

**THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONTRIBUTION OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE LIBRARY TO
INFORMATION AS A NATIONAL RESOURCE IN
ZIMBABWE**

BY

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ABSTRACT

This study sought to investigate the major contributions of the university libraries to information as a national resource to the nation's library development and to the development of the universities themselves. The study hypothesized that the university libraries were a major source of information and that their major function was to meet the informational needs of the academic members and students of their universities, in their pursuit of teaching, studying and research. They also must meet the needs of the general community as a whole in its attempts to solve the problems on a national basis.

The study used the historical method. Primary and secondary data were collected and analysed. Interviews and discussions with the academic and library staff and other individuals were conducted and used in verifying the data collected and analysed. The investigator's extensive experience in the university libraries, especially at the University of Zimbabwe Library, enabled him to bring a participant observer's framework to the analysis of the collected data and to enhance the quality of the study. The document analysis and the findings obtained were non-quantifiable information as the data included were collected from records, interviews and discussions with the groups mentioned above.