

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Faculty of Communication and Information Science
Department of Library and Information Science**

An investigation of the utilization of Technology and Innovation support Centre at the National University of Science and Technology Technopark by academia to support their research.

By

Pretty Maseko
(N0107132N)

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Academic Supervisor

Mr N. Guvava

BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to investigate the extent in which Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) Technopark was being utilized by the NUST academia. The concern arose from the researcher's observation at the workshop that was organised under the theme TISC, NUST academia showed lack of knowledge at the question and answer session. The researchers need to do the study also was aroused by the need to find out the utilization statistics as the centre did not have any. The objectives of the study were to find out the level of utilisation that academia have on the TISC and whether TISC services were perceived to be relevant and adequate to the needs of researchers. A descriptive survey research design was used for the study. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used as the study was intended on finding out in-depth, the utilization of the TISC. Quota sampling was used to come up with the sample of the NUST academics. 28 academics and 2 TISC staff were involved in the study from the total population of 298. Questionnaire and interview schedules were used to collect the data from the academics and the staff respectively. Findings indicated that the services offered at the TISC were underutilised due to the fact that most of the academics were not aware of the existence of the centre. The challenge that was faced by the TISC staff was that academics were reluctant to respond to their emails and activities that they were invited to. It was recommended that for the effective use of the centre, strong marketing strategies were to be employed to make the NUST community aware of the centre.