Thank You**

**Question Time  
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