NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(NUST)

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

USE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH BY GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE (UZ)

BY

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A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
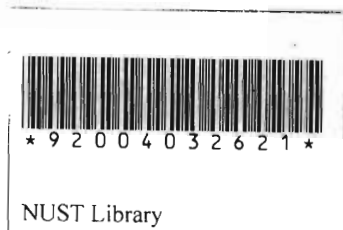
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Abstract

In this modern digital era, the print has gradually given way to electronic information. Many academic institutions of higher learning have transformed their mode of information delivery from print to electronic. The UZ was no exception albeit with a lot resources constraints, like lack of adequate funding, erratic electricity power supply, and lack of ICT equipment among a host of other shortages. This study took to assess the extent of use of electronic resources for academic research by graduate students at UZ and the study was guided by the TAM model. The study used both qualitative and quantitative research methods and a survey research design was adopted. Convenience random sampling was used and interviews and questionnaires were used as data collection tools. An SPSS was used to help analyse data. It was found that graduate students were very much aware of electronic resources and that they had the necessary skills to access and use electronic resources. The results from the research established that the under utilization of electronic resources was attributed to lack of proper policy on use of electronic resources, Internet downtime, poor connectivity and inaccessibility of the UZ website off campus. The study recommended that UZ as an institution of higher learning must integrate adequate information literacy content into the curriculum for lecturers and students. It also recommended that the problem of Internet downtime should be reduced to enable users to have access to electronic resources. Connectivity should be increased to improve search and downloading time.