Kampala International University (KIU) is set to officially launch her Institutional Repository known as KIUIR. The event is scheduled to take place at the Idi Basajababula Memorial Library on Friday, 22nd February, 2019, at 9:00am – 2:00pm. In an interview with the Chief Librarian, this is what she had to say:

Q. Tell us about KIUIR

The KIUIR is an open access digital facility where KIU’s scholarly works are collected, organized, archived and disseminated globally. In other words, KIUIR is a digital service that collects, preserves, and distributes local content to the public as a way to share its scholarly knowledge for the development of Uganda and beyond. It can be reached through: www.kiuuir.ac.ug

Q. What is the idea or objective of this project?

KIUIR re-affirms the University position as a scholarly centre and community hub. Specifically:

a) It creates an avenue for the global visibility of KIU’s scholarly works and research outputs, thereby marketing and enhancing the University’s reputation.

b) It collects, stores and preserves KIU’s research outputs which include unpublished works such as theses, dissertations and other types of reports.

c) It promotes Open Access as a research dissemination tool and strengthens KIU publications and author recognition.

Q. What is the Open Access concept all about?

Open Access is an online ecosystem of freely available ideas and evidence-based information for the public. It comes with a lot of benefits like:

a) Increased visibility.

b) Increased citation rates.

c) Drives innovation.

d) Global impact.

e) Public access.

f) Complies with funder policies.

Q. What do we expect from the KIUIR project as a University, Country and Region?

From the KIUIR project, we expect a whole lot for the University; for the University and its surrounding community, Uganda as a country; East Africa as a region; Africa as a continent; and the world at large.

Q. How does EIFL/SPIDER help bridge the digital knowledge divide in developing countries?

A. This is done by:

i) Advocating for Open Access to knowledge and Technology and
ii) Supporting Open Access Initiatives like KIUIR.

Q. How has the journey been so far?

A. The initiative to come up with the KIUIR has been long; it took four (4) years to come to where we are now! Initially, it was hard, but we have reached somewhere and the journey is still on. However, KIU is proud to have explored the heights in this project, and equally achieved it. The fact that KIUIR was ranked among the best in Open Access in the country recently attests to this. That is why we are taking pride in launching this online facility on Friday, 22nd February, 2019, by 9:00am (EAT), at the Main Campus, situated at Kansanga-Ggaba Road, Kampala.

We appreciate KIU Management and Administration, KIU Community, Consortium of Uganda University Libraries (CUUL), Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL) and Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions (SPIDER) for walking with us in this great journey.

Thank you!

Dr. Prisca Tibenderana, Chief University Librarian