

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Faculty of Communication and Information Science  
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**Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Towards Legal Deposit by Publishers of Indigenous  
Literature in Windhoek, Namibia**

by

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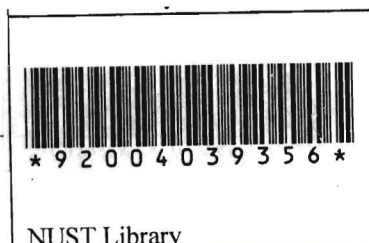
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## ABSTRACT

Section 8(2)(a) of the Namibia Library Act 4 of 2000 requires publishers to deposit five copies of each of their publications with the National Library. However, despite the existence of this legislation, there is wanton disregard of its provisions by publishers in Namibia. Among the publishers failing to comply with this legislation non-compliance by publishers of indigenous literature raises deeper concerns since their publications form an integral part of Namibia's national heritage. This study explored the knowledge, attitudes and practices towards legal deposit by publishers of indigenous literature in Windhoek, Namibia, in order to find out the reasons for non-compliance with the cited legislation. The research was an in-depth multi-case study of three institutions engaged in the publishing of indigenous literature in Namibia, namely: Wordweaver Publishing House, Yambeka Children Media and Namibia Publishing House. The National Library, as a depository institution, was also included in the study to enable illumination of the issue at hand from both the angles of publishers of indigenous literature and that of depository institutions that are mandated to receive such deposits. The study used the qualitative approach, with in-depth semi-structured interviews as the main method of data collection. Interview guides were used for the semi-structured interviews with eight key informants, six from the publishing houses and two from the National Library. Supporting data was obtained from documents including: 2011/2012, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 Annual Reports of the National Library of Namibia; the National Library & Information Service Act 4 of 2000; the Namibia Library and Archives Service (NLAS) Information Bulletin Issue 1, 2012; copies of claim forms sent to publishers; websites and pamphlets. The analysis of data involved direct interpretation and categorisation of ideas into four main themes, and the identification of similarities and differences across all cases. The findings of the study provided evidence of high levels of knowledge of the existence of the legal deposit legislation, but a limited understanding of its stipulations. Despite this ignorance, the study revealed positive attitudes and acknowledgement of the role legal deposit played in building a national collection and making literature widely accessible. The lack of systematic procedures, logistical challenges, limited knowledge of the provisions of the law and the laxity in enforcing the law by the National Library could be contributing factors to non-compliance and delays in the depositing of legal deposit copies. The main recommendation proposed was on the need to intensify awareness programmes to ensure that publishers are well informed of the legal deposit legislation and its provisions as a way of improving their knowledge, attitudes and practices in executing the legal deposit requirements.