# Examining the Cultural and Institutional Factors Affecting the Visibility of ETDs in Zambia: Implications for Policy and Practice

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ABSTRACT

This study delves into the cultural and institutional factors influencing the visibility of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) in Zambia and their implications for policy and practice. Through a mixed-methods approach incorporating surveys, interviews, and document analysis, the research explores the multifaceted landscape surrounding ETD visibility. Findings reveal a complex interplay of cultural attitudes towards digital scholarship, institutional infrastructures, technological literacy, and policy frameworks shaping the accessibility of ETDs. Furthermore, the study uncovers significant barriers hindering the dissemination and utilization of ETDs beyond academia. These barriers include limited digital infrastructure, inadequate institutional support, and prevailing cultural norms favoring traditional forms of knowledge dissemination. The implications of these findings underscore the need for targeted policy interventions and institutional reforms aimed at fostering a culture of open access and digital scholarship in Zambia. By addressing these cultural and institutional challenges, Zambia can harness the full potential of ETDs as valuable resources for education, research, and socioeconomic development.

**Key words**: Digital Repositories, Resource accessibility, Research visibility