

ASSESSING THE MANDATE OF UGANDA PARLIAMENT MUSEUM

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J23M63/001

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER
OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE OF UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

November, 2025



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DECLARATION

I, AKAMPAMAANI Ronard, Reg.No. J23M63/001, do hereby declare that this dissertation entitled, “Assessing the Mandate of Uganda Parliament Museum” is my original work and to the best of my knowledge, it has never been submitted for any degree in any University or Higher Institution of Learning.



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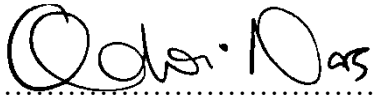
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APPROVAL

This is to certify that this dissertation entitled:” Assessing the mandate of Uganda Parliament Museum” by Mr. Akampamaani Ronard was conducted under my supervision and is ready for submission for defense for the award of a Master of Library and information Studies of Uganda Christian University.



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Signature

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.....07/11/2025.....

Date

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my dear parents, Mr. Nkunda Fred and Mrs. Kimigane Mary who have been supporting me in all ways. I also dedicate this work to the entire Holy Cross Lakeview Community through the Congregation of Holy Cross, District of East Africa for empowering the young people through Education and Christian faith based values without them i would not manage to see through the gates of Uganda Christian University.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank the almighty God who has enabled me complete all my studies at the University through the two years of completing my course.

I would like to thank Dr. Nora Naiboka Odoi my supervisor for her support and assistance in perusing through my work and suggesting some of the very critical changes which have seen me finalize my study.

I acknowledge with thanks the role played by my research respondents in making this study a reality, and anybody else who directly or indirectly contributed to my success.

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ACRONYMS

APA	-	American Psychological Association.
AR	-	Virtual Reality
B.C	-	Before Christ
CARE	-	Committee of Audience Research and Evaluation
EU	-	European Union
LIS	-	Library and Information Sciences
LMS	-	Library Management System
NGO'S	-	Non-Governmental Organizations
SPSS	-	Social package for social scientists
UCU	-	Uganda Christian University
VR	-	Augmented Reality
W.W. II	-	World War II

ABSTRACT

The Uganda Parliament Museum plays a pivotal role in preserving and promoting Uganda's parliamentary heritage. This study assessed the museum's functionality in fulfilling its mandate, focusing on its role in the information flow of Parliament, its intended users and their expectations, the nature and use of its collections, and opportunities for improving its utilization methods.

Using a mixed-methods research design, the study employed interviews, questionnaires, and observation to gather qualitative and quantitative data. The population of the study comprised of Parliamentarians, students and general public. The sample size of 70 respondents clustered as (Parliamentarians-120, students -12 and General public-18) was used in the study. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS v.20 software, while content analysis was used for analysis of qualitative data.

Findings revealed that the Uganda Parliament Museum significantly contributes to the information flow within Parliament by preserving legislative history, supporting research, and fostering public engagement. It serves diverse users, including parliamentarians, researchers, students, the general public, and international visitors, with expectations ranging from educational resources to insights into Uganda's democratic evolution. However, gaps were identified in civic education programs and digital accessibility. The museum houses a rich collection of historical documents, artifacts, and parliamentary records, though repetitive content and limited digital preservation were noted as areas needing improvement.

Current utilization methods, such as exhibitions and educational programs, were deemed effective but could be enhanced with technological innovations and expanded public engagement. Proposed strategies included digitizing archives, introducing interactive and thematic exhibits, launching mobile museum initiatives, and enhancing civic education programs. These interventions aim to modernize the museum, improve accessibility, and expand its impact on various stakeholders.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

A museum is non-permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserve, researches, communicate and exhibit the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purpose of education, study and enjoyment (International Council of Museums, 2012). The natural history museum represents a public institution forthcoming in the curation of natural objects, displaying and studying instances from all facets of the natural world: manifestly including living beings and their habitats (Rabanaque et al., 2021). They offer an opportunity for the general public to engage with the exhibitions and witness scientific phenomena in a real-world context, thus enhancing their learning experience with a more immersive method (Dubald, 2019). Therefore, museums serve the role of informal educational sites that can provide many different types of learning (Cuenca & Gilbert, 2019). Museums have extensive collections, ranging from organisms to intricately designed dioramas that show natural habitats, for educational and outreach purposes (McCullough, 2020). These collections afford glimpses into biodiversity and ecosystems that the general public may otherwise not have access to (Bakker et al. 2020). Such exhibits of countless species and thematic representations of the natural world allow museums to introduce this experience to visitors, thus granting them access to worlds all but absent from their ordinary lives.

In recent years, museums have increasingly utilized their unique resources to promote scientific knowledge, shape attitudes, and alter behavior (Pop et al., 2019). Inspiring curiosity and developing a deeper appreciation for the wonders of the natural world, these institutions play an important role in creating a climate of exploration and discovery. Museums engage all ages in nurturing stewardship towards their environment and lifelong learning through hands-on exhibits, educational programs, and activities.

Numerous educational programs focusing on unique science topics have emerged, providing visitors with once-in-a-lifetime experiences. These focus on individuals, groups, and families and cover a wide range of programs that can complement in-school curriculum (Pedretti & Iannini, 2020). With these programs, students can explore different angles of their academic subjects, thereby deepening their understanding of the curriculum (Li, Wider, Ochiai & Fauzi,

2023). It is generally agreed that museum activities can help develop students' scientific knowledge and motivation (Martin et al., 2016). These programs, thus, serve as extremely valuable adjuncts to formal education, whereby they enrich and further engage students' learning experiences in science.

Commonly, with regard to exhibitions put on by museums of natural history, science centers devote a plethora of exhibitions to exhibit evolution, biodiversity, ecosystems, endangered species, and related topics (Marandino, Pedretti & Navas Iannini, 2023). The exhibitions are mostly topics that have been discussed in schools, thus fitting into the educational outreach. Students-build a major proportion in the diverse groups of visitors to the museums (Andreone et al. 2022). Such can be attributed to how museum visits assist in carrying on the formal education set-up by offering informal interactions yet deep experiences into subjects previously tackled in class.

One of the fundamentals in biology, evolution remains one of the most intricate and critical themes in science education (Mujtaba et al., 2018). It lays stress on the connections and diversifications of live organisms on Earth. However, teaching evolution occupies the mockery of that respect (Kampourakis & Zogza, 2009). Due to the nature of the subject matter, teaching evolution has inherent difficulties that require innovative methods and resources. So, bridging theoretical knowledge with practical understanding through science museums is particularly vital (Andreone et al. 2022). With hands-on activities, interactive exhibits, engaging demonstrations, and tangible specimens, science museums give students an experience that fundamentally enhances traditional learning in a classroom. Having such an engaging learning environment deepens understanding while simultaneously igniting curiosity and developing critical thinking skills.

Museums also forward simplicity in learning evolution by explicitly demonstrating how such concepts are applicable among different organisms (Record, 2018). By presenting concrete cases of evolution in organisms of different degrees of relatedness, museums provide a basis for students to claim that they saw evolution happen (Spiegel et al., 2012). This interaction is mainly important for students, who will be the active citizens of tomorrow, to fully comprehend the idea of evolution. Studies have shown that without this cognizance, students may struggle to comprehend the fundamental concepts and mechanisms behind evolution due to the specific alternative ideas they may hold (van Dijk & Reydon, 2010).

Evolution, on the other hand, directly relates to numerous scientific issues in today's world that dramatically impact our lives. For example, the fast evolution of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and viruses, the dreadful spread of the pandemic, and climate change all significantly depend on the principles of evolution (Spiegel et al., 2012). Among these issues is a primary concept, biological adaptation, which affects most evolutionary processes. Hence, it stands to reason that a full consideration of evolutionary processes is not merely an academic enrichment but also key in contemporary problems and rational decisions in entirely different fields.

In the last ten years national museums have become a major avenue for the engagement of visitors in the complex, and at times, controversial scientific discussion surrounding evolution (Mujtaba et al. 2018). Museums have gone beyond the conventional exhibition format by employing more avant-garde means to immerse the public in the exploration of complex scientific concepts through theatrical productions, role-playing, and dramatic enactments (Evans et al., 2010; Peleg & Baram-Tsabari, 2016). Through these varied modes of communication, the museum has been successful in creating active learning environments where the visitor can not just see and hear but also get involved in examining and discussing the scientific content in a participatory way.

Interactive activities have varied impacts. First, they assist in breaking down the potential barriers that may exist between the visitors contained and scientific concepts, which makes such content a lot more attractive and interesting for different audiences (Pedretti, Iannini & Nazir, 2018). By demonstrating evolution through immersive activities such as role plays and dramas, museums bring visitors into a unique understanding of the principles and implications of evolution in a way that is felt and thus remembered (Lim, Khan & Picinali, 2021). Second, Anderson (2019) articulates that by treating potentially controversial topics such as evolution in creative and inclusive ways, museums promote dialogue and critical thinking among visitors. Theatrical conventions offer opportune spaces for exploring nuanced differences in the way visitors may view the same scientific agenda, thereby stimulating them to think about divergent perspectives with a view to advancing constructive dialogue.

These new dimensions allow the museums to consider different learning styles and preferences so that people from many backgrounds and interests can actively engage in the learning process (Abd-El-Wareath, 2022). Visitors are free to engage with and interact with scientific content through whatever means best suits their fancy, whether through watching a play or participating in a simulation.

The Uganda Parliament Museum is set up as a collection of historical artifacts and documents testifying to Uganda's glorious political history (Hans, 2018). The study on its efficacy should assess among other things the context of its evolution, reason for its establishment, type of exhibits in relation to the expected experience of the visitors, and impact on education and cultural preservation. The Uganda Parliament Museum was programmatically set up as a memorial to the political history of Uganda and, from there, into the country's journey into democracy. As an integral part of keeping the heritage of the nation, it must have also been set up to foster civic education.

The parliament museum's core objective is to inform visitors of Uganda's parliament's history and operations (Nsibambi, 2018). It looks forward to chronicling the chronicle of governance in Uganda from pre-colonial times to present-day circumstances, through key legislative landmarks and personalities. Historical documents, photographs, artefacts, and interactive displays are exhibited at the museum (Sebuliba, 2020). These exhibits may have said something about Uganda's constitutional development, parliamentary proceedings, political movements, and the role of parliamentarians in shaping the destiny of the country.

The museum stands to be a source of education for various schools and universities as well as the general public according to Nsibambi, (2018). An assessment of its functionality must thus look at its ability to promote civic education and an understanding of history and critical thinking among the visitors. This may be done through surveys, interviews, and educational programs to assess learning outcomes attributed to the museum. The museum is one of the major players in the preservation of Uganda's political and cultural heritage. An assessment of its workability will look into the collection, preservation, and interpretation of historical artifacts and documents related to the history of parliament. Those are aimed at long-term conservation of exhibits, promotion of cultural diversity, and inclusivity.

1.2 Problem Statement

Museums are places where information gets disseminated, education is imparted, cultural preservation is carried out, and tourism takes place: all these activities contribute to socio-economic development. The Uganda Parliament Museum was set up to offer preservation and display of the historical and cultural heritage of Uganda's parliamentary system and thus aims to be a hub of attraction in the nation's cultural setting. It was established for political and administrative reasons that have been found wanting in the Uganda National Museum. Its remit

encompasses the preservation and documentation of legislative history, educating the public on the legislature, showcasing its legislative environment, facilitating research and scholarship, and advocating transparency and accountability.

Given its unquestionable national significance, the oddity is that access and utilization of its resources and services are limited, thereby necessitating the urgent evaluation of the current mandate of the Uganda Parliament Museum as well as explore avenues for enhancing its role as an information, education, and cultural institution (Silverman, Abungu & Probst, 2021). Therefore, it is imperative that analysis of these challenges and avenues for improvement takes place, thereby allowing the Uganda Parliament Museum to meaningfully shape how the national cultural heritage is preserved.

1.3 Aim of the study

The aim of this study was to assess the mandate of Uganda Parliament Museum and propose strategies to enhance access and utilization of Museum collections.

1.4 General objective of the study

The general objective of this study was to assess the mandate of Uganda parliament museum.

1.4.1 Specific Objectives of the study

1. To ascertain the role of the Uganda Parliament Museum.
2. To establish the intended users of the Museum and their expectations from it.
3. To find out the collections available in the Museum, how they are acquired, accessed and utilized at Uganda Parliament Museum.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What is the role of the Uganda Parliament Museum?
2. Who are the intended users of the Museum and their expectations from it?
3. What collections are available in the Museum, how are they acquired, accessed and utilized at Uganda Parliament Museum?

1.6 Scope of the study

This section outlines the boundaries within which the study was conducted. It specifies the aspects, location, and time period that was considered to ensure the research remained focused and relevant. The scope of the study is categorized into three areas: subject scope, geographical scope, and time scope, as detailed below:

1.6.1 Subject scope

The study was confined to assessing the mandate of Uganda Parliament Museum.

1.6.2 Geographical scope

The study was conducted at the Parliament of Uganda located at Plot 16-18 Parliament Avenue where the Museum is located.

1.6.3 Time scope

The research regarding to assess the mandate of Uganda parliament Museum took place between April 2024 – November 2025.

1.7 Significance of the study

Such findings will influence the operations of the Uganda Parliament Museum and enhance visitor experiences at the museum, thus enabling users to fully utilize the existing museum collections and services.

It was meant for use by researchers and academicians. It will expand the overall understanding of the relationship between parliamentarians, museum personnel, and the public. Furthermore, it will enhance the use of museum collections and services in contributing to the active knowledge base, deriving effective models to inform decisions made by top management of parliament. With regard to policy makers like the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities and parliamentary management, what the findings of the study or recommendations could be worth to them would be seen in what develops or strengthens the existing policies and regulations governing museums in the Museums and Monuments Act, 2023.

1.8 Justification of the Study

This study is aimed at understanding the intended role that the Uganda Parliament Museum is going to play in information flow in the parliament, identifying the intended users and expectations of the museum, and finding the collections found in the museum with details on how they are obtained, accessed, and used at Uganda Parliament Museum.

Such a study will help evaluate how efficient the museum is in keeping and showing the legislative history of Uganda and its cultural heritage. The study will also show the extent to which the museum serves as an educational resource for students, researchers, and the general public on the history and functions of the Ugandan Parliament. Furthermore, the study will provide information for future planning, development, and enhancement of the offerings and infrastructure of the museum.

1.9 Theoretical Framework

This section investigates the guiding theoretical principles behind research. It provides a lens through which to analyze the Uganda Parliament Museum's functionality and significance. The framework includes interesting evidence gathered from the Museum's functionality theory, which emphasizes the roles and functions of museums as active cultural institutions. The framework is also informed by the established theories and concepts of museum studies to evaluate the role, significance, and impact of such a space. The following theoretical perspectives were discussed:

1.9.1 Theory of Museum Functionality

This theory draws copiously from literature on interdisciplinary museum studies to draw in the various roles these institutions assume in society. As Watson, Barnes and Bunning (2019) say, museums create education, cultural collection, public engagement and memory production spaces: and these functions are crucial to understand the way museums influence public knowledge and interact with their audiences.

Hammady et al. (2018) indicate that Museum theory is a multidisciplinary approach studying the roles and meaning of museums as institutions and methods on how these generate knowledge and shape culture. Museums are an intersection of different disciplines, theoretical

approaches, and practices, such that they should not be seen as isolated from theory. The structures of power bequeathed by colonialism have peppered the theory of museology, raising many questions as to its political center. Museums are increasingly demanded to demonstrate their educational and social significance. This brings the focus to how visitors learn in a museum setting (Mujtaba et al. 2018). An emerging model of the visitor experience emphasizes the dynamic interaction of the individual and the exhibited objects focusing on transaction, ritual, identity, and power. The interrelationship between museum education and curriculum theory has expanded, with emphasis on knowledge production, democratic ideals, curriculum as text, and ethics of interpretation.

From pre-modernity to post-modernity, museums have been viewed by museum studies scholars as spaces of politicization and culturalization, where matters of power, citizenship, and democracy have been enacted or ignored through state-sanctioned locations for representation (Watson, Barnes & Bunning, 2019). The first phase of museum studies, affiliated with history, art history, sociology, cultural studies, and Foucauldian cultural theory, discussed the process of nation building which had motivated the development of public museums in the mid-nineteenth century. Scholars situated museums as agencies of liberal governance which, through their capacity to represent and construct imagined communities, are involved in molding citizens who are informed and able to take part in modern democratic life (Sherman 1994; Bennett 1995; 1998). New museology was shaped by postcolonial theory, cultural theory (identity politics), and "the history wars" of the time (Luke 2002). Fueled by the surge of scholarship dealing with the public sphere that erupted after 1989, the popularity of the new museology in the 1990s was a function of its claims that the political work of museums extended to their ability to represent the interests and concerns of disadvantaged and minority groups to the broader national community (Karp, Lavine, and Kreamer 1992; Macdonald and Fyfe 1996; Simpson 1996; Sandell 2002; Kreps 2003; Peers and Brown 2003; Witcomb 2003).

Museum Functionality Theory postulates that museums are living spaces performing other essential functions including: museums are the best educational resource, providing an informal learning opportunity outside the classroom context. Through attractive exhibition, exciting interactive displays, expert guided tours, and educational programs, museums expose individuals to diverse content such as history, art, sciences, and culture. Museums are presented

with information that is easy to understand and stimulate interest, catering to different learners' needs and support lifelong learning.

Assessing the Uganda Parliament Museum within the confines of Museum Functionality Theory implies assessing how effective the museum is in fulfilling these functions, as well as its impact on the public. Researchers may examine the museum's accessibility, relevance, inclusivity, and sustainability to examine how functional and effective the museum is as a cultural establishment. Such Assessment would enable key players to identify improvement and strategic intervention areas for further development of the role of the museum in education, cultural preservation, public engagement, and memory construction in Ugandan society.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the related literature according to the objectives of the study.

2.1 Role of the Uganda Parliament Museum

In the opinion of several theorists, the basic function of generic historic museums consists of two poles-they are social institutions, employing another fundamental function of domesticating the authority of the state, which also makes them instruments of power. They endorse the political community (mainly national, from an East-Central European standpoint) and, at the same time, shape the collective identity of their citizens. As expressed by Eric Hobsbawm, they shall invent tradition as a mechanism of demonstrating the linkage of past and present through actions taken by elites-usually political- for the purpose of legitimation. (Dujisin, 2021)

An important aspect relates to the historical significance of the various parliamentary museums that arose at the moments of major political transformation, when ruling elites were engaged in the process of transferring power from one group to another (Coombes, 2019). A comparative history of parliamentary museums must stress that crucial moments of success or failure in history of parliamentary museums coincide with times of asking fundamental questions about their form. Such questions have subsequently appeared to be differences in the museum's conceptualization so as to legitimate an existing political narrative in favor of the new authority or to defend the previous regime against social criticism. Consequently, in the history of parliamentary museums, one thing that stands in the way is sincere attempt to determine the degree of program and ideological independence of the museum from its organizer and to what extent the display's messages are inextricably tied to political and party discourse (Simansons, 2018).

Most parliaments have offices that deal with the promotion of knowledge about their history (Dujisin, 2021). These bodies usually work on preparing information materials and conducting groups of visitors around the parliament building (Crossick, 2018). Quite a few of them carry out classical museum functions, namely collecting, storing, conserving, displaying, and popularizing collections pertaining to the history of parliamentarism. The countries most active in this regard are those that have comparatively recently established their parliamentary

traditions, especially those outside Europe. Popławski (2019) gives examples of such institutions: the Parliamentary Museum in Japan, Parliament Museum in New Delhi, and the Jordan Museum of Parliamentary Life. In Europe, the foremost such parliamentary museum institution is the Parlamentarium in Brussels (Simansons, 2018).

The Tokyo Museum of Parliament began operations in 1970, on the 80th anniversary of the establishment of Japanese parliamentarism (Moniz-Bandeira, 2023). The date chosen was not therefore fortuitous, referencing the Meiji tradition ("Civilization and Enlightenment"), when Japan underwent drastic changes as it modernized along Western lines. Notably, the push for the establishment of the museum from the outset enjoyed the support of Eisaku Satō, Liberal Democratic Party prime minister from 1964 to 1972, a charismatic leader considered one of the co-authors of Japan's economic success and a strong proponent of close ties with the United States.

It was established officially by Moniz-Bandeira (2023) that the Parliamentary Museum held its inauguration for the permanent exhibition in 1972. It is situated immediately next to the Parliament's main building in Japan, and the hall itself has the building of the Parliament library. The combined traditional multimedia displays show how the Parliament has worked and who its Speakers have been; Prime Ministers also showed some representation here but hardly opponents. The Museum dramatises the role of democracy, ignoring the political evolution of Japan prior to the Meiji period. Selective treatment is also found in the display narrative, so far as they deal with the modern period, like the Shōwa times referred to as "the Age of Enlightened Peace", the reign of Emperor Hirohito, which covered W.W. II. The manner in which the country politically evolved is shown from a view called America-centered.

The Parliament Museum in New Delhi kicked off its activity in 1989 under the rule of Rajiv, son of Indira Gandhi, as well as his party, the Indian National Congress, dominated the political scene then (Sharma, 2022). At present, the institution is part of the parliamentary office dubbed Parliamentary Museum and Archives (Blagoev, Felten & Kahn, 2018). Modernized in the early 21st century, this was discreetly altered politically to resemble that of the rightist ideology of the Indian People's Party (BJP). The exhibition comprises three sections: one which speaks of the legacy of democratic institutions in India (including the Edicts of Ashoka hewn in rock in the 3rd century B.C.); the second (the most modest in form) assesses the importance of parliamentary institutions in selected countries; the third part introduces the legislative process

in India. In skillful emphasis switches, the Museum's visitor comes into Indian statehood-from ancient times up to today's date.

The Museum of Parliamentary Life in Amman was set up in 2010, with the launching of its permanent exhibition after six years (Popławski, 2019). It is under the Ministry of Culture, housed within the old Parliament building-symbolic site where in 1946 at the independence of the Kingdom of Transjordan, Abdullah I was made to declare. The exhibition chronicles political and parliamentary history in Jordan. The narrative has as its objective the exposition of the achievements recorded to date by the Hashemites ruling Jordan. This mission can therefore be characterized as creating a mythologizing narrative around the dynasty.

Parliamentarium, with regard to citizens visiting the European Parliament, is found within the Espace Léopold complex in Brussels. This modern exhibition has been designed to show in an interactive format how the European integration process works and what the European Parliament does. Its message stresses the universalization of European values, while presenting the stories of individuals, communities, or nations from a multicultural viewpoint. The exhibition is available in every one of the 24 languages of the EU and comprises three parts-the past, the present, and the future. Its last segment gives the visitors the chance to write their vision of the future of Europe integrated in diversity.

By available archival records, it seems the notion of finding the Polish Sejm Museum was officially formulated by Kazimierz Światała, a lawyer, ex-Minister of Interior in Communist Poland during the period from 1968 to 1971, member of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party KC PZPR from 1968 to 1971. It is, however, difficult to consider him the 'father' of the Polish Sejm Museum since, at the time the project was being undertaken, he was Head of the Chancellery of the Sejm and submitted the draft of a ready resolution to the Presidium of the Sejm.

2.2 Intended users of the Museum and their expectations from it

In contemporary times, museums have acquired the role of being effective sites for collecting and researching objects intended for exhibition alongside education and recreation (Mujtaba et al. 2018). Their public roles have now transformed into visitor-oriented roles rather than museum-based. Hence, visitor studies are now important (Weil, 2000). Visitors studies as defined by the Committee of Audience Research and Evaluation in the American Association of Museums view the systematic way of collecting all the knowledge regarding on-site and

potential visitors which use it to guide planning and execution by museums of all public related activities (CARE, 2009). Mirghadr et al. (2018) proposed three dimensions for knowledge acquisition related to visitors: to know their demographic data, attitudinal information, and development situations and diverse factors. Mirghadr et al. (2018) called museum professionals to study psychographic characteristics of all possible and actual visitors together with their values, motivations, attitudes, perceptions, interests, expectancies, and satisfactions. Falk (2021) recognizes that museum-going is a complicated topic in human behavior, and that demographic categories provide very little to help understand visitors; especially, non-visitors. Accordingly, visitor studies have to be conducted efficiently and knowledge related to the visitors has to be built systematically and applied in planning and decision-making by museums, as suggested by Olivares & Piatak (2022). Olivares & Piatak (2022) also mentioned three types of study on museum visiting audience: 1) visitor assessment studies: focusing on the purpose of application, involving evaluation of museums and activities and exhibitions conducted after the results; 2) visitor market studies: the collection of visitors' responses and exploring their thoughts and feelings; 3) exploratory studies of theoretical validation: specific scientific inquiry beyond academic matters, such as psychology and sociology.

This research effort is classified as one between these two ends and delves into content from marketing, psychology, and cultural sociology perspectives, regarding the expected museum experience from the visitors' viewpoint. The tourists' experience expectation pertains to the experience tourists expect to experience at a museum. It is quite the same as visiting an experience, but expectations of visitors are evaluated prior. The literatures on visitor study will be enriched below. Trauer (2016) said that tourism bears the experiential and emotional quality. Most of the studies on tourists have tried to find out causes and outcomes of tourist experiences (Cohen, 2018; Weaver, Weber, & McCleary, 2017). The same differences exist between tourist experience and visitor experience in studies on museums.

Numerous studies have theorized that museum visitors are sorted into different groups and that most visitors visit different museums at different times (Rodriguez et al., 2021; Cotter, Fekete & Silvia, 2022). Students forming groups occupy museums during the week, while during holidays, museums are filled with smaller groups mainly comprising one or two parents with children. However, Bideci & Albayrak (2018) stated that visitors could still be understood by way of three dimensions that are visitors' demographic data, attitudinal information, and development situation of the visitors. It would be a pretty hard task to study visitors'

development because that means probing into the logic and result of their understanding. It includes attributes such as gender, age, and education level for which such visitors are regular items in research. On the other hand, attitude study on visitors is yet to be done as per Bideci & Albayrak (2018).

Attitude is basically what an individual prefers, whether it's a thing, an activity, or other people (Hyun, Park, Ren & Kim, 2018) and generally can be divided into pre-attitude and post-attitude. Most studies of attitude relate to the action, either concerning pre-attitude wherein post-attitude is usually replaced with satisfaction. Furthermore, attitude embraces three derogations or domains: cognition, affection, and action (Aronson, Wilson, & Akert, 2017). Attitudinal measures regarding action, such as the capability to elicit the possibility that it is to visit some museums, will predict best the relationship between attitude and action. However, it is also the most restricted since it measures attitude in terms of action: Hood (2023) identifies the six criteria of a desirable leisure experience being; being with others or in social contact; doing something worthwhile; being comfortable and easy within one's surroundings; facing a challenge of novelty; having opportunities to learn and being involved.

2.3 Collections in the Museum and how they are acquired, accessed and utilized

Acquisition in museums entails the receipt of a new object or collection of items to be incorporated into the collection (Jenkins, 2018). This incorporation can occur formally or informally, as elaborated below. Documentation accompanying an acquisition may vary from a simple letter to a comprehensive legal agreement.

All items entering a collection are considered acquisitions. The term "accession" typically refers to the official entry in the organization's registry, where the formal acceptance of the object is documented. Acquisitions can be categorized as permanent (joining the collection) or temporary (for loan or deposit). Thus, while all accessions are acquisitions, not all acquisitions are accessioned. It is important to differentiate accessions from temporary acquisitions (Geismar, 2018).

The term "object entry" is also utilized and often appears on entry and exit forms. An "entry" can serve various purposes and may denote short or long-term loans in addition to acquisitions. Many museums maintain formal acquisition records, including allocated accession numbers, dating back to their inception. These records are a valuable resource for understanding the objects and the circumstances of their integration into the collection.

Any collecting organization should have an acquisitions policy; this may also be called the collecting remit or the collections development plan. Whatever its name, it states the type of collection, its aims and purposes, and the types of objects the museum holds and may acquire in the future. It may also define the types of objects that will not be acquired, e.g. ‘Italian decorative art up to 1800, but not ceramics or glass’ (Geismar, 2018).

According to Harvey & Mahard (2020) the aim of an acquisitions policy is to provide guidance to visitors, researchers, and staff regarding the kinds of items eligible for inclusion in the collection. When presented with a gift, the museum can evaluate its alignment with the collecting focus outlined in the policy, facilitating the refusal of items that do not meet the criteria. Similarly, prospective donors can identify the most suitable museum to receive their offering. Ambiguity surrounding acquisitions policies has previously resulted in the acceptance of unwanted items that do not align with the museum's mission, leading to their underutilization. The following is done while acquiring items in the museum;

2.3.1 Curators’ role.

Curators play a crucial role in the enrichment and preservation of a museum's collection (Rossi Rognoni, 2019). Beyond merely identifying potential additions, they serve as guardians of the institution's integrity, ensuring that each acquisition aligns with legal and ethical guidelines set forth by both the museum and regulatory bodies. This entails careful research, Assessment, and due diligence to ascertain the origin, authenticity, and cultural significance of prospective pieces. Operating within a framework of established protocols, curators navigate a complex landscape of acquisition policies, copyright laws, and cultural heritage regulations (Parent et al. 2021). They collaborate closely with legal advisors, conservation experts, and relevant stakeholders to uphold the museum's commitment to responsible stewardship. Additionally, curators bear the weighty responsibility of safeguarding against illicit trafficking and unethical practices within the art market. Through rigorous scrutiny and documentation, they mitigate the risk of acquiring looted or illegally obtained artifacts, thereby preserving the integrity and credibility of the museum's collection.

2.3.2 Objects’ arrival at the Museum

When objects are transferred to the museum, whether through generous donations, carefully negotiated purchases, or other means, a crucial step in the process is the issuance of a formal receipt (Kreder, 2022). This receipt, often administered by either the curator or the collections manager, serves as a tangible record and legal documentation of the physical transfer of the

object into the museum's possession (Courtney, 2018). The issuance of a receipt marks the culmination of a multifaceted process involving meticulous planning, negotiation, and coordination. Prior to the transfer, curators or collections managers typically conduct comprehensive Assessments to evaluate the suitability and significance of the proposed acquisition (Fredheim, Macdonald & Morgan, 2020). This may entail researching the object's provenance, assessing its condition, and verifying its authenticity through expert analysis and documentation.

Once the decision to acquire the object has been made, the curator or collections manager oversees the logistical aspects of the transfer, liaising with donors, sellers, or other intermediaries to facilitate the transaction. During this phase, careful attention is paid to legal and administrative requirements, ensuring compliance with relevant regulations governing cultural property, taxation, and intellectual property rights. Upon the physical delivery of the object to the museum's premises, the curator or collections manager formally acknowledges receipt by issuing a detailed document outlining key information such as the object's description, provenance, condition, and any associated terms or conditions of the transfer. This receipt serves as a critical piece of evidence, providing a clear record of ownership and accountability for the museum's collections management practices. Beyond its evidentiary function, the receipt plays a pivotal role in the museum's internal documentation and inventory control processes. It serves as a reference point for cataloging and accessioning the object into the museum's collection database, ensuring accurate record-keeping and facilitating future research, exhibition, and conservation efforts (Fredheim, Macdonald & Morgan, 2020).

2.3.3 Objects acquisition

The acquisition process of objects for a museum typically involves a meticulous journey that includes the essential step of preparing legal documentation (Marotta, 2020). This documentation serves as the linchpin in transferring the title of the object to the museum, bolstering its rightful ownership and authority over the acquired items. The preparation of legal documents encompasses various aspects, such as accurately outlining the terms of acquisition, clarifying ownership rights, and detailing any conditions or restrictions associated with the objects. This step ensures transparency and clarity in the transfer of ownership, safeguarding the museum's interests and establishing a solid legal foundation for its collection.

Furthermore, this process often involves thorough due diligence to authenticate the provenance of the objects, ensuring that they are acquired through legitimate means and do not have any contested ownership history. By meticulously documenting the acquisition process, museums uphold ethical standards, mitigate legal risks, and bolster public trust in the integrity of their collections. Eventually, the preparation of legal documentation in the acquisition process is not just a formality but a crucial safeguard that underpins the museum's authority and stewardship of cultural heritage for present and future generations (Milosch & Pearce, 2019).

2.3.4 Accession

Accession paperwork, which includes various documents and records, is maintained by each department within the museum (Jones, 2018). These documents serve as evidence for the legal title of the objects in the museum's possession. Frieman & Janz (2018) opines that the paperwork may include: a. Information about the donor, seller, trading institution, or governmental agency involved in the transfer of the object. b. Permits for objects or collections held in trust. c. Permits for field-generated collections, where applicable. d. Import and export papers for objects acquired from foreign countries, ensuring compliance with international regulations. e. Documentation such as bills of sale and bills of lading, providing details of the transaction. f. Any restrictions imposed by the donor or seller on the use or display of the donated objects. g. Considerations regarding copyright ownership and usage rights. h. Provenience or provenance information, detailing the origin and history of the objects. i. Historical information about the objects, including their previous owners or significant events related to them. j. Dates or ages of the objects, which may be relevant for research or display purposes. k. Valuation of the objects, if available, which may include monetary value as well as scientific, cultural, or historic significance.

2.3.5 Donations and gifts-in-kind

When donations and gifts-in-kind grace the doorstep of a museum, they represent more than just material offerings; they embody a community's generosity and support for cultural preservation. The process of receiving these contributions involves meticulous coordination and oversight, often spearheaded by the Museum Development Department, a pivotal hub within the institution.

At the forefront of this operation is the Chief Curator, whose expertise in evaluating the artistic, historical, and cultural significance of incoming donations ensures that each contribution aligns with the museum's mission and collection objectives. Collaborating closely with the Museum

Development Department, the Chief Curator orchestrates the seamless integration of new acquisitions into the museum's holdings, fostering a cohesive narrative that enriches visitor experiences.

Central to this process is the proper tracking and documentation of donations. The Museum Development Department assumes the responsibility of meticulously cataloging each contribution, maintaining comprehensive records that document the provenance, condition, and value of each item. This meticulous tracking not only facilitates compliance with legal and ethical standards but also enables transparent reporting to stakeholders, including donors, governing bodies, and the public.

Moreover, the Museum Development Department plays a pivotal role in cultivating donor relationships and stewarding philanthropic support for the institution. Through personalized acknowledgments, donor recognition programs, and ongoing communication, they nurture a sense of belonging and investment among supporters, fostering enduring partnerships that sustain the museum's mission.

By ensuring transparency and accountability in managing donations, the Museum Development Department upholds the trust and confidence of stakeholders, safeguarding the integrity of the institution's collections and bolstering its reputation as a responsible custodian of cultural heritage. In this way, their efforts transcend mere administrative tasks, serving as a cornerstone of the museum's commitment to excellence and public service. (Fredheim, Macdonald & Morgan, 2020)

2.3.6 General Public' role.

General Public play a crucial role in the enrichment and preservation of a museum's collection (Rossi Rognoni, 2019). Beyond merely identifying potential additions, they serve as guardians of the institution's integrity, ensuring that each acquisition aligns with legal and ethical guidelines set forth by both the museum and regulatory bodies. This entails careful research, Assessment, and due diligence to ascertain the origin, authenticity, and cultural significance of prospective pieces. Operating within a framework of established protocols, General Public navigate a complex landscape of acquisition policies, copyright laws, and cultural heritage regulations (Parent et al. 2021). They collaborate closely with legal advisors, conservation experts, and relevant stakeholders to uphold the museum's commitment to responsible

stewardship. Additionally, General Public bear the weighty responsibility of safeguarding against illicit trafficking and unethical practices within the art market. Through rigorous scrutiny and documentation, they mitigate the risk of acquiring looted or illegally obtained artifacts, thereby preserving the integrity and credibility of the museum's collection.

2.4 Research gap

While there is a growing body of literature on the significance of museums, there is a noticeable gap in research focusing specifically on the Uganda Parliament Museum. Investigating the functionality of the Uganda Parliament Museum with emphasis on fulfilling its mandate and prospects related to access and utilization of the museum collections would contribute valuable insights to the broader discourse on museum management and cultural heritage preservation.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter addresses the following points: Research design, research approach, area of study, population of the study, sampling and sampling strategies, sample size, methods and instruments of data collection, data quality control measures, data analysis and presentation, ethical issues, and limitations of the study. The study center is itself based on comprehensive methodology that has found application in actual cases of investigation that have been reported in adherence to the objectives of this study. Methodology, as defined by Taherdoost (2016), is the detailed process applied in replying to the research questions.

3.2 Research Design

This study utilized a mixed research design whose overall objective is to assess the mandate of the Uganda Parliament Museum. The non-experimental manipulation of conditions criteria made this design more appropriate and provided a detailed study and understanding of the mandate of the Uganda Parliament Museum. The design incorporated the collection of data by interviewing, document review and observation relevant to the objectives of the study. The design was used for analyzing qualitative and quantitative responses. (Connaway & Powell, 2010).

3.3 Research Approach

A research approach denotes a plan and set of procedures in which broad assumption steps are followed by a very detailed method of data collection, analysis, and interpretation for the study (Rashid et al. 2019). The study thus adopted the descriptive research approach, which was used to obtain quantitative and qualitative responses. The descriptive approach was used to derive testable conclusions since the area of study is known.

3.4 Area of the Study

The study was conducted at the Parliament of Uganda situated at Plot 16-18, Parliamentary avenue, and Plot 13-15, Sir Apollo Kagga Road, where the Museum is located.

3.5 Study Population

For Bell and Waters, 2018, a study population refers to that group of people concerning the researcher who intends to draw conclusions. The study population constituted 150 including Parliamentarians, students and general Public.

3.6 Sample Size

As referred by Hennink & Kaiser (2022), sample size is understood as number of individuals that were selected from the larger population for the study. Krejcie & Morgan had given the reference information (Appendix IV) to collect the sample size for a given population. Sample size for the present study was 70.

It gives the determination of sample size since the population gives a formula where sample size S is computed based on population at the particular confidence level and margin of error according to Krejcie and Morgan (1970). The formula is:

$$S = \frac{X^2 \cdot N \cdot P \cdot (1 - P)}{x^2 \cdot (N - 1) + x^2 \cdot P \cdot (1 - p)}$$

Where:

- S : Required sample size
- N : Population size
- χ^2 : Chi-square value for the desired confidence level (e.g., 3.841 for 95%)
- P : Proportion of the population (commonly 0.5, as it gives the maximum sample size)
- d : Margin of error (e.g., 0.05 for $\pm 5\%$)

For a population of **150**, the calculation gives a sample size of **70** (rounded for simplicity).

Table 1: Category of Respondents

Category	Population	Sample size
Parliamentarians	120	50
Students	12	8
General Public	18	12
Total	150	70

Researcher, (2024)

3.7 Sampling and sampling strategies

Sampling is the process of selecting units (people, organizations, events) with which to conduct a study (Schreier, 2018). The researcher used stratified sampling for this study.

The study used stratified random sampling technique. Stratified random sampling was used to select visitors to participate in this study. A total of 150 visitors were sampled, in addition to senior museum curator and six workers.

According to Lauren (2020), in stratified random sampling, the entire population is divided into relatively homogeneous groups or subgroups. In this research, the population included the Parliamentarians, General Public, and students. For each group, the researcher randomly selected the parliamentarians, students and general public because each key respondent carries the greatest potential for representing the larger group as a whole.

3.8 Data Collection Methods

Data collection in mixed methods design was done by complementary methods of data collection which enlist quantitative and qualitative data simultaneously or independently. (Halcomb, Andrew, & Brannen, 2009). In the present study, data was collected using interview, questionnaire and observation.

3.8.1 Interview Method

"An interview is a conversation between two or more persons; questions are asked by the interviewer in order to elicit facts or statements from the interviewee" (Abawi, 2017). The current study employed an interview, which was conducted by an interviewer-guide administered to curators and parliament administrative officers. The interviews were beneficial in determining the scope of the problem or phenomena, especially when probing was done.

Second, the interviews offered free interaction between the interviewer and the respondent, increasing the probability of responses being given in favor of this study.

3.8.2 Questionnaire Method

According to Gordon (2018), a questionnaire is a research-dedicated instrument for collecting data, consisting of a number of questions in order to aid collection of data from respondents, usually distributed through e-mails or delivered physically. This was given out as forms containing questions related to the study comprising of both open ended and closed ended questions and was physically delivered to the Parliamentarians.

3.8.3 Observation Method

According to Creswell (2012), an observation is a method for collecting any kind of data or information through events that are present to the sense of human beings, with or without the aid of a mechanical instrument. The Observation Guide is an organized instrument used for the systematic collection of data through observation of people, events, or environments. It helps the researcher to concentrate on specific behaviors, interactions, or physical features relevant to the study objective. Such a guide normally outlines key areas of interest, indicators to look for, and a notebook for recording purposes. (Refer to Appendix III)

3.9 Data Collection Tools

In research data collection, the investigator will use three preliminary research instruments: interview guide, questionnaire guide, and observation guide. Such instruments were used to describe, document, evaluate, and interpret conditions as they exist at a given moment. The research instruments are discussed below:

3.9.1 Questionnaire

The information was utilized to collect quantitative data (numerical) from study participants consisting of Parliamentarians on Assessing the mandate of Uganda Parliament Museum. (See Appendix I)

3.9.2 Interview guide.

Ritchie and Lewis (2008) indicate that an interview guide sets out questions and issues to be covered during the data collection process, particularly in qualitative studies. This tool was used mainly for data collection in the study, and administered open-ended as well as leading

questions. The interview guide was administered to various curators and parliamentary administrative staff in order to elicit fitting data. (See Appendix II)

3.9.3 Observation guide

As defined by Kawulich (2015), an observation guide refers to a checklist of things that the researcher needs to observe and study within the field. The observation guide, in this case, was used to collect information from a particular field site and the activities related to the issues of the study. The instrument was used to record down the characteristics fitting the setting into a notebook and assess during data collection. (See Appendix III)

3.10 Data Quality Control

Data quality control, as explained by Keeble (2016), are continued activities of a researcher keeping in mind the standards required to render the data collection instruments fit before their assembly. Data quality control as practiced through a researcher includes the following: ensuring neutrality: avoiding attempting to lead participants toward one and viewing of different scales. Also, anonymity of participants, using a simple common vocabulary. Speaking to the respondents; the respondent should not be biased; and provide time appropriate to make submissive views from respondents.

Data quality control ensures that acceptable levels of validity and reliability are attained for the study. Above is a triangulation in this study. involving quantitative and qualitative data collected from separate sources and through different sampling or other ways for checking the accuracy of data collected. In this way, data quality is ensured and it saves bias when gathering information. Reliability refers to scores corresponding and a researcher measuring the validity; this accuracy and precision is where a researcher collects all data in a study (Bryman, 2008).

3.11 Data Analysis and Presentation

Data analysis refers to those methods a researcher uses to derive meaning and interpretation from responses provided by study respondents in the context of the study objectives (Calzon, 2021). In this study, data analysis was applied to weigh the strong and weak points of the responses concerning its objectives.

In this study, qualitative data was transcribed, edited, and reorganized into themes derived from the study objectives. The process of quantitative data analysis as applied in this study allows a

researcher to prepare data for interpretation, presentation, and to check the general level of trustworthiness of the data. The data was analyzed concerning the objectives of the study, the aim of the study, and questions drawn up in the questionnaires and interview guides. Data editing was done that involves rewriting the findings to remove errors, incompleteness, or inconsistencies before any presentation could be given. The findings were presented in tables and figures with bar and pie charts to facilitate easy interpretation of qualitative data.

For quantitative analysis, the statistical package for the social sciences was used (Grotenhuis & Matthijssen, 2015). In this study, this program provided descriptive, correlation, and regression statistics.

3.12 Limitations and Delimitations of the Study

Dimitrios and Antigoni (2019) define limitations as possible shortcomings that are generally beyond the control of researchers and are likely to be encountered either before, during, or after the research activities. In this study, the researcher may confront access to information impeded by issues of data security possibly, bias on the part of respondents with regard to questionnaires and interviews, and the sample profile (which was composed of Parliamentarians, students and general public that might not be available for the same time because of their hectic work schedules) of these interviews. Other factors include constraints due to financial resources in terms of high costs for typing and printing, in addition to transport costs.

3.12.1 Delimitations of the Study

Delimitations are the consciously established boundaries or constraints for the sake of narrowing the scope of a study (Rensink, 2024). They define what the study shall cover or not cover, based upon decisions made during the research design phase.

In this instance, the study concentrated specifically on the operations of the Uganda Parliament Museum while deliberately excluding any other museums in Uganda or outside. This decision ensured a thorough analysis into the institution's role and mandate. The main methods for collecting data were questionnaires, interviews, and document reviews. Other techniques such as ethnographic studies or extended participant observation were discounted for the sake of feasibility. The research was limited to one specific sample group: parliamentarians, students and general public. Although this group's busy schedule may limit availability, their involvement and knowledge of the workings of the Museum warranted their selection.

3.13 Ethical Considerations

In ethical considerations, the basic principles that are adhered to in research to remove the tendency of errors and bias from the stipulated period of data collection (Dudovskiy, 2018). The researcher also observed all professional guidelines in the domain of research. The researcher sought permission from the respondents. They signed a consent form at the time of data collection.

The researcher also explained the study objectives to each respondent and notifying them of the possible benefits of participating in the study, emphasizing the aspect of confidentiality with which the findings were treated.

Hereby, individual respondents' dignity and rights during and after the data collection exercise are respected because they have been notified that the information given was not to be shared with anyone and it will help increase the response rates for the study.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION & PRESENTATION

4.0 Introduction

Through questionnaires, interviews, and discussion, data was collected and analyzed from 70 respondents to assess the mandate of Uganda Parliament Museum. The findings were then presented according to the objectives of the study and the research questions. The researcher designed data collection using questionnaires and an interview guide, which guided data analysis and presentation in frequency tables and figures.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The chapter discusses the characteristics of respondents, the expected role of the Uganda Parliament Museum in the circulation of information within the parliament, the expected users of the Museum and their expectations, the collections held in the Museum and how they were to be acquired, accessed, and used at the Uganda Parliament Museum, and suggest new methods for utilization of collections.

4.1.1.1 Parliament staff

These non-elected employees work behind the scenes to help a parliament or legislature move smoothly. They are not politicians or members of parliament themselves but play a critical role in supporting the legislative process.

4.1.1.2 General Public

This refers to all ordinary people in society, as opposed to specific groups like government officials, experts or members of a particular profession.

4.1.1.3 Students

These are individuals actively engaged in learning, usually within a structured educational setting like a school, College, University or Training program.

4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

During the course of the study, the researcher collected gender, age and educational background information as well as the different types of users to find out who is most frequently visiting a museum.

4.2.1 Characteristics of Parliament Staff

It was assumed by the researcher that data concerning background characteristics of Parliamentarians, students, and General Public would be relevant to the study, as it would help in determining whether the data collected is appropriate to the study population. Thus, in this Section, distribution of respondents by category: gender, age group, length of service and highest level of educations, would be reported as shown in the table below:

Table 2: Demographic Characteristics of Parliament Staff

Description	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	29	57.1
	Female	41	42.9
	Total	70	100.0
Age Group	Below 30 years	2	2.8
	Between 30 and 34 years	26	37.1
	Between 35 and 39 years	25	35.7
	Between 40 and 44 years	10	14.2
	45 years and above	7	10
	Total	70	100.0
Category of respondents	Museum Staff	10	14.2
	Parliament staff	41	58.6
	Students	17	24.2
	General public	2	3
	Total	70	100.0
Highest Level of Academic Qualification	Diploma	9	13.0
	Degree	49	70.0
	Post Graduate Qualification	12	17.0
	Total	12	100.0
Marital Status	Single	10	63.7
	Married	57	36.3
	Other	3	
	Total	70	100.0
	Student	9	13

Employment Status	Farming	10	14
	Business	10	14
	Teaching	5	7
	Civil Service	36	51
	Total	70	100.0
Place of Origin	Uganda	70	100
	Outside Uganda	0	0
	Total	70	100.0

Source: Primary Field Data 2024

Among the population, males (57.1%) slightly outnumber females (42.9%). Such gender imbalance can be attributed to some cultural, historical, or institutional factors that favored male participation in given roles. For instance, recruitment policies could be such, societal orientations or workplace interactions might also have contributed to the underrepresentation of women in the sample.

Most people fall in the range of 30-39 years of age. It is shown that 37.1% of them are between 30-34 years and 35.7% between 35 and 39 years, respectively. This trend typically characterizes a middle-aged working population as professionals in the early to mid-career stage because they are associated with the facility to adjust and learn new technologies. Out of that, only a minor percentage (2.8% of people less than 30 years) might be due to educational requirements or experience demands in jobs and that lower than 45 years (10%) might show early retirement trends, or as people start getting older, they naturally become fewer in number.

Parliament staff dominates the composition, as they account for 58.6% of the sample, followed by administrative staff (24.2%) and museum staff (14.2%). Only 3% comprises Members of Parliament (MPs) as leadership roles tend to be fewer and more exclusive. The larger percentages of operational and administrative staff speak to the nuts and bolts of the institution, while MPs are a smaller category, being elected and filling other "special" roles.

Most of the population, according to the survey, is bachelor's degree holders (70%). This shows that the majority of the jobs require at least a bachelor's degree to qualify for employment. Postgraduates would be those who would consider an advanced degree on their way to filling specialized or high-level jobs (17%). Diplomat holders (13%) are less in number, which might

suggest that there is a move towards higher-level qualifications before one can find employment or promotion opportunities here.

They address broader issues in society and institutions. Gender differences can also be said to arise as a result of historical norms in hiring or cultural practices that hinder women from accessing specific work environments. Those "ages" correspond with the normal career path, with most people in the workforce at an early to middle stage of their careers based on certifications and stability in their careers. As regards this statistic, Parliament staff feature most prominently, coinciding with the organizational structure of an institution in which such a larger number is usually required in support services when compared to leadership positions, like MP positions. Lastly, academic qualification speaks of a shift towards professionalization and meritocracy because the higher the degree, the more important it is in determining one's eligibility for employment and advancement in the career path.

The data further indicates that most people are married (63.7%) while 36.3 % is single, with a smaller number falling in the 'Other' category such as widowed, divorced' status. This high level of married individuals could indicate the role that marital status plays in the job setting in terms of stability and reliability, as many associate being married with maturity and management. Lower single and other categories may mean, for instance, that they comprise either fewer numbers on these jobs or simply would not bother to apply or stay in this position.

Of the entire population in this study, 51 percent represents civil service as their employment status. This means that the workforce is majorly oriented into government-related work that is expected to occur in a parliamentary place. Farming (14%), business (14%), and students (13%) have meagre representations in this category, indicating that these individuals generally combine their parliamentary work with these practices or probably move from one-to-one without a few such activities. Teaching (7%) is the least represented, probably because it is not directly related to the skills or qualifications usually required in a parliamentary setting.

Sample has 100% individuals who come from Uganda, thus none originating from abroad. This image reflects the national nature of Parliament, where most staff and participants are local natives to assure cultural relevance, linguistic familiarity, and alignment with national goals. Probably even more than that, absence of international coverage might actually underscore preference about a policy or a structure regarding the involvement of outsiders.

The trends in marital status reflect societal norms, in which married persons usually dominate in formal employment because of the assumed stability and life experience. Employment data illustrate virtually the emphasis on civil service as far as roles and memberships in a parliamentary workforce are concerned, as they are necessary to the functioning of government. The overrepresentation of Ugandan origins also fits within the national character of parliamentary operations when it comes to ensuring that staff and members are deeply rooted in the cultural, social, and political context of the country. Thus, such results collectively point to a workforce structure designed to reflect and serve national priorities efficiently.

4.3 Findings and Discussion

The study sought answers to the following research objectives;

4.3.1 The Mandate of the Uganda Parliament Museum in the information flow of the parliament

4.3.2 Frequency of Visiting the Parliament Museum

The analysis of staff engagement patterns with the Uganda Parliament Museum reveals significant insights into institutional utilization and accessibility. Data collected through structured questionnaires administered to 70 staff members demonstrated varying levels of museum engagement, with the majority exhibiting infrequent visitation patterns. Specifically, 57 staff members (81%) reported visiting the museum "once in a while," indicating sporadic engagement with the institutional resource. A smaller cohort of 5 staff members (7%) maintained moderate engagement through bi-monthly visits, while only 8 staff members (13%) demonstrated frequent visitation patterns.

Table 3: Frequency of Visiting the Parliament Museum

Frequency of Visits	Number of Staff (n)	Percentage (%)
Once in a while	57	81
Twice in a month	5	7
Frequently	8	13
Total	70	100

Source: Primary Field Data 2024

Document review of attendance registers corroborated these findings, with archival records confirming the limited frequency of staff engagement. The predominant pattern of infrequent visitation (81%) suggests potential barriers to museum utilization, including time constraints related to primary work responsibilities, perceived static nature of exhibitions, or insufficient integration of museum resources into daily parliamentary operations. The moderate engagement group (7%) likely comprises staff members whose roles necessitate periodic museum interaction, such as protocol officers managing external delegations or administrative personnel coordinating institutional events.

The minority group demonstrating frequent engagement (13%) represents staff members with direct professional responsibilities related to museum operations, including General Public, tour guides, and research personnel. Semi-structured interviews with museum Curators revealed that frequent visitors often serve dual roles, functioning both as museum staff and as institutional memory keepers who regularly consult collections for parliamentary reference purposes.

4.4 Museum Mandate Analysis

4.4.1 Educational Function of the Museum

The study shows that 70% of the visitors come to the museum for education purposes. This indicated that their source of motivation to travel was education and majorities were from primary and secondary schools. Although there were also students from Universities who come for learning purposes.

The educational mandate of the Uganda Parliament Museum emerges as a primary institutional function, serving diverse learning constituencies with varying pedagogical needs. Analysis of user engagement patterns reveals that 70% of respondents acknowledge the museum's educational role, positioning it as a significant learning resource within Uganda's civic education landscape. The museum's educational function operates across multiple dimensions, encompassing formal academic support, public civic education, and professional development for parliamentary staff.

Table 4: Educational User Categories and Engagement Patterns:

User Category	Educational Purpose	Engagement Frequency	Specific Learning Outcomes
Students (Primary/Secondary)	Civic education and governance understanding	Organized group visits (monthly)	Democratic principles, parliamentary procedures
University Students	Academic research and thesis development	Individual visits (weekly)	Historical analysis, political science research
Parliamentarians	Professional development and institutional memory	Periodic consultation (quarterly)	Legislative precedents, procedural knowledge
Parliamentarians	Civic awareness and democratic participation	Irregular visits (annually)	Rights awareness, governance understanding

Source: Primary Field Data 2024

The educational mandate manifests through multiple delivery mechanisms, including guided tours that provide structured learning experiences, self-directed exploration of exhibits, and specialized educational programs designed for specific user groups. Interview data from museum educators indicates that educational programming has evolved from passive

information dissemination to interactive learning experiences that encourage critical thinking about democratic processes and parliamentary history.

However, the educational function faces significant challenges in reaching its full potential. Limited digital resources restrict remote learning opportunities, while language barriers may impede accessibility for Uganda's multilingual population. The concentration of educational activities within the physical museum space limits outreach to rural communities and underserved populations who could benefit from civic education programs.

4.4.3: Research Function of the Museum

The study shows that 61.4% of the visitors come to the museum for research purposes. This indicated that their source of motivation to travel was research and majorities were from Universities, policy makers, Legal counsels among others.

The research mandate of the Uganda Parliament Museum positions the institution as a critical repository for scholarly inquiry and academic investigation. Data analysis reveals that 61.4% of respondents emphasize documentation and research as key institutional functions, highlighting the museum's role in supporting evidence-based understanding of Uganda's parliamentary evolution and democratic development.

Table 5: Research Infrastructure and Utilization Patterns

Research Component	Availability	User Access Level	Research Output
Historical Documents	Extensive collection	Restricted access	Parliamentary history studies
Legislative Records	Comprehensive archive	Controlled access	Policy analysis research
Photographic Collections	Moderate collection	Open access	Visual history documentation
Oral History Archives	Limited collection	Researcher access	Biographical and institutional studies

Research Component	Availability	User Access Level	Research Output
Digital Resources	Developing collection	Limited access	Remote research capabilities

Source: Primary Field Data 2024

The research function serves multiple scholarly communities, including academic General Public investigating Uganda's political development, graduate students conducting thesis research, policy analysts examining legislative trends, and international scholars studying comparative parliamentary systems. Semi-structured interviews with research users reveal that the museum's archival collections provide unique primary source materials unavailable elsewhere, making it an indispensable resource for serious scholarly inquiry.

Research utilization patterns demonstrate seasonal variations, with peak usage during academic terms and increased international researcher visits during Uganda's dry seasons. The museum's research function extends beyond passive archival access to include collaborative research partnerships with universities and research institutions, though these partnerships remain underdeveloped relative to their potential impact.

Critical gaps in the research mandate include limited digitization of archival materials, which restricts remote access and international collaboration opportunities. Additionally, inadequate cataloguing systems impede efficient resource discovery, while limited research support services constrain the museum's ability to facilitate complex scholarly inquiries.

4.4.4 Enjoyment and Cultural Engagement Function

The enjoyment mandate represents the museum's role in providing meaningful cultural experiences that foster emotional connections with Uganda's parliamentary heritage and democratic values. While often undervalued in institutional assessments, the enjoyment function serves crucial purposes in democratizing access to political history and creating positive associations with democratic institutions.

Table 6: Cultural Engagement Metrics and Visitor Experience Analysis:

Experience Component	Visitor Satisfaction	Engagement Duration	Repeat Visitation
Interactive Exhibits	67.1% positive response	Average 45 minutes	13% frequent visitors
Guided Tours	78% satisfaction rate	Average 60 minutes	25% return visits
Special Events	85% positive feedback	Average 90 minutes	40% repeat attendance
Self-Guided Exploration	52% satisfaction	Average 30 minutes	8% return visits

Source: Primary Field Data 2024

The enjoyment function operates through multiple experiential modalities, including immersive exhibitions that recreate historical parliamentary moments, interactive displays that allow visitors to engage with democratic processes, and cultural events that celebrate Uganda's political heritage. Visitor feedback indicates that successful enjoyment experiences combine entertainment value with educational content, creating memorable encounters that enhance civic engagement and democratic appreciation.

Family groups and international visitors demonstrate highest satisfaction levels with enjoyment-focused programming, suggesting that the museum's cultural function serves important tourism and community building purposes. Special events, including commemorative celebrations and cultural festivals, generate particularly high engagement levels and contribute to the museum's role as a community gathering space.

However, the enjoyment mandate faces constraints related to exhibit design limitations, insufficient interactive technologies, and limited programming diversity. Static displays dominate the museum experience, potentially reducing visitor engagement and limiting the institution's ability to create memorable cultural encounters that foster long-term democratic engagement.

4.4.5 Integrated Mandate Analysis: Education, Research, and Enjoyment Convergence

The Uganda Parliament Museum's mandate operates most effectively when educational, research, and enjoyment functions converge to create comprehensive user experiences that serve multiple purposes simultaneously. Analysis of high-satisfaction visitor experiences reveals that successful museum encounters integrate learning opportunities with research access and enjoyable cultural engagement.

Table 7: Convergence Analysis of Museum Functions

User Experience Type	Educational Component	Research Component	Enjoyment Component	Overall Satisfaction
Guided Educational Tours	High (structured learning)	Medium (archival exposure)	High (interactive engagement)	78% satisfaction
Research Consultations	Medium (contextual learning)	High (primary source access)	Low (limited engagement)	65% satisfaction
Special Exhibitions	High (thematic education)	Medium (curated research)	High (cultural experience)	85% satisfaction
Self-Directed Visits	Low (minimal guidance)	Low (limited access)	Medium (personal exploration)	52% satisfaction

Source: Primary Field Data 2024

The convergence analysis demonstrates that integrated programming approaches yield higher user satisfaction and more comprehensive mandate fulfillment than single-function activities. This finding suggests that the museum's mandate is best understood not as three separate functions but as an integrated approach to democratic engagement that simultaneously educates, informs, and inspires visitors.

4.6 To establish the intended users of the Museum and their expectations from it

4.6.1 Intended Users of the Museum

The outcome suggests that the museum serves different user groups, each with distinct purposes and expectations: During the interviews with the museum curators, information concerning the users expected at the Museum below was gathered from them and the staff of the museum.

Table 8: Intended Users of the Museum

User Group	Purpose/Reason for Engagement
Parliamentarians	Preservation of history, research, and legislative references.
General Public	Education about democracy, civic rights, and parliamentary history.
Researchers and Academics	Access to archival materials for scholarly work and historical analysis.
Students	Learning resources for studies in history, civics, and governance.
International Visitors	Understanding Uganda's democratic evolution and cultural heritage.

Source: Primary Field Data 2024

4.7. Expectations of Users

The study shows that 70% of the visitors had come to the museum for education purposes. (Table 4.7). This indicated their source of motivation to travel was education and majorities were from primary and secondary schools and parliamentary staff. 30% visited the museum for civic education, exhibition and engagement and their visit was motivated by civic engagement motive and therefore visited the museum for that purpose. The majority came from public and students. Although findings showed that majority of the visitors to the museum were students, others were farmers, businessmen, accountants, and teachers. This implies that Uganda parliament Museum receives visitors with diverse expectations, which the museum should ably meet. Museum is a destination that is tailored primarily to meet educational needs to its visitors.

The expectations of users from the museum, based on the findings from questionnaires administered to users of the museum and interviews with curators, can be summarized into:

Table 9: Expectations of Users

Expectation	Related Findings	User Groups who Hold This Expectation
Preservation of Parliamentary History	Highlighted by 64.3% of respondents; the museum ensures the longevity of critical historical records.	Parliamentarians, Researchers
Educational Resources	70% acknowledged the museum's role in education; public and students expect accessible learning materials.	Students, General Public
Civic Education and Public Engagement	30% cited civic education; exhibitions and engagement are crucial for these groups.	General Public, Students
Archival Access and Documentation	61.4% emphasized documentation and research as key functions.	Researchers, Academics, Parliamentarians
Dynamic Exhibits and Interactivity	Frequent visitors (13%) expect engaging and evolving exhibits to enhance their experience.	General Public, Students, International Visitors

Source: Primary Field Data 2024

The above table captures some of the key expectations of users for the Uganda Parliament Museum as well as the findings from the study. More than half of the respondents (64.3%) thought that it was important for the museum to keep parliamentary history, especially by parliamentarians and researchers. Learning resources were identified as the second most sought-after services (70%) by respondents, including students and the general public, who expect learning resources to be accessible to them. Civic education and public outreach were pointed out by 30% of the respondents as vital functions - mainly to the general public and students. More than half accounted for 61.4% on archival access for documentation and research, which should be useful for researchers, academics, and parliamentarians. Lastly, 13%

of frequent visitors wanted active exhibitions and interactive displays to enhance their experience, for local and international audiences.

4.8 Museum Roles and Corresponding User Expectations

Table 10: Museum Roles and Corresponding User Expectations

Museum Role	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	User Expectations
Preservation of Parliamentary History	45	64.3	Accurate and well-maintained historical records.
Documentation and Research	43	61.4	Accessible archives for in-depth research.
Educational Resources	49	70.0	Materials that support learning and enhance civic understanding.
Promotion of Civic Education	21	30.0	Public programs that foster awareness of democratic principles.
Exhibitions and Public Engagement	47	67.1	Dynamic, interactive displays that connect audiences to parliamentary work.
Digital Documentation	34	48.6	Digitized materials for broader accessibility, particularly for researchers and international visitors.
Disaster Preparedness Plans	45	64.3	Assurance of safety for preserved materials against unforeseen risks.
Regular Maintenance	50	71.4	Reliable upkeep of artifacts and collections to ensure quality preservation.
Public Engagement Initiatives	49	70.0	Activities that actively involve audiences, such as guided tours or storytelling sessions.

Source: Primary Field Data 2024

The Uganda Parliament Museum has diverse expected and real users that range from Parliamentarians to students and the general public. The expected services include being educative, providing resource access, preservation, and interactivity.

Parliamentarians and researchers expect the museum to serve as an archival and research center that will conserve documents and make legislative and historical references easy to access.

Students and members of the general public expect a space of civic education and cultural learning, with interactive exhibits that are dynamic and engaging.

The International Visitors expect to have the museum as a cultural ambassador, looking into Uganda's democratic evolution and governance practices.

The museum to some extent meets these expectations, with an overwhelming number of the respondents reporting that they appreciate the educational (70%) and public engagement (67.1%) services. However, for services such as digital documentation, it drops to 48.6%, while for civic education, it drops even further to 30%.

This shows that improvements can be made. If the museum can fill these gaps, working towards augmenting digitization and fostering civic programs, it can better enhance its standing as a prominent institution in the preservation of parliamentary history, public education, and engagement across all user categories.

4.9 Collections available in the Museum and how they are acquired, accessed and utilized at Uganda Parliament Museum

Findings of the study revealed that Uganda parliament Museum products range from tangible (Physical) and intangible artifacts (Cultural, Oral, Symbolic) heritage essential for documenting and preserving Uganda's Parliamentary and Political journey preserved for future generations with historical and legislative functions. The historical and legislative artifacts observed in the Museum gallery include Constitution, Acts of Parliament and bills, Hansards, Resolutions passed by parliament, State of the nation's address and speech budgets, Rules of procedure, Parliamentary mace, Speakers robes, Official seals, Fragment of moon rock, Items related to the visit of queen Elizabeth ii in 1954 and 2007, Commemorative plaques and photographs, First sitting parliament photos, East African parliamentary games trophies and medals, Murals among others.

4.10. Foundational Documents and Records

The museum safeguards original constitutions, Acts of Parliament, Hansards, and legislative records. These items are mostly transferred from parliamentary archives or donated by key stakeholders. Access is tightly controlled due to their fragility, but digitized copies are increasingly available to researchers. (See Appendix IV).

Table 11: Foundational Documents and Records

Collection Type	Mode of Acquisition	Access Procedures	Utilization / Role
Constitutions (1962, 1966, 1995)	Official transfer from Parliamentary Archives	Restricted – originals preserved; digital copies available	Used by students, lawyers, and historians for constitutional research
Hansards (debates)	Archival transfer, digitization	Supervised access; online pilot digitization	Research on political debates, legislative evolution
Acts and Bills	Transferred from Clerk’s Office	Limited physical access; digital reference	Legal research, policy development
Committee reports	Institutional records	Accessed by Parliament staff and researchers	Supports parliamentary procedures and academic analysis

These records are extensively utilized by scholars, legal practitioners, and policy researchers to trace Uganda’s constitutional and legislative evolution. For instance, students of political science and law often consult digitized Hansards to understand parliamentary debates over time.

4.10.2 Artefacts and Symbols of Power

Symbols such as the mace, seals, and Speaker’s robes are integral to parliamentary tradition. They are mostly acquired through handover when new regalia are commissioned.

Table 12: Artefacts and Symbols of Power

Collection Type	Mode of Acquisition	Access Procedures	Utilization / Role
Parliamentary Mace	Handover from Office of the Speaker	Displayed in secure glass cases	Symbolizes parliamentary authority; used in civic education
Speaker's robes & wigs	Transferred upon replacement	Display-only; no handling allowed	Demonstrates continuity of leadership traditions
Parliamentary seals	Institutional transfer	Restricted access	Study of legal authority and institutional identity
Gavel and ceremonial items	Retired after use	Accessible to guided tours	Used to explain procedure and symbolism to visitors

Their utilization is both cultural and civic; during educational visits, students are introduced to the symbolism of the mace as the embodiment of parliamentary power, reinforcing civic education objectives.

4.10.3 Historical Memorabilia

The museum also hosts personal items belonging to former Speakers, Prime Ministers, and Presidents who interacted closely with Parliament. Examples include pens used to sign landmark Bills, portraits, and ceremonial chairs from the first post-independence parliamentary sittings. These items are often donated by families of past leaders or retrieved during institutional transitions.

Table 13: Historical Memorabilia

Collection Type	Mode of Acquisition	Access Procedures	Utilization / Role
Portraits of past Speakers	Donations from families	Public display	Provides continuity and inspiration
Pens, chairs, ceremonial desks	Handed down during transitions	Restricted handling; display only	Links visitors with historic signings and legislative acts

Collection Type	Mode of Acquisition	Access Procedures	Utilization / Role
Commemorative gifts	Donations, institutional handover	Displayed during thematic exhibitions	Cultural diplomacy and historical storytelling

Such memorabilia are frequently accessed by researchers and the general public through thematic exhibitions that highlight Uganda’s political milestones. Their utilization strengthens national memory by connecting visitors with the personalities who shaped the nation’s democratic journey.

4.10.4 Trophies and Awards

The museum has a collection of trophies, medals, and certificates awarded to Parliament and its members for achievements in governance, transparency, and sports. These are acquired directly from national and international award bodies and preserved for posterity.

They are often displayed during special exhibitions, serving as tools to inspire pride and reinforce the positive contributions of Parliament to national and international platforms. Educationally, they are used to demonstrate the non-legislative achievements of Parliament, such as fostering diplomacy and sportsmanship.

Table 14: Trophies and Awards

Collection Type	Mode of Acquisition	Access Procedures	Utilization / Role
Governance awards	Received from national/international bodies	Public display in trophy cases	Demonstrates institutional recognition and excellence
Sports trophies	Acquired from parliamentary games	Inter-Open viewing	Promotes team spirit and public diplomacy
Certificates and medals	Issued by awarding authorities	Framed and displayed	Used to inspire civic pride and institutional legacy

4.10.6 Visual and Artistic Heritage

The museum houses paintings, murals, sculptures, and photographs depicting significant parliamentary events, key debates, and architectural designs of past and present parliament buildings. These are mostly acquired through commissioned artwork, donations from artists, and transfers from government offices.

They are freely accessible to the public as visual narratives, making parliamentary history more engaging to school groups and tourists. Utilization of this collection lies in its ability to convey history in accessible, artistic formats that inspire reflection on Uganda's democratic journey.

Table 15: Visual and Artistic Heritage

Collection Type	Mode of Acquisition	Access Procedures	Utilization / Role
Murals and paintings	Commissioned artworks, donations	Public display	Enhance storytelling; educational illustration of milestones
Sculptures	Commissioned by Parliament	Freely accessible in galleries	Symbolic representation of governance and culture
Photographic archives	Transfers from media & archives	Limited physical handling	Used in exhibitions and historical reconstructions

4.10.7 Media Archives

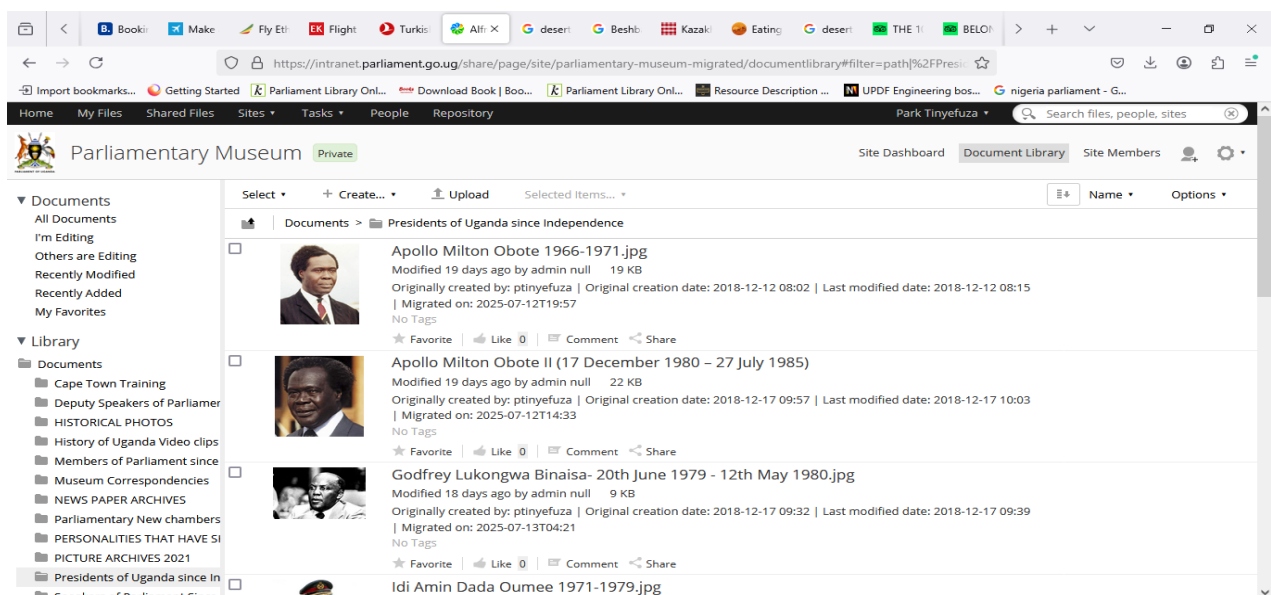
According to the findings of the study, the museum maintains a growing archive of audio-visual recordings, photographs, radio broadcasts, and newspaper clippings of parliamentary proceedings. Acquisition is largely through the Parliament's Directorate of Communication and Media Relations, supplemented by donations from journalists and media houses.

When asked, the curators said access is generally through supervised media rooms, where researchers, journalists, and students can replay archival sessions. These archives are heavily utilized in research, especially for reconstructing parliamentary debates, media analysis, and historical documentaries.

Table 16: Media Archives

Collection Type	Mode of Acquisition	Access Procedures	Utilization / Role
Audio recordings of debates	Provided by Communication & Media Relations Dept.	Supervised media rooms	Used for research and broadcast history
Video footage	Internal transfers; donations from media houses	Restricted screening	Supports documentaries, civic education
Newspaper clippings	Acquired via libraries, partnerships	Freely accessible in archival folders	Contextualizes parliamentary debates and reforms
Photographic collections	Donated by journalists, staff	Public exhibitions	Visual evidence of Uganda’s democratic journey

Figure 4.10.8: Digital Archives Interface



4.10.9 Structural Heritage

According to the findings, the museum itself preserves elements of structural heritage, including parts of the original parliamentary building, old chamber seats, and architectural blueprints. These are acquired through conservation of decommissioned facilities and deliberate transfers during renovations.

They are accessed during guided tours, often forming the highlight of the visitor experience as tourists interact with tangible relics of Uganda’s political past. Their utilization goes beyond symbolic preservation to serve as case studies in architecture, heritage management, and cultural identity.

Table 17: Structural Heritage

Collection Type	Mode of Acquisition	Access Procedures	Utilization / Role
Old parliamentary chamber	Preserved during renovations	Accessible via guided tours	Serves as heritage space for teaching governance history
Speaker’s chair & benches	Retained when replaced	Display-only	Tangible connection to leadership and parliamentary procedure
Architectural blueprints	Transferred from Parliament engineers	Restricted archival access	Supports architectural research and heritage management

4.11 Role of the Uganda Parliament Museum

According to the findings, the Parliamentarians were asked whether the museum played a significant role in the information system of parliament. 90% of the respondents said that the museum was playing a big role while 10% of the respondent said the museum wasn’t having any significant role in the parliament.

Table 18: Perception of Museum's Role

Perception	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Plays a significant role	63	90
Does not play a significant role	7	10
Total	70	100

Source: Primary Field Data, 2024

Table 19: Specific Roles of the Museum

Role	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Preservation of parliamentary history	45	64.3
Documentation and research	43	61.4
Educational resources	49	70.0
Promotion of civic education	21	30.0
Archiving and information management	35	50.0
Exhibitions and public engagement	47	67.1
Total Respondents	70	100

Source: Primary Field Data, 2024

The findings show that 90% of Parliamentarians believe the Uganda Parliament Museum plays a significant role in the parliament's information system. This overwhelming agreement demonstrates the museum's perceived importance as a critical institution for preserving, managing, and disseminating information. However, 10% of the respondents disagreed, indicating that some officials might either be unaware of the museum's functions or perceive its contributions as limited.

4.11.3 Specific Roles of the Museum

The officials highlighted various functions performed by the museum. Educational resources received the highest frequency (70%), signifying the museum's role as a learning hub for both internal and external audiences. Exhibitions and public engagement followed closely at 67.1%, suggesting that the museum actively interacts with the public through its displays. Similarly, preservation of parliamentary history (64.3%) and documentation and research (61.4%) were also highly acknowledged, emphasizing the museum's value in maintaining institutional memory and supporting research initiatives.

Roles such as archiving and information management (50%) and promotion of civic education (30%) were recognized by fewer respondents, indicating that these aspects may not be as visible or well-utilized as the others. Civic education, in particular, had the lowest frequency, pointing to a potential area for the museum to expand its reach and impact.

The strong recognition of the museum's roles underscores its significance in supporting parliamentary functions, public education, and cultural preservation. To address the minority (10%) who see no significant role, efforts should focus on increasing awareness of the museum's offerings and demonstrating its relevance to parliament's goals. Additionally, areas like civic education and information management could be enhanced to fully leverage the museum's potential as an informational and educational resource.

According to the interviews conducted, one of the Senior Curator said:

"The museum was set up to preserve the rich parliamentary history of Uganda, ensuring that future generations understand the journey of our democracy and governance."

This highlights the museum's foundational purpose: to act as a guardian of history. By preserving records, artifacts, and narratives, the museum ensures that Uganda's political and democratic milestones are not lost to time. The emphasis on "future generations" underscores a long-term vision, where the museum is not just a repository of the past but a tool for continuity. This reflects the universal need for institutions to preserve national identity through historical awareness.

During the interviews one of the Museum staff said;

"We wanted a place where the public could connect with the evolution of our parliamentary system, highlighting key milestones and the individuals who shaped it".

This points to the museum's role as a bridge between the public and Parliament. By showcasing achievements, struggles, and key players in Uganda's parliamentary history, the museum provides a narrative that fosters national pride. This connection ensures transparency and builds trust in democratic institutions. The focus on "individuals who shaped it" humanizes the institution, making the history relatable and inspiring for visitors.

4.12 Preservation Techniques adopted in the Parliamentary Museum

According to the findings, 100% of the Parliamentarians agreed to whether the museum collections available were preserved for future generations. The officials were then asked which techniques were being adopted for the preservation;

4.12.1 Preservation of Museum Collections

Table 20: Perception of Preservation

Perception	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Collections preserved for future generations	50	100
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Field Data, 2024

Table 21: Preservation Techniques Adopted

Preservation Technique	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Digital documentation	34	48.6
Disaster preparedness plans	45	64.3
Regular maintenance	50	71.4
Public engagements	49	70.0
Total Respondents	70	100

Source: Primary Field Data, 2024

4.12.3 Perception of Preservation

All respondents (100%) agreed that the collections in the Uganda Parliament Museum are preserved for future generations. This unanimous response highlights the shared recognition of the museum's commitment to safeguarding its resources. It also underscores the museum's role in maintaining cultural heritage and institutional memory, ensuring that future generations have access to these collections.

4.12.4 Techniques for Preservation

The officials identified several techniques adopted by the museum for preservation, with regular maintenance having the highest frequency (71.4%). This suggests that routine care and upkeep are prioritized to ensure the longevity of physical collections. Public engagements

followed closely at 70%, indicating that involving the community in the preservation process is seen as a vital strategy, possibly to foster collective responsibility and awareness.

Disaster preparedness plans were acknowledged by 64.3% of respondents, emphasizing the museum's proactive measures to mitigate risks like fires, floods, or other emergencies. However, digital documentation was cited by only 48.6%, suggesting that while technology is used to safeguard collections, there is room for improvement in adopting or expanding digital methods to enhance accessibility and preservation.

The findings illustrate the museum's comprehensive approach to preservation through various techniques. However, the relatively lower emphasis on digital documentation signals a need to further invest in digitization efforts. This could involve creating a digital archive, ensuring that collections are accessible online, and safeguarding artifacts from physical degradation. Additionally, the museum's focus on disaster preparedness and public engagement reflects a forward-thinking strategy that balances risk management with community involvement. Together, these efforts will help secure the museum's resources for future generations while increasing their relevance and accessibility.

One of the Curators during the interviews said;

“The museum serves an educational resource, promoting civic awareness and offering insights into the legislative process for both Ugandans and international visitors”.

Education is a central function of the museum. Through exhibits, programs, and interactive displays, it helps citizens understand their rights, responsibilities, and the workings of Parliament. The inclusion of "international visitors" highlights the museum's dual role as a cultural ambassador and an educational hub. This approach broadens its impact beyond national borders, promoting Uganda's democratic progress on a global stage.

He added on that

“Our goal was to create an archival hub that would safeguard important artifacts, documents, and records critical to Uganda's parliamentary history”.

This reflects the technical and archival dimension of the museum's purpose. By safeguarding critical materials, the museum protects the institutional memory of Uganda's legislature. The focus on "artifacts, documents, and records" ensures the credibility and authenticity of the

information presented. It also positions the museum as a vital resource for General Public, historians, and policymakers.

4.13 Strategies for utilization of Uganda Parliament Museum collections

4.13.1 Current Methods of Utilization

Based on the findings, the following methods are currently employed to utilize the museum collections:

Table 22: Current Methods of Utilization

Current Methods	Explanation	Effectiveness
Exhibitions and Public Engagement	Displays and storytelling to educate visitors and connect them with parliamentary history.	Effective, as 67.1% of respondents value this role; however, more interactive exhibits could enhance engagement.
Educational Resources	Providing historical insights and materials to support student and public learning.	Effective, cited by 70% of respondents, though underutilized by non-student demographics.
Archiving and Documentation	Collecting and preserving artifacts and documents for research and historical reference.	Effective for General Public (61.4%) but could be more accessible through digitization.
Civic Education Programs	Programs designed to teach visitors about governance and parliamentary processes.	Moderately effective, with only 30% of respondents citing it, indicating limited awareness or participation.
Public Tours	Guided tours to provide an in-depth understanding of the museum's collections and significance.	Effective but not widely reported, indicating a potential gap in awareness.

Current Methods	Explanation	Effectiveness
Digital Preservation Efforts	Digitizing collections to enhance access and ensure long-term preservation.	Least effective, with only 48.6% citing its use, reflecting limited progress in implementation.

The Uganda Parliament Museum employs several effective methods for utilizing its collections, including exhibitions, educational resources, and archiving. These methods ensure the preservation and dissemination of parliamentary history to diverse audiences. Exhibitions and public engagement have proven particularly effective, with 67.1% of respondents recognizing their impact, as they provide a dynamic way to connect visitors with historical narratives. Educational resources are also highly valued, supporting 70% of respondents' needs, particularly among students and the public. However, methods like civic education programs and digital preservation are less utilized, with only 30% and 48.6% effectiveness, respectively, indicating gaps in awareness or implementation. Overall, these methods provide a strong foundation but require enhancements to maximize accessibility and engagement.

Table 23: Proposed Improvements to Current Methods

Method	Proposed Improvement	Expected Impact
Exhibitions and Public Engagement	Introduce interactive displays, multimedia presentations, and virtual reality experiences.	Increased visitor engagement and understanding of parliamentary history.
Educational Resources	Develop tailored educational kits for schools, including digital lesson plans linked to the museum's themes.	Broader reach among students and educators, enhancing the museum's relevance in academic settings.
Archiving and Documentation	Expand digital archives to include an online repository accessible to the public and General Public globally.	Improved accessibility and preservation, especially for international and remote users.

Method	Proposed Improvement	Expected Impact
Civic Education Programs	Collaborate with schools and civic organizations to host regular workshops and seminars at the museum.	Increased public awareness of governance and democracy, fostering civic responsibility.
Public Tours	Train tour guides to provide more specialized thematic tours catering to different audiences.	Enhanced visitor satisfaction and personalized learning experiences.
Digital Preservation Efforts	Invest in advanced digitization equipment and train staff in digital preservation techniques.	Better quality digital records, ensuring longevity and accessibility of collections.

To improve the effectiveness of the museum's existing methods, several enhancements have been proposed, such as incorporating interactive exhibits, creating digital educational kits, and expanding digital archives. These improvements are designed to address identified gaps, such as the limited awareness of civic education programs and the need for advanced digital preservation. For instance, interactive multimedia displays are expected to increase visitor engagement, while digitized archives will make collections more accessible to remote and international audiences. The focus on specialized thematic tours and school collaborations further aligns with the diverse needs of users, ensuring a broader and more impactful utilization of the museum's resources.

Table 24: Proposed New Methods for Utilization

Proposed New Method	Explanation	Expected Impact
Mobile Museum Exhibitions	Create traveling exhibits to reach schools, communities, and regions far from the capital.	Broader access to museum collections, increasing public engagement nationwide.

Proposed New Method	Explanation	Expected Impact
Virtual Museum Tours	Develop an online platform offering 3D virtual tours and interactive exhibits.	Accessibility for remote users and international audiences, promoting global recognition of the museum.
Collaborative Research Initiatives	Partner with universities and think tanks to use museum collections for academic research.	Strengthened academic value and increased relevance in scholarly circles.
Annual Themes and Rotating Exhibits	Focus on specific themes each year (e.g., women in Parliament, evolution of Uganda's Constitution).	Sustained interest among frequent visitors and updated learning materials.
Community Engagement Programs	Host debates, lectures, and events where citizens can discuss governance and democracy issues.	Strengthened museum's role as a hub for civic discourse and education.

In addition to improving existing methods, new approaches are proposed to extend the museum's reach and relevance. Mobile museum exhibitions and virtual tours are innovative solutions to overcome geographical barriers, allowing schools and communities across Uganda, as well as global audiences, to engage with the museum's collections. Annual themed exhibits and community engagement programs provide opportunities for sustained interest and deeper interaction with the public. Collaborative research initiatives further enhance the academic value of the museum, positioning it as a key resource for scholars and policymakers. These new methods aim to transform the museum into a dynamic and inclusive institution that serves diverse user groups while maintaining its core mission of preserving parliamentary history.

Table 25: Current and Proposed Utilization Methods

Method	Current Frequency (n)	Effectiveness (%)	Proposed Improvement/New Method	Expected Impact
Exhibitions and Public Engagement	47	67.1	Interactive multimedia and VR displays	Enhanced visitor engagement and interest.
Educational Resources	49	70.0	Digital lesson kits for schools	Expanded use in academic settings, engaging more students and educators.
Archiving and Documentation	43	61.4	Digital repository for global access	Easier access for General Public and the public, promoting wider utilization of resources.
Civic Education Programs	21	30.0	Workshops and seminars in collaboration with schools	Broader awareness of governance, democracy, and parliamentary processes.
Public Tours	Not explicitly stated	Effective	Thematic and personalized tours	Increased satisfaction and tailored learning for diverse audiences.
Digital Preservation Efforts	34	48.6	Invest in digitization and training	High-quality, accessible digital records, ensuring long-term preservation.

Method	Current Frequency (n)	Effectiveness (%)	Proposed Improvement/New Method	Expected Impact
Mobile Museum Exhibitions	Not currently practiced	Not applicable	Introduce traveling exhibits	Reaching underserved regions and communities.
Virtual Museum Tours	Not currently practiced	Not applicable	Develop online 3D tours	Accessibility for remote and international audiences, enhancing the museum's reach.

The combined analysis of current and proposed methods highlights the museum's dual need to optimize existing practices while embracing innovation. Current methods like exhibitions, educational resources, and archiving are effective but could be significantly improved with enhancements such as digitization and personalized tours. New methods, such as virtual museum tours and mobile exhibitions, address gaps in accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring the collections reach a broader audience. These strategies collectively aim to create a comprehensive utilization framework that preserves the museum's historical integrity while expanding its role as a center for education, engagement, and cultural diplomacy.

The Uganda Parliament Museum has implemented several effective methods to utilize its collections, but there is significant potential for improvement and innovation. Current approaches, such as exhibitions, educational resources, and archiving, demonstrate high effectiveness, with over 60% of respondents recognizing their value. However, civic education and digital preservation efforts need enhancement, as these areas show lower effectiveness and utilization.

Proposed improvements, such as interactive exhibits, advanced digitization, and thematic tours, aim to enhance visitor engagement and accessibility. New methods like virtual museum tours and mobile exhibitions expand the museum's reach, making collections accessible to underserved regions and global audiences.

By adopting these strategies, the museum can maximize its role as a repository of Uganda's parliamentary history and a centre for education, engagement, and innovation. This will ensure

that its collections are not only preserved but also actively utilized for learning, cultural enrichment, and democratic development.

4.14 Discussion of Findings

In this chapter, a critical analysis of the study findings presented while relating the findings of other studies previously done and existing theories. Conclusions and recommendations from these findings are drawn and made respectively. Finally, recommendations on the possible areas of further research are also made.

4.14.1 Role of the Museum in the Information Flow of Parliament

The Uganda Parliament Museum's role in information dissemination presents a complex paradox that demands critical examination. While 90% of respondents affirm its importance, this overwhelming endorsement masks underlying tensions between institutional aspirations and operational realities. Wood (2023) emphasizes museums as stewards of cultural memory and catalysts for public discourse, yet the Uganda Parliament Museum's current positioning suggests a more passive role as a repository rather than an active facilitator of democratic engagement.

The finding that the museum enhances transparency and accountability aligns with Desvallées & Mairesse's (2020) conceptualization of museums as democratic institutions. However, this raises critical questions about the nature of transparency itself. Is the mere preservation of parliamentary records sufficient for democratic accountability, or does true transparency require active interpretation and contextualization of these materials? The study's findings suggest that the museum operates primarily in what Appadurai (2003) terms the "archival mode" - preserving the past without necessarily making it accessible or relevant to contemporary democratic discourse.

The underutilization of digital platforms represents more than a technological gap; it reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of information flow in the digital age. Proctor (2021) argues that digital museums democratize access, but the Uganda Parliament Museum's limited digital presence suggests institutional resistance to this democratization. This resistance may stem from concerns about political sensitivity, resource constraints, or a conservative institutional culture that prioritizes preservation over participation. The implications are profound: in an era where information legitimacy is increasingly tied to accessibility, the museum risks becoming irrelevant to the very democratic processes it seeks to document.

Furthermore, the concept of "information flow" itself requires interrogation. Traditional models assume linear transmission from institution to public, but contemporary democratic theory emphasizes dialogical engagement. The museum's current approach appears rooted in what Freire (1970) criticized as the "banking model" of education - depositing information rather than fostering critical consciousness about parliamentary processes.

4.14.2 Intended Users and Their Expectations

The identification of diverse user groups - Parliamentarians, students, General Public, and the Parliamentarians - reveals a fundamental tension in museum identity that the current analysis fails to address adequately. Each constituency brings not only different expectations but potentially conflicting needs that challenge the museum's coherence as an institution. Parliamentarians may seek legitimizing narratives, while General Public demand critical access to primary sources, and the Parliamentarians requires accessible interpretation of complex political processes.

The finding that 70% of respondents identified educational resources as a key benefit superficially aligns with Black's (2018) characterization of museums as learning hubs. However, this statistic obscures crucial questions about the nature and quality of this education. What pedagogical approaches does the museum employ? Does it promote critical civic engagement or passive consumption of official narratives? The underdevelopment of civic education programs, despite their democratic potential, suggests institutional ambivalence about the museum's political role.

Falk and Dierking's (2018) advocacy for museums as platforms for lifelong learning assumes a neutral educational space, but parliament museums operate within inherently political contexts. The Uganda Parliament Museum must navigate the tension between educational objectivity and institutional loyalty. This navigation becomes particularly complex when considering Uganda's political landscape, where parliamentary independence and democratic norms face ongoing challenges.

The study's identification of "underserved demographics" raises questions about inclusion and representation that extend beyond mere access. Whose stories are told in the museum's collections? How do linguistic, cultural, and economic barriers shape visitor experiences? The museum's failure to reach diverse audiences may reflect not just logistical challenges but deeper issues of cultural relevance and political legitimacy.

Moreover, the expectation gap between different user groups suggests the need for what Hooper-Greenhill (2020) terms "differentiated engagement strategies." However, such differentiation risks fragmenting the museum's coherent narrative about parliamentary democracy, potentially undermining its role in fostering shared civic understanding.

4.14.3 Collections Available and Their Accessibility

The museum's collections - historical documents, artifacts, and parliamentary records - represent what Derrida (1995) conceptualizes as "archive fever": the simultaneous desire to preserve and the anxiety about what preservation means. The concern about repetitive content suggests a curatorial approach that prioritizes comprehensiveness over interpretive coherence, reflecting institutional uncertainty about the museum's primary narrative function.

The limited digital accessibility (48.6% citing effective digital documentation) cannot be understood merely as technological inadequacy but as symptomatic of deeper institutional challenges. Gesek's (2019) emphasis on digital preservation strategies assumes institutional capacity and political will that may be absent in the Uganda context. The digitization gap reflects resource constraints, technical expertise limitations, and potentially political sensitivities about making certain parliamentary records widely accessible.

This accessibility challenge intersects with broader questions about democratic transparency in Uganda's political context. Which documents are digitized and which remain physically archived? How do these decisions reflect institutional priorities and political pressures? The selective nature of digital access may inadvertently create hierarchies of information that privilege certain narratives while marginalizing others.

The repetitive content concern suggests a fundamental curatorial problem: the confusion between comprehensiveness and coherence. Museums cannot simply accumulate materials; they must interpret and contextualize them within meaningful narratives. The Uganda Parliament Museum's apparent struggle with thematic curation reflects broader challenges in post-colonial museum practice, where institutions must balance inherited colonial structures with contemporary democratic aspirations.

Furthermore, the accessibility question extends beyond technical considerations to encompass cultural and linguistic barriers. How do English-language parliamentary records serve Uganda's multilingual population? What interpretive frameworks make parliamentary processes comprehensible to citizens with limited formal education? These questions challenge

the museum to move beyond elite-focused preservation toward genuinely democratic engagement.

4.14.4 Current and Proposed Methods for Utilizing Museum Collections

The reliance on traditional methods such as exhibitions and archiving, while foundational, reveals institutional conservatism that may limit democratic impact. The effectiveness of these methods must be evaluated not just in terms of visitor satisfaction but in their capacity to foster critical civic engagement. Do current exhibitions promote passive consumption of parliamentary history or active reflection on democratic processes?

The proposed innovations - mobile exhibitions and virtual tours - align with global best practices but require critical examination within the Uganda context. Simon's (2016) advocacy for museum innovation assumes technological infrastructure and digital literacy that may be unevenly distributed across Uganda's population. The uncritical adoption of Western Museum models risks reproducing digital divides that exclude the very populations most in need of civic education.

The Smithsonian Institution example, while inspiring, operates within a vastly different political and economic context. The Uganda Parliament Museum cannot simply transplant American museum strategies without considering local political sensitivities, resource constraints, and cultural specificities. Such transplantation risks what Chakrabarty (2000) criticizes as "provincializing" non-Western institutions through Western models.

Chipangura & Mataga's (2021) emphasis on community-based approaches offers more contextually relevant guidance, but implementation requires confronting difficult questions about community representation and political neutrality. Which communities are included in curatorial decisions? How does community involvement navigate partisan political divisions? The museum's potential role in fostering inclusive narratives must balance democratic participation with institutional credibility.

The proposed virtual tours and digital initiatives, while technologically appealing, raise questions about the nature of museum experience itself. Benjamin's (1936) concept of "aura" - the unique presence of original artifacts - suggests that digitization may fundamentally alter the museum's impact. Can virtual engagement with parliamentary history generate the same civic inspiration as physical encounter with historical documents?

Moreover, the focus on technological solutions may distract from more fundamental challenges of interpretation and relevance. The museum's collections require not just better access but better contextualization within contemporary democratic struggles. How do historical parliamentary debates illuminate current political challenges? What lessons from Uganda's legislative history can inform contemporary civic engagement?

The Uganda Parliament Museum operates at the intersection of multiple tensions: preservation versus access, institutional loyalty versus critical independence, elite versus popular engagement, and traditional versus digital approaches. These tensions reflect broader challenges facing democratic institutions in contemporary Uganda and across post-colonial Africa.

The study's findings suggest an institution in transition, caught between traditional archival functions and emerging demands for democratic engagement. This transition requires more than technological upgrades or programmatic expansions; it demands fundamental reconsideration of the museum's role in Uganda's democratic project.

The high approval ratings coupled with limited utilization suggest what might be termed "aspirational legitimacy" - public support for the museum's potential rather than its current performance. This gap between aspiration and reality offers both opportunity and challenge: opportunity to fulfill democratic expectations, but challenge to navigate political sensitivities while maintaining institutional credibility.

The museum's future effectiveness will depend not on resolving these tensions but on productively managing them. This management requires sophisticated understanding of Uganda's political context, creative approaches to resource constraints, and commitment to democratic values that transcends partisan politics. The museum must evolve from passive repository to active facilitator of democratic discourse, while maintaining the scholarly rigor and institutional integrity that legitimize its role in preserving Uganda's parliamentary heritage.

The Uganda Parliament Museum's success should be measured not by visitor numbers or digital metrics but by its contribution to Uganda's democratic culture. This contribution requires moving beyond mere preservation toward active interpretation, beyond elite access toward popular engagement, and beyond institutional isolation toward community partnership. Only through such transformation can the museum fulfill its potential as both guardian of parliamentary history and catalyst for democratic future.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of findings

5.1.1 To ascertain the mandate of Uganda Parliament Museum.

The findings revealed that the Uganda Parliament Museum plays a crucial role in the information flow of the Parliament. 90% of Parliamentarians agreed that the museum contributes significantly to this function. Its roles include preserving parliamentary history, supporting research and documentation, and serving as an educational resource. Additional roles like promoting civic education and enhancing public engagement further align with its purpose of informing and educating stakeholders about Uganda's governance. However, there is room for strengthening certain functions, particularly in digital documentation and public accessibility.

5.1.2 To establish the intended users of the Museum and their expectations from it

The museum serves a diverse audience, including Parliamentarians, General Public, academics, students, the Parliamentarians, and international visitors. Each group has distinct expectations:

- Parliamentarians and General Public rely on the museum for archiving and research purposes.
- Students and the Parliamentarians seek educational resources and civic education.
- International visitors expect insights into Uganda's democratic evolution.

Findings showed that 70% of respondents recognized the museum as an educational resource, while 67.1% valued exhibitions and public engagement. Despite its wide reach, there is a need to enhance civic education programs, which only 30% of respondents identified as impactful, and to improve accessibility through digital platforms.

5.1.3 To find out the collections available in the Museum and how they are acquired, accessed, and utilized

The Uganda Parliament Museum holds a variety of collections, with 80% of respondents confirming the availability of diverse items, while 20% noted repetitive collections. These include historical documents, artifacts, and parliamentary records. The collections are acquired

through historical donations, government funding, and curated research efforts. Utilization methods include exhibitions, archiving, and research access. However, digital preservation and accessibility remain underdeveloped, as evidenced by only 48.6% citing digital documentation efforts. Ensuring proper maintenance and expanding public engagement are critical for optimizing the value of these collections.

5.1.4. To examine, analyze, improve upon current and propose new methods of utilization of Uganda Parliament Museum collections

Current utilization methods, such as exhibitions, educational programs, and archiving, are effective, with over 60% of respondents acknowledging their impact. However, gaps were identified in areas like digital preservation and civic education. Proposed improvements include interactive exhibits, thematic public tours, and digitized archives. New methods, such as mobile museum exhibitions, virtual tours, and annual thematic exhibits, were suggested to extend the museum's reach and engagement. These strategies aim to make the collections more accessible and relevant, ensuring they serve a broader audience while maintaining their historical and educational value.

5.2 Conclusions

5.2.1 To ascertain the intended role of the Uganda Parliament Museum in the information flow of the Parliament

The Uganda Parliament Museum is a pivotal institution in preserving and disseminating parliamentary information. Its role in preserving history, facilitating research, and promoting public understanding of governance is well-recognized, with a vast majority of respondents affirming its significance. However, limited digital accessibility and underutilized civic education initiatives highlight the need for further development to maximize its potential as an information hub.

5.2.2 To establish the intended users of the Museum and their expectations from it

The museum effectively caters to a diverse range of users, including Parliamentarians, General Public, students, and the Parliamentarians. Each group has unique expectations, with many valuing its role as an educational and archival resource. However, certain expectations, such as

better civic education programs and enhanced digital access, are not fully met. Meeting these needs will position the museum as an inclusive and user-centric institution.

5.2.3 To find out the collections available in the Museum and how they are acquired, accessed, and utilized

The museum houses a variety of valuable collections that provide insight into Uganda's parliamentary history and governance. While these collections are well-preserved and utilized for exhibitions and research, some concerns about repetitive content and limited digital access were noted. Expanding acquisition efforts and improving public accessibility, especially through digitization, are essential to fully leverage the museum's resources.

5.2.4 To examine, analyze, improve upon current and propose new methods of utilization of Uganda Parliament Museum collections

Current utilization methods, such as exhibitions and archiving, are effective but can be enhanced with technological and innovative approaches. Proposed improvements, including interactive exhibits, digital preservation, and mobile museum initiatives, aim to make the museum's collections more engaging and widely accessible. These strategies will not only modernize the museum's operations but also ensure its continued relevance and impact in preserving Uganda's parliamentary heritage.

5.3 Recommendations from the Study

Based on the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance the effectiveness of the Uganda Parliament Museum:

5.3.1 Strengthen the Role of the Museum in Parliamentary Information Flow

The Uganda Parliament Museum must fundamentally reconceptualize its role from passive repository to active mediator of democratic discourse. This transformation requires developing a comprehensive digital ecosystem that transcends mere digitization to create interpretive frameworks that contextualize parliamentary history within contemporary governance challenges. Rather than simply investing in advanced technologies, the museum should establish a digital democracy laboratory that employs artificial intelligence and machine learning to identify patterns in parliamentary debates, voting records, and legislative outcomes, making these insights accessible through interactive data visualizations that enable citizens to

understand the evolution of policy positions over time. The museum should pioneer innovative public engagement methodologies that move beyond traditional civic education workshops to create immersive democratic simulations where participants navigate complex legislative processes, debate historical issues, and experience the tensions inherent in parliamentary democracy. These programs should incorporate conflict resolution techniques and deliberative democracy principles to model constructive political discourse in Uganda's polarized political environment.

Research capabilities must be enhanced through the establishment of a Parliamentary Studies Institute within the museum that serves as an interdisciplinary hub connecting historians, political scientists, legal scholars, and policy analysts. This institute should commission longitudinal studies examining the relationship between parliamentary decisions and societal outcomes, creating evidence-based narratives that demonstrate the tangible impact of legislative processes on citizens' lives. The museum should develop strategic partnerships with international parliamentary museums and democratic institutions to facilitate comparative research that positions Uganda's parliamentary experience within global democratic trends while highlighting unique aspects of Uganda's political evolution. Awareness campaigns must transcend traditional marketing approaches to create sustained engagement strategies that position the museum as an essential resource for understanding Uganda's democratic trajectory, targeting not only government agencies and NGOs but also religious organizations, traditional leaders, and informal community networks that shape political consciousness in Uganda's diverse cultural landscape.

5.3.2 Address the Needs of Intended Users and Their Expectations

The museum must abandon the problematic assumption that diverse user groups can be served through superficial program differentiation and instead develop sophisticated user experience architectures that recognize the complex, overlapping identities and motivations that visitors bring to the museum space. This requires implementing ethnographic research methodologies to understand how different communities conceptualize parliamentary democracy, what barriers prevent engagement with formal political institutions, and how cultural, linguistic, and economic factors shape expectations of museum experiences. The museum should establish community advisory councils representing various demographic groups, political perspectives, and regional interests to ensure that programming reflects authentic community needs rather than institutional assumptions about public interest.

Civic education efforts must be reconceptualized as critical democracy education that empowers citizens to interrogate power structures, understand their rights and responsibilities, and develop skills for effective political participation. This approach should incorporate popular education methodologies that begin with participants' lived experiences of governance and build analytical frameworks for understanding how parliamentary processes affect daily life. The museum should develop partnerships with community-based organizations, trade unions, women's groups, and youth organizations to create civic education programs that address specific governance challenges facing different constituencies. International accessibility requires more than multilingual resources; it demands cultural translation that makes Uganda's parliamentary experience comprehensible to diverse global audiences while avoiding the trap of exoticizing or oversimplifying complex political dynamics.

Feedback mechanisms must evolve beyond traditional visitor surveys to incorporate continuous dialogue processes that treat museum users as co-creators of institutional meaning rather than passive consumers of predetermined content. This requires establishing digital platforms for ongoing conversation, regular community forums for program evaluation, and participatory evaluation methodologies that empower users to assess and reshape museum offerings according to their evolving needs and interests.

5.3.3 Diversify and Enhance Museum Collections

Collection development must be guided by a decolonizing framework that critically examines whose voices are preserved, whose perspectives are marginalized, and how curatorial decisions reflect and reproduce power relations within Ugandan society. This requires moving beyond geographical representation to ensure that collections reflect the experiences of women, youth, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and other groups whose parliamentary participation has been limited or whose interests have been inadequately represented in formal political processes. The museum should establish oral history programs that capture the experiences of citizens affected by parliamentary decisions, creating counter-narratives that complement official parliamentary records with lived experiences of policy implementation.

Content repetition concerns must be addressed through thematic curation strategies that organize collections around critical questions rather than chronological or institutional categories. These themes should address contemporary governance challenges such as corruption, service delivery, representation, and accountability, demonstrating how historical parliamentary experiences illuminate current political dilemmas. The museum should develop

rotating exhibitions that respond to current political developments, providing historical context for contemporary debates while maintaining scholarly objectivity and institutional credibility.

Technology integration must serve pedagogical and democratic purposes rather than merely providing entertainment value. Augmented and virtual reality applications should be designed to foster empathy and understanding by allowing visitors to experience historical moments from multiple perspectives, understand the complexity of parliamentary decision-making, and visualize the long-term consequences of legislative choices. These technologies should be accessible to users with varying levels of digital literacy and should complement rather than replace human interpretation and dialogue.

5.3.3 Optimize and Propose New Utilization Methods

Interactive exhibits must be designed as spaces for democratic practice rather than passive consumption, incorporating deliberative elements that encourage visitors to engage with difficult questions, consider multiple perspectives, and develop skills for constructive political dialogue. These exhibits should simulate the complexity of parliamentary decision-making by presenting visitors with authentic historical dilemmas and requiring them to navigate competing interests, limited resources, and conflicting values. The museum should develop role-playing experiences that allow visitors to assume the perspectives of different parliamentary actors - MPs, civil society advocates, Parliamentarians, and citizens - to understand how institutional positions shape political behavior.

The virtual museum platform must transcend traditional online exhibitions to create dynamic digital communities where users can engage in ongoing conversations about parliamentary history and contemporary governance challenges. This platform should incorporate social learning features that enable users to share insights, collaborate on research projects, and participate in virtual civic education programs. The platform should be designed to function effectively with limited internet connectivity and should be accessible through mobile devices to reach Uganda's increasingly mobile-connected population.

Mobile museum initiatives must be conceptualized as community empowerment programs that bring not just information but also civic engagement opportunities to underserved areas. These traveling exhibitions should be designed in collaboration with local communities to address specific governance challenges facing different regions, incorporating local languages, cultural

references, and political concerns. Mobile programs should include training components that build local capacity for ongoing civic education and political participation.

5.3.4 Capacity Building and Institutional Development

Staff development must encompass not only technical skills but also critical pedagogical approaches that enable museum professionals to facilitate difficult conversations about power, democracy, and social change. Training programs should incorporate conflict resolution, facilitation, and community engagement methodologies that prepare staff to work effectively in Uganda's complex political environment. The museum should establish exchange programs with international institutions to expose staff to diverse approaches to museum practice while developing expertise in contextualizing global best practices within Uganda's specific political and cultural context.

Resource mobilization strategies must balance financial sustainability with institutional independence, developing diversified funding sources that reduce dependence on government allocations while maintaining credibility and avoiding capture by particular political or economic interests. The museum should explore innovative financing mechanisms such as social impact bonds, crowdfunding campaigns, and revenue-generating educational programs that align with institutional mission while building financial resilience.

Collaborative research opportunities must be structured to ensure that academic partnerships serve community needs and contribute to democratic development rather than merely advancing scholarly careers or institutional prestige. Research collaborations should incorporate community-based participatory research methodologies that involve citizens as co-General Public and ensure that research findings are accessible and actionable for community organizations and policy advocates.

5.3.5 Foster Community and Stakeholder Involvement

Public participation must be reconceptualized as democratic practice that empowers communities to shape institutional priorities and programming rather than merely contributing artifacts or attending events. The museum should establish participatory governance structures that give community representatives meaningful authority over curatorial decisions, program development, and institutional strategic planning. This requires developing new models of

museum governance that balance professional expertise with democratic accountability and community ownership.

Outreach programs must be designed as mutual exchange processes that enable the museum to learn from communities while sharing resources and expertise. These programs should address community-identified priorities and should build local capacity for historical preservation, civic education, and political participation. The museum should support community-based heritage initiatives that complement rather than compete with institutional programming.

Advisory structures must include not only traditional elite stakeholders but also representatives of marginalized communities, civil society organizations, and informal political networks that shape political consciousness in Uganda's diverse society. These advisory bodies should have genuine authority to influence institutional decisions and should be supported with resources necessary for meaningful participation. The museum should establish mechanisms for regular accountability to these advisory bodies and should be transparent about how community input influences institutional practices.

By implementing these comprehensive recommendations, the Uganda Parliament Museum can transform from a conventional repository into a dynamic institution that actively contributes to Uganda's democratic development while preserving and interpreting the nation's parliamentary heritage for current and future generations.

5.4 Areas for further study

1. Impact of Digitalization on Museum Accessibility and Engagement
2. Evaluation of Community-Based Programs in Enhancing Public Awareness of Parliamentary Heritage

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Questionnaire for Parliamentarians

Dear respondent,

My name is Akampamaani Ronard, pursuing a Masters in Library and information science of Uganda Christian University in Uganda. Am conducting a study on assessing the mandate of Uganda Parliament Museum in Uganda. Am kindly inviting you to respond to the following questions for my research project, as part of the requirements for the graduation fulfillment of the Master of Library and information science of Uganda Christian University. Any information provided here will remain confidential and you will remain anonymous.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For each of the following questions, please tick what best describes your answer.

A1: INDIVIDUAL STAFF CHARACTERISTICS.

Gender

Male	Female

Age

20-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45 and above years
1	2	3	4	5

Educational background

Diploma	Degree	Post graduate qualification
1	2	3

Others specify?.....

Position held at Parliament of Uganda

Museum staff	Parliament staff	Administrative personnel	Member of parliament
1	2	3	4

Others specify?.....

A2: INDIVIDUAL VISITOR CHARACTERISTICS.

1. Gender

Male Female

2. In what category of age do you belong?

Below 10 yrs. 10-20 yrs. 21-30 yrs. 31-40 yrs.
41-50 yrs. 51-60 yrs. Over 60 yrs.

3. What is your level of education?

Primary Secondary Certificate Diploma University

Others specify?.....

4. What is your marital status?

Single Married others specify

5. What are you currently doing for a living?

Student Farming Business Teaching Civil service

Others specify?.....

6. Where have you travelled from?

A. Uganda Specify city or district.....

B. Outside Uganda Specify continent and country.....

7. Have you ever visited Uganda parliament Museum before?

A. Yes B. No

8. If yes, how many times or how frequent?

A. Once B. Twice C. Frequently

9. What was the purpose of this visit?

A. Educational B. Visiting friends and relatives

C. Fun and entertainment D. Any other (Specify).....

10. How did you know about the museum?

Television Newspaper Radio Brochure

Internet Word of mouth

Any other source (specify).....

11. Are you intending to visit the museum again?

No Not sure Sure Very true

12. Please indicate through putting a circle your level of satisfaction of the following attributes in the Uganda Parliament Museum.

Satisfaction level 1=extremely dissatisfied 2=dissatisfied 3=neutral 4=satisfied 5=extremely satisfied.

Attributes

Satisfaction

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| a) Museum building | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| b) Interpretation of artifacts | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| c) Gallery | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| d) Guides within museum | 1 2 3 4 5 |

e) Recreational facilities 1 2 3 4 5

B. The role of the Uganda parliament museum.

14. Does your museum play a significant role in the information system of parliament?

(A) Yes []

(B) No. []

15. If your answer above is “yes” indicate which of the following roles does parliament museum play in the information system of parliament? (Multiple answers are allowed)

A. Preservation of parliamentary history. []

B. Documentation and research []

C. Educational resource []

D. Promotion of civic education. []

E. Archiving and information management []

F. Exhibitions and public engagement []

G. Any other (Please specify)

C: Availability of Museum resources and services at Parliament of Uganda Museum.

16. Does your museum have different museum collections?

A) Yes []

B) No []

17.1 If your answer above is “Yes” indicate which of the following museum collections are available at Uganda parliament museum (Multiple answers are allowed)

A) Historical artifacts []

B) Photographs and portraits []

C) Legislative records []

D) Architectural models []

E) Parliamentary art and sculptures []

F) Political memorabilia []

G) Digital archives []

H) Any other, please specify.....

17.2 Are the museum collections available in your museum preserved for future generations?

A) Yes []

B) No []

17.3 If the answer is “Yes” what preservation techniques are adopted?

A)

B)

C).....

D).....

E)

17.4 If the answer is “No” please suggest other means used in your museum?

.....

Thanks for your time and Co-operation!

APPENDIX II: Structured interview guide for General Public and Students.

Dear respondent,

My name is Akampamaani Ronard, pursuing a Masters in Library and information science of Uganda Christian University in Uganda. Am conducting a study on assessing the mandate of Uganda Parliament Museum in Uganda. Am kindly inviting you to respond to the following questions for my research project, as part of the requirements for the graduation fulfillment of the Master of Library and information science of Uganda Christian University. Any information provided here will remain confidential and you will remain anonymous.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

A. BIO-DATA

1. Institution?.....

2. Department?.....

3. What is your age group?

Below 18 years

18-29 years

30-39 years

40-49 years

40 and above years

4. State your gender?

Male

Female

5. What is your highest level of education?

Certificate

Diploma

Degree

Masters

Others Specify.

6. For how long have you worked in Uganda Parliament Museum?

1-5 Years

6-10 years

11 years and above.

B. The role of Uganda parliament museum.

7. Why was parliament museum set up?

8. How does the parliament museum relate with the Uganda National Museum?

9. What role does the museum play in the information system of parliament?

10. What are the key resources and artifacts housed in the Uganda parliament museum that support the information system of parliament?

11. How do Members of Parliament utilize the resources and information available at the Uganda parliament museum in their legislative activities?

C. The intended users of the Uganda parliament museum.

12. Who are the intended beneficiaries of the parliament museum?

13. How do users access and make use of the different facilities in the parliament museum?

14. How many users visit the parliament museum weekly/monthly?

15. What do users consult in the parliament museum?

16. What are the expectations and perceived benefits of the intended users when visiting the Uganda parliament museum?

D. Collections available at Uganda parliament Museum.

17. What are the different facilities in the parliament museum?

18. How does the parliament acquire the different facilities for its users?

19. What is the historical significance and origin of the collections housed at the Uganda parliament museum?

20. What are the specific types of artifacts, documents and objects included in the collections of the Uganda parliament museum?

E. In your opinion, please explain if and how the parliament serves the purpose it was set up for?

.....

Thank you!

Appendix III: Observation guide.

1. Parliament museum environment and infrastructure. (Museum space, Museum building, Number of staff, Organization of artifacts)
2. Museum record book. (Number of users, Comments, what they come for, whether they got what they came for, if they will come back, Number of collections)
3. Users of the Uganda parliament museum
4. Forms of collections available in the museum.
5. Technologies used in the storage of museum collections.
6. Number of staff employed in the museum.

Thank you!

Appendix IV: Some of the Museum collections





Appendix IV: Krejcie and Morgan (1970) Table.

<i>Table for Determining Sample Size of a Known Population</i>									
N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	265	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	346
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	354
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	191	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	170	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	180	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	190	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	200	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	370
65	56	210	136	480	214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	220	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377
75	63	230	144	550	226	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	240	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	250	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	260	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	254	2600	335	1000000	384

Note: N is Population Size; S is Sample Size *Source: Krejcie & Morgan, 1970*

Appendix V: Plagiarism Report.



Akampamaani Ronald Academic Research

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Appendix VI: Research Ethics Approval.

 UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa	UG-REC-026 Approval Version 4.1 13th August, 2024
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13th August, 2024

AKAMPAMAANI RONARD
Uganda Christian University
0779252143
Email: rakampamaani@gmail.com

UG-REC-026 APPROVAL NOTICE

To: Akampamaani Ronard, Principal Investigator

Re: UCU-REC Application titled: *Assessing the functionality of Uganda Parliament Museum in Fulfilling its mandate*

Application Number: UCUREC-2024-985

Version: 4.1

Type: INITIAL REVIEW
 Protocol Amendment
 Letter of Amendment (LOA)
 Continuing Review
 Material Transfer Agreement
 Other, Specify:

UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
APPROVED
UNTIL
13 AUG 2025
RESEARCH ETHICS
COMMITTEE

I am pleased to inform you that the UG-REC-026; UCUREC approved the above referenced application.

Approval of the research is for the period from 13th August, 2024, to 13th August, 2025
This research is considered minimal risk category.
As Principal Investigator of the research, you are responsible for fulfilling the following requirements of approval:

1. All co-investigators must be kept informed of the status of the research.
2. Changes, amendments, and additions to the protocol or the consent form must be submitted to the REC for re-review and approval prior to the activation of the changes. The REC application number assigned to the research should be cited in any correspondence.
3. Reports of unanticipated problems involving risks to participants or other must be submitted to the REC. New information that becomes available which could change the risk: benefit ratio must be submitted promptly for REC review.

1 of 2

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

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📍 Ugandachristianuniversity 📧 @UCUniversity. Founded by the Prunvice of Church of Uganda, Chartered by the Government of Uganda.




4. Only approved consent forms are to be used in the enrollment of participants. All consent forms signed by subjects and/or witnesses should be retained on file. The REC may conduct audits of all study records, and consent documentation may be part of such audits.
5. Regulations require review of an approved study not less than once per 12-month period. Therefore, a continuing review application must be submitted to the REC eight weeks prior to the above expiration date of 13th August, 2025 in order to continue the study beyond the approved period. Failure to submit a continuing review application in a timely fashion may result in suspension or termination of the study, at which point new participants may not be enrolled and currently enrolled participants must be taken off the study.
6. The REC application number assigned to the research should be cited in any correspondence with the REC of record.
7. Your research details have been shared with the Executive secretary of Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) and you are **not** required to get clearance since you are a Master's Degree research. Refer to UNCST Research registration and clearance Policy and guidelines (July 2016) in Uganda section 6(e).

The following is the list of all documents approved in this application by UG-REC _026:

	Document Title	Language	Version	Version Date
1.	Protocol	English	1.0	2024-07-30
3	Data Collection tools	English	1.0	2024-07-30

Signed and Stamped


 Prof. Peter Waiswa,
 UCUREC Chairperson,
pwaiswa@musph.ac.ug

