

## Abstract

**Purpose** – To investigate recent trends in funding and collection development in university libraries in Kenya. **Design/methodology/approach** – The paper is based on primary data collected from four university libraries in Kenya as well as secondary literature relating to university libraries in Kenya. **Findings** – This paper concludes that funding of university library services in Kenya is inadequate. Due to diminished governmental fund allocations for these institutions, their library collection development levels have deteriorated and are characterized by low monographic purchases and limited journal subscriptions. This decline is at odds with rapidly expanding student enrolment levels. Private universities experience these problems too, but to a lesser extent. **Originality/value** – The paper recommends that to ensure that university libraries continue to provide adequate information services supporting teaching, learning and research, the adoption of a strategic plan in all areas of library management, and especially in funding and collection development, is needed.