NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

THE UPTAKE AND UTILISATION OF THE OPEN ACCESS INSTITUTIONAL
REPOSITORY AT THE LUPANE STATE UNIVERSITY

BY

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ABSTRACT

Institutional Repositories (IRs) have been embraced in academic institutions as a method of disseminating and preserving scholarly information. Prompted by observed IR statistics which indicated a low rate of scholarly content deposits into the Lupane State University Institutional Repository (LSUIR), this study sought to determine the factors that affected the adoption and utilisation of the LSUIR by members of the LSU academic community. This study used the Vankentesh *et al.* (2003) Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) model. This model was particularly important in informing the objectives and questions hence the variable operationalisation aspect of the study. A cross sectional survey was adopted as the research design for this study and data were obtained through questionnaires and interviews. The subjects of the study consisted of 20 faculty teaching staff members, 163 students and 8 librarians. The study findings confirmed the stated problem of underutilisation of the LSUIR by the LSU academics and established that lack of IR skills and knowledge, lack of IR awareness, and lack of adequate ICT infrastructure were the major causes of low IR utilisation among the LSU academics. Thus, it was recommended that necessary adjustments be made to improve the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of the LSUIR marketing, promotional and awareness strategies as well as engaging ongoing dialogue with regard to issues of IR benefits and copyright issues. Upgrades to the current IR technical infrastructure and the hasty enforcement of the crafted IR policy were also recommended as necessary to improve the current IR predicament.