

**OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**



**COMMISSIONING OF THE BALME LIBRARY INSTRUCTIONAL LAB**

**ADDRESS BY:**

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**TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022  
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

Pro Vice-Chancellors,

Registrar,

The Acting Librarian and Management of the University Library  
Systems,

Deans, Directors, Heads of Department,

Faculty, Staff and Students,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am honoured to participate in this brief but very important ceremony  
for the commissioning of an Instructional Lab for the Balme Library.

The Balme Library which was part of the foundation of the  
establishment of the University of Ghana in 1948 continues to develop,  
add value and expand its services of providing crucial support for  
academic work including teaching, learning and research in the  
University. The library provides excellent facilities and

resources including reference materials, textbooks, journal databases, study carrels and collections both in print and electronic formats.

In our quest to becoming a world-class research-intensive University, it is imperative to invest in technology and infrastructure that propels the library for improved services hence the need to set up this dedicated resource centre (Instructional Lab) with the sole purpose of assisting library patrons to easily, efficiently, and successfully locate, retrieve, evaluate and use information.

The Instructional lab will provide hands-on learning opportunities for library users to become adept at using information and information resources provided through the library. This will enable students and faculty use library resources and facilities on their own or with limited assistance from information professionals.

As a lecturer, I consistently, year after year, brought my graduate students to the Balme library to be instructed and guided on how to access research materials and generally use all kinds of e-resources available. And so I appreciate the the value of such a lab.

I am informed that in 2013, the University of Ghana Library System initiated the concept of the Subject Librarian, as part of the implementation of the Carnegie project, *Next Generation of Academics in Africa*. Its objective was to augment the delivery of discipline-specific library instruction which led to assigning of Librarians to Departments as subject librarians mandated among others, to provide library instruction to the Colleges, Schools, Institutes, Centres and Departments, with emphasis on relevant library resources.

The importance of library instruction or bibliographic instruction in academia cannot be underestimated. Successful library instruction nurtures curiosity and exploration of the library and its resources while building research skills and awareness of the intellectual and social issues surrounding information. As a former member and later Chair of the Library Board, the value and potential of our library system, is not at all lost on me.

According to Bowles-Terry, (2012), there is a direct relationship between the success of students and their participation in library

instruction sessions. I do hope that we will popularize the existence of this lab for the patronage of our students.

In view of the above, there is no doubt that the instructional lab is a crucial facility, in the library for the delivery of these instructional sessions. The creation of this Instructional lab is therefore timely and synchronises with my vision to use technology as an enabler to enhance productivity in the University of Ghana.

The 30-seater networked facility with modern, high speed computers and stable internet will help to partly resolve the challenge of space confronted by the library as a result of the increasing student population.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am optimistic that this Instructional lab will be used for its intended purpose to impart invaluable information related skills to all and among those who would be the next generation of academics.

I would like to applaud the management of the University of Ghana Library System and the Library Board for this initiative and challenge them to continue to be innovative with their spaces and resources as they pursue and promote the technology agenda. Management of the University pledges its unflinching support to the University of Ghana Library System in this endeavour.

Thank you.

### **Reference**

Bowles-Terry, M. (2012). Library Instruction and Academic Success: A Mixed-Methods Assessment of a Library Instruction Program. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 7(1), 82–95. <https://doi.org/10.18438/B8PS4D>

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