

# BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO

## Useful Online Educational Resources and Platforms for Students and Staff During the COVID-19 Lockdown

Institutions of learning across the country (BUK inclusive) and the world at large have been physically halted by the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in view of the fact that learning is so essential for our social and professional well-being, we are urging our students and staff not to be deterred by the prevailing circumstances in their learning efforts. Fortunately, newly emerging Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) have unleashed a host of possibilities that allow learning to continue even under the prevailing lockdown conditions all over the world. .

We present hereunder some useful online educational platforms, tools and resources that will greatly assist in continuous learning and collaboration during the lockdown and beyond.

**A. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS) Platforms** – MOOCS are virtual platforms that host online university-level courses in a wide range of disciplines to a worldwide student body, for professional development, including some courses at no charge. They include the following:

- **Coursera** (<https://coursera.org/>).
- **EdX** (<https://www.edx.org/>).
- **Alison** (<https://alison.com/>).
- **Canvas Network** (<https://www.canvas.net/>).
- **MIT** (<https://ocw.mit.edu/>).
- **Harvard** (<https://online-learning.harvard.edu/catalog>)

**B. Digital Libraries and Online Databases:**

- **BUK Library** (<http://library.buk.edu.ng/>)
  - Subscribed Educational Databases (<http://library.buk.edu.ng/htmls/data-bases.html>).
- **SpringerLink** (<https://link.springer.com/>).
- **ScienceDirect** (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/>).
- **IEEEExplore** (<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/>).

**C. Real-time Collaboration Platforms:** The following platforms can be exploited by students and staff for collaborating via live video/audio communication in matters that relate to their professional development. Most of these platforms include Web and installable App versions.

- **Zoom Cloud Platform** (<https://zoom.us/>)
- **Google Hangouts/Meet** (<https://meet.google.com/>)
- **Skype** (<https://www.skype.com/en/>)
- **Microsoft Teams** (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software>)
- **Cisco WebEx** (<https://www.webex.com/>)
- **Lark** (<https://www.larksuite.com/>)
- **DingTalk** (<https://www.dingtalk.com/en>)

**D. Cloud-based Collaboration Tools (for Document Co-Authoring):** Co-authoring is a form of cloud-based collaboration where you and your colleagues open and work on the same document simultaneously in real-time. The following are helpful:

- **Google Docs** (<https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/?tgif=d>),
- **Google Sheets** (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/0/?tgif=d>),

- **Microsoft Office 365:** This includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote.

N/B: Gmail Users – If you are using University email, which is based on Gmail, then you can automatically utilize the G Suite integrated in your Gmail Account. The G Suite contains a bundle of cloud-based tools for collaboration and other purposes that include the Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides and Forms.