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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

ANALYSIS OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY WEBSITES

BY

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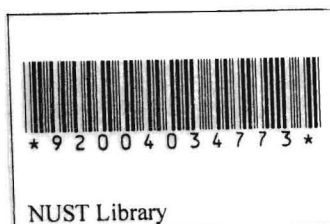
A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF
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ABSTRACT

This study was aimed at evaluating the contents and design of library websites by looking at the technological, information related and human factors that drive away users from using them. A comparative descriptive-analytical study design method was adopted. Several attributes based on a checklist were described and analysed. The study was conducted over a period of one month and had both desk review and online aspects. No specific tool was used in document analysis, but the process was guided by a systematic literature survey while online assessments were done using a checklist. It focused on 7 African universities sampled from the 100 top rated universities in Africa for the year 2012. The results showed that no single website or category maintained the same rank throughout the study in terms of content and design which was determined by looking at the technological, information related and human factors. The researcher concluded that the content of all the websites was not comprehensive. All the websites in the different categories did not provide adequate information. The study recommends that web designers work closely with librarians who understand users' preferences in order for them to produce websites with adequate and relevant information. Web designers should design user friendly and aesthetic websites in order to increase usage. It is important that web designers continue to sharpen their skills by attending workshops on good design of websites and at the same time engage with librarians and patrons in order to fulfil the needs of website users. Web designers should frequently update the websites in order to combat problems associated with dysfunctional/wrong links, too much unnecessary information, poor layout, duplication of information and spelling mistakes.