

ULIA Drives Advocacy, Collaboration, and Innovation in Uganda
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The Uganda Library and Information Association (ULIA) has kicked off 2025 with a dynamic series of engagements, reinforcing its commitment to advancing the library and information science (LIS) profession. From high-level advocacy to strengthening institutional partnerships, ULIA has made significant strides in promoting recognition, collaboration, and professional development.

A pivotal moment for Uganda's LIS sector came on 17 February 2025, when ULIA President Dr. Fredrick Kiwuwa Lugya addressed the Vice Chancellors' Forum Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Kabale University. His presentation highlighted the systemic challenges faced by LIS professionals, particularly in academic staffing structures and remuneration.

Dr. Lugya emphasized that LIS professionals are often misclassified as solely academic or administrative staff, despite their critical role in supporting scientific research, digital scholarship, and data management. He argued for their reclassification as both academic and scientific staff, recognizing their multidisciplinary contributions to research, teaching, and institutional knowledge management.



Dr Lugya (President ULIA), at the Vice Chancellors' Forum Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Kabale University

This advocacy marks a crucial step in ensuring that LIS professionals receive equitable recognition, career progression, and compensation within Uganda's higher education sector. The engagement with university leaders is expected to lead to policy reviews and greater inclusion of LIS experts in academic governance.

On 7 March 2025, led by the ULIA President Dr. Lugya, ULIA visited the International Business, Science and Technology University (ISBAT) in Kampala, fostering collaboration to elevate library standards and academic excellence. The visit underscored ULIA's commitment to expanding its institutional membership base while promoting best practices in library and information services.

A key highlight was the official presentation of a ULIA Membership Certificate to ISBAT University's Vice Chancellor Dr. K. Mathew, symbolizing the institution's dedication to upholding high-quality library services. The ceremony was followed by a comprehensive tour of ISBAT's library facilities, where ULIA officials observed innovative approaches to digital resource management, user engagement, and research support.





The pictures above show the ULIA executive on the left handing in the certificate to the ISBAT vice-chancellor, and the engagement meeting held on the same day

Dr. Lugya reiterated ULIA's mandate to support academic libraries in adopting modern technologies, improving information literacy programs, and enhancing research support systems. This partnership is expected to facilitate knowledge exchange, staff training, and collaborative research initiatives between ULIA and ISBAT.

Looking ahead, ULIA plans to roll out a series of training workshops on emerging trends in librarianship, including AI in libraries, open-access publishing, and research data management. These workshops aim to equip professionals with the skills to thrive in a rapidly evolving information landscape. ULIA is actively engaging with government stakeholders to advocate for the construction of the National Library and digital inclusion for libraries across Uganda. Building on its partnership with IFLA and other regional library associations, ULIA seeks to strengthen cross-border collaborations, particularly in digital literacy programs and open educational resources (OERs).

Plans are underway for the ULIA Annual Conference, which will bring together LIS professionals, policymakers, and academia to discuss "The Future of Libraries in a Digital Uganda."

ULIA's first-quarter achievements demonstrate its unwavering commitment to elevating the LIS profession, fostering strategic partnerships, and driving policy change. By advocating for fair recognition, expanding institutional collaborations, and investing in professional development, ULIA is positioning itself as a key player in Uganda's knowledge economy.

As Dr. Lugya noted, “Libraries are the backbone of education and research. Our mission is to ensure they receive the support, innovation, and recognition they deserve.”

With such momentum, 2025 is set to be a transformative year for Uganda’s library and information sector.

Stay tuned for more updates!

Follow ULIA on social media for the latest news and events.

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Uganda Library and Information Association (ULIA)

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