

HEZEKIAH OLUWASANMI ANNUAL LECTURE AND LIBRARY WEEK CELEBRATION (22ND - 24TH APRIL 2025): REPORT OF EVENTS

The Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, proudly celebrated its 2025 Library Week and Annual Lecture from April 22nd to April 24th, 2025. This vibrant three-day event embraced the theme, *Read, Reflect, React: The Transformative Power of Reading in Personal and National Development*.

On Day 1 (April 22nd, 2025), the library dazzled with an exhibition and an Awareness Dance. The exhibition, titled "Obafemi Awolowo University Memoirs," showcased cherished items and information, invoking a sense of nostalgia about the University's rich history and the evolution of the Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library. Following the Exhibition Opening, Library staff, together with the University Librarian, joyfully danced and sang motivational songs, creating awareness throughout the Obafemi Awolowo University community.



UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN WITH THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS AT THE EXHIBITION OPENING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025



**THE DVC (ACADEMIC) O.A.U., PROF. M.O. BABALOLA AND OTHER PRINCIPAL OFFICERS
CUTTING THE RIBBON OF THE EXHIBITION ON TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025**



DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC) PROF M.O. BABALOLA (MIDDLE), DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ADMINISTRATION) LEFT AND DR OYEDAPO AT THE EXHIBITION STAND ON TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025



HEZEKIAH OLUWASANMI LIBRARY STAFF DURING THE AWARENESS DANCE PARADE AROUND THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS ON TUESDAY, 22 APRIL 2025



AWARENESS DANCE LED BY THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN ON TUESDAY, 22 APRIL 2025

Day 2 (April 23rd, 2025) shone brightly with the Annual Lecture, a momentous occasion marking its inaugural celebration on this date to commemorate UNESCO World Book and Copyright Day. The Public Lecture, held at the Centre of Excellence Main Hall, resonated with the theme: *The Reader's Journey: Navigating National Development Through the Lens of Literacy*, delivered by the esteemed Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan,

Nigeria. This momentous lecture commemorated UNESCO's dedication to promoting reading, literature, and authorship since 1995.

With an audience of renowned scholars, academics, invited guests, awardees, staff, and students, the atmosphere was charged with inspiration. The University Librarian, in her welcome address, emphasised that the Public Lecture and Awards were pivotal parts of Library Week. Choosing April 23rd for the lecture was a profound decision, reflecting a global commitment to celebrate reading and literature.



THE UNIVERSITY PRO CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR SIYAN OYEWESO (MIDDLE), FLANKED BY THE GUEST LECTURER, PROFESSOR IDOWU OLAYINKA, VETERAN LIBRARIAN DR M. A. OLAOSUN, AND DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC) PROF M.O. BABALOLA (TO THE RIGHT) AND (TO THE LEFT) PROF EYITOPE OGUNBODEDE (FORMER VICE CHANCELLOR, OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY AND DR O. A. FADEHAN (UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN) AT THE PUBLIC LECTURE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025.



INVITED SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE VENUE OF THE PUBLIC LECTURE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025



**CROSS-SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE VENUE OF THE PUBLIC LECTURE ON WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 23, 2025**



**CROSS-SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE VENUE OF THE PUBLIC LECTURE ON WEDNESDAY,
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This landmark event marked a historic moment for the Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library, aligning with international conventions that honour recorded knowledge. The University Librarian poignantly shared that UNESCO selected this date to celebrate the legacies of great authors like William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, acknowledging their enduring contributions to knowledge. The date also celebrated the vital interconnected sectors of the book industry, publishers, booksellers, and libraries, fostering a culture of literacy and learning for future generations.

During the occasion, the Chairman, Professor Gabriel Olubunmi Alegbeleye, commended the Library and, in particular, the University Librarian for her significant contributions and for selecting such a pertinent topic for discussion. He expressed concern regarding Nigeria's performance in terms of literacy, emphasising the strong correlation between literacy and national development. He urged information professionals to enhance their efforts in this critical area.



CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION, PROF G. O. ALEGBELEYE, DELIVERING A WELCOME ADDRESS AT THE VENUE OF THE PUBLIC LECTURE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

The Guest Lecturer, in his presentation, underscored that the purpose of the topic was to foster national awareness regarding the importance of reading engagement and intentional information-seeking behaviour as essential components of the national development process. He pointed out that Nigeria ranks 36th out of 54 African countries, with a concerning adult literacy rate of 62%, including 71.3% for males and 52.7% for females as of 2018. Furthermore, approximately 18.3 million children in Nigeria are out of school, comprising 10.2 million of primary school age and an additional 8.1 million of junior secondary school age. This statistic signifies that one in every five of the world's out-of-school children resides in Nigeria, making the country home to the largest number of out-of-school children globally. He identified poverty, conflict, and inadequate

educational infrastructure as significant challenges faced by countries with low literacy rates and concluded that insufficient reading habits represent a major impediment to societal progress.



GUEST LECTURER PROF ABEL IDOWU OLAYINKA, WHILE DELIVERING THE PUBLIC LECTURE TO COMMEMORATE UNESCO WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY AT THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE MAIN HALL, OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY ILE-IFE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23rd, 2025.

Following the Lecture, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) and Her Regal Majesty, Ambassador Dr. Olori Temitope Enitan Ogunwusi, were presented with Awards of Excellence.



CONFERMENT OF AWARD OF EXCELLENCE GIVEN TO HER REGAL MAJESTY AMBASSADOR OLORI TEMITOPE ENITAN OGUNWUSI - COLLECTED BY HER REPRESENTATIVE DURING THE PUBLIC LECTURE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23rd, 2025



CONFERMENT OF AWARD OF EXCELLENCE GIVEN TO PROF. YUSUF OLAOLU ALI (SAN) - COLLECTED BY HIS REPRESENTATIVE DURING THE PUBLIC LECTURE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23rd, 2025



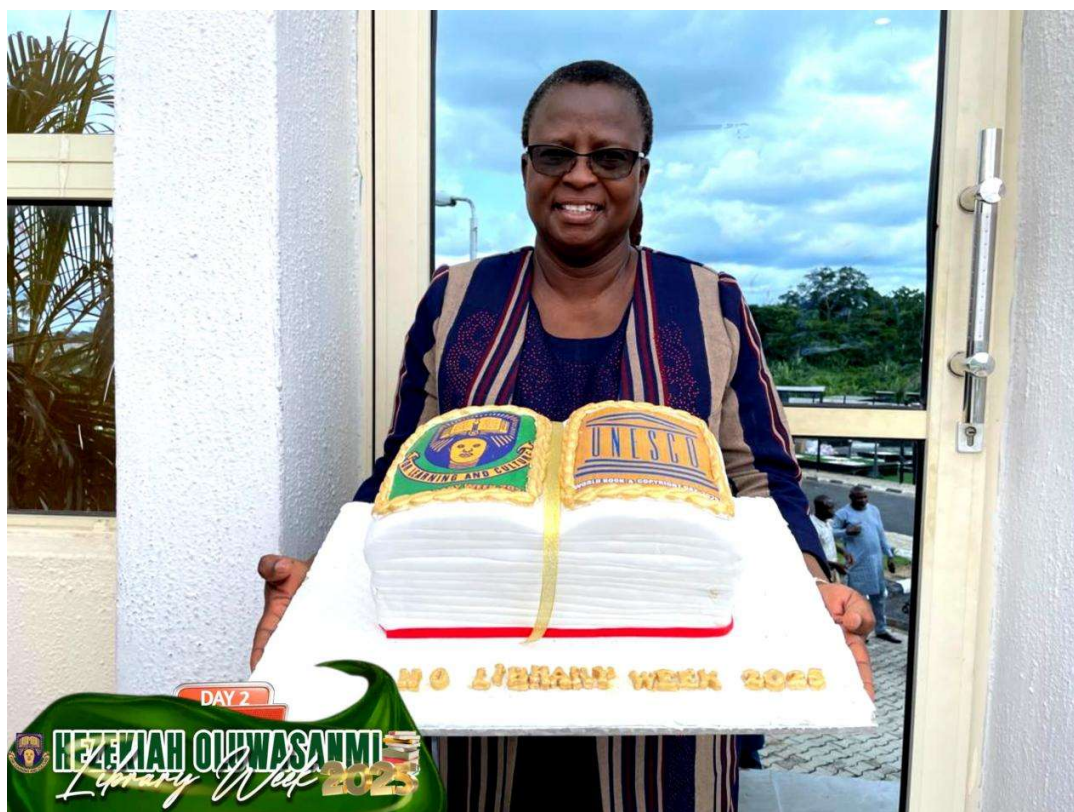
DISPLAY OF THE APPRECIATION AWARDS PLAQUE BY THE GUEST LECTURER, PROF IDOWU OLAYINKA AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION, PROF G.O. ALEGBELEYE (MIDDLE) FLANKED BY DVC (ACADEMIC), PROF M.O. BABALOLA - TO THE LEFT AND DR O.A. FADEHAN (UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN) - TO THE RIGHT AT THE PUBLIC LECTURE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23rd, 2025

This was followed by a short playlet titled: Booked for Success.



A SHORT CLIP OF THE PLAYLET TITLED BOOKED FOR SUCCESS BY OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AT THE PUBLIC LECTURE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23rd, 2025

The day's events climaxed with the cutting of the Library Week cake:



THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, DR O. A. FADEHAN, PRESENTING THE LIBRARY CAKE IN CELEBRATION OF LIBRARY WEEK AND THE UNESCO WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY DURING THE PUBLIC LECTURE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23rd, 2025.



CUTTING OF THE UNESCO DECORATED CAKE BY DR M. A. OLAOSUN, FORMER DEPUTY UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE, FLANKED TO THE LEFT BY THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, O.A.U., DVC (ACADEMIC), O.A.U., FORMER UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN O.A.U., NLA CHAIRMAN OSUN STATE CHAPTER, AND HEAD, READERS' SERVICES H.O. LIBRARY O.A.U., TO THE RIGHT CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION, GUEST LECTURER, DEPUTY UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN H.O. LIBRARY O.A.U. AND FORMER UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, REDEEMERS' UNIVERSITY, EDE.

On Day 3, April 24th, 2025, which marked the last day of the Week, a Night of Readings was held during which Principal Officers of the University, Provosts, Deans, and Students presented short excerpts to the attendees. In her opening remarks, the University Librarian emphasised the overarching theme of the celebration, *Read, Reflect, React: The Transformative Power of Reading in Personal and National Development*, which took place from April 22nd to 24th, 2025. She highlighted that all activities during this period were centred around the theme of reading. She asserted that it is impossible to discuss libraries without addressing the fundamental subject of reading—a topic that is both extensive and profound. Consequently, she characterised reading as a timeless and essential element of literacy, knowledge systems, and lifelong learning. She reiterated that the Night of Readings was a crucial initiative aimed at revitalising the reading culture and promoting positive reading behaviours within the local community.



A VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENT READING FROM THE BRAILLE DURING THE NIGHT OF READINGS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025



THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF M.O. BABALOLA, READING AN EXCERPT ON ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP DURING THE NIGHT OF READINGS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025



READERS AT THE NIGHT OF READINGS: FRONT ROW FROM THE LEFT - DEAN OF DENTISTRY, DEAN OF BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED STUDENT, DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC), DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ADMINISTRATION), UNIVERSITY BURSAR, REGISTRAR AND DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT)

O.A. Fadehan

Dr. O.A. Fadehan
University Librarian