NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE PROVISION OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF RESEARCH INFORMATION (PERI) RESOURCES TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NUST)

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to investigate the provision of the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI) resources to undergraduate students at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST). The study focused on a sample of undergraduate students in both the conventional and parallel programmes representing all levels of study except industrial attachment. The survey research method was used for the study and the sample size was 10%. The researcher employed the questionnaire as the main research instrument and supported it with an interview and three focus group sessions. The study found that the provision of PERI resources at the institution was still being hampered by several problems including inadequate promotion, unfavourable access conditions, lack of user support, and the absence of a perceptions management programme. The recommendations of the study include the introduction of a multi-pronged approach to the promotion of PERI resources, increased co-operation between the NUST Library and academic members of staff, introduction of structured and multi-layered training of undergraduate students in the use of PERI resources, increasing of the capacity of library staff through training and workshops, and fostering of international partnerships to deal with the shortage of computer infrastructure.