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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**AN ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAMMES IN
CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES: A CASE STUDY OF THE BULAWAYO PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

BY

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

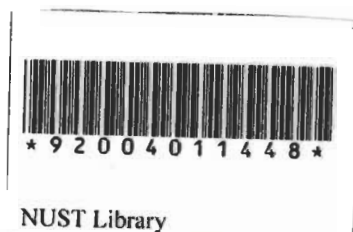
IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

YEAR: 2008



NUST Library



LIBRARY

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out with the aim of measuring the effectiveness of the information literacy skills training programme in use at the Young People's Library. A case study research design was employed since it allowed for particular focus on the information literacy skills training programme at the YPL with the possibility of generalising results to a wider geographical area.

Eighteen children and the Librarian constituted the sample size. New and old child members, of both sexes and from western and eastern primary schools were subjects of study. Participants were selected using the quota sampling method with age, sex and school being used as the criteria for selection. Participant observation and interviews were used as data gathering instruments.

The results of the study showed that the information literacy skills training programme at the Young People's Library was characterised by shallow programming, inconsistent implementation and time limitations. There were also no testing mechanisms to gauge the comprehension of taught skills by children. This led children into being unable to independently search and retrieve information and also relying on shelf browsing as an information retrieval method.

From the results of the study, it was recommended in the short term that more staff be involved in the training of children to lesson workload on the Librarian. Increased and separate time for training was also recommended as was the need for training to be in depth. Training in catalogue use was specifically recommended as it would empower children to independently search and retrieve information. In the long term, it was recommended that the Librarian initiates income generating activities that would generate capital to acquire new library material and also fund other support programmes like reading and writing competitions. It also appeared ideal that the information literacy skills training programme be documented to give it clearly laid down aims and objectives. In this way it would be easily evaluated paving way for its gradual methodological and programming improvement.