

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

**IMPLICATIONS OF ANALOGUE TO DIGITAL MIGRATION FOR AUDIOVISUAL
ARCHIVES AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF ZIMBABWE**

BY

**Felizarda Kutsakatika
(N01415894B)**

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Academic Supervisor

Dr O. Wutete

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LIBRARY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PO BOX 346 BULAWAYO ZIMBABWE		
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This study sought to assess the implications of analogue to digital migration for audiovisual archives at National Archives of Zimbabwe (NAZ). It was conceived against the background of prolonged period of digital transition yet nothing meaningful was observed in the backdrop of deteriorating obsolete analogue playback equipment for analogue media carriers that is pregnant with rich information. The perilous state posed by improper migration prompted the use of archival diplomatic theory and legislation in assessing procedures that maintains authenticity and records integrity to find repercussion of the migration at NAZ. With a pragmatic stance, the researcher adopted questionnaires, observation, interviews and document analysis and observed a chain digitization process, not guided by theory, legislation and or policy that fall short of standard practice. With motivated staff NAZ hand no capacity to conduct ideal standard archival A-D migration as it was handicapped by financial, technological, and technical skill capacity. It was established that A-D migration following proper procedures, using recommended equipment and technologies was the only solution to provide useful authentic archives. The current digitization process had the risk of losing the entire digitized collection due to incompatibility with upgraded systems, which means a waste of time and resources yet it meant quick and easy access as well as preservation of original from damage due to frequent use and handling. A-D migration implied the availability of standard migration by other developed institutions at low cost, with repercussion of ideal transition and skill acquisition that led good relations and collaboration. At the same time, this posed copyright threats and the manifestation of mistrust in sharing information as evidenced by the reluctance to adopt available solutions. The recommendations were collaborations, training, adhering to standards, developing local technical and technological solutions as well as subscribing to standards setting bodies since no archive can exist in a vacuum. Sharing ideas and skill ensures continuity and survival in the digital age.