

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**SPECIAL COLLECTION
LIBRARY USE ONLY**

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF THE RESOURCE DESCRIPTION
AND ACCESS (RDA) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE LIBRARY**

BY

Maxwell Takawira

(N0164164J)

LIBRARY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PO BOX 246 BULAWAYO ZIMBABWE		
DATE	ACCESSION	CLASS No
06/03/19	SC 19/1081	

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF**

THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Academic Supervisor

Mr. L.R. Fusire

BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

YEAR: 2018



ABSTRACT

New technologies have changed how people do business. With the rapid development of technology, it has been difficult for businesses and organisations to successfully implement technology advancements. This problem has spurred research in the area of technology acceptance. This study sought to investigate the acceptance and use of the RDA at the UZ library. The RDA is a new cataloguing standard that was adopted at the UZ library. Metadata management has changed drastically in the last ten years. With the advent of ICTs the nature of the library has changed significantly to include more digital and multimedia items. The RDA was published in 2010 to replace AACR2, and is designed for the description of library materials in the digital environment. Using the constructs of the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology model, the objectives of the study were to determine the performance and effort expectancy of the RDA, identify the social influences of librarians and facilitating conditions in the adoption and implementation of the RDA, and analyse the attitudes of the librarians towards the use RDA at the UZ library. The overall aim of the study was to investigate the acceptance and use of the RDA at the UZ library, which was prompted by the slow rate of adoption and piecemeal implementation of the new cataloguing standard. The mixed methods research approach was used to investigate the acceptance and use of the RDA to find out the issues behind the slow rate of adoption and piecemeal implementation. The survey research design was used whereby questionnaires were administered to librarians and interviews were conducted with two members of the cataloguing section at the UZ library. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected from the population of 46 respondents. Research findings showed that the performance expectancy, effort expectancy, social and organisational factors and attitudes of librarians were some of the factors that influenced the adoption and implementation of the RDA at the UZ library. While the performance expectancy, ease of use and social influences associated with the RDA cataloguing standard was high, the training on the RDA was not adequate enough to warrant librarians to perform their duties efficiently, and the attitudes of the librarians were blocking the full implementation of the RDA. The researcher recommended more training of librarians in RDA, quality control mechanisms, motivation library staff through workshops, conferences and seminars at local and international levels and to encourage librarians to consult the RDA toolkit and utilise social platforms where cataloguers meet for professional issues.