

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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AWARENESS AND UTILISATION OF OPEN ACCESS RESOURCES BY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Open access as a new means of scholarly communication has numerous advantages which it can relay to undergraduate students at the National University of Science and Technology. This study sought to bring to light awareness and utilisation levels of open access resources by undergraduate students at the National University of Science and Technology. The researcher was triggered to research by the setup of an online research button which reflects the density of undergraduate students encountering paywalls in their endeavour to access academic information resources. Literature review was conducted mainly centring on the benefits and weaknesses of open access which reference to the use of the technology acceptance model in predicting how undergraduate would accept this new technology. The study ensued as a descriptive survey with sampling triangulation employed in order to attain a valid and reliable sample from the undergraduate population. The sample size was thirty undergraduate students from all the faculties present at NUST that is 6 faculties. The data was analysed using Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package for Social Sciences and presented using narratives, pie charts, bar graphs and tables. The findings highlighted that 57.14% of the sample were aware of the concept of open access and that a total of 16% of the sample used open access resources to conduct their academic endeavours. To conclude the research study findings were summarised. The major recommendations made were that the university teaching staff should be involved in open access advocacy, undergraduate students should be involved in open access initiatives and other units of the university should be incorporated into open access advocacy besides the University library.