



**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Information seeking behaviour of Faculty of Arts students at Great Zimbabwe University

BY

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

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## **ABSTRACT**

*The purpose of this study was to investigate the information seeking behaviour of Faculty of Arts students at Great Zimbabwe University for academic purposes. It has been observed that more students use traditional methods of Information seeking for their researches. Quantitative and qualitative methods were used. Within the quantitative approach statistical methods for gathering and analysing data were generally used and the qualitative approach used methods which are not based on quantitative measuring. Questionnaires were used for data collection. The sample consisted of 50 graduate students selected from their first, second, third and fourth year of study. The students were drawn from five departments in the Faculty of Arts. Findings also indicated that guidance in the use of library resources and services was necessary to help students meet some of their information requirements. The study found out that books, journals were the most popular sources of information. Based on these findings it was recommended that a more aggressive information marketing strategy should be developed at Faculty and departmental level to create awareness among graduate students on the available library resources. The study observed that students use hard copies more than new technologies in their information seeking. The main reason for this was that the University does not include information literacy courses in its curriculum and students lacked some practical approaches to information seeking patterns. Information seeking models were used in the study. The results provided an insight into the behaviour of students when seeking information which was deduced by information seeking models propounded by Wilson (1996) and Dervin (1983). It was also suggested that these models address issues at various levels of information seeking behaviour.*