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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE PRESERVATION METHODS USED AT THE
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LIBRARY**

BY

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NUST Library

ABSTRACT

After discovering a number of mutilated and missing books at the NUST library, this study sought to assess the effectiveness of the preservation measures used at the library in combating these acts of mutilation and theft of library materials. The literature reviewed in the study stated that a library must plan and implement adequate preservation measures and strategies that will ensure that such acts of mutilation and theft do not prevail in order to facilitate accessibility of the collection for every user. Using the case study method, observations, questionnaires and interviews to gather data from the population of students and NUST library staff, a total of 48 respondents were surveyed out of a total of 58. The study uncovered that the main causes of mutilation and theft of library materials were situational factors which included inadequate reading materials, academic pressure and inadequate security. The study concluded that acts of mutilation and theft were indeed prevalent at the NUST library and that the library had financial constraints, inadequate infrastructure and lack of policy as its challenges. Recommendations were made to the NUST library to increase the number of copies of books in demand, draft a preservation policy and to consider educating users in collection maintenance as part of its preservation strategy.