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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS OF LIBRARY ASSETS AT
ZIMBABWE OPEN UNIVERSITY, MIDLANDS CAMPUS REGION**

BY

**Alex Sibanda
(N01521868J)**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE**

IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Academic Supervisor

Ms S. Ngwenya

BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

YEAR: 2017



92004044719

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to assess the disaster management considerations for library assets at Zimbabwe Open University Midlands Campus library. To achieve the purpose of the study, the Comprehensive model for disaster management by Asghar, Alahakoon and Churilov (2011) was used as the theoretical framework. The study was interpretive in nature; which in turn informed the qualitative approach. A case study research design was adopted. Data was collected through the use of interviews, document analysis and observations. The population under study was 27, while the actual sample size was 18 all from ZOU Midlands campus library. The findings of the study revealed that, the ZOU Midlands campus library assets were vulnerable to natural, technical and human disaster such as insects, biological damages, air quantity (temperature and humidity), theft ,water (leaking roofs and blocked drains), building deficiencies (design and maintenance), power failures and computer system failure. There were inadequate support facilities and services, financial constraints, inadequate policy framework, inefficient communication channels, unreliable power supply, negligence, and inappropriate design of building. In addition, there were inadequate disaster management experts to be consulted at the ZOU Midlands campus library and organisations that offer support for library related disasters were seldom found. An effective disaster management plan was recommended. The plan should preferably be a formal written document and it must incorporate all the procedures to be followed with regard to the four phases of disaster management action, namely: prevention, preparedness, reaction and recovery. It should be kept current and up-to date and all staff must be familiar with the disaster procedures.