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THE ADOPTION AND USE OF ARCHIVAL ETHICS AMONG ARCHIVISTS IN
ZIMBABWE: A CASE STUDY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF ZIMBABWE,
HARARE

BY

LYINDA MAWENI

{N0082230Z}

A RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONORS DEGREE

IN

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ABSTRACT

Archival ethics has been covered in piece meal fashion in Zimbabwe. The purpose of the study is to find out if archivists in Zimbabwe are adopting and using the ethical stipulations when processing records and also to examine the communication and availability of the codes of ethics. It also aims to study on how archival practice is informed by ethical principles and how ethical issues are taken into consideration in the management of public records and archives at National Archives of Zimbabwe. The research was a case study of National Archives of Zimbabwe (NAZ) Harare. A review of literature was done which revealed other studies that have been done in the area of ethics. The literature review exposed literature on what other authors have said about the topic in question. The population sample was chosen using a purposive sampling method. Questionnaires and interviews were used to collect data. Fifteen questionnaires were administered and thirteen of them were returned which gave the researcher an 87% response rate to work with. The data that was collected was presented in the form of a table, graphs and charts. Findings indicated that the NAZ Harare did not have its own code of ethics; however they are familiar with the International Council of Archivists (ICA) code of ethics. Recommendations were made at the end for NAZ to ensure that the code is availed as well as raise awareness on its importance to archivists. As well as encouraging NAZ to formulate their own code of ethics through the use of professional associations. The study was expected to assist archivists to be able to make ethical decisions in their work with special reference to codified ethics. It was also expected to go a long way in informing archivists to introduce concepts of ethics and linking codification of those ethical concepts to professionalism.