

# THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY SCIENCES (CAVS) LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

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## ABSTRACT

*This paper gives an outline of the global library facilities of the University of Nairobi and then gives a detailed analysis of the library services at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences at the Kabete Campus.*

*The first part of this paper highlights the organizational structure of the University of Nairobi and its library system. The second part discusses the development, holdings, staffing and services of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences Library which houses information on veterinary sciences.*

*Inter library sharing of information with other libraries within the country are also highlighted.*

## 1 BACKGROUND TO UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI AND ITS LIBRARY SYSTEM

### 1.1 Administrative Structure

The University of Nairobi was set up by an act of Parliament in 1970.

The University has undergone considerable growth in terms of student, staff, and academic programs since 1970. Students and staff statistics for the period 1970-1995 illustrate the phenomenal growth the University has undergone since 1970, when the student population was 2 700, up to 1995 when the student population is over 15 000.

Due to the growth in staff, students and programs, the University administrative

structure was transformed in 1985 (University of Nairobi Act, 1985) during which the University was decentralized into six colleges as shown below

COLLEGES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI  
(1995)

COLLEGE	LOCATION	ACADEMIC FOCUS
College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS)	Kabete Campus (13 km from main Campus)	Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine
College of Architecture and Engineering (CAE)	Main Campus	Architecture and Engineering
College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS)	Chiromo Campus (3 km from Main Campus)	Basic and Preclinical Sciences
College of Education and External Studies (CEES)	Kikuyu Campus (23 km from Main Campus)	Education and External degree programs
College of Health Sciences (CHS)	Kenyatta National Hospital (5 km from main campus)	Health Sciences
College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS)	Main Campus	Humanities and Social Sciences

For purpose of management and administration, each of the above colleges is headed by a principal who is answerable to the University Vice-chancellor.

## 1.2 The University of Nairobi Library system

The University of Nairobi Library System consists of the main Campus Library - the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library (JKML), and the following six college libraries associated with the six colleges:

ADD Library	College of Agriculture and Engineering
Chiromo Library	College of Biological and Physical Sciences
Kabete Library	College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences
Kikuyu Library	College of Education and External Studies
Main Library	College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Medical Library	College of Health Sciences

In addition to the above six college libraries, there are other small libraries which provide specialized services to various faculties or institutes:

Institute of African Studies Library	National Museums of Kenya
Institute for Population Studies Library	Main Campus
Institute for Development Studies Library	IDS Main Campus
Commerce Library	Lower Kabete
Law Library	Parklands

The University Librarian and her two deputies are responsible for the organisation, coordination, and administration of all the University library services including the College Libraries. The library system has 34 professional librarians distributed across the library system as follows:

### Distribution of professional librarians

Designation	Number
University Librarian	1
Deputy University Librarians	2
College Librarians	6
Senior Librarians	6
Librarians	22
Para-professionals and non-professionals	114

The total stock for the entire University Library system is over 450 000 volumes, inclusive of bound volumes of journals. The library receives over 1 000 current journals. It is also a depository of all materials published in Kenya as well as the publications of the United Nations and other international organizations.

The main university library at main campus moved to the new building in 1987, when its previous facility was transformed into a university bookshop.

## 2 THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY SCIENCES - KABETE

### 2.1 Administrative structure of CAVS

The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) is situated some 13 kilometres from the main University of Nairobi campus. The history of the college goes back to 1962 when the Faculty of Veterinary Science was transferred from Makerere University College, Uganda, to the Royal College, Nairobi. The Veterinary Sciences Faculty was later joined by the Faculty of Agriculture in 1970, when the latter was moved from the main campus to its current location at Kabete.

The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences is comprised of the two original faculties, namely the faculty of Agriculture and the faculty of Veterinary Medicine. In addition the College has an Agricultural Farm for the faculty of Agriculture and a Veterinary Farm for the faculty of Veterinary Medicine. The College has also a 12 000 acre dry land field station at Kibwezi, 200 kilometres south of Nairobi. The constituent departments of the two faculties are:

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	Faculty of Agriculture
Animal Production Clinical Studies Public Health, Pharm. & Toxicology Veterinary Path & Microbiology • Veterinary Anatomy • Veterinary Physiology	Agricultural Economics Agricultural Engineering Crop Science  Food Technology & Nutrition Range Management Soil Science

(\* These two Departments are currently housed at the College of Biological & Physical Sciences in Chiromo, consequently some of their Library needs are catered for by the Science Library at that Campus.)

The total number of academic staff at the college is 300 while the total number of students is 1 000.

## 2.2 The College of Agriculture & Veterinary Sciences (Kabete) Library

The College of Agriculture & Veterinary Sciences Library commonly known as the Kabete Library, is one of the six college libraries of the University of Nairobi. It caters for students and staff of the faculties of Veterinary Science and Agriculture. Although the campus library was established in 1970, the current library was constructed and occupied in 1982/83 with financial aid from the World Bank.

The mission of the Kabete Library is to support the teaching, learning and research activities of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences through the provision of relevant information, resources and services. The objectives of Kabete Library are, therefore, to:

- Provide agricultural and veterinary science information to students and staff of Kabete campus
- Serve as depository of research information generated at Kabete, e.g. through theses and acquisition and processing of library materials
- Facilitate exchange of library materials to the college's ex-students, local and international researchers engaged in agriculture and veterinary sciences

Kabete Library is headed by one College Librarian, who is assisted by one librarian and 14 para-professionals and non-professionals.

In addition to the main Kabete Library, there are other smaller specialized libraries serving specific needs in the campus, e.g. the Applied Nutrition Resource Library, and PINEP Resource Library. These are linked to specific research projects going on in the campus.

### 2.2.1 Capacity

The library stock consists of some 40 000 volumes of books inclusive of bound periodicals. It subscribes and receives as gifts over 100 current periodicals. Most of these have back runs going back to 1960. The library also receives bibliographies, reference works and about 60 abstracting and indexing periodicals. It is the official depository for the United Nations FAO publications. The library has also acquired 3 000 titles from the World Bank under the on-going Universities Investment Program of the Kenyan Government.

The library has a sitting capacity of 300 readers. It has study carrels that are used mostly by postgraduate students and other researchers. The opening hours for the library are from 08:00 am to 10:00 pm during term time, and from 08:00 am to 05:00 pm during vacation time.

### 2.2.2 Services

Kabete Library serves the undergraduate, postgraduate students and teaching staff of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. In addition staff from KARI, ICRAF, ILRI and ICIPE use the library.

The core activities are lending and receiving library materials; undertaking literature searches; providing current awareness in agriculture and veterinary medicine; and teaching of library information skills to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Other activities which the library undertakes include:

- \* User instruction on how to find agricultural and veterinary information
- \* Selection of books and journals for purchasing in liaison with the teaching staff
- \* Maintenance of Reserve/Special collection as for college needs
- \* Preparation of bi-monthly accession lists of new books and journals
- \* Classification and cataloging of newly acquired books and theses using the Library of Congress Classification System
- \* Photocopying and interlending services
- \* In-house training of new staff and
- \* Students orientation

The library has interlending services with the University's other libraries, especially the science and medical libraries.

In addition, as one of the older academic libraries in agriculture and veterinary medicine in Kenya, the Kabete Library serves the country's newer university libraries, namely Egerton, Moi and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

### 2.2.3 Animal Science Information Available at Kabete Library

#### General Collection (books)

Fifty per cent of the total collection of the library is made up of animal science resources. The books cover veterinary medicine in the following broad subject areas:

Diseases of special classes of animals  
 Epidemiology  
 Microbiology  
 Parasitology  
 Pharmacology  
 Surgery

Other general book collections cover aquaculture and wild life management.

The animal science journals in the Kabete Library cover similar subject areas as the

book collection mentioned above. Over 150 of the library's bound journals are on animal science.

#### Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations Special Collections

As mentioned earlier in this paper, the University of Nairobi is an official depositing library of all United Nations materials. The Kabete Library, as a Veterinary and Agriculture Library, consequently maintains all United Nations Food and Agriculture organisation publications on these subjects. The two major FAO publications which are heavily used in Kabete Library include:

- Animal Production and Health Paper Series; and
- Agriculture, development and coordination programs series.

The library also receives Annual Reports, Bulletins, Manuals, Newsletters, Proceedings, Research Reports and Working Papers from the International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA).

The International Laboratory Research Institute (ILRI) which is only 4 kilometres from our Campus, is our special and indispensable neighbour. The Institute's documentation centre has one of the most up-to-date journal collections in animal science in the region. Kabete Library therefore maintains closer interlibrary links with ILRI in addition to receiving its annual reports, highlights and newsletters. Due to its proximity to our Campus, most of the CAVS Academic staff have special borrowing rights from ILRI.

#### Theses collection

This is the main special collection that our Library maintains. These are mostly masters and doctoral dissertations submitted by the CAVS postgraduate students. Other dissertations among these are donated by Kenyan veterinarians at large as well as outsiders. As one of the most utilized collections in the Library, the Library up-dates all in-coming theses

every two years. Currently, the thesis collection totals 400.

### Current Publications on Animal Science in Kenya

This is a literature collection that Kabete Library has started recently. It is compiled by scanning in-coming journals and books for articles and papers written or edited by Kenyans on animal science or agriculture. The articles and papers are then photocopied and indexed for easy access by our researchers. To date we have assembled mostly articles and papers on the rinderpest disease.

When time permits, we intend to undertake retrospective literature searches.

Most of the current literature collected on animal science is published in:

- East African Agricultural and Forestry Journal (EAAFRO published by KARI)
- The Kenyan Veterinarian (published by Kenya Veterinarian Association - KVA)

#### 2.2.4 Future Needs of Kabete Library

For the Kabete Library to be more effective in its services, the following points will be addressed within the next five (5) years:

- a Increase our journal subscriptions
- b Provision of binding facilities
- c Introduction of modern technology to facilitate networking and inter-library links
- d Creating a special collection on gender in agriculture and animal science disciplines.

The provision of these services will obviously require additional finances over and above what is currently being allocated.

Some facts about the Kabete campus

	1986/ 87	1987/ 88	1988/ 89
Books & periodical Stock	30 000	33 000	40 000
Periodicals Received	500	530	100
Books Borrowed Registered	9 172	12 633	20 000
Library Users	430	800	1 000
Library Staff	10	12	16

### REFERENCES

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