

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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

**Students' Plagiarism Awareness and Attitudes in the Department of Library and Information
Science at the National University of Science and Technology**

by

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Abstract

The study sought to establish plagiarism awareness, attitudes and beliefs of undergraduate students in the Department of Library and Information Science (LIS) at NUST in order to understand why students continue to plagiarise. Powell's Model of Plagiaristic Behaviour was used as the framework of the study. A mixed methods approach was employed and questionnaires were handed out to students, interviews done with members of staff, content analysis done on the Communication Skills curricular as the means of gathering data. A census approach was adopted in the Department. The study discovered that though students have a positive attitude towards plagiarism and aware of it, they continue to plagiarise intentionally because they do not know how serious of an academic offense it is. It was concluded that students know what plagiarism is, but not in the context of the University's statutes. It was also concluded that plagiarism continues to take place because there are no serious deterrents for it. The study pointed to the need for a more comprehensive understanding of plagiarism on the part of the students and it was recommended that plagiarism have a slot in curricular, and the need for support tools for the Harvard Citation Style was raised. Other recommendations included the creation of a beginners pack for first year students containing copies of the citation guide and Yearbook as well as a need for clarity in the NUST Yearbook in Ordinance 30's section stating the University's stance on plagiarism.