NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

ASSESSING INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS FOR UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE
VETERINARY SCIENCE STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Despite The University of Zimbabwe (UZ) Information Literacy Skills (ILS) module (2009) objectives that Information literate students are expected to identify an information need, locate, evaluate and effectively use information, the UZ veterinary science students information seeking behavior indicated that they lacked these skills. This prompted a research on assessing information literacy skills for University of Zimbabwe veterinary science students which was also triggered by high demand for information technological skills in academia. Findings of the study were aimed at contributing towards the development and modification of ILS programmes and enhance information seeking behaviour for veterinary science students at UZ. A sample of 75 students was chosen randomly and the researcher took a qualitative approach in which a case study design was used and data was collected through questionnaires, interview and observations. Reviewed literature revealed that ILS is not an inborn skill, it has proved that it needs training and mastery of relevant skills in order to use information effectively. The assessment indicated that the programme at the UZ was in line with the international standards and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) model but issues such as computer technology, personnel and marketing of the programme needed attention. It was recommended that the ILS curriculum should be reviewed constantly in line with the global change in Information Communication Technology (ICT).