

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**CAPTURING A FADING NATIONAL MEMORY: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE  
IMPACT OF THE ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS IN AUGMENTING ARCHIVAL  
SOURCES AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF ZIMBABWE**

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**YEAR : 2007**



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## **ABSTRACT**

The National Archives of Zimbabwe is the storehouse of the documentary heritage of Zimbabwe in whatever format. It has been entrusted to acquire, preserve and give access to the heritage to members of the public. Through its Oral History Unit it has ensured that a constant supply of oral sources is guaranteed so that these oral sources can augment the archival sources. The programme of collecting oral sources and giving access to these collections have been bedeviled by various problems such that the oral sources have not been able to successfully augment archival sources. The research was aimed at finding out the hindrances, which are making oral history fail to meet its target. The Review of Related Literature gave an in-depth study of what oral history encompassed and how it can be used to express the history of nations where written sources have failed to express the history of the country. The methodology, which was used was based on the descriptive approach in which questionnaires, observation and interviews were used to investigate the problem. Content analysis was used to trace the oral history programme development since its inauguration. The findings in this study were based on the methods outlined and they uncovered the problems bedeviling the oral history programme. The findings also noted the weaknesses and success of the programme. The last chapter dealt with the conclusion that oral history was not adequately augmenting archival sources and then ended on recommendations which may alter existing practices if oral history is to remain a viable activity at the National Archives of Zimbabwe. Standards policies and procedures should be put in place, Information Communication Technologies and audiovisuals should be utilized and training should be a continuous process while marketing and publicity assist in the promotion of the collections.