



March 13st, 2023

Open Access to Scholarly Works and Institutional Repository Policy at Busitema University

APPROVED BY

BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
MARCH 31, 2023

1. Establishment of the University

Historically established as a multi-campus Public University, Busitema University is located in Eastern Uganda. The Main Campus houses the Faculty of Engineering (FoE), is at Busitema, 183 km along Kampala-Tororo highway, Busia District. The other five campuses are: Nagongera Campus, which is Busitema's Faculty of Science and Education, located North-West of Busitema, 21.2 km via Nagongera road; the Mbale Campus houses the Faculty of Health Sciences, located in Mbale town, North of Busitema, 72.7 km via Tororo - Mbale Road, Mbale Town and is situated along Mbale-Tirinyi Road, Mbale Hospital; the Arapai Campus is the Faculty of Agriculture and Animal Sciences located in Soroti City, Soroti District, 184 km North of the Main Campus and is accessed via Mbale - Soroti Road; the Pallisa Campus hosts the Faculty of Management Sciences and is located in Pallisa district, 127 km via Tororo-Mbale Road North of Busitema; and the Campus in Namasagali is the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, located 178 km North-West of Main Campus when driving via Jinja and taking Kamuli Road. It is at this campus that the Maritime Institute will be established.

Mandate of the University

The mandate of the University is to provide higher education through quality teaching, research and outreach.

Vision

A Centre of academic and professional excellence in science, technology and innovation". The vision sets out the University's strategy for rethinking and repositioning itself to meet the demands of teaching, research and knowledge exchange.

Mission

To provide high standard training, engage in quality research and outreach for societal transformation and sustainable development.

University Core Values

- i) Professionalism: At all times we act with integrity, providing quality service, being reliable and predictably consistent commitment to honour moral, ethical, spiritual and artistic values and principles
- ii) Respect for Diversity: The University respects diversity of opinions, racial differences, gender, faith, people with different physical abilities and different political ideologies.
- iii) Innovativeness: The University will apply better solutions that meet new requirements and articulate the market/community needs.
- iv) Internationalization: Participating in the regional and global world of scholarship by being receptive and responsive to issues pertinent to the international community.
- v) Team work: The University listen and respect each other whilst working together to achieve mutually beneficial results.

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3. Policy Statement

Whereas: Busitema University strives to promote industrialization and sustainable development through inclusive high-quality training, quality research, and outreach.

Whereas: The Staff of Busitema University is committed to disseminating its research and scholarship as widely as possible.

Whereas: This research and scholarship benefits the University, Country, region, and the rest of the world.

Whereas: Open access allows for the greatest dissemination of research and scholarship.

Whereas: The Staff recognizes the benefits that accrue to them as individual scholars and to the scholarly enterprise from such wide dissemination, including greater recognition, more thorough review, consideration and critique, and a general increase in scientific, scholarly and critical knowledge.

Whereas: The Intellectual Property Policy and the Research and Grants Management Policy at Busitema University affirm that Staff retain “copyright rights to academic copyrightable works”.

Whereas: The Government of Uganda has expressed interest in the practices on Open Access in higher education institutions through Uganda National Council for Science and Technology.

Whereas: Busitema University Library endorsed the UNESCO Open Access Policy as an acceptable basis for the Busitema University's own policy.

Be It Resolved that the Staff at Busitema University adopts and implements the following policy on Open Access.

4. Objectives of the Policy

The Open Access to Scholarly Works and Institutional Repository Policy at Busitema University, approved by the University Council at its Meeting, grants an irrevocable right of access to copy, use, distribute, transmit and make derivative works in any format within certain constraints. It applies to all scholarly works published from **April 1st, 2023**

Busitema University reinforces its commitment to encourage and protect universal access to information and knowledge, which is key to the advancement of innovative solutions for challenges of national and international development.

In principle, all works produced by Busitema University Staff are protected by copyright. Through the Open Access to Scholarly Works and Institutional Repository Policy, Busitema

University is providing online access to all of its research outputs without man of the restrictions commonly imposed by copyright. Printed copies of the publications are also openly licensed and can be photo-copied and transcribed.

5. Grant of License and Limitations

Each Staff member, for the purpose of making his or her scholarly articles widely and freely available in an open access repository, grants to Busitema University a nonexclusive, irrevocable, worldwide license to exercise any and all rights under copyright relating to each of his or her scholarly articles, in any medium, and to authorize others to do the same. Any other systematic uses of the licensed articles by Busitema University must be approved by the University Senate. This policy does not transfer copyright ownership, which generally remains with Staff authors under existing Busitema University's Intellectual Property Rights Policy and Research and Grants Policy.

6. Scope and Waiver

This Open Access to Scholarly Works and Institutional Repository Policy at Busitema University covers all current Staff members as defined by the Busitema University Human Resources Manual.

The policy applies to all scholarly articles authored or co-authored while the author is a member of Staff except for:

1. scholarly articles that fall outside of the scope of copyrightable works described in the Intellectual Property Rights Policy and Research and Grants Policy;
2. any articles published before the adoption of this policy; and
3. any articles for which the Staff member entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement before the adoption of this policy.

Upon express direction by a Staff member, the Busitema University will waive application of the license for a particular article or delay access for a specified period of time.

7. The Repository

The Busitema University Institutional Repository shall be known as Busitema Digital Environment for Access to Research and Scholarship (BDEARS)

Hosted on the Busitema University Servers, the Busitema Digital Environment for Access to Research and Scholarship provides digital works in full text to the University Community and

the general public without cost or other restrictions (other than embargoes and specific clauses restricting use) as will provided in the guiding procedures document.

Users of the Busitema Digital Environment for Access to Research and Scholarship are responsible for compliance with copyright restrictions and are expected to adhere to the terms and conditions defined by the rights holder.

The BDEARS guiding procedures shall have a set of guiding principles on how the content shall be described and preserved, copyrighted, and how content may be accessed and used. The guidelines shall be revisited and revised on an annual basis.

8. Deposit of Works into the BDEARS

To assist Busitema University in disseminating and archiving the scholarly works, Staff commit to helping the University obtain copies of the works. Specifically, each Faculty member who does not request a waiver of the licensing requirement as described above will provide an electronic copy of his or her final version of the article (i.e., the final author's version post peer-review" or the "final published version" where possible) to the designated repository . If applicable, a Staff member may instead notify Busitema University that the article will be made openly available in another repository or in an open-access publication, or made available via a link to public access versions of those articles on publisher websites. Staff members who have requested a permanent waiver of the licensing requirement may nonetheless deposit a copy in the repository for archival purposes.

Notwithstanding the above, this policy does not in any way prescribe or limit the venue of publication. This policy requires that the University shall pay article processing fees or publication costs by authors.

9. Oversight of Policy

The University Senate, through the Research Openness Committee, and the Office of the University Librarian will be jointly responsible for implementing this policy, resolving disputes concerning its interpretation and application, and recommending any changes to the Policy. All the responsible parties will review the policy within three years, and present a report to the University Senate. This report shall be transmitted to the Vice Chancellor. The University Librarian shall gather the reports from the campuses and present the results to the University Senate with recommendation from Top Management.

The University Senate urges the responsible units to develop and monitor mechanisms that would render implementation and compliance with the policy as convenient for the Staff as possible.