

# University of Zimbabwe Research Infrastructure

The University of Zimbabwe is a research institution where teaching and learning are informed by research results. The University has thus developed cutting edge research facilities and infrastructure that include among others, a US\$15 million super computer, one of the only four super computers on the African continent, a stunning collection of electronic resources, unique 21<sup>st</sup> century ICT driven research support innovations, and a robust selection of print resources that support high quality national and international research-based knowledge generation and transfer, problem solving, education, and commercialization.

## Research Facilities

### The University Research Library



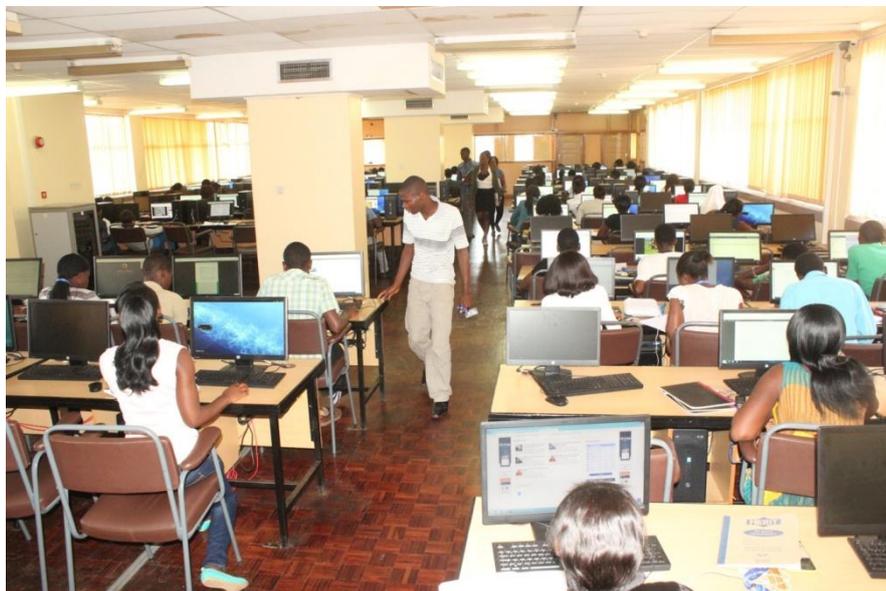
**University of Zimbabwe Research Library**

The Research Library provides access to over 1 200 000 e-journals covering diverse research disciplines. In addition to the e-journals, it also subscribes to over 150 000 e-books. The subscriptions to e-journals and e-books have far reaching implications for ease of research as these resources can be accessed from anywhere by all members of the university community.

The new role of the University of Zimbabwe Research Library in the 21st century is that of a dynamic learning and knowledge centre where “the University intellectual community and ideas interact in both the real and virtual environments, thereby, expanding learning and facilitating the creation of new knowledge.”

Undergraduate students enjoy hustle free research in the Research Commons, Multimedia Centre and Collaborative Learning Centre. Graduate students have the motivating Postgraduate Research Centre.

### **Research Commons**



**Students busy at work in the Research Commons**

### **Multimedia Centre**

The Centre allows users to view academic materials on DVD, recorded lectures, experiments and presentations. There are also television sets connected to Digital Satellite Television (DSTV) featuring News, Geography, Documentaries, and History Channels among others.

The Multi-Media Centre is equipped with state of the art computers with web cameras that can be used for video chat/conference. Besides video chat, students are also able to share files instantly using web tools such as Skype. Students with speaking disabilities are able to communicate (through sign language) using the video chat facility on Skype. Those who have visual disabilities are able to listen to audio CDs or academic podcasts available on the web.

Users are also able to stream academic videos on YouTube including recorded lectures from other global elite institutions of higher learning such as Harvard University, Stanford University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



**One of the rooms in the Multimedia Centre equipped with state of the art computers with web cameras**



**DSTV channels in the Multimedia Centre**

## **Collaborative Learning Centre for Postgraduate Students**

Collaborative Learning Centres are becoming an important feature in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Libraries. The facility allows students and staff to conduct collaborative learning and research activities. The power of collaborative research cannot be underestimated. Encouraging students to reach out to one another to solve research problems and share knowledge not only builds collaboration skills but leads to better research.



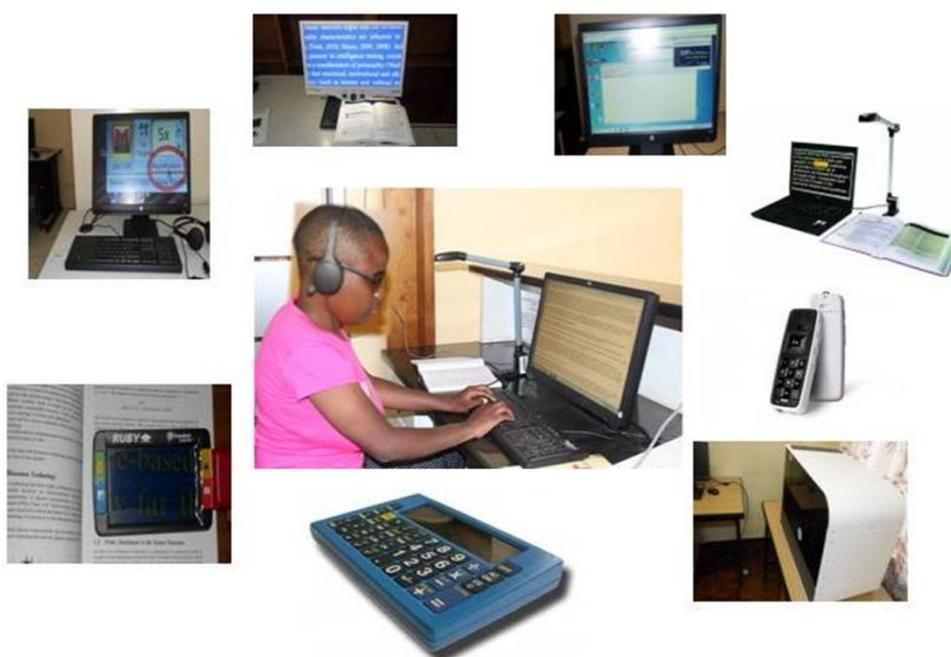
## Postgraduate Computer Laboratory

The well equipped postgraduate computer laboratory provides an ideal environment for postgraduate research by postgraduate students across the University.



## Assistive Technologies for Students with Special Needs

The advent and dominance of ICT based information resources has changed the way students with special needs access and use information. The University has thus acquired an assortment of equipment to empower students with disability to become independent researchers in an ICT driven environment. The equipment includes Merlin Ultra Desktop Magnifier, Ruby Handheld Electronic Magnifier, Open Book and Portable Pearl Reading Camera, Book Sense/Recorder, Talking Scientific Calculator, Magic Screen Magnification Software and Job Access with Speech (JAWS) software.





**Assistive Technologies in the Disability Resources Centre Research Library**

### **Law Reference Library**



**Students in the Law library**

The University of Zimbabwe Law Reference Library occupies a unique and important place in the Faculty of Law and the legal community in providing legal information services in support of research and learning. The library provides access to

comprehensive historical printed collection of Case Law, Statute Law spanning back to 1900 years, and over fifty thousand copies of core legal texts from various local and international authors. To complement the print collection, the library has access to various e-journals and e-books and databases which are a source of current legal information. The databases include Oxford Journals Collection, HeinOnline, Ebsco, Ebrary, Statute and Judgement databases. To ensure utilisation of the electronic resources, the library has a computer lab for use by students engaging in electronic research. Above all, the library offers legal reference services to researchers and a conducive reading environment, with the quiet study spaces furnished with comfortable reading tables and chairs.

### **Education Reference Library**

The new look spacious library provides wide access to educational resources in both print and electronic form. Researchers have access to the internet through Wi-Fi and are able to access a host of electronic resources including databases of e-books and e-journals that the library subscribes to as well as other online resources.



**Students engrossed in serious research in the Education Reference Library**

## **GIS and Geo-Spatial Intelligence Research Library**

Located in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science, the GIS and Geo-Spatial Intelligence Research Library boasts of a large collection of research materials and IT resources that support research and teaching of GIS and Earth Observation and Geo-Spatial Intelligence activities.



**Inside the GIS and Geo-Spatial Intelligence Reference Library**