

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE STATE OF AUTHORSHIP IN ZIMBABWE

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the state of authorship in Zimbabwe. The fundamental problem was that authors were always in an adversarial position with publishers concerning issues to do with royalty and contract negotiations. The primary objective of the study was to find out and clearly outline the challenges faced by authors in Zimbabwe as well as the benefits linked to authorship. This was to be done through finding out the royalty rates according to different publishers and authors, as well as the authors' bargaining power in contract negotiations; which were also the objectives of the study. Through literature review the researcher acquired knowledge and ideas established on the research topic, different published sources were evaluated and their relevance has been applied to the study. The researcher adopted a descriptive survey research design which focused on thirty authors and three educational publishers in Harare. The data gathering tools were questionnaires for authors and interviews for publishers. The major findings were that authors were not satisfied with the amount of royalties they were getting and most of them had supplementary jobs because authorship did not contribute much to their livelihood. Authors and publishers also agreed that authors did not participate in drafting contracts and adjustments were going to be made so that they would also be able to take part. Data was represented in forms of tables, pie charts and graphs. Recommendations were made in the last chapter which, if considered, could change the state of authorship in Zimbabwe for the better. The research ended by summarising the whole study and a conclusion was made.