NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE INFORMATION BEHAVIOUR

OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE CONVENTIONAL PROGRAMMES

AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NUST)

BY

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to investigate the information seeking behaviours of undergraduate students in conventional programmes at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST). The purpose was to verify the association between information seeking strategies used by students, specifically shelf browsing, and the user education programme, and to establish the extent to which the information seeking strategies differed by class level and discipline. A structured questionnaire was distributed randomly in a survey to 100 students in the Faculties of Applied Sciences and Commerce. Sixty-nine responded. The study found shelf browsing, advice from classmates and friends, lecturers' recommendations and use of the Internet to be the main information seeking strategies used by the students. Differences in discipline and class level did not affect the type of strategies used, but the intensity with which the strategies were used by the different student groups. The margin of difference was however not very pronounced and could not be statistically supported. Recommendations were that the library should involve lecturers in its programmes. The user education programme should be conducted in phases, and the courses be credited towards students' coursework marks. Where possible, the library should consider providing online textbooks. To improve on communication, the library may also need to increase use of email facility for distributing messages and notices to students. Currently, the facility is mostly used in sending overdue notices.