

International Open Access Week, Mon 20th – 24th Oct., 2025

Engaging Our Faculties in Celebrating and Sharing Knowledge for
Ugandan Solutions

A Brief to the Deans:

Theme: Our Campuses, Our Community, Our Knowledge: Opening
Access for Ugandan Solutions

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University Librarian

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What is Open Access Week?

A Global Event with Direct Relevance to Busitema.

Key Points:

- A worldwide event to celebrate and promote free, immediate access to research.
- Global Theme 2025: "**Who Owns Our Knowledge?**" A question about control and equity.
- Our Busitema answer: We own our knowledge, and we are responsible for sharing it to drive local development.

Goal: To transition our research from the library shelves into the hands of those who need it **most—policymakers, farmers, healthcare workers, and engineers in our communities.**

Why Should Our Faculty Participate?

Amplify the Impact of Your Faculty's Work.

Benefits for Academics and Researchers:

- **Increased Visibility & Citations:** OA work is downloaded and cited more frequently.
- **Greater Societal Impact:** Ensure your research solves real-world problems in Uganda.
- **Compliance:** Align with growing global and potential future national OA mandates.
- **Student Engagement:** Inspire the next generation of researchers by showing the practical value of their studies.

Overview of the Week's Key Activities

Amplify the Impact of Your Faculty's Work.

A Week of Engagement Across All Campuses.:

- **Monday, 20th Oct: Official Opening & Knowledge Exchange Fair.** Connecting our researchers with community practitioners.
- **Tuesday, 21st Oct: Research Visibility Day.** Help desks for ORCID, Google Scholar, etc., at all campus libraries.
- **Wednesday, 22nd Oct: Amplifying Our Voice Media Campaign.** Students/staff record 1-min videos on their research solving Ugandan problems.
- **Thursday, 23rd Oct: The Ultimate Quiz Challenge Grand Finale.** Student teams compete in an inter-campus OA quiz.
- **Friday, 24th Oct: Workshops & Grand Closing.** Launches of the BU Journal, Self-Archiving Platform, and awards ceremony.

Activity 1: How Faculty Can Support – Student Quiz & Media Campaign

Empower Our Students to Be OA Ambassadors..

The Ultimate Quiz Challenge:

- **Action:** Please encourage your top undergraduate students to participate.
- **Incentives:** Cash prizes (Up to UGX 450,000), trophies, certificates, full facilitation.
- **Distribute** the student flyers in your classes and on faculty noticeboards.

Amplifying Our Voice Media Campaign (Oct 22):

- **Action:** Encourage your students AND academic staff to pre-register and share their research in a 1-minute video.
- **Impact:** This showcases the practical relevance of your faculty's work to a national audience.

Activity 2: How Faculty Can Support – Researcher Participation (A Key Request)

Showcase a Researcher from Your Faculty.

We Need Your Help to Identify:

- A dynamic researcher (or team) from your faculty whose work is directly engaged with solving a community problem in Uganda.
- **Examples:** A project on crop disease, water purification, local disease treatment, educational tools, etc.

Their Role: To participate in the Panel Discussion on Monday, Oct 20th: "*From Thesis to Action: Making Busitema Research Available to Local Governments and Farmers.*"

Please **provide the name and contact information** of your nominated researcher to the **University Librarian by Friday, October 10, 2025.**

Activity 3: How Faculty Can Support – Workshops & Depositing in BUScholar

Lead by Example – Share Your Work..

Workshops on Friday, Oct 24th:

- **Action:** Encourage your faculty members, especially post-graduate supervisors, to attend the workshop on "**How to Publish Your Thesis in BUScholar.**"

A Call to Action: Please lead a drive within your faculty to deposit past and present research outputs (journal articles, conference papers, technical reports) into BUScholar, our institutional repository. This builds a critical mass of open knowledge from Busitema.

What We Need from You, Our Deans

Your Leadership is Crucial.

To Ensure Success, We Request You To:

- **Communicate:** Share this presentation and the programme with all your academic staff and student leaders.
- **Promote:** Actively promote the student quiz and media campaign within your faculty.
- **Nominate:** Identify and nominate a researcher for the Monday panel by the deadline.
- **Endorse:** Encourage your staff to attend workshops and to deposit their work in BUScholar.
- **Attend:** Honour us with your presence at the Opening and Closing ceremonies.

Key Takeaways & Benefits for Your Faculty

- **Increased Faculty Profile:** Showcasing your faculty's work enhances its reputation locally and internationally.
- **Student Success:** Engaging students in these activities enhances their learning and pride in their faculty.
- **Tangible Impact:** This is a direct implementation of our university's mandate to be a solution-centric institution.
- **Together,** we can demonstrate that Busitema University is a primary generator of knowledge for Ugandan development.

Next Steps, Q&A & Contacts

Next Steps:

- ❖ Faculty-specific flyers for students will be shared with you for distribution.
- ❖ Please circulate the attached detailed programme.
- ❖ **Contact:** flugya@busitema.ac.ug | University Library
- ❖ **Hashtag:** [#BusitemaOpenKnowledge2025](https://twitter.com/BusitemaOpenKnowledge2025)

Thank you for your partnership and support!

Q&A Session