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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

THE ADOPTION OF EMERGING INFORMATION SOURCES BY INFORMATION
PROFESSIONALS AT AFRICA UNIVERSITY

BY

HOWARD HOGO

(P0074217H)

LIBRARY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY P.O. BOX 107		
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Mr. T. Matingwina

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to find out the adoption of emerging information sources by Information Professionals at Africa University. Despite aggressive acquisitions and adoption of electronic resources by the Africa University library in line with its 2005 – 2010 strategic plan, indexing of electronic resources for the AUDil platform was diminutive and at different stages. EBooks had not been fully embraced and information literacy skills training not formally offered. The study used descriptive survey and sixty-seven questionnaires were distributed to librarians and library clients. The study found out that indexing of electronic collections was partially being done by Information Professionals due to lack of skills to execute it. Most of the Information Professionals were not formally trained in electronic information resources at college or university. However, too much workload on the current Information Professionals and shortage of Faculty Librarians were major obstacles in the adoption of indexing structures and electronic books collection building. Those who had much more years in the Africa University library were much more willing to use electronic resources to assist library clients. Additionally those who had higher qualifications were more interested in experiencing new innovations. Poor bandwidth and instability of the Internet presented challenges in the adoption of electronic information resources. On the job training was found to be an essential structure needed due to the increasing amount of information available in digital format. It was found out to be essential for Information Professionals to work with faculties for the integration of the information literacy skills training programme into the curriculum.