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**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CAPTURE AND PRESERVATION OF ORAL
HISTORY: A CASE OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF ZIMBWE (BULAWAYO)**

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ABSTRACT

Although capturing oral history is a method of acquisition it presents real challenges to the archival community charged with the responsibility of sufficiently capturing and preserving oral history for posterity. The capturing of oral history presents problems like lack of resources, language as a barrier of communication, technological obsolescence and subjectivity. Preserving audio tapes is also challenge because generally audio visual materials are usually unstable and don't last long especially when special care is not given to the materials. Although research and experience has developed appropriate strategies to conduct interviews and prolong the life span of audio tapes, it is evident from the findings of this case study that the strategies are not always practical especially in the developing countries with limited resources.

The research study starts by indicating major problems faced in capturing and preserving oral history at global level but much emphasis is placed on those problems prominent to the developing countries narrowing down to the NAZ (Bulawayo). The study went on to review literature on the existing strategies of preserving oral history.

The case study used different data gathering techniques in order to collect reliable and valid data. An in depth analysis of the collected data was done in chapter four. The research found out that the history of people in Matabeleland is not documented and there are no good preservation strategies at the NAZ (Bulawayo). The situation needs immediate action because the sources of oral information are dying and some forget.