

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RELEASE FORM

**AN ASSESSMENT OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL IN
ZIMBABWE:
SUCSESSES AND PROBLEMS OF THE ZIMBABWE
NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**

PROJECT WAS PRESENTED: Master of Science in LIS

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IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE



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ABSTRACT

The case study assessed **bibliographic control in Zimbabwe**, and focused on the successes and problems of the **Zimbabwe National Bibliography**. The researcher gave the background to the assessment where bibliographic control was explained. The role of **national bibliographies such as the ZNB in bibliographic control** was outlined. The **statement of the problem** indicated that the **NAZ** as one of the agencies designated to receive materials published in Zimbabwe through legal deposit had the mandate to regulate bibliographic control and compile and publish the ZNB. However, such activities were obscure. The study addressed the question, to what extent **had the NAZ achieved bibliographic control in Zimbabwe through the compilation and publishing of the ZNB?** The limitations of the study were, distance, access to information, time, and **finance** which all affected the research. However, the researcher managed to find alternative solutions to the limitations and produced a balanced study of the case. Literature related to the study was reviewed and it provided the researcher with direction and guidance in the case under study. The researcher justified his choice of the research and selected the most appropriate research instruments which were direct observation, documents review, interviews, and questionnaires. This provided the researcher with most relevant data and enabled him to present, analyse and interpret it. The findings of the assessment established that National Archives of Zimbabwe (NAZ) was Zimbabwe's agency for national bibliographic control and receives books, serials and maps through legal deposit which enabled it to compile and produce the Zimbabwe National Bibliography (ZNB). It was

established that attempts had been made by NAZ to have a complete bibliographic listing of the nation's published output since 1891 to present. However, problems of staff shortage and turnover, finance, printing delays, other institutional commitments, and lack of support impinged on the success of effective bibliographic control and the regular compilation and publishing of the ZNB. The study concluded that the NAZ, as the country's bibliographic control agency, was failing to effectively carry out this important mandate and this was having serious repercussions nationally and internationally on access to information produced and published in Zimbabwe. Some of the recommendations made in the study included: improvement of the staffing situation; improvement of the budget allocation; establishing an institution solely responsible for national bibliographic control and the compilation of the ZNB; soliciting for improved support from government, and other stakeholders.