

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AN ANALYTICAL EVALUATION OF ELECTRONIC JOURNALS UTILISATION BY
POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS AT BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
EDUCATION, BUSE

BY

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A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE MASTER OF
SCIENCE DEGREE

IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

YEAR: 2009

ABSTRACT

BUSE library is one of the academic libraries that subscribe to electronic journals through the PERI programme. These electronic journals are vital, but extremely expensive and librarians at BUSE are concerned about their effective use. This study reported the results of a survey conducted at Bindura University of Science Education, BUSE to determine the extent to which postgraduate students were aware and made use of online journals. They reported that time constraints, lack of awareness, and low skill levels were among the primary constraints they experienced. Majority of respondents did not use online journals for their research work because they faced problem when using online journals and were interested in being trained to use online journals. A survey method based on a self-administered questionnaire was used for this study. The questionnaire was constructed around the following elements: user profile, awareness of the existence of electronic information resources, reasons for use or non-use of electronic journals, frequency of accessing electronic journals, challenges encountered by students when using electronic journals, and ways of promoting use of electronic journals. A questionnaire was administered to 50 students of the two faculties of BUSE that offer masters programmes, that is, the Faculty of Science Education and the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Science.