

# Embedding National Knowledge Infrastructure for STI-Led Innovation

Positioning Uganda's Libraries, Archives & Information Institutions in the Amended UNCST Act

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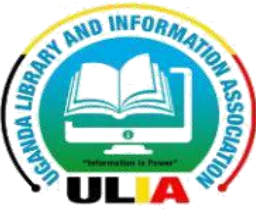
Uganda Library and Information Association/ Busitema University

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Eureka's Place Hotel Ntinda - Kampala



# Introduction

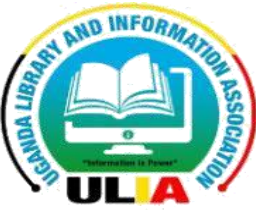


## Key Points:

- The Vision & The Gap
- Proposed Amendment 1 - 4
- Aligning LIS to UNCST's Core Mandate
- Call to Action & Open Discussion
- Busitema University Hub



# The Vision & The Gap



## Case Study: The Lost Vaccine Research (2023)

A Ugandan team's breakthrough published in a European journal → behind a paywall.

UNCST Act S.4(d): “Act as a clearinghouse for information on research”

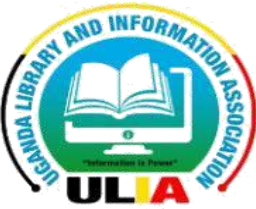
*But without infrastructure, this is ceremonial.*

## Discussion Question

*“How can Uganda claim to own its research if it doesn't own the platform where that research lives?”*



# The Critical Gap in the Current Act (1990)



## Scenario: The Invisible Innovation

Young innovator in Lira → needs prior research data → spends months searching → data is scattered, inaccessible.

UNCST Act S.4(f): “Disseminate research findings”

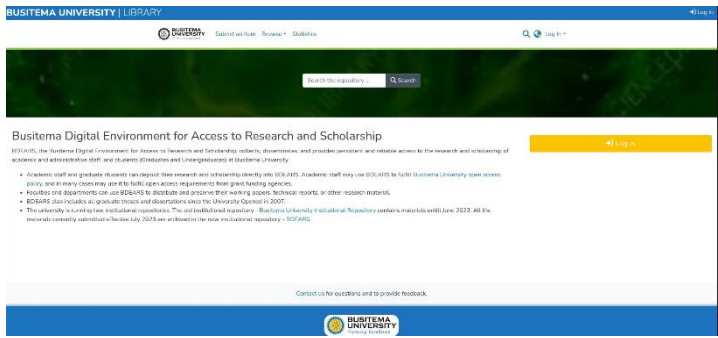
*Dissemination without preservation = broadcasting into a void.*

## Discussion Question

*“If research is the fuel for innovation, what happens when the fuel is stored in locked, scattered garages?”*

# Proposed Amendment 1

## Recognize Information Institutions as STI Infrastructure



**Case Study: The Library That Powered a Policy**

Busitema University Library's IR → 10,000+ Ugandan theses → Ministry of Agriculture accessed 15 years of agro-studies in 1 hour.

*This is infrastructure.*

But the Act's definition of STI infrastructure (S.1) does **not** include libraries, archives, repositories.

**Discussion Question**

*“Should a national STI system fund libraries the way it funds laboratories?”*

# Proposed Amendment 2

## Mandate Institutional Repositories & Open Access

### PROJECT DUPLICATION: INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY BENEFITS



### Scenario: The Funded but Unseen Project

Public-funded malaria research → final report not archived → duplication of work 5 years later.

UNCST Act S.4(b)(vi): “Documentation and information services” allowed but not mandated.

### Discussion Question

*“Should every publicly funded research project be legally required to deposit its outputs in a Ugandan open-access repository?”*

# Proposed Amendment 3

## Include Librarians in STI Governance



### Case Study: The Committee Without a Memory Keeper

UNCST Agricultural Sciences Committee (S.15) reviews proposals → no knowledge management expert → approves duplicate studies.

ULIA has trained librarians in data curation, metadata, research lifecycle management.



### Discussion Question

*"If you were forming a national STI committee, would you include an architect of knowledge systems?"*

# Proposed Amendment 4

## Foster National Digital Knowledge Integration



### Scenario: The Siloed Data Silos

UNCST's 2007 Sector Strategic Plan (Pg. 11): S&T data stored on “floppy disks and CDs” → “highly unreliable.”

*2025: Data still fragmented.*

The plan called for a “comprehensive database” — but without a legal mandate, it's just a recommendation.

### Discussion Question

*“Can Uganda afford not to have a single digital gateway to its national research output in 2026?”*

# Aligning with UNCST's Core Mandate

## Case Study: The Ethics Audit That Couldn't Be Done

UNCST tasked with ethics oversight → audit of 2018 human subjects study requested → consent forms, data plans missing → never archived.

How can UNCST regulate what it cannot retrieve?

### Discussion Question

*"Does credible regulation require credible archiving?"*

# Call to Action & Open Discussion

## Final Scenario: *Uganda in 2030 – Two Possible Futures*

**Future A:** The UNCST Act is amended. Every research permit requires deposition in a national repository. Libraries are funded as STI infrastructure. A Ugandan researcher in Gulu discovers a local study via the National STI Digital Gateway and builds a successful agritech startup.

**Future B:** The Act remains unchanged. Research continues to leak out of Uganda. Innovators work in the dark. UNCST's 'clearinghouse' remains an empty concept.

### Discussion Question

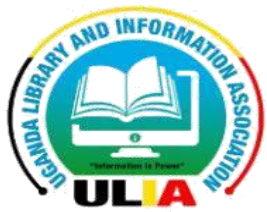
*“What is the one policy change you would prioritize to make knowledge infrastructure functional?”*

# Conclusion

Libraries are not just rooms with books. They are the operating system for a nation's Science.

Let's not just amend the UNCST Act—let's wire it with the infrastructure of **memory, access, and innovation.** "





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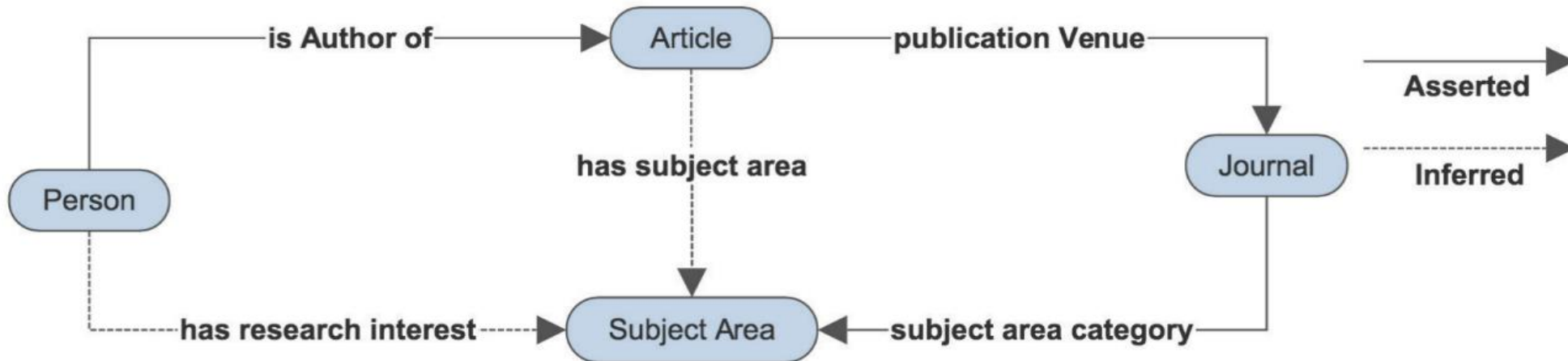
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# BUSITEMA RESEARCH HUB

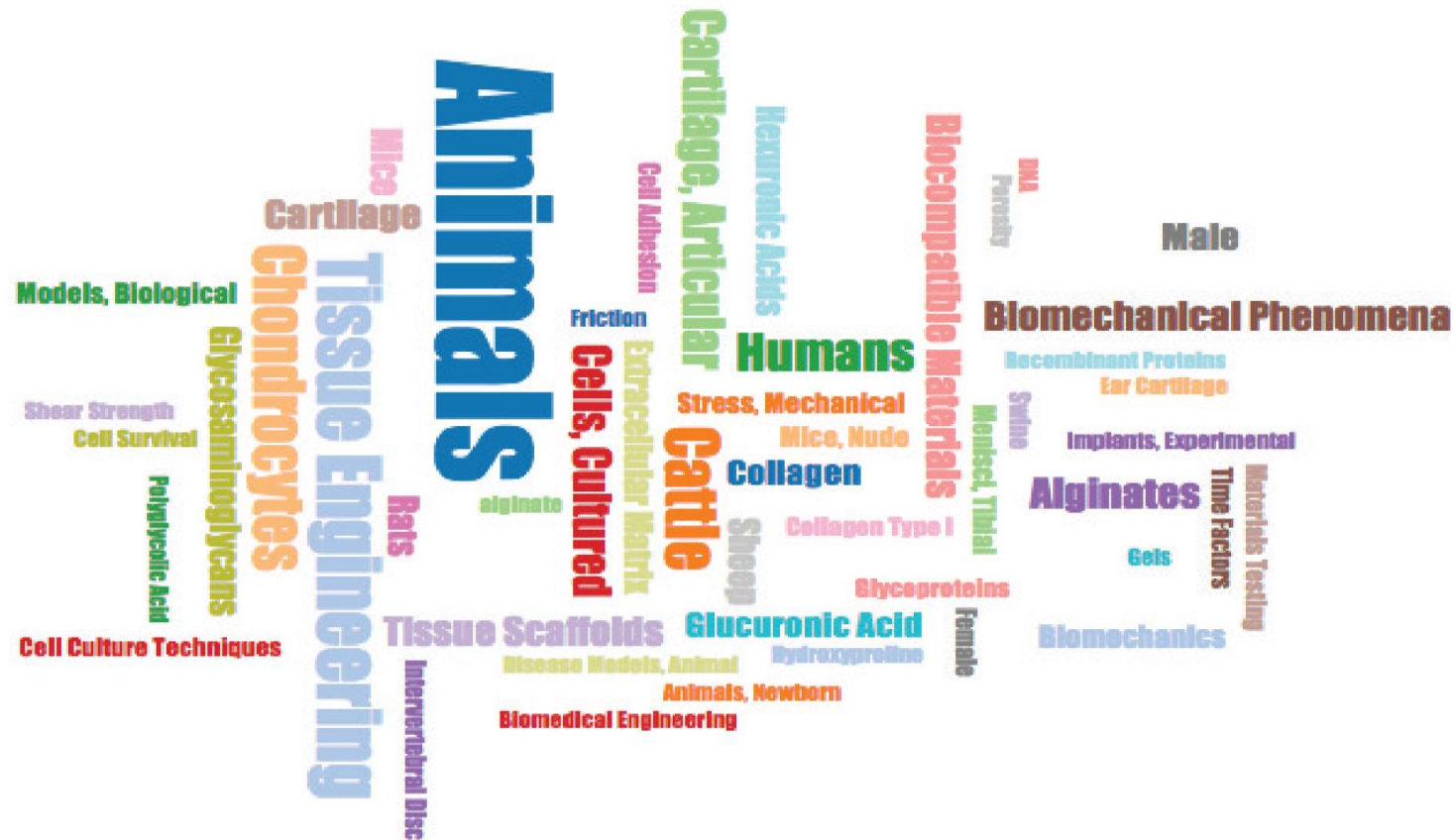
Busitema Research Hub is a research-focused discovery tool that enables collaboration among scholars of all disciplines.

## Person-to-Subject-Area Mapping (Department level)





## Domain Expertise of a Scholar (Person level) : Keyword cloud - presenting domain expertise of a person



# Inter-unit/Cross-unit Collaborations (College level): Sunburst visualization - presenting inter-unit/cross-unit collaborations

