

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Faculty of Communication and Information Science
Department of Library and Information Science**

**Information ethics and the use of social networking sites for academic activities
at Great Zimbabwe University**

by

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ABSTRACT

Issues of information ethics have assumed an important role as new forms of information communication technologies (ICTs) permeate the learning environment. To understand the dominant ethical issues affecting social networking use in institutions higher learning, a study was conducted at Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) - Masvingo Polytechnic Campus. The methodology for the study was the descriptive survey. Respondents for the study were identified using different sampling techniques for different population groups: convenience sampling for students and quota sampling for lecturers. The sample size was 259 respondents. Interviews and questionnaires were used to gather data for the study. The population under study included lecturers and students from the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities at GZU- Masvingo Polytechnic Campus. The total population was 1095 where 850 were undergraduates, 210 postgraduates and 35 were lecturers. The findings of the study revealed that information ethics were very important in the use of social networking sites for academic work. The study recommended that further research should be conducted on the issue of information ethics and social networking site use for academic work as technology is ever changing bringing about more complex information ethics.