Many institutions of higher learning in Kenya are now delivering their programs through distance learning. This is based on the belief that distance education offers many opportunities for the expansion and access to tertiary education in Africa and Kenya in particular (Mbwesa, 2007). Distance education implies that a significant proportion of teaching is conducted by someone removed in space from the learner. The library has the primary responsibility for identifying, developing, coordinating, providing and assessing the value and effectiveness of resources and services designed to meet both the standard and unique informational skills, developmental needs of distance learning community. Therefore, this research sought to identify the libraries’ support and initiatives in providing information resources and services to open and distance learners. The study was able to identify the relevant technologies available in academic libraries to support distance learning, the knowledge and skills that ODL students posses to utilize information resources and services, the ways in which libraries repackage information resources and services for ODLs and challenges faced by libraries in providing information resources and services to ODLs. Finally, recommendations suggested for providing academic library support in information resource and service provision to this group of learners in institutions of higher learning in Kenya. The research adapted an approach of descriptive survey design that aims at analyzing the information resource and service provision environments in the selected university libraries. It largely borrows the theory of learning; that is, equivalency theory. Questionnaires were administered since it is an ideal method of reaching out to respondents who are not readily available. Interviews were also conducted for in depth data collection. The study targeted ODLs and librarians in the selected universities in Kenya offering open and distance learning programmes. This was based in two universities, that is, Kenya Methodist University in Meru County and Kenyatta University in Nairobi County for the research to yield representative results. The data collected was edited, organized, analyzed and presented using tables and charts. This study is of importance to university libraries, librarians, ODLs and administrators, at Kenyatta and Kenya Methodist universities and other universities in Kenya. The study assists the librarians to learn and appreciate ODLs thereby, providing information resources and services according to their needs. The study also aims to benefit university administrators. ICT helps in serving large populations with varied information needs and in different geographical locations. A variety of
platforms and technologies like the use of the OPACs, web 2.0, e-references and websites can be adopted to serve ODLs. These shall enable university administrators to realize the need to adopt technology to support library services for ODLs. The administrators shall therefore need to consider the university budgets to cater for the library ICT infrastructure and also to employ technologically savvy librarians to support the electronic information provision and service delivery in the academic libraries in Kenya. The study shall also help to develop the library profession by creating new fields like distance librarianship, electronic resource librarian among others, which shall lead to sustainable competitive advantage of university libraries in Kenya.