

Creating an Electronic Thesis Database (ETD) using OMEKA. The Zimbabwe Open
University experience

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to establish the implementation experiences of the Zimbabwe Open University librarians in creating an Electronic Thesis and Dissertation database using OMEKA over DSpace. The study explored the successes and challenges that were faced when coming up with the new Institutional Repository. The objectives of the study were to: (i) establish the benefits of using OMEKA over DSpace. (ii) establish the technical challenges faced in implementing the new ETD database (iii) Highlight the benefits accrued from establishing and ETD management solution. The study was qualitative in nature and used the phenomenology paradigm. Data was collected from all librarians and IT staff that were involved in the implementation of the new repository across the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe. An online questionnaire was drafted in order to collect responses from the target population. The study was significant in that it gave a detailed comparison of DSpace and OMEKA as two open source software that were available on the market. Results of the study revealed that lack of trained staff was one of the major problems in creating the ETDs.

Key words OMEKA, DSpace, Institutional Repositories, Thesis database