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RESEARCH is one of the three mandates of the University of Zimbabwe. The other two being TEACHING and COMMUNITY SERVICE. It is through research that new knowledge is discovered, explained and brought to the public domain. It is through research that old knowledge is rediscovered, updated and explained anew and in line with current understanding. It is also through research that the frontiers of knowledge are challenged and pushed further back. It is also through research that humanity is often challenged to redefine itself. It is through research and the accumulation of knowledge that we come to realize that the only sacred truth is that there is no sacred truth.

The research effort presented in this handbook is a culmination of the expertise, tradition, academic excellence and leadership culture of the University through the last half century of higher and tertiary education of between 2000 and 2010. Despite the challenges of the last ten years, the University has been able to produce over 1 300 research outputs in international publications. As one great scientist once said, ‘we see further, because we stand on the shoulders of giants’. And more often than not, the result of good research is the product of collaboration.

There are nine Academic Faculties, a College and a number of Institutes and Centres in the University of Zimbabwe. The current research compilation is therefore only a bird’s eye view of the sum of the various outputs from the different academic centres. The compilation also shows the great diversity of the nature of the University of Zimbabwe’s research output, from the generalised to the specialised; from the mundane to the cutting edge; from the basic, the theoretical to the applied and on to development issues. It is this diverse nature of the quality and quantity of the academic experience and excellence offered by the University of Zimbabwe that continues to give the institution a cutting edge character.

It is hoped that readers of the Handbook of Research Publications will find it a helpful window into the Research activities of the University of Zimbabwe.

Professor L. M. Nyagura
Vice Chancellor
Preface

It is often said that RESEARCH without PUBLICATION is like winking at someone in the dark. You know that you are doing it but no one else can see it! For research output to be recognized, seen and appreciated by colleagues and the general public, it must be published.

The University of Zimbabwe Publications (UZP) is the unit in the institution which has the responsibility of collating, coordinating and publishing of all academic and scholarly works from the University of Zimbabwe and also works from sister institutions in the region (Africa) and from the rest of the world.

The mission of the UZP is TO PROVIDE QUALITY PUBLICATIONS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ZIMBABWE AND EMPOWER PEOPLE. UZP CONTINUOUSLY STRIVES TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION AS THE COUNTRY’S LEADING PUBLISHER OF ACADEMIC AND SCHOLARLY WORKS.

To facilitate the realization of the mission, UZP is run by a professional administration which is headed by the Director of Publications. In turn, the Director is the head of a secretariat which serves the University of Zimbabwe Publications Committee. The UZP Committee is constituted of representatives from the ten faculties of the University, the Library and related units. In addition, the Editors-In-Chief of the University Journals are members of the Publications Committee.

Currently, the three official journals of the University are the CENTRAL AFRICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE (CAJM), representing medical and life sciences; THE JOURNAL OF APPLIED SCIENCES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (JASSA), representing the physical and applied sciences and ZAMBEZIA, representing the humanities.

The publication of books, monographs and research articles in the aforementioned journals is the core business of the UZP.

UZP is the flagship of the University of Zimbabwe Publications.

Professor C.F.B. Nhachi
Chairman: Publications Committee
Faculty of Agriculture
Department of Animal Science Publications


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