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

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STATUS OF LIBRARIANS IN THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE (MOHCC) NURSING TRAINING
SCHOOLS

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A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF
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ABSTRACT

Librarians in the ministry of health were reportedly being isolated and marginalized in terms of their conditions of service and employee benefits as compared to similar professions. Their plight has been overlooked for a very long time, with no one willing to address their concerns. To this end, this study seeks to assess the professional status of librarians in the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) nursing training schools. The study was guided by The Association of College and Research Libraries Guidelines for Academic Librarians (ACRL) framework. The mixed method research design and the Survey Research Strategy was adopted in the study. Data was collected through a questionnaire from 25 librarians using a census. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 25 managements (Principal Tutors) using a similar method. The study findings showed that librarians lacked expertise to effectively accomplish their roles in the institutions hence were not valued by management. It was also revealed that librarians' tenure of office was not clear and management did not understand fully the roles of librarians hence the perceptions and attitudes. The study findings revealed that librarians need to improve their knowledge and skills through attending workshops, conferences, staff exchange programmes and in-house training. The results also showed that management had wrong perceptions, assumptions and attitudes towards librarians which were being caused by ignorance of the profession. The study findings also revealed that librarians were not marketing their services for them to increase their visibility in the institutions. Some of the challenges faced by librarians in nurse training schools were found to be poor remuneration package, lack of library resources, poor budget allocation, unclear reporting structure, unclear grading system, lack of policies/standard operating procedures and unclear tenure of office. One of the main recommendations was in service training for librarians and the library was recommended to look for alternative sources of funding to improve their library resources. Another key recommendation was for MOHCC to craft a policy/Standard Operation Procedures for promotion, grading and tenure of office for librarians.