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**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

**AN ASSESSMENT OF FACULTY PARTICIPATION IN THE OPEN ACCESS
INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE**

BY

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A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
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IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Academic Supervisor

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ABSTRACT

The researcher observed that there were low deposits made into the Institutional Repository (IR) from 2005 to September 2010 against the expected research output of the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) scholars and the researcher set out to find out the reason for the anomaly. The IR success is often judged by its content density and repositories depend on faculty participation through contributions of articles for their content of which faculty participation or non participation has an impact on their growth and success. A case study research design was chosen for the study and a questionnaire was administered to a sample of 50 faculty members and interviews were conducted with 4 faculty librarians while non participant observation was also used as another data collection instrument. Findings of the study indicated that faculty members were not fully participating in the institutional repository and they cite lack of awareness, limited publishing capacity and lack of IR supporting policies as some of the hindrances to faculty participation. The researcher concluded that the UZ research environment did not encourage faculty participation in IR as it was not conducive for scholars to carry out research and publish material that they would then deposit in the IR. The researcher recommends that the University should improve scholars' publishing capacity by availing research funds, resuscitating local journals and recruiting more teaching staff and the library should increase the IR promotion