

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS AND ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT

**PACKAGING AND DISSEMINATION OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH BY THE
RECORDS AND ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT AT THE NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NUST)**

BY

MORVEN NYAMURAMBA

(N0070862L)

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ABSTRACT

After every academic year, the department adds a new batch of research reports in its database consolidated for municipalities, government departments, public and private entities. The reports identify certain broad themes (records management, archival administration and practice, professionalism and staff training) and highlight specific challenges that are being faced by these organisations. The aim of this research was to assess how undergraduate research is packaged and disseminated by the department. Repackaging and dissemination of these reports could stimulate dialogue on the research findings, ideally to a point where both the senior management would be able to commit to specific actions and interventions to address the findings that would lead to improved economic activity and improved employment in the country. Several scholarly works were consulted and these floodlit the path that was followed by the research. The issues cited were as references to shed light on the best possible formats and strategies for packaging and dissemination of research. The areas of concern included why, how and when the department could package and disseminate research. In this case study, a total of thirteen members of the department were part of the population of which only ten questionnaires were sent out. A document analysis of eighty one (81) undergraduate research reports and four external examiner's reports for the period covering 2008 to 2011 academic years was also conducted. The study found that the root cause of inadequate packaging and dissemination of the research findings in most cases resulted from lack of initiative by the department, lack of a departmental research focus, lack of staff expertise and lack of communication of the administrative offices such as the Research and Innovations Office and the TECHNOPAK office at NUST for funding and equipment (ICTs) for research from the department. The purpose of undertaking research in the department is also another challenge, thus by being an academic exercise which is done in partial fulfillment of the Honours Degree by students it does give limits the research process. The study recommends that research packaging and dissemination should be embedded in the department's primary activities equal to provision of lectures. It is concluded that failure to package and disseminate research findings would lead to organisations continuing experience records and archives management related challenges and the discipline would continue to be undermined in the community.