

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

**THE ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE LIBRARY IN PROVIDING
ACCESS TO INFORMATION TO PARLIAMENTARIANS**

BY

Thandiwe Msongelwa

(N011 1261J)

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE**



IN

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

LIBRARY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY P.O. BOX 165, BULAWAYO ZIMBABWE		
DATE	ACCESSION	CLA
31/07/15	SC 15/773	

Academic Supervisor

Mrs Maisiri

BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

YEAR: 2015



NUST Library

ABSTRACT

Today's society, the information society, is characterised by a broad range of information sources which makes it necessary for libraries to offer much more than the traditional services for users to have access to the information. Hence, this study investigated the role of the Parliament of Zimbabwe Library in providing access to relevant information to members of parliament. A descriptive survey was employed. In gathering data, the mixed methods approach was used with both questionnaires and interviews being used as data gathering instruments. Findings of the study established that generally the status of the library in providing information to Parliamentarians was not as expected since the Library lacked current materials. This was complemented by the Internet services that the Library offered. Thus, the performance of the Library was affected by the collection which was not yet digitised due to lack of funds. It was also observed that the Library offered print resources, information literacy training programmes whose content started from the basic skills of instructing how to use computers on searching and retrieving information. The Library also engaged in resource sharing with other institutions which included other parliament libraries and government ministries in the region. Moreover, the Library was planning to digitise its collection from 2010 onwards though financial constraints were a drawback. The recommendations included requesting the government to allocate more resources to the Library, giving library staff time to conduct research to improve their services and also the resources of the Library should be frequently updated and strengthened to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the parliamentarians in their work.