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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

**TRANSFER AND UTILISATION OF RESEARCH OUTPUT IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

BY

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
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IN

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Academic Supervisor

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ABSTRACT

The study was necessitated by the observation that LIS research output was lacking visibility and the channels used to disseminate research had limited accessibility beyond NUST. Informed by Lavis et al (2003) framework for knowledge transfer and Verkasalo and Lappalainen's knowledge utilisation process model, the study investigated the preferred channels and mechanisms, views and attitudes, factors and challenges affecting transfer of LIS research output by the lecturers and librarians based in Bulawayo. The population consisted of 16 LIS department academic staff at NUST and 60 librarians in management levels working in academic, special, school and public libraries. The cross-sectional survey was adopted for the study, with two questionnaires and semi-structured interviews used as instruments for data collection. The findings revealed that the LIS department produced good research; which was not visible to librarians as the department depended on the university library, intermittent conferences and publications as mechanisms for research transfer. The challenges affecting transfer were institutional policy, and funding, with most staff time being consumed on teaching leaving no room for research and transfer activities. The University should actively balance the role to teach, carry out research and transferring research output; research transfer should be incorporated into the research policy. For the department, there should be a focal person responsible for research transfer activities, advocacy and marketing of research and adopting a LIS journal, conference presentations, social media and online research directory hosted through the institutional website.