NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

ACCESSIBILITY OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH OUTPUT PRODUCED AT MATOPO
RESEARCH STATION

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the accessibility of agricultural research output produced at Matopo Research Station in Matebeleland South Province in Zimbabwe. The aim of the study was to determine how accessible is the research output produced at Matopo Research Station to its Agricultural Knowledge and Information System (AKIS) community at local, national and international level. The study sought to fulfill these objectives; what forms and types of agricultural research outputs are produced at Matopo Research Station (MRS), the ease of use and ease of access to agricultural research output and challenges faced in disseminating agricultural research output. The theoretical framework underpinning the study were various dimensions with which accessibility is defined by various scholars and the Researcher chose to pin the study on Green & Fidel's (2003) definition of accessibility as it summarised the objectives of the study. The study aligned to the post positivist paradigm as its research philosophy which is the position that holds a deterministic philosophy in which cause probably determines effects or outcomes. The quantitative research design was used for the study and a survey research strategy strengthened the data collection method as it enables a researcher to obtain data about practices, situations and views at one point in time. A questionnaire was distributed to a total of 90 strata of the AKIS population, and 10 structured interviews were conducted with farmers and lecturers to cover the gap left by questionnaire. Data was analysed using SPSS and conclusions and recommendations for further research were made which mainly sought that MRS digitise their research output and avail it on the World Wide Web.