

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

**AN ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICES USED AT THE MIDLANDS  
STATE UNIVERSITY LAW LIBRARY, GWERU, ZIMBABWE**

**BY**

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## ABSTRACT

The Midlands State University (MSU) Law Library offered Current Awareness Services (CAS) that were meant to promote use of newly acquired information resources as well as to alert users of any latest developments in the library or in their field of study. However, despite the availability of such mechanisms, users took very long before making use of the newly acquired resources. Therefore, the study sought to assess the CAS offered by the MSU Law Library. Literature revealed that library users tended not to use resources whenever they were unaware of their availability. The researcher used a descriptive survey to carry out the research. A sample size of 40 was drawn from a total population of approximately 200 students, it was to this sample that questionnaires were distributed to. Interviews were also held with all the 5 staff members. The study found out that there were disparities in the level of awareness of the availability of CAS amongst students. The majority of users who were aware comprised 1st and 5th year students. The survey also revealed that the CAS offered at MSU Law Library were not suitable for the users, as they had limitations in time and reach ability. Users were not satisfied with the current awareness methods in place, however the library did not conduct any user-based assessments of services. User-based assessments coupled with the implementation of electronic-based CAS were recommended to improve the CAS.