

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**INFORMATION NEEDS AND INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF  
UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ZIMBABWE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**BY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study was undertaken to investigate the information needs and information seeking behaviour of undergraduate medical students on the MBChB programme in the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences. The overall purpose of this study was to determine what their information needs are, how they went about looking for information to meet their needs and determine their awareness of resources and services available in the UZ CHS library for their exploitation. A questionnaire based survey research was used in the study. Data was gathered using a questionnaire distributed to 200 undergraduate MBChB medical students from first year to fifth year. One hundred and fifty questionnaires were returned giving a 75% response rate. The study found that medical students still depended on and perceived that textbooks provided them with information current enough to meet their information needs for their programme of study. They relied mostly on friends to assist them find relevant information for their course requirements indicating lack of skills in systematic information retrieval. Guidance in the use of library resources and services was necessary to help students meet their information needs. The study recommended that a more aggressive information marketing strategy be developed at subject librarian level to create awareness among undergraduate medical students on the availability of library services and resources. Librarians and academics in the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences establish collaborative working partnerships to develop a viable and sustainable information literacy skills training (ILS) programme to empower medical students with search skills. Information needs analysis must be carried out periodically.