HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

1.0   ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LIBRARY:

Kenyatta University College Library (old library) was the first library that served Kenyatta University College (KUC) which was set up through the University of Nairobi Act of 1970. It was housed in a two-floor building which had been designed as a canteen for soldiers in transit.

 It had a total seating capacity of 200 users and had inherited some information resources from the then Teacher Education Division of the college. The library began with only I tutor-librarian and 5 library attendants in 1972 but, this number grew to a 100 within a decade.

In 1973, the library stock had increased to 15,000 volumes of books representing 5,000 titles. By the end of 1974-1975 academic year, the library collection had grown to over 20,000 volumes and periodical subscriptions exceeded 1000 titles.

In 1978, the Faculty of Education was transferred from the University of Nairobi to Kenyatta University College. The stock amounting to 12,036 volumes that was previously held by Education Library, University of Nairobi, was also transferred to Kenyatta University College Library. This increased the stock to 130,000 volumes. The Library space had become a challenge as it could not accommodate the growing student population. Therefore, there was need for the University College to find a solution. Consequently, phase one of the new building, funded jointly by the

Government of Kenya and the United Kingdom at a cost of Kshs. 20 million, with a floor space of 3,225m2 was began in 1982. It was designed to house 150,000 books and provide a display space for 1,500 periodical titles and a seating capacity of 400.

In July 1984, the library moved into the new building. However, it was immediately realized that the library stock had increased so much that the Phase One of the new library building was still inadequate. In 2005, when Phase Two was completed, it was converted into a reading area due to pressure of the growing user population.

Consequently, the library building catered for a population of over 30,000 students and a book stock of over 350,000 volumes. The need for space necessitated the construction of the Post-Modern Library which was completed in August 2011. It was officially opened by H.E. the President Honorable Mwai Kibaki on 7th October, 2011 and is now in use.
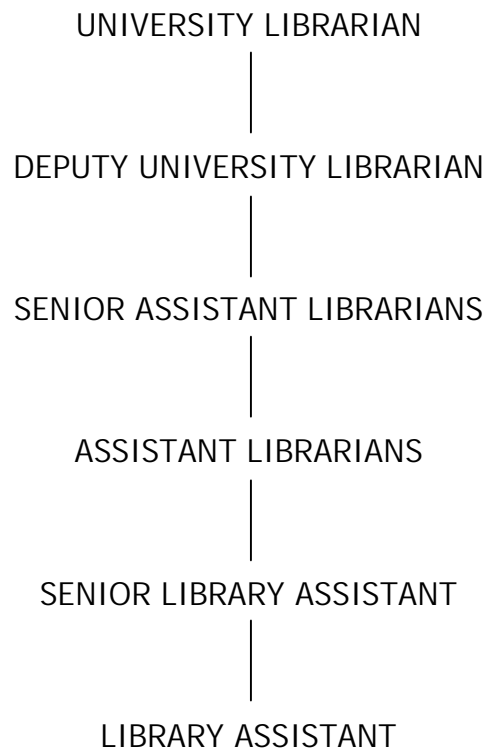
The Post-Modern Library is a five (5) storey building which is equipped with cutting edge information and knowledge resources for quality services. It has a seating capacity of over 6,000. The services are user focused and are organized as follows:

- Basement: Acquisitions, Bindery and Stack area for information resources not in high demand
- Ground Floor:
    - ✓ Education and Information Science
    - ✓ Circulation Services
    - ✓ Reprography Services
    - ✓ Service point for users with special needs
    - ✓ Information Communication and Technology (I.C.T) section
    - ✓ Students lounge where library users can relax and read newspapers and magazines.

- 1st Floor: Social Sciences

- 2nd Floor: Humanities

- 3rd Floor: Science and Technology

- 4th Floor: Research and Special collection, Health Sciences collection

- 5th Floor: Reading Space for Postgraduates and Staff

2.0   MANAGEMENT:

The University Library Administrative Structure is as shown below:

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

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DEPUTY UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

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SENIOR ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS

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ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS

|

SENIOR LIBRARY ASSISTANT

|

LIBRARY ASSISTANT

2.1   UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS AND THE PERIODS SERVED:

Since the inception of the University Library, formerly KUC library, there has been three University Librarians as follows:

MR. JAMES M. NG'ANG'A (MLS, ALA)   1972 – 2001

Mr. J.M. Ng'ang'a started as a tutor-librarian in 1972 and progressed to be the first University Librarian in 1985 when KUC became a full-fledged University.

He was instrumental in the establishment and development of the University Library. The Library and Information Science Department, which was initially started as Library Education Unit, was his brain child.

MRS ROSEMARY N. NDEGWA (MLS, BA, ALA)   2001 – 2006

Mrs Ndegwa joined KUC library as an Assistant Librarian in 1973.

- She was instrumental in integrating Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) into the Library operations and services e.g Adaptive technology for users with special needs and retrospective catalogue conversion using CDS-ISIS programme.
- In 2003, she initiated 2 Campus Libraries namely Ruiru and Parklands.
- She initiated the Annual thanks giving get-together which promotes team work and has been maintained to date.

MR. JULIUS K. GAKOBO (MLS,DIP. LIB)   2006 - March 2011

Mr. Gakobo joined KUC in 1975 as a Senior Library Assistant. He was promoted to Assistant Librarian in 1981 and Senior Assistant Librarian in 1989.

- He was instrumental in expanding the use of ICTs especially the implementation of KOHA-Open Source Integrated Library Management software and provision of both Undergraduates' and Postgraduates' Computer Laboratories.
- He was also instrumental in initiating 5 Campus Libraries namely: Mombasa, Kitui, Nyeri, City and Nakuru.

DR. GEORGE NJOROGE GITAU   JUNE 2011 TO DATE

- Dr. Njoroge Gitau joined Kenyatta University in June 2011
- He has been instrumental in the completion of KOHA, particularly the Circulation Module.
- He efficiently managed the movement of library stock and equipment from Moi Library to Post-Modern Library.

The Library mission is to actively participate in the provision and dissemination of timely and relevant information for academic excellence and quality education in the University.

The Post-Modern Library offers a subject-based information service. The information resources are organized under 4 major subject libraries, namely: Education, Humanities, Science & Technology and the Social Sciences.

Other operations and services include; Research & Special Collections, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Acquisitions, Circulation and Bindery services.

In seeking to remain relevant and vital to the mission of the University, the library has established libraries in all satellite campuses.

The Library has a rich collection of information resources in different formats to cater for the needs of the University community. These include over 370,000 volumes of books and bound periodicals, current journals, audio visuals magazines and dailies.

Currently, the library has a wide selection of online and offline databases, a number of which are full-text.

The Post-Modern Library is fully automated. It boasts of a computer lab on every floor with 50 computers to serve undergraduates. 24 computers have been installed on the 5th floor to serve Post Graduates and Staff. The library provides internet access through the Local Area Network (LAN) and wireless internet connection to users.

In comparison to other Universities in Kenya, Kenyatta University is a preferred University by students with special needs. Currently, Kenyatta University has a population of over 60 students with special needs. These include, visually & hearing impaired and physically challenged. The Post-Modern Library is equipped with Adaptive Technology to cater for users with special needs.

The University Library operates a resource sharing agreement with other libraries in Kenya. The library is also a member of various professional organizations which include:

- Kenya University Librarians' Committee (KULC)
- Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium (KLISC)
- Kenya Library Association (KLA)

3.0   KEY MILESTONES OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY:
- 1972, Kenyatta College and Secondary School becomes Kenyatta University College (KUC), and a library with 200 seating capacity is set up.
- In 1984 (July), the Library is relocated to Moi Library
- 1985 December, the University is officially opened by the then President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Daniel T. Moi
- 2002, the Library spearheads the Production of Union list of Theses and Dissertations held in Universities and Research Institutions in Kenya.
- 2003, Automation of the library catalogue using CDS-ISIS programme begins
- 2004, the university library becomes a contributing library to the Database of African Theses and Dissertations (DATAD), an initiative of Association of African Universities (AAU).

- 2006, the library becomes the first university library in Kenya to provide its users with wireless internet access
- 2008, the Library adopts KOHA
- 2010, the construction of the Post-Modern library with seating capacity of over 6,000 and a projected student population of over 30,0000 commences
- 2011 (September), the Post-Modern Library is opened to the users.

4.0   CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROWTH:

In the history of Universities Worldwide, libraries play a very central role in teaching, learning and research. Kenyatta University Library continually provides optimal support to the University's core business of teaching learning and research. This is done through selection of relevant information resources, acquisition, processing and dissemination of the same. Personalized reference and information services are offered through the respective Subject Libraries.