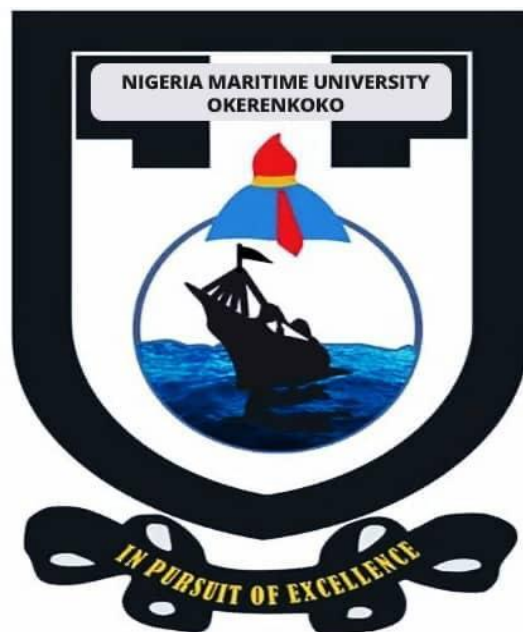


**REPORT ON THE**  
**2025 INTERNATIONAL OPEN ACCESS WEEK**  
**CELEBRATION OF THE NIGERIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY**  
**LIBRARY AND THE LIBRARY OF KWARA STATE**  
**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ORO**



**22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER, 2025**

## INTRODUCTION

NIGERIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, OKERENKOKO, DELTA STATE

IN COLLABORATION WITH KWARA STATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ORO

# Open Access Week Event

**Event Title:** Owning Your Identity: One Researcher at a Time!

**CHAIRPERSON:** Prof. Flora Tobofoyerfa, Vice-Chancellor, Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State

**MODERATOR:** Dr. Fatimah Alimi, University Librarian, Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State

**PROCEEDS:** Prof. Mubalil Amenu, Kwara State College of Education, Oro

**COLLEGE LIBRARIAN:** Hanusa A. Abudulqayam, Kwara State College of Education, Oro

**PANELISTS:**

- Dr. Oluwole Oluwole, Director, Environmental Management, Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State
- Abubakar Ahmad, Editor-in-Chief, NUSIR, Kwara State College of Education, Oro
- Dr. Victor Odean Ego, Senior Lecturer, Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State

Wed, 22nd October, 2025 | 11:00AM Prompt | zoom

www.librarynmu.net | library@nmu.edu.ng | Nigeria Maritime University (NMU) Library

The Nigeria Maritime University Library joined the global community to commemorate the 2025 International Open Access Week themed “*Owning Your Identity: One Researcher at a Time.*” The event, held virtually via Zoom, was a collaborative effort between the Nigeria Maritime University (NMU) Library, Okerenkoko, and the Kwara State College of Education Library, Oro.

The celebration aimed to promote awareness of Open Access (OA) practices among researchers, librarians, and students, and to encourage Nigerian scholars to take active ownership of their research identity through platforms such as ORCID, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, and institutional repositories.

The programme brought together library professionals, academic staff, students, and information practitioners from diverse backgrounds to discuss practical ways of enhancing research visibility and engagement in the open science ecosystem.

## **Objectives of the Event**

The major objective of the 2025 Open Access Week celebration is to:

- Create awareness about the principles and benefits of Open Access publishing.
- Encourage researchers to build and maintain their scholarly identity.
- Highlight institutional roles in promoting open research culture.
- Strengthen collaboration among academic libraries in advancing Open Access initiatives in Nigeria.
- Inspire early career researchers to engage with open science and data-sharing practices responsibly.

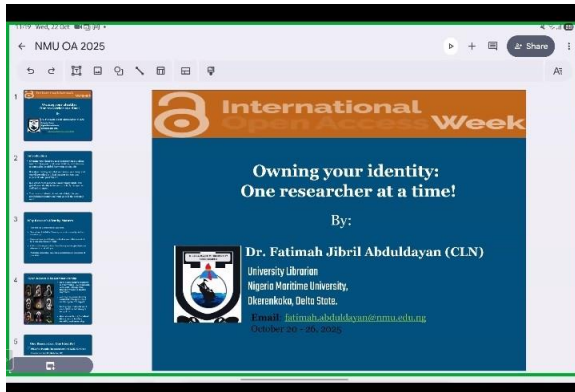
## **Participants**

The event was attended by academic librarians, researchers, students, and invited guests from both collaborating institutions and other universities across Nigeria. Representatives from the management of NMU and Kwara State College of Education were also present, affirming institutional commitment to advancing open scholarship.

## **Programme Flow**

The event began promptly at 11:00 a.m. with a **Welcome Address** by Ms. Martha Tizhe, she warmly welcomed all participants, introduced the day's theme, and highlighted the meeting rules. This was followed by the **Opening Remarks** delivered by Dr. Fatimah Jibril Abduldayan, University Librarian, Nigeria Maritime University.

The Vice-Chancellor of Nigeria Maritime University, Professor Flora T. Oluwafemi, was represented by Professor Tuaweri, the DVC Academic, Nigeria Maritime University, who delivered the **Goodwill Message** on behalf of the University Management. The Provost of Kwara State College of Education, Oro, Professor Mukaila Aremu, also presented a **Goodwill Message**, commending the synergy between the two institutions.



Before introducing the panelists, Dr. Fatimah Jibril Abduldayan made a detailed presentation on the importance of researcher identity in the digital age. She introduced participants to ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) — a

persistent digital identifier that distinguishes researchers and connects them with their professional activities. She provided a step-by-step guide on how to create and manage ORCID accounts, link them with institutional affiliations, and integrate them with other research platforms.

## Steps to Create an ORCID Account

**Steps to Create an ORCID Account**

1. Go to: <https://orcid.org/register>
2. Create your password
  - Use a strong password
  - Click on next step
3. Set place of work (Optional)

## Steps to Create an ORCID Account

### 4. Visibility setting

**Create your ORCID iD**  
Step 4 of 5 - Visibility

Your ORCID iD connects with your ORCID record that can contain links to your research activities, affiliations, awards, other versions of your name, and more. You control this content and who can see it.

**Visibility settings**

By default, what visibility should be given to new items added to your ORCID Record?

**Everyone** (87% of users choose this)  
Everyone can see these items

**Trusted parties** (5% of users choose this)  
Only people and organizations you've given permission

**Only me** (8% of users choose this)  
Items are private and only visible to you

**Choose your most preferred visibility. Who can engage with your account or not:**

1. Everyone
2. Trusted parties
3. Only you

## Steps to Create an ORCID Account

### 5. Agree to terms and click "Complete registration"

Step 5 of 5 - Terms and conditions

#### Tips & features email

We occasionally send out an email with information on new features and tips for getting the best out of your ORCID record.

I'd like to receive the ORCID tips & features email

#### Terms of Use

I consent to the [privacy policy](#) and [terms of use](#) and agree to my data being publicly accessible where marked as "Visible to Everyone".

I consent to my data being processed in the United States. [More information on how ORCID processes your data.](#)

I'm not a robot 

**Complete registration** 

Congratulations on creating your new ORCID iD! This persistent digital identifier, that you own and control, will distinguish you from every other researcher and reduce your burden when you use it in manuscript and grant submission systems.

Verifying your email address unlocks advanced editing features in your ORCID record. Until then you will only be able to manage your names and email addresses in your ORCID record.

**How do I verify my email address?**  
Simply click the button below to sign into your ORCID record and complete verification.

**Verify your email address**

## Call to Action

- Create your ORCID today!
- Use your ID in all your publications, grant applications, and digital presence.
- Tell others to do the same and let us own our IDENTITY!

## **Panel Discussion: “Owning Your Identity: One Researcher at a Time”**

***Dr. Victor Oscar Eyo – Director, Quality Assurance, Nigeria Maritime University***



Dr. Eyo addressed the common concerns among researchers regarding the

impact of open access on academic recognition. He acknowledged that while some academics still view open access publications with scepticism, attitudes are gradually changing as reputable open access platforms gain credibility through peer review and transparency.

He discussed some of the challenges he has faced, particularly the high cost of article processing charges (APCs) and the lack of strong institutional policies supporting open

publishing. However, he shared strategies he uses to overcome these barriers, such as seeking institutional funding, publishing in diamond or green open access journals, and leveraging collaborative projects that support open dissemination of results.

Dr. Eyo further highlighted the role of mentorship and institutional support in encouraging young scholars to adopt open access practices. He stressed that universities must create enabling policies, training, and awareness to help researchers align their academic identity with open science principles confidently.

***Dr. Idowu Adewuyi – Editor NJESR, Kwara State College of Education Oro  
Journal***

Dr. Adewuyi began by explaining that “*owning your identity as a researcher*”



means taking full responsibility for how one’s scholarly work is represented, shared, and recognised in the global academic community. He emphasised that open access provides a pathway for researchers, especially in developing countries, to gain visibility and credibility without the traditional barriers imposed by

subscription-based journals.

He shared a personal experience from his work as an editor, noting that publishing in open access outlets significantly increased citation rates and readership of his institution’s journal articles. According to him, open access democratises knowledge and allows both established and early-career scholars to connect with a global audience. Dr. Adewuyi also encouraged early-career researchers to create consistent digital footprints through ORCID profiles, institutional repositories, and open-access journals, stressing that doing so enhances their professional identity and research impact over time.

***Dr. Marvellous Osakpolor – Acting Dean, Faculty of Environmental Management, Nigeria Maritime University***

Dr. Marvelous brought a broader perspective by discussing open access beyond publishing. He noted that open data, open educational resources, and open collaboration are all crucial dimensions of researcher identity in the 21st century. According to him, data sharing and interdisciplinary collaboration help researchers build credibility, transparency, and global relevance. Looking ahead, he predicted that open access will continue to reshape researcher identity over the next decade by making research outputs more



traceable, measurable, and integrative across disciplines. He noted that platforms like ORCID and institutional repositories will become central to defining academic identity and visibility. In his closing remarks, Dr. Marvellous advised researchers to embrace openness as a mindset, not just as a publishing model. He encouraged participants to be consistent in sharing their work

ethically, collaborating across institutions, and leveraging technology to showcase their expertise.

Overall, the panelists agreed that open access plays a transformative role in researcher identity, visibility, and collaboration. They collectively emphasised the importance of institutional backing, awareness creation, and capacity building to ensure that Nigerian researchers fully benefit from the global open access movement.

## Question and Answer Session / Audience Interaction

The Q&A session, moderated by Dr. Fatimah Jibril Abduldayan, allowed participants to ask questions about persistent researcher identifiers, ORCID registration, and global discoverability of research outputs. The discussion was highly interactive and enlightening.

DA Open access is a valuable framework, as it enables scholarly communities to have unlimited access to crucial resources. However, while promoting open access, what platform can we explore to ensure that scholars who produce these works receive fair compensation like royalties not just citations for their intellectual property?

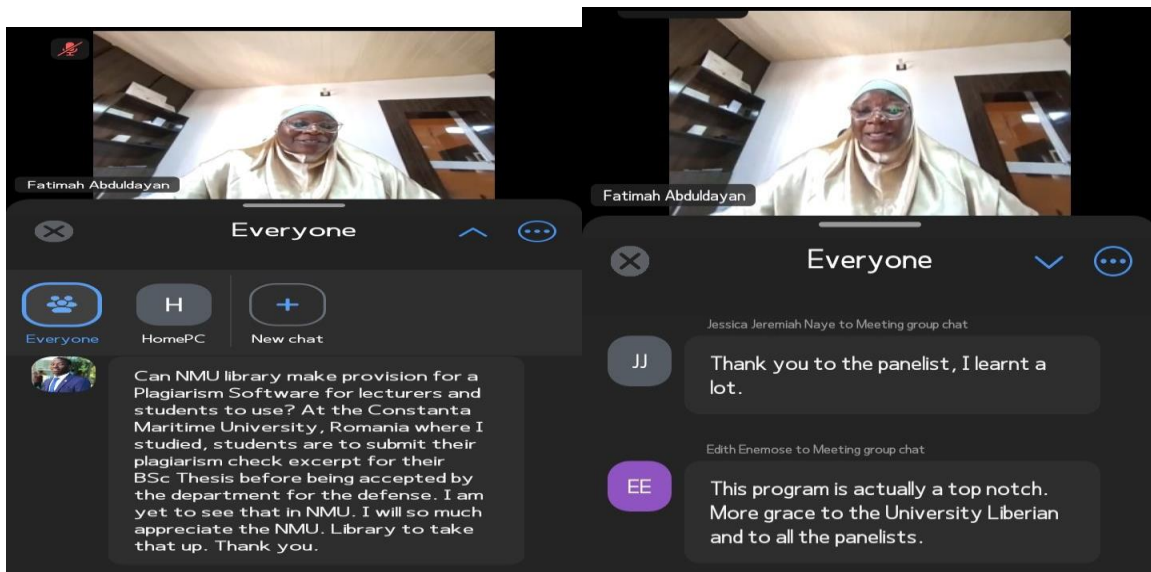
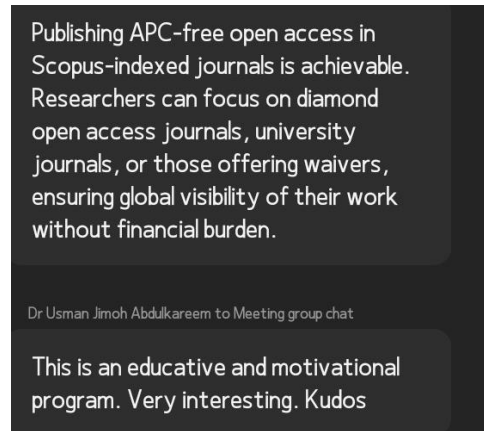
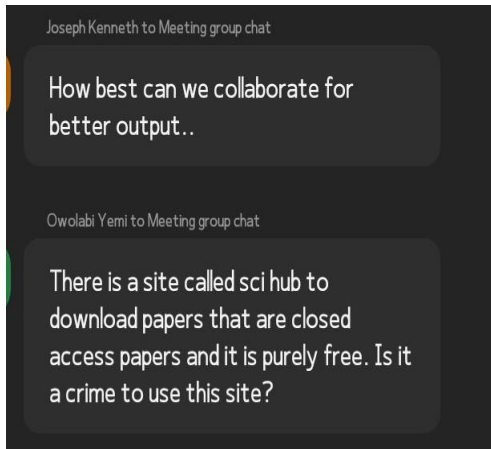
Thank you for this timely webinar  
Question: I noticed over time that local authors finds it difficult to have their papers accepted for review and published on international Open Access platforms, mostly due to bias of coming from the global south. How can Nigerian(local) authors overcome this challenge?

This is wonderful and an eye opener. Ma, one of the panelists talked about management making fund available which is a way to assist researchers but what of when the funds are available and the researcher sends to predatory journal outlets. I will need the panelist to share their thoughts on how researchers can identify predatory outlets easily. ↓ 3 new

After registration and the 16 digits number is given. Is the number valid for all publication outlets or other publishers will want researcher to register with them. For example when we want to publish in elsevier, springers or scopus

X2 I appreciate the programme as being insightful and instructive. It's quite helpful for those willing to publish their researches, papers and thesis and dissertation.

Dr. Marvelous, why do some universities often reject journals published in Indian journals?



## Closing Remarks / Vote of Thanks

The event concluded with a **Vote of Thanks** delivered by Mr. Haruna A. Abduldayan, College Librarian, Kwara State College of Education, Oro. He appreciated all speakers, guests, and participants for their active contributions and thanked the organisers for coordinating a successful event.

## **Key Takeaways**

- Researchers must actively create and maintain their digital identity.
- Open Access enhances global visibility, collaboration, and academic recognition.
- ORCID plays a vital role in ensuring persistent researcher identification.
- Librarians are pivotal in guiding researchers toward Open Access practices.
- Institutional collaboration and policy support are key to open science awareness.

## **Conclusion**

The 2025 International Open Access Week celebration was a resounding success. The event reinforced the university's commitment to advancing Open Access and digital scholarship. Participants left with a better understanding of how to take ownership of their research identities through persistent identifiers like ORCID. The collaboration between NMU and Kwara State College of Education, Oro, exemplified the power of partnerships in shaping the future of scholarly communication in Nigeria.