

SPECIAL COLLECTION  
LIBRARY USE ONLY

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED  
STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN ZIMBABWE

BY

**MusekeTrymore**  
**(N01523319Y)**

A RESERCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

**Academic Supervisor**

**Dr T. Matingwina**

**BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE**

**YEAR: 2017**

LIBRARY		
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY		
P.O. BOX 346 BULAWAYO ZIMBABWE		
DATE	ACCESSION	CLASS No
08/03/18	SC 151/1012	



## **ABSTRACT**

Disabled people have often faced challenges in making optimum use of the resources that are provided by academic libraries. The visually impaired students in particular face challenges in accessing information. The aim of the study was to investigate the establishment of Disability Resource Centres and the assistive technologies that are currently used by blind and visually impaired students in academic libraries in Zimbabwe. The Social Model of Disability is the theoretical framework that guided this study. The study used the qualitative research design and survey strategy of research. The population of the study included 9 librarians and 11 blind and visually impaired students. The research instruments used for gathering data included interviews, questionnaires and observations. Findings of the study revealed that Zimbabwe is still lagging behind in terms of establishing Disability Resource Centres as well as provision of assistive technologies in these Centres. The study also established that there is lack of enough assistive technologies in Disability Resource Centres in Zimbabwe. Academic libraries are not receiving enough funding from authorities for them to be able to establish DRCs. It is recommended that universities should establish Disability Resource Centres as well as provide funding for the purchase of assistive technologies. There is also need for university authorities, lecturers and librarians to change their attitude towards disabled people. In addition staff in DRCs and students with blindness or visual impairment should be trained in the use of assistive technologies for them to be able to make optimum use of the technologies.

**NUST LIBRARY**