

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS AND ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESERVATION STRATEGIES IN CONTROLLING VINEGAR
SYNDROME ON ACETATE BASE MOTION - PICTURE FILM COLLECTIONS AT THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF ZIMBABWE (HARARE).**

BY

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
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ABSTRACT

The research project assessed the preservation strategies in controlling vinegar syndrome on acetate base motion-picture film collections at the National Archives of Zimbabwe in Harare. Its purpose was to assess what preservation strategies employed by the institution to control the deterioration of film archival collections for long term accessibility by both present and future generations. The study used a case study research design as a preferred method as it scaled down the research by focusing on preservation strategies employed by National Archives of Zimbabwe to control vinegar syndrome on acetate film. The study's gathering tools involved both face to face and telephone interviews, and self administered questionnaire. The respondents included the Directorate, Film Archivists, Chief Archivists and the Librarian. The study revealed that preservation of film archival collections was not adequately performed at the National Archives of Zimbabwe in Harare due to lack of an effective film preservation programme, lack of awareness on part of the staff as well as lack of financial resources. The study recommended that National Archives of Zimbabwe should formulate and implement an effective film preservation programme and train staff on preservation strategies and actions to effectively preserve film archival records. The study also suggested another area of further research to focus on film archival backups such as migration.