NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF USE OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE
ENHANCEMENT OF RESEARCH INFORMATION (PERI) RESOURCES BY THE
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NUST) ACADEMIC
STAFF

BY

COMFORT MAERESERA

(N004 854X)

A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE BACHELOR
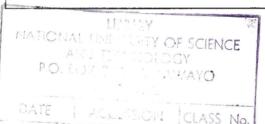OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN

IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

MAY 2008

ABSTRACT

This study sought to assess the level of awareness and use of the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information resources by the academic staff members of the National University of Science and Technology. It was motivated by the need to improve awareness and use of PERI resources. Against this background, the objectives of the study were to determine the level of awareness and use of PERI resources, to determine the challenges encountered in accessing PERI resources, type of information accessed and the effectiveness of the library's marketing strategies in marketing electronic resources.

This study was informed by previous research findings to do with awareness and use of electronic resources reviewed in the second chapter. The second chapter also analysed findings on the challenges and concerns pertaining to the use of various electronic resources, which included the issue of usernames and passwords. The study employed the descriptive sample survey research method, the stratified and quota sampling techniques were used to select the sample. The questionnaire was the main data gathering technique complimented by structured interviews, the research methodology was described in detail in the third chapter.

It was established in the findings from the fourth chapter that there was an imbalance between the level of awareness and use of PERI resources by the academic staff users. It was also concluded that there were many challenges to accessing PERI resources and the respondents highlighted them to include problems with embargoes and problems with low bandwidth and Internet connectivity problems. The last chapter concluded that PERI resources were useful to academic staff considering that all who used the databases for different purposes felt they were valuable and found them useful to various degrees as presented in the fourth chapter. The major recommendation was that the NUST library was supposed to continue offering PERI resources but work harder to promote the available electronic resources, how to access them, and what each database has to offer.