

**Challenges and Opportunities for Academic Libraries during and Post  
COVID-19 Pandemic Rahab Koech & Nancy Kimile**

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**Abstract**

COVID-19 pandemic has unprecedented effects on academic institutions, which led to their closure. In particular, academic libraries that provide critical support for teaching and research success were equally affected as physical libraries also closed as a measure towards overcoming the spread of the virus. Traditionally, libraries have provided physical learning space, print resources, and e-resources to a limited extent as prominent services to their users. However, with the new norm, libraries are challenged to provide their services by proactively embracing recent technological trends in electronic resources, information access, and dissemination and capacity building of both staff and students. Based on the preceding, the study undertakes a review of the literature to unearth critical best practices aimed at transforming libraries into playing their supportive role in academia during the global pandemic and beyond.

**Keywords:** Academic Institutions; Academic libraries; COVID-19 Pandemic; Library services; ICT in Libraries