NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) DEGREE IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

PART I SECOND SEMESTER MAY 2012 EXAMINATIONS

ILI 1203: INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS

TIME: 3 HOURS

Instructions to candidates
1. Answer any <u>four</u> (4) questions.
2. Each question carries 25 marks.
3. Give equal time to each question.
4. Importance is attached to accuracy, clarity and legibility of handwriting.

1.1 The characteristics of information needs make it difficult to design Information Retrieval systems for mixed target groups. Discuss. [8 marks]

1.2 Assess the importance of understanding the nature of users, information needs, and seeking behaviour in the provision of information services. [10 marks]

1.3 Evaluate possible sources of information about users of information retrieval systems. [7 marks]

2.1 Briefly assess the characteristics of the following types of information: fact, opinion/analytic, objective, subjective , primary, secondary, scholarly [7 marks]

2.2 With the aid of a diagram and examples, discuss the six principle steps in an information life cycle. [18 marks]

3. Assess the evaluation criteria for Information Retrieval Systems. [25 marks]

4.1 With the aid of a diagram, discuss the process of information retrieval. [14 marks]

4.2 Assess the merits and demerits of digitisation. [11marks]

5.1 Using Venn diagrams, explain how the Boolean operators used for information retrieval work. [12 marks]

5.2 Explain the advantages of using Boolean operators in information retrieval   [5 marks]

5.3 With clear examples, explain how wildcard symbols are used in the retrieval of information.
[8 marks]

6.1 Define, with examples, what a search engine is.   [2 marks]

6.2 Explain the manner in which a search engine works.   [10 marks]

6.3 Citing the two types of queries, explain what a query is.   [4 marks]

6.4 Enumerate how a query is formulated.   [4 marks]

6.5 With examples, briefly explain the difference between strong and weak queries.
[5 marks]

END OF PAPER