

THE EAST AFRICAN SCHOOL OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE, COCIS CELEBRATES THE NATIONAL DEAR DAY ON 15TH MARCH 2024

By Lois N. Mutibwa

On Friday 15th March 2024, some members of the management, staff and students of the East African School of Library and Information Science, one of the two schools belonging to the College of Computing and Information Science, at Makerere University joined the rest of the Uganda in celebrating the national DEAR Day. D.E.A.R. Day, also known as Drop Everything and Read Day, is an annual celebration that is intended for everyone to dedicate a significant period during the day to reading. Uganda's National DEAR Day exists to promote the continued growth of a positive reading culture.

In a session held on Friday 15th March 2024, at 11: 00am, the students, together with the Deputy Principal of the College of Computing and Information Science: Dr. Peter Nabende, the Dean of EASLIS: Dr Sarah Kaddu, the Librarian of EASLIS, and two teaching staff members joined the students in a reading session. A silent reading session of any information material of choice was first held. After this session, a few students shared their experience of the reading session. The Deputy Principal and the Dean also encouraged the students to continue reading and reminded them about the value of reading.

The session ended with one of the students Ms. Grace, a student with a hearing impairment, who shared her experience with the help of a sign language interpreter.

At the end of the session, the students were encouraged to continue reading, to purchase reading materials and also encourage their relatives, and friends to read.

Below are some comments from the students that attended and some photographs capturing the reading moments:

I was happy for having participated in the DEAR Day for this year, it was awesome, new experience.
Mr. Bigabwa Nduhura (BLIS Student)

15th March is a day to always remember where we had time to read any material of choice. This promotes literacy skills enhancing vocabulary, comprehension and analytical skills of the students. DEAR day should always be celebrated because it was worth having it this year.
Ms. Winner Tumukunde (BLIS Student)

It was a whole vibe on this Dear Day where I experienced a new thing called DEAR Day where I wholesomely enjoyed to the fullest, I appreciate the EASLIS Staff for organizing.
Mr. Atwijukire Joseph (BLIS Student)

I am so glad that I got to celebrate the DEAR DAY. It was such a real honor and great experience. I am a student of literature and for the longest time I never knew that we had a chance to celebrate reading.

It was a great experience for me because I was able to interact with people of different hierarchies and we were brought together because of reading. I would dearly love to celebrate this day more.
Ms. Namutebi Violah (BLIS III student, Makerere University)



Figure 2 Reading moment



Figure 3 A reading moment



Figure 4: The Dean reminding the students about the benefits of reading



Figure 5: the students engaged in silent reading



Figure 6: The Staff involved in reading



Figure 7: Reading session



The authors are LIS educators at EASLIS, Makerere University