

# E-Theses and Dissertations in Zambia: A Case Study of Two Universities in Kabwe

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

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- ☐ Introduction
- ☐ Methods
- ☐ Results
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# Introduction

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- ❑ The digital age has catalyzed shift in the management and dissemination of academic research,
- ❑ Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) play a pivotal role in this shift
- ❑ An ETD is an openly-accessible electronic version of a thesis or dissertation that is stored mainly in the Institutional Repository (IR)
- ❑ Chisale (2024) says the integration of technology, open-source initiatives, and the evolving paradigm of intellectual property rights has fostered the development of ETDs projects which has seen the establishment of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD)
- ❑ NDLTD actively supports electronic publishing and advocates for open access to scholarly content to facilitate global knowledge sharing by encouraging the adoption, creation, utilization, dissemination, and preservation of ETDs

# Introduction Cont'd.....

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- ❑ Scholarly materials like theses and dissertations can now be submitted in electronic form so that they can be distributed to a wider group of users not limited within the library building (Barua, 2006).
- ❑ Institutional Repositories (IRs) play a key role in digital scholarship and are recognized as an essential infrastructure for academic research (Rasuli, 2019).
- ❑ ETD's have the ability to improve the publicity of research output by an institution's staff and students (Neil & Gary, 2006)
- ❑ Although some institutions have successfully implemented ETD's including Database of African Theses and Dissertations (DATAD) project, there are still many challenges (Tise, 2005).
- ❑ The current study investigated the successes and challenges in the implementation of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) at Kwame Nkrumah and Mulungushi universities in Kabwe district, Zambia.

# Methodology

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- ❑ The study employed a **qualitative research approach**
- ❑ Data collection was conducted through **structured interviews** with **four purposively** selected key informants
- ❑ These informants were **personnel from the e-resources departments** of the university libraries, chosen for their direct involvement and expertise in the management of ETDs
- ❑ The **structured interview guides** were designed to elicit detailed information about the establishment of institutional repositories, the implementation process, and the challenges encountered
- ❑ A case study research design was adopted (Creswell, 2014)
- ❑ Thematic analysis to identify common patterns and themes

# Results

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## Successes

- ❑ Successfully established institutional repositories and initiated the integration of ETDs – Both Institutions
- ❑ Significant progress in the digital management of academic research
- ❑ Increased accessibility and visibility
- ❑ Platforms were up and running
- ❑ Training of staff and orientation of students
- ❑ Personnel assigned to handle ETDs

## Challenges

- ❑ Resistance from staff to deposit their dissertations into the repositories
- ❑ Lack of technical expertise required for configuring and maintaining the repository platforms
- ❑ Intermittent network connectivity
- ❑ Lack of plagiarism detector for submitted docs
- ❑ Erratic funding
- ❑ Technological challenges with service providers among other challenges

# Discussion – Implications for practice

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- ❑ The successes scored by both institutions is a confirmation of Neil and Gary (2006)' observation that ETDs have the ability to improve the publicity of research output by an institution's staff and students.
- ❑ Such achievements point to a greater visibility to the outside world as one Key Informant remarked, "...letting the world know and have a feel of the research work produced from Kwame Nkrumah University is the biggest success ever."
- ❑ Setting up of IRs is an indicated of progress made in promoting digital scholarship at the two Universities
- ❑ This finding resonates well with Rasuli (2019) who argues that Institutional repositories play a critical role in digital scholarship and essential for academic research.
- ❑ However, Implementation of ETDs in the two institutions is clogged by some challenges which are not unique as Tise (2005)' study reveals some South African institutions face similar challenges
- ❑ Thes challenges call for strategic investment in key areas such as Cloud-based solution to host the platform, investing in technical infrastructure, funding, vigorous sensitisation of both students and staff

# Conclusion

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- ❑ The implementation of ETD at both institutions has seen promising beginnings with the establishment of institutional repositories and initial successes.
- ❑ However, significant challenges remain, including resistance from staff to deposit their work, a lack of technical expertise, and unreliable network connectivity among others.
- ❑ These obstacles have prevented the full potential of ETDs from being realized
- ❑ To overcome these hurdles and enhance the implementation process, it is crucial to invest in comprehensive training programs for staff, bolster technical support and infrastructure, and develop strategies to promote a culture of compliance and active participation among academic staff
- ❑ By addressing these issues, the universities can achieve a more effective and sustainable ETD system, ultimately contributing to the broader dissemination and accessibility of academic research in Zambia



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