MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

P.O. Box 7062
Kampala Uganda
Website: **http://mak.ac.ug**

Tel: (Gen) +256-414-532631/4
Fax: +256-414-541068
E-mail: pro@admin.mak.ac.ug

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

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Makerere improves in global rankings – Webometrics

Makerere University in an amended version of the Webometrics rankings has yet again risen in the world from 1,256th position in July 2011 to the current 1,177th position in January 2012, a leap of 79 positions. The initial January 2012 ranking had placed Makerere at 1,211th in the world. Webometrics is however yet to issue a comment on this change. In the same ranking, Makerere University is still the best ranked university in Sub-Saharan Africa outside South Africa and the best in the region. Regionally, the University of Nairobi is placed at the 17th position and the University of Dar es Salam at the 28th position.

The University's marked improvement worldwide can be attributed to among other strategies; an increase in the number of web pages under the University domain http://mak.ac.ug, which has propelled Makerere to the 371st position worldwide, and the third best in Africa. The Polytechnic of Namibia leads the continent at 296th position worldwide, closely followed by Strathmore University Nairobi and 299th according to the "Size" metric.

The University also registered a marked improvement in the "Rich Files" category rising from the 1,326th position in July 2011 to the 1,210th position in January 2012. The improvement in "Size" and "Rich Files" comes as a result of the contribution by the respective Constituent Colleges' and the School of Law's websites, which are at the forefront of promoting the academic units' web presence.

Makerere University, which according to the newly released Webometrics ranking is still the best in the region, experienced a drop in position from 10th in July to the current 12th in Africa when Webometrics changed their ranking methodology owing to the closure of "Yahoo Site Explorer", a site previously used to analyze the number of sites linking into a University website.

According to Dr. Vincent Ssembatya, Director Quality Assurance, Makerere University, "This year the ranking has experienced major changes in the methodology considering the fluctuations in the stability of sources of information over the web. One such change was brought about by Yahoo Site Explorer's becoming defunct. The site was the main effective source of information on link analysis data. The group now had to refer to alternative sources like **Majestic SEO** for link data. It is not clear yet how this has affected institutions that are not properly indexed by these new sources."

Makerere University ranked 8th by academic performance in Africa

The University however still remains ranked 8th out of 59 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) ranked in 18 African countries, according to results released by the University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP) Research Laboratory, Turkey.

URAP, established at the Informatics Institute of the Middle East Technical University in 2009, aims at developing a ranking system of world universities by academic performance that is more comprehensive in coverage. By covering 2,500 HEIs in the world, the URAP ranking avails more universities the opportunity to observe the state of the academic progress at both global and national levels.

URAP considers the six academic performance indicators of; Number of articles(Current Scientific Productivity), Citation(Research Impact), Cumulative Journal Impact(Scientific Impact), H-Index(Research Quality), International Collaboration(International Acceptance), and Google Scholar Results(Long - Term Overall Productivity).

For further breakdown of the rankings, please see attached analysis.

	Top Africa							
							Universities 1 to 100 of 100	

CONTINENT RANK	UNIVERSITY	COUNTRY	WORLD RANK	SIZE	VISIBILITY	RICH FILES	SCHOLAR
1	University of Cape Town		387	485	532	722	387
2	Stellenbosch University		455	773	1,095	550	230
3	University of the Witwatersrand		473	2,170	819	556	270
4	University of Pretoria		646	4,858	1,672	285	223
5	Rhodes University		651	1,277	573	1,444	855
6	University of South Africa		729	1,247	1,166	917	672
7	Cairo University		770	3,505	687	1,812	772
8	University of Kwazulu Natal		778	515	1,680	484	713
9	University of the Western Cape		992	2,161	1,419	2,029	1,054
10	American University in Cairo		1,043	2,025	1,532	1,776	1,167
11	Ain Shams University		1,094	4,052	4,102	1,726	338
12	Makerere University		1,177	371	4,457	1,210	784

The University ranking by academic performance

Region Ranking	University Name	World Ranking	Article	Citation	Total Document	JIT	JCIT	Collobration	Total
1	University of Cape Town	256	69.37	66.57	33.28	56.74	47.46	52.14	325.56
2	University of the Witwatersrand	389	67.38	64.69	32.11	55.56	46.2	49.2	315.15
3	Stellenbosch University	418	67.25	64.74	31.93	55.35	46	48.72	313.98
4	University of PRETORIA	450	67.03	64.07	32.17	54.92	45.42	48.7	312.31
5	University of KwaZulu-Natal	480	66.31	64.17	31.4	55.05	45.85	48.43	311.21
6	CAIRO University	498	67.18	63.88	31.6	54.89	45.39	47.65	310.59
7	Ain Shams University	711	65.1	63.45	30.88	54.46	45.19	46.39	305.47
8	Makerere University	802	63.84	63.39	30.19	54.37	45.44	46.84	304.06
9	Mansoura University	805	64.61	63.39	30.51	54.3	45.11	46.13	304.05

Sources
http://www.webometrics.info/index.html
http://www.majesticseo.com/
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_and_university_rankings#G-factor
http://www.urapcenter.org/2011/region.php?rcode=AF