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IN

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
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DEGREE

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BY

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF
INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE MATERIALS AT AFRICA UNIVERSITY: A
SURVEY.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The purpose for this study was to establish why other subject areas are better stocked compared to the indigenous knowledge section. The study used the qualitative research as the research design and a survey was used as a research method to define the people's perceptions, opinions and feelings about the problem. The categories which formed the population were: lecturers, librarians, administrators and students. The purposive and quota sampling procedures were used to select respondents. Questionnaires and interviews were used as research instruments for data collection. Interviews were face to face and the questionnaires were hand-delivered. The findings of the study revealed that indigenous knowledge system was not being taught as a main course but simply as an extension of other subjects. As a result, lecturers could not recommend the purchase of indigenous knowledge materials and their inclusion in the collection leading to poor collection and preservation of indigenous knowledge materials. The study also revealed that poor collection and preservation of indigenous knowledge materials emanated from the perception towards indigenous knowledge by the authorities. Authorities perceived indigenous knowledge system as not attractive to industry and therefore there was no need to teach it. The study also revealed that Africa University had adequate information infrastructure but had not been able to collect indigenous knowledge materials because indigenous knowledge system was not treated as a main course. It was also found that prior to the launch of the digital library there were no appropriate methods of collection and preservation of indigenous knowledge materials. The study concluded that there were poor collection and preservation of indigenous knowledge materials, there was adequate information infrastructure, lecturers had very little influence on the collection and preservation of indigenous knowledge materials, the university had relevant expertise and the perception of the authorities towards indigenous knowledge contributed to the poor collection and preservation of indigenous knowledge materials at Africa University.