

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE ACCESSIBILITY OF SUPPLEMENTARY READING MATERIAL
TO RURAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN TSHOLOTSHO DISTRICT. A CASE OF THE
DONKEY-DRAWN MOBILE LIBRARY**

BY

Rumbidzai B.H. Murira

(NO111365W)

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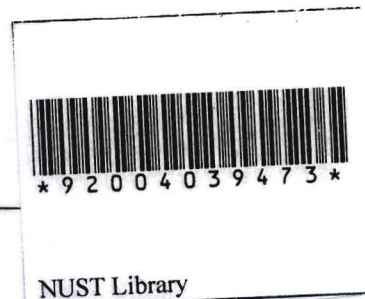
Academic Supervisor

Ms S. Ngwenya

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LIBRARY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PO BOX 197 BULAWAYO ZIMBABWE		
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ABSTRACT

Provision of supplementary reading material in rural primary schools is fundamental for pupils and teachers in their educational processes. Alternative models have been established to provide Supplementary reading materials to rural primary schools and communities in Zimbabwe through the form of donkey-drawn mobile libraries. This research sought to find the extent to which supplementary reading material was accessible to three selected primary schools in Tsholotsho District that made use of the donkey-drawn library services. Literature reviewed revealed that accessibility of mobile libraries is a very important aspect of librarianship in rural areas. Library modalities in Africa and services offered by donkey-drawn libraries were also highlighted. Effectiveness and impact of these libraries towards the provision of supplementary reading materials should highly be researched on, as there was an indication of gaps on the literature reviewed. The theoretical structure adapted for the study was the Survey research design and questionnaires, interviews and focus group discussions were used as data gathering techniques. The main findings from the study indicated that pupils from the three selected schools had access to the donkey-drawn mobile library, but lack of adequate and relevant materials, long distances between schools as well as lack of maintenance hindered constant and sufficient access to the library. It was concluded that the donkey-drawn mobile library acted as the major source of library services to the school community, therefore Resource mobilization through financial funding and Government support is crucial for the development and maintainance of the donkey-drawn mobile libraries so that they can be more accessible and provide efficient reading materials.