

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

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE DOCUMENTATION AND PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL  
HERITAGE COLLECTIONS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ZIMBABWE IN  
BULAWAYO.**

**BY**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE**

**IN**

**RECORDS AND ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT**

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE**

**YEAR: 2010**

## **Abstract**

The research was an assessment of the documentation and preservation of cultural heritage collections at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, in Bulawayo. The major challenges were that the inadequate documentation and lack of a documentation policy and strategy resulted in the loss of critical cultural heritage legacy. The under utilization of the galleries archive has profoundly contributed to the lack of planning and utilization of the cultural heritage resources at the gallery. Some of the challenges faced in the documentation of culture at the gallery were attributed to the lack of adequate financial resources needed to engage the staff in training of the documentation strategies that could be utilized. Though a preservation strategy is standard for the visual art collections the equipment used for the preservation has become obsolete and the strategies a little outdated. The research sought to answer the questions as to why there was no documentation policy for cultural heritage collections at the City's main hub of cultural activities. Seeing that culture seeks to mirror a peoples way of life, where they are coming from and where they are going, as well as being a source of sustainable development and a source of information the research sought to underline the effects of the loss of cultural legacies at the gallery and how the in-house archive can contribute to the societies cultural memory, when it seeks to use culture as a valuable source of information. There is therefore need to come up with a documentation and preservation policy for the gallery. A case study approach was used and the data gathering tools were self administered questionnaires, face to face and telephone interviews.