

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 2013 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 legibility of handwriting.
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- 1.1 You have been tasked to design an Information Retrieval System for an academic community of users. Discuss why it will be difficult to carry out the task considering the varied characteristics of information needs. [12 marks]
- 1.2 Assess the merits and demerits of possible sources of information about users. [13 marks]
- 2.1 With examples, describe any five types of information. [10 marks]
- 2.2 Librarians can only understand their primary functions in using information systems when only they know the information life cycle. Discuss this statement looking at all the stages in the cycle. [15 marks]
3. Imagine you are the new Chief Librarian at NUST, what perspective or orientation of evaluation and criteria you would use to evaluate the Information Retrieval System in place. [25 marks]
- 4.1 Analyse the functions of metadata in information storage and retrieval. [10 marks]
- 4.2 In the current information driven society digitalisation is important. Critique. [12 marks]

- 5.1 What criteria would you use in constructing and evaluating abstracts? [8 marks]
- 5.2 Assess the functions of abstracts in information retrieval. [6 marks]
- 5.3 Identify the six subsystems of an information retrieval system bringing out their functions. [12 marks]
- 6.1 Describe how a search engine performs its work. [13 marks]
- 6.2 Explain how one can do query expansion. [4 marks]
- 6.3 With an example, elaborate on the following four main steps in information searching: problem identification, need articulation, query formulation, and results evaluation. [8 marks]

END OF PAPER