

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**AN EVALUATION OF HEXCO NATIONAL DIPLOMA LIBRARY AND INFORMATION
SCIENCE CURRICULUM**

BY

SHEUNESU PFUMBIDZAI

(P0074229W)

A RESEARCH REPORT

**SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE
DEGREE IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

YEAR: 2012

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



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DATE	ACCESSION	CLASS No.
19/12/12	12/358	LB3060 -285 PFU

ABSTRACT

Library employers raised concern on different platforms that Library and Information Science (LIS) graduates from HEXCO LIS schools lack competencies in the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT). The researcher then carried out an investigation on the extent to which the HEXCO ND LIS curriculum incorporates IFLA guidelines which LOR (2006) acknowledged offered the most comprehensive content internationally in both ICTs and knowledge based courses. The researcher used the evaluative research method together with the desk study design. The interview and questionnaire techniques were used to collect data. The researcher found out that HEXCO LIS curriculum does not fully comply with IFLA guidelines as some IT and knowledge- based courses recommended by IFLA are not offered in its programmes. IT was also noted that IT courses are taught theoretical at the expense of practical. The HEXCO ND LIS curriculum has not been revised. Library employers criticised the HEXCO ND LIS curriculum for failing to impart the relevant skills required by the library market. The National Library Association (ZIMLA) was put on the spotlight for failing to take an active role on LIS issues especially on LIS accreditation. The study confirmed poor ICT infrastructures and equipment in HEXCO LIS schools. The government was lambasted for failure to invest in LIS curriculum issues. Higher and Tertiary Education and HEXCO expressed ignorance of the IFLA guidelines as excuse for not implementing it. The study recommended that the HEXCO LIS curriculum should incorporate IFLA guidelines, focus on IT practically, and adopt all courses approved by IFLA. There is need to update and revise the HEXCO ND LIS curriculum. ZIMLA was urged to take an active role in LIS curriculum issues while the government was recommended to invest in LIS curriculum issues. The implementation of IFLA guidelines cannot be envisaged before all these challenges have been addressed.