
Uganda Meets Münster:

**A report on the professional study
tour to Germany**

30 May - 7 June 2025

By

**Assoc. Prof. Alison Annet Kinengyere
Ms. Glorias Asiimwe
Ms. Winfred Namusoke Lubambo**

2025

Introduction

On Friday 30th May, a group of three medical Librarians from Uganda led by Associate Library Professor Alison Annet Kinengyere (Makerere University Albert Cook Medical Library); Ms. Glorias Asiimwe (Busitema University Faculty of Health Sciences Library) and Ms. Winfred Namusoke (Albert Cook Medical Library) set off from Uganda to attend a group study tour at the Münster University Library, Germany. The group arrived in Münster on Saturday, 31/05/2025 and were met by the hosts Dr Nils Beese, Head of the Medical Library and Mr. Jens Unkenholz (Universitäts-und Landes bibliothek Münster Medizin-Bibliothek) at the Münster main train station. This group study trip was partially sponsored by BI-International - a standing committee of Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (BID), the Federal Association of German Library and Information Associations.

About Münster University Library

Münster University (Universität Münster) is one of the largest universities with a strong research profile and rich history that was founded in 1780 in Münster city in the North Rhine-Westphalia region in Germany. The university has 15 faculties and 30 research centers that offer over 120 academic programs. The University Library of Münster (Universitäts- und Landes bibliothek Münster) is a state and deposit library comprised of the Central Library and 60 decentralized libraries that hold a collection of 6.1 million printed books that serve students and staff of the University as well as other researchers of Münster city and beyond. The services offered include; circulation, single and group study places, parent-child rooms, inter-library loans, document delivery services, user trainings, IT support, cafeteria, digital media services, publishing services, open access repository, acquisition and research data management services amongst others.



Figure 1: An Exterior view of Münster University Library

Study Tour Coverage

On Sunday 1st June, 2025, the group had some free time to settle in Emsdetten and get acquainted with Münster city. The official program of the study tour commenced on Monday 2nd June 2025, with welcome remarks from Dr Nils Beese, the Head Librarian of the Medical Library who gave an overview of Münster university and the medical library in particular. The group was later on introduced to the rest of the medical library staff. This was preceded by a tour around the medical library including the circulation desk, reading spaces, eating room/snack room, relaxation room with a football table, reserve section, dissertation room with student reports and shelves area where books were organized according to the National Library of Medicine classification scheme (NLM).



Figure 2: Right to left: Dr Nils, Winfred, Alison, Glorias and Jens in front of the Medical Library

After a health break, the group was taken to tour the medical student learning infrastructure including the Limette- used for a simulations Centre and study teaching hospital where medical students acquire practical skills by learning on “actor” patients before practicing on-real patients. In afternoon, the group visited the future study laboratory that is still under construction where Dr. Sönke Scherzer explained the plans for new state-of-the-art laboratory complex that will also harbor the students recreational floor.



Figure 3: Left to Right: Dr. Sönke, Winfred, Alison, Glorias and Dr Nils at the study laboratory

On Tuesday 3rd June 2025, the group visited the Münster University Main Library-, where a number of presentations and discussions were held. The first presentation was an overview on Münster University and the State Library of Münster by Dr. Viola Voß. Through this presentation, we learnt that the university offers over 280 academic degree programs with 42500 students, 5100 academic staff, 650 professors hosted in 240 buildings spread all over city of Münster. This was followed by a presentation on Open Access from Dr. Viola Voß, the Open Access Commissioner at the University. We learnt about the different Open Access colors such as gold, green, hybrid, diamond, bronze, blue, black, grey and black, some of which we had never heard of. The presentation further enlightened us on open access models including; article processing charge (APC), Article Development Charge (ADC), crowdfunding, Subscribe to Open (S2O) and Purchase to Open (P2O) and what to consider when publishing in open access.

Another presentation on publication services of the University of Münster followed by Ms Wibke Fellermann, the Group Leader of Service Point Research Data and Publishing. Each of these were followed by a discussion and question answer session.



Figure 4: Left to Right: Glorias, Wibke, Viola, Sophie, Alison and Winfred at the University Library

A presentation on Research Data Management by Dr. Frank Berkemeier, Head of Department Data Management & Publication Services was held in the afternoon. We learnt about the different tools that the different types of data; RDM services at the library; tools used in storage of research data (SCIEBO, DATASTORE); Data repositories – (DATORIUM, PANGEO, DATASAVE, NOMAD, ZENODO); tools used in data organisation (E. LABFTW, GITHUB) and archiving of re research data. In the afternoon, the hosts had organized a site-seeing walking tour around Münster city. We saw the historical University buildings, cathedral and ancient merchants' shops. The day ended with a dinner by the hosts (Dr Nils and Jens) at one of the beautiful student hangouts in Münster.



Figure 5: Left to Right: Alison, Glorias, Jens, Winfred at the Dinner

On Wednesday, 4th June 2025, the group returned to the Münster Medical Library. The first exciting presentation and demonstration was on the Library of Things by Farina Hatzfeld and Dr Nils Beese. We learnt what the concept of the library of things is; how to implement the library of things; objects that form part of the library of things; benefits of having library of things. This session opened our eyes on the aspect of embracing the 3rd space approach where libraries are more than just borrowing books but implementing other relative ways and relaxation strategies so as for libraries to stay relevant.



Figure 6: Dr Nils and Farina taking the group via the Library of Things presentation

This session was followed by a presentation on Systematic reviews, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and literature search by Dr Nils Beese and Karin Schulenburg. During this session, the group was introduced to AI tools useful in a systematic review literature search such as (Uni-ChatGPT, AsReview, Scival, and Tutor AI); procedure of a systematic search; approaches for systematic reviews; PICO scheme; definition of the research focus; formulation of the research; databases and search strings; selection of relevant publications and thematic content analysis.



Figure 7: Dr Nils and Karin taking the group through systematic review session

The afternoon session focused on a presentation on the concept teaching library by Johanna Meyer. Here we learnt how information literacy and user education is embedded the medical library. Being the last day at Münster University, the hosts and the Ugandan group had a recap session on the major take-a-ways from the study trip and how the knowledge acquired work would be applied back home in Makerere and Busitema University Medical Libraries. The hosts closed off this visit with an incredible treat of German Cappuccinos and delicious tradition cakes, as well as a tour of the highest building in Münster.



Figure 8: Right to Left: Dr Nils, Alison, Glorias and Winfred at the tallest building

Lessons Learnt and Moving forward

- Starting up Library of Things in Ugandan home libraries
- Applying AI in the literature searches for systematic reviews
- Utilizing free AI tools and advocating for open-source software in the management of research data at home institutions
- Differentiating open access Models and colors
- Starting and implementing RDM practices and initiatives Ugandan home institutions

Appreciation & Acknowledgement

We would like to sincerely thank BI-International for their partial sponsorship that made this trip to Germany possible. Specifically, we appreciate Ms. Jacqueline Banford for the unreserved support throughout the grant application and award process. Special thanks to the library management at University Library that granted us permission to tour the library premises and to Dr. Viola Voss, Ms. Wibke Fellermann, Dr. Frank Berkemeier and Ms Sophie Riga for the warm hospitality and eye-opening presentations. Special thanks to our host Dr Nils Beese, for the impeccable comprehensive visit schedule, expertise shared, delicious German meals and tours to remarkable historical sites around the city of Münster. The medical library staff- Ms. Farina Hatzfeld, Ms. Johanna Meyer and Ms. Karin Schulenburg for the insightful and hands-on demonstrations. In particular, we like would to thank Mr. Jens Unkenholz who tirelessly helped us with securing accommodation, documentation, directions with public transport and securing inland travel tickets. We are very grateful to Dr. med. Helmut Ahrens and Dr. med. Hendrik Ohlenburg and Dr. Sönke Scherzer, for sparing time to give us educative tours around the Limette, student teaching hospital and future study laboratory respectively. Finally, we also appreciate our institutions, Makerere University and Busitema University for granting us permission and time off to travel to Germany.

