

**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 JULY 2012 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS**

**ILI 1203: INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS**

**TIME: 3 HOURS**

**Instructions to candidates**

1. Answer any four (4) questions.
  2. Each question carries 25 marks.
  3. Give equal time to each question.
  4. Importance is attached to accuracy, clarity and legible handwriting.
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- 1.1 Explain the functions of the six subsystems of an information retrieval system. [12 marks]
- 1.2 Assess the functions of abstracts in information retrieval. [6 marks]
- 1.3 Briefly explain the qualities of a good abstract. [7 marks]
- 2.1 Assess the rationale behind evaluating information retrieval systems. [12 marks]
- 2.2 Discuss the evaluation criteria for an Information Retrieval system. [13 marks]
- 3.1 Assess the factors that influence users' information seeking behaviour in information retrieval. [10 marks]
- 3.2 Explain the characteristics of information needs. [6 marks]
- 3.3 Evaluate three main data collection instruments used to gather information about users of an Information Retrieval System. [9 marks]
- 4.1 Discuss the functions of indexes. [8 marks]
- 4.2 Assess the impact of information and communication technologies on indexing. [5 marks]

- 4.3 Compare and contrast controlled to natural languages in vocabulary control of information retrieval systems. [12 marks]
- 5.1 Discuss the concept of digital information organisation. [2 marks]
- 5.2 Enumerate the merits and demerits of digital information. [10 marks]
- 5.3 Explain the major functions of metadata. [8 marks]
- 5.4 Describe the following metadata creation tools: templates, extraction tools, conversion tools. [5 marks]
- 6.1 Compare and contrast traditional to modern information retrieval systems. [14 marks]
- 6.2 Explain the basic architecture of a web search engine. [11 marks]

***END OF PAPER***