

GWANDA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Umthombo

GSU QUARTERLY

Umthombo

THE GSU LIBRARY QUARTERLY

July - September

2026

Volume 1 | Issue 1

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UMTHOMBO - THE GSU LIBRARY QUARTERLY

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2026 |VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR'S DESK



The Chief Editor
Ms. D Gudoshava, Sub Librarian

Welcome to Our First Volume *Umthombo* - GSU Library Quarterly (July - September 2026) Volume 1 | Issue 1

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the inaugural edition of ***Umthombo* - GSU Library Quarterly**, a publication designed to keep the university community and our valued peers across the academic landscape informed about our library developments, services, resources, research support initiatives and emerging trends in academic librarianship. As an essential partner in teaching, learning, research, the University Library continues to evolve in response to the changing information needs of students, academics and researchers. Our commitment is to provide access to relevant scholarly information, promote information literacy, support research excellence and encourage a culture of lifelong learning.

Through this quarterly newsletter, we aim to celebrate achievements, share knowledge, highlight new services and provide a platform for communicating the initiatives that contribute to the University's academic mission. We will also explore developments in digital scholarship, open access, scholarly communication and innovative library services that enhance access to knowledge.

This first edition marks the beginning of an exciting communication journey. I encourage students, lecturers, researchers and colleagues to engage with the newsletter, share their experiences and contribute ideas and stories that reflect the value and impact of our Library. As we look to the future, let us continue working together to build an accessible, innovative and research-oriented library that empowers our university community.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We look forward to connecting with you through every edition.
Happy reading!

MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



Mr. Phillip Ndhlovu
University Librarian

"Libraries are no longer merely repositories of books; they are dynamic centres of academic discovery, innovation and collaboration. As I assume the role of University Librarian, my vision is to advance an inclusive, modern and digitally enabled academic library that seamlessly integrates innovative technologies with traditional scholarship. Working collaboratively with our dedicated team and the wider university community, we will strengthen access to knowledge, support teaching and learning, advance research and innovation, and empower our students and researchers to contribute meaningfully to global scholarship and sustainable community development."





A QUICK LOOK INTO OUR EXPANDED SERVICES

Our library entered the new quarter with expanded support for students, faculty, and researchers by highlighting the many ways our community uses our building, collections, and staff expertise. As a shared place for discovery—catering to everything from student study groups to faculty research projects and campus partnerships—we are thrilled to announce the official launch of two vital sections: the Reprography Services and the Disability Resource Sections.

This launch transforms our facility into a dynamic, accessible, and high-tech ecosystem designed to serve every community member equitably, ensuring that no student or researcher is left behind.

Our enhanced Reprography Services hub simplifies document management by offering rapid, high-quality printing, copying, binding, and laminating at heavily subsidized student rates to professionalize your assignments and preserve key research materials.

Simultaneously, our Disability Resource Section provides an equitable study environment equipped with cutting-edge assistive technologies, alternative media formats like Braille and text to speech devices, adjustable ergonomic furniture, and dedicated support staff ready to assist with personalized learning needs.



The University Library remains deeply committed to providing an inclusive, high-utility academic environment, so we encourage you to visit us today to explore these updates, meet our team, and learn how these tools can pave a seamless path toward your academic success.



LAUNCH OF REPROGRAPHY SERVICES & DISABILITY RESOURCE SECTION

On the first of September 2026, the University Library launched its Reprography Services and Disability Resource Section, marking a powerful step towards making knowledge more accessible, learning more inclusive and the University experience more empowering for all.

In a speech, which was read on her behalf by Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Xavier Poshiwa, Vice Chancellor Professor Doreen Zandile Moyo said the launch demonstrated GSU's commitment to improving the student experience, embracing technology and creating an environment where every student can participate fully in university life.

The Reprography Services Section brings printing, photocopying, scanning, binding, laminating and related services closer to students and staff, making essential academic support more convenient and accessible.

The Disability Resource Section takes that commitment further by using assistive technology to remove barriers to learning. Supported through a Ministry grant (Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development) facilitated by the Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC), the Unit features technologies including Dolphin Screen Reader Software, Hark Reader, BrailleOne refreshable Braille display and notetaker, hearing aids, Victor Stream Reader and the Exam C-Pen.

The launch signals a broader transformation: a Library that is not simply a place to access information, but a space where technology opens access, inclusion creates opportunity, and every learner is empowered to engage with knowledge.



GSU Principal Officers posing for a photo



GSU Principal Officers, Deans, the SEC, Directors, Chairpersons and Library staff

LIBRARY ORIENTATION AND INFORMATION & DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS TRAINING

Following the successful launch of the March and August Intakes, the Gwanda State University Library extended a warm welcome to all first-year students who joined our community. As our new students settled into their academic journeys under Zimbabwe's Heritage-Based Education 5.0 framework, the library provided the essential tools required to support their research and innovation goals. To ensure everyone built a strong academic foundation, we completed our comprehensive library orientation programmes and wrapped up our intensive Information and Digital Literacy Skills Training sessions.

These hands-on workshops equipped our new students with essential skills to effectively access, evaluate, and utilize academic literature. Our training sessions guided students through our physical building layouts and introduced them to our digital ecosystem. Participants actively learned to navigate our KOHA-powered Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) and unlocked thousands of peer-reviewed resources via our subscribed e-resource databases. Furthermore, students acquired critical skills to protect their academic integrity, including how to evaluate source credibility, formulate advanced search strategies, and automate citations using the Zotero referencing tool.

Key Skills Covered in the Training

- **OPAC Navigation:** Students learned to search, locate, and track physical book holdings independently across our campus libraries.
- **E-Resource Discovery:** Participants gained experience in accessing top-tier international resources on databases like EBSCOhost, SpringerNature Link and ProQuest e-book Central to mention a few.
- **Remote Access :** Attendees were taken through Off Campus access to electronic resources facilitated through OpenAthens Connect - a Single Sign-On Remote Access Solution.
- **Academic Integrity:** First-years learned to understand referencing standards, identify predatory journals, and prevent plagiarism in their assignments.
- **Zotero Reference Manager:** Users were taken through the creation of personal digital libraries and generation of automated, perfectly formatted bibliographies.

For further research assistance or to request targeted group support, please contact our **help desk team** at library@gsu.ac.zw.



IDLS Handson Training session in progress for the August 2026 Intake - undergraduate students



Orientation session in progress for the March 2026 Intake - undergraduate students

NEW CORE TEXTBOOK ACQUISITIONS

The Gwanda State University Library is excited to announce the acquision of a comprehensive collection of brand-new, core departmental textbooks. Strategically acquired to power Zimbabwe's Heritage-Based Education 5.0 framework, these foundational print resources directly support our academic ecosystem. By aligning physical print acquisitions with our digital catalog, we ensure our researchers, faculty, and students have immediate access to the authoritative texts required for innovation, industrialisation, and academic excellence.

"Every book added to our shelves is another window opened to a world of research and discovery." — Unknown

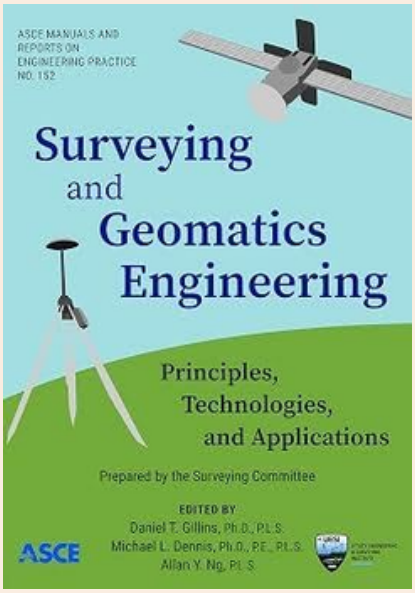
All newly acquired titles have been catalogued and are readily available in the university library stack area. Students can immediately track book availability or check shelf locations online via the GSU Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).

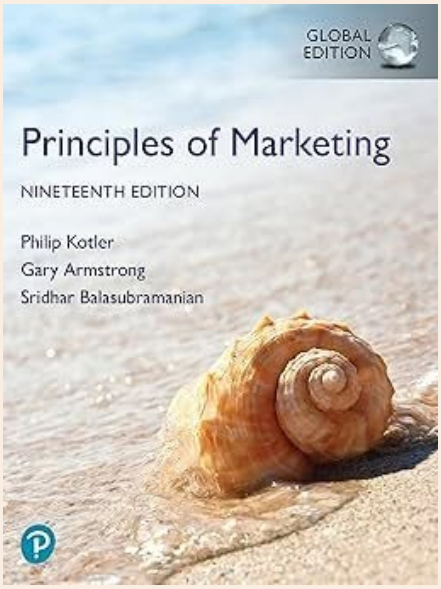
New Arrivals by Faculty and Discipline
Natural Resources Management & Agriculture: Core additions include but are not limited to updated manuals on animal production, health diagnostics, crop science breakthroughs, sustainable horticulture techniques, agricultural economics, and geographic information systems (GIS) for environmental mapping.

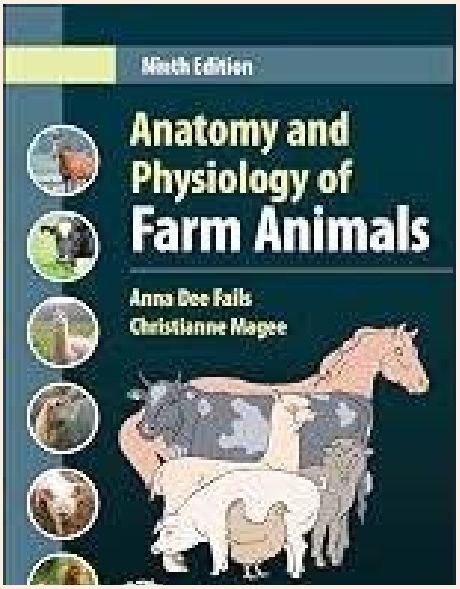
Engineering & The Environment: Shelves are now restocked with foundational texts covering advanced mining engineering principles, metallurgical extractive processes, surveying and geomatics methodologies, and advanced engineering mathematics to mention a few.

Business Sciences & Management: New acquisitions feature the latest financial accounting standard editions, auditing textbooks, corporate governance guides, and strategic marketing management frameworks.

Featured Titles

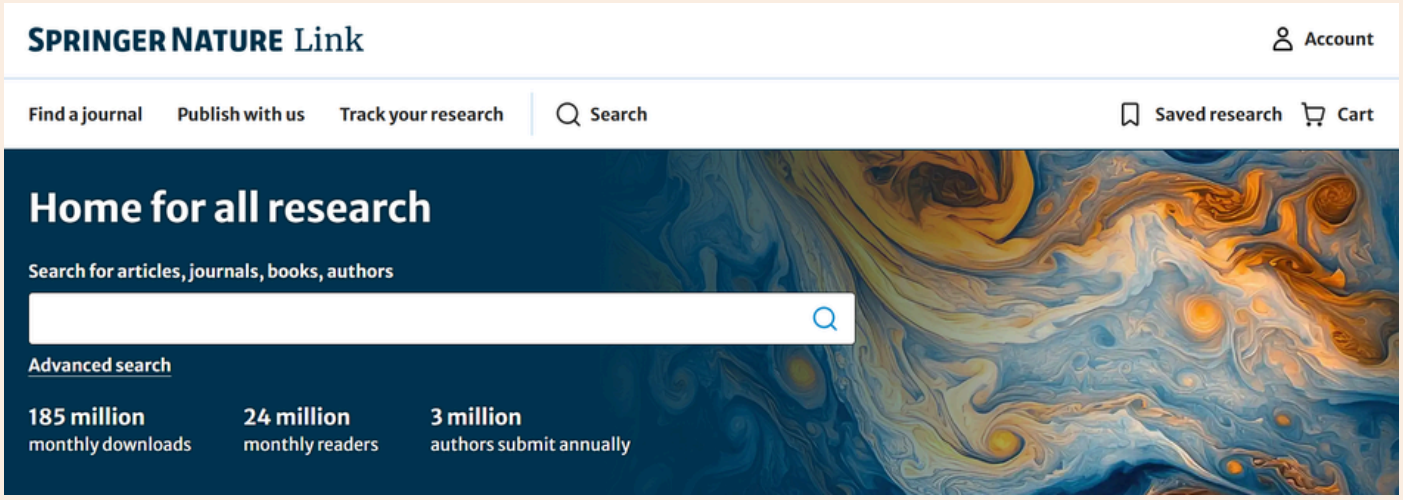






FEATURED RESOURCES

Featured Resource: Unlock Global Research on SpringerNature Link



This Quarter, we are spotlighting EBSCOhost, one of our premier digital database subscriptions available to the entire GSU community. EBSCOhost provides instant, full-text access to thousands of peer-reviewed international journals, market reports, and foundational e-books tailored to your specific field of study. Whether you are drafting an engineering design, conducting agricultural research, or analyzing business case studies, this platform connects you directly to global scholarly insights.

Subject Coverage:
EBSCOhost is a **multidisciplinary** platform covering all major academic fields, grouped into four core pillars:

- **STEM & Agriculture:** Engineering, computer science, mathematics, and agricultural systems.
- **Business & Economics:** Management, accounting, marketing, and global trade.
- **Social Sciences & Humanities:** Education, law, history, sociology, and philosophy.
- **Medical & Environmental Sciences:** Nursing, biomedical research, and sustainability studies.

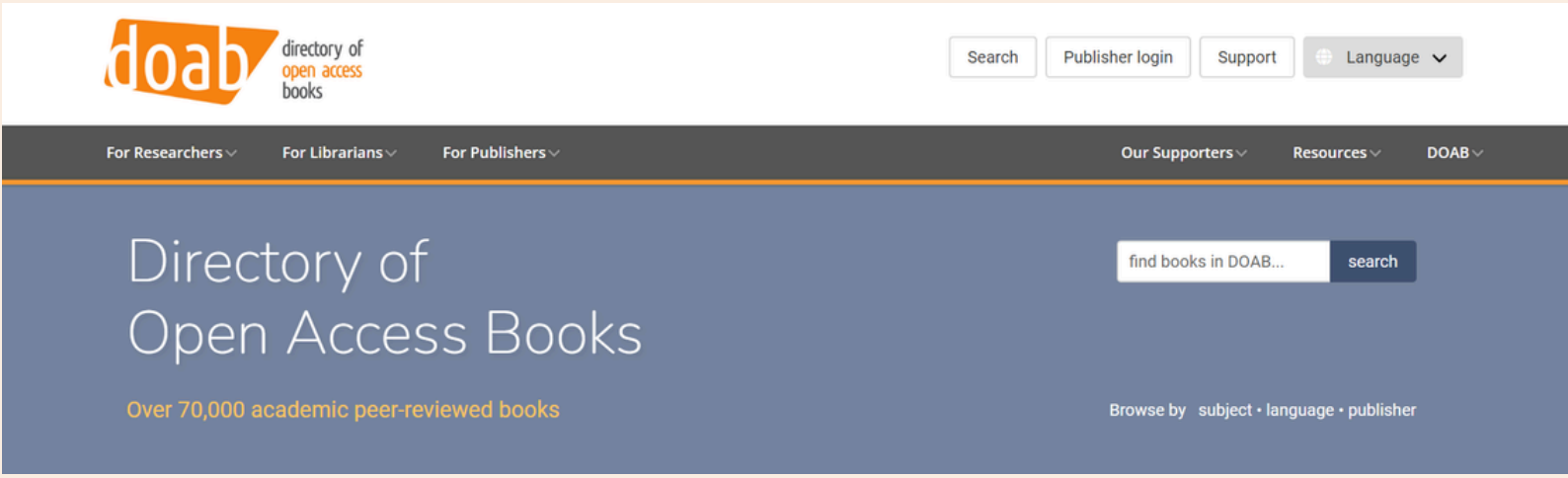
Content Types
The platform provides a wide mix of peer-reviewed and industry-focused content formats:

- **Scholarly Literature:** Peer-reviewed journals, research abstracts, dissertations, and conference papers.
- **Books & Reference:** Full-text eBooks, monographs, and academic textbooks.
- **Market Intelligence:** Corporate profiles, SWOT analyses, and country economic reports.
- **General Media:** Trade magazines, professional newsletters, and educational video clips.

- **On-Campus Access:** Enjoy automatic login from any computer connected to the university Wi-Fi network.
- **Off-Campus Access:** Use OpenAthens Connect SSO Solution to log in securely and search databases Off Campus.
- **Smart Research Tools:** Save, cite, download, or share articles directly using built-in citation builders.

Visit: https://library.gsu.ac.zw

Featured Open Access Resource: Global Research with the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB)



This quarter, we are highlighting the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB), a premier open-access discovery platform integrated into the GSU Library ecosystem. DOAB serves as a central clearinghouse that connects our academic community to thousands of peer-reviewed, academic e-books published by top international university presses. Every textbook, monograph, and research volume hosted on DOAB is fully open-access, allowing GSU students and faculty to read, download, and share vital academic insights completely free of charge.

The Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) provides a diverse array of peer-reviewed books spanning every academic discipline taught at Gwanda State University. This open ecosystem ensures that regardless of your faculty, you can find high-quality research texts to support your assignments and research projects.

Agriculture & Environmental Sciences: Access peer-reviewed volumes on climate-smart crop production, soil science, animal nutrition, sustainable resource management, and environmental impact assessment.

Engineering & Technology: Discover scholarly texts covering mining engineering, geological sciences, structural engineering, advanced electronics, and geomatics.

Business & Economic Sciences: Download authoritative books on international accounting standards, macroeconomics, corporate governance, strategic management, and global trade.
Social Sciences & Humanities: Explore deep research materials covering development studies, African history, public policy, and environmental sociology.

Pure & Applied Sciences: Locate foundational and advanced texts in mathematics, chemistry, physics, and biological data sciences.

Visit: https://library.gsu.ac.zw

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Gwanda State University (GSU) Library staff underwent a series of advanced capacity-building workshops designed to modernize campus research infrastructure and expand inclusive services. By participating in high-level national training programs, the library team has significantly enhanced its professional expertise. These initiatives directly align with the nation's Education 5.0 framework, transforming the library from a traditional repository into an active catalyst for academic innovation and scientific discovery. This Section will highlight some of the capacity building workshops staff attended.

The ZimLA 59th Annual Conference Special Report



Delegates attending the ZimLA 59TH Annual conference in Bulawayo

The Gwanda State University Library continues to position itself at the forefront of national academic transformation. In a clear demonstration of this commitment, the University Librarian attended the 59th Zimbabwe Library Association (ZimLA) Annual International Conference. Held from September 21 to 24, 2026, at the Bulawayo Rainbow Hotel, the conference brought together leading library, archive, and information science professionals from across the region to chart the future of information management in Zimbabwe. This year's conference ran under the timely and strategic theme: "Future-Ready Libraries: Driving Innovation, Expanding Access, and Demonstrating Impact."

Key Takeaways & Institutional Alignment

The conference sessions provided vital insights that directly support the GSU Library's goal to remain a world-class academic repository. Key areas of discussion included:

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacy:** Masterclasses focused heavily on integrating AI literacy training into academic library frameworks and redesigning physical library spaces into dynamic, tech-driven collaborative hubs.

- **Education 5.0 Integration:** Delegates explored how libraries can act as core drivers for Zimbabwe's Heritage-Based Education 5.0 agenda, turning traditional library resources into active catalysts for industrialization, research, and innovation.

- **Inclusive Digital Access:** Special emphasis was placed on leveraging innovative digital technologies to ensure no user or student is left behind in the digital economy.

Putting Insight into Action at GSU

The University Librarian's participation underscores our library's commitment to its official vision: "To be a world-class academic library, recognized for excellence in leveraging innovative digital technologies to provide exceptional information resources and services."

By benchmarking our practices against international standards discussed at ZimLA 2026, the GSU Library is actively refining its digital infrastructure, expanding its access to premium databases, and ensuring our library staff are fully equipped to guide students through the evolving digital landscape.



OERDPI Regional Workshop on (Open) Education in Research Data Management (RDM)-Policy, Implementation and Training for Open and Responsible Science



From September 23 to 25, 2026, a GSU Library staff participated in the intensive Accelerating (Open) Education in Research Data Management to Accelerate Open and Responsible Science Policy and Implementation (OERDPI) Regional Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Funded by VLIR-UOS, this prestigious gathering brought together Library Professionals, IT specialists, and policymakers from seven African and European countries to share strategies on Open and Responsible Science. During the three-day intensive program, the Gwanda State University (GSU) representative engaged in a series of collaborative and hands-on activities designed to transform research data support. Day 1 focused on benchmarking institutional readiness, analyzing regional RDM-OS capacity surveys, and aligning local frameworks with global FAIR and CARE principles. On Day 2, the activities shifted to evaluating technical infrastructure, where the team assessed data repository storage solutions noting Figshare as a highly manageable option over platforms like Zenodo and DataVerse while participating in regional self-assessments to map out cross-departmental collaboration strategies between the Library, ICT, and Research Offices. Finally, Day 3 was dedicated to practical "Train-the-Trainer" modules, where participants mastered Data Management Planning (DMP) using South Africa's DIRISA platform, explored how to embed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) into data metadata lifecycles, and concluded by co-founding the permanent OERDPI Community of Practice for ongoing continental peer exchange.



The ZULC 2026, 6th Biennial Conference



Guests from the Parent Ministry and Principal Officers from various Institutions

GSU Library leadership actively shaped the future of the nation's academic ecosystem at the 6th Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC) Biennial Conference in Harare. By engaging in global library dialogues and sharing strategies on open science, the team brought home cutting-edge insights in service delivery. These continuous professional development efforts ensure that GSU's library staff remains fully equipped to collaborate with faculty on complex research data cycles and safeguard the university's growing digital knowledge base.



Representatives from the Parent Ministry, ZULC Library Directors and Institutional representatives, ZULC 2026 6th Biennial Conference, Manna Resort, Harare

National Assistive Technologies Training Workshop

The Gwanda State University (GSU) Library participated in a transformative National Assistive Technologies Training Workshop, marking a significant milestone in the institution's commitment to campus inclusivity. Organized for member institutions of the Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC), the intensive workshop focused on equipping library professionals with the practical skills and technical expertise necessary to support users with diverse learning and physical needs. By bridging the gap between traditional library resources and modern adaptive tools, the training aimed to foster a more equitable academic environment across higher education institutions in Zimbabwe.

During the workshop, participants engaged in hands-on sessions exploring cutting-edge assistive technologies designed to mitigate learning barriers. The comprehensive curriculum covered specialised software and hardware configurations, including advanced screen readers, text-to-speech tools, and screen magnification software tailored for visually impaired patrons. Additionally, participants explored digital accessibility strategies and alternative formats that ensure academic research materials are universally accessible to students and researchers facing physical or hearing challenges.

The insights gained from the ZULC workshop have guided the library in refining its user support services and optimizing its digital infrastructure to better accommodate students with special needs. By actively integrating assistive technologies into daily operations, GSU Library continues to champion a culture of belonging, ensuring that every member of the university community has the resources they need to achieve academic excellence.



National Assistive Technologies Training Workshop Participants, Harare Institute of Technology, Harare

Open Institutional Repository Management for Librarians Workshop

The three-day Open Institutional Repository Management for Librarians training workshop was held at Manna Resort, Harare, from 26–28 August 2026, organised by UbuntuNet Alliance, ZIMREN, Invest in Open Infrastructure and Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC).



The training focused on effective institutional repository stewardship and management, covering areas such as DSpace structure and workflows, repository roles and responsibilities, metadata quality and standards, FAIR and CARE principles, persistent identifiers including ORCID, DOI and ROR, OAI-PMH, open access, digital preservation, and strategies for improving research visibility and discoverability. Practical exercises and assessment tools were also provided to support repository evaluation and continuous improvement.



Following training on the management and support of Institutional Repositories, GSU is poised to implement several strategic updates. The skills acquired during the workshop are bieng used to optimize repository workflows, elevate metadata standards, and maximize the global discoverability of GSU research outputs. To implement these changes efficiently, the team has deployed the workshop's structural assessment tools and implementation frameworks to evaluate the current platform, address functional gaps, and systematically prioritize system improvements.

Workshop on Fundamentals of Cataloguing: Resource Description and Access (RDA) and KOHA nstallation at National University of Science and Technology: 13 to 17 April 2026.

A five-day professional development workshop on **Fundamentals of Cataloguing: Resource Description and Access (RDA) and Koha Installation, was** held from 13–17 April 2026 at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Bulawayo providing participants with theoretical and practical knowledge in modern library cataloguing and library systems management.

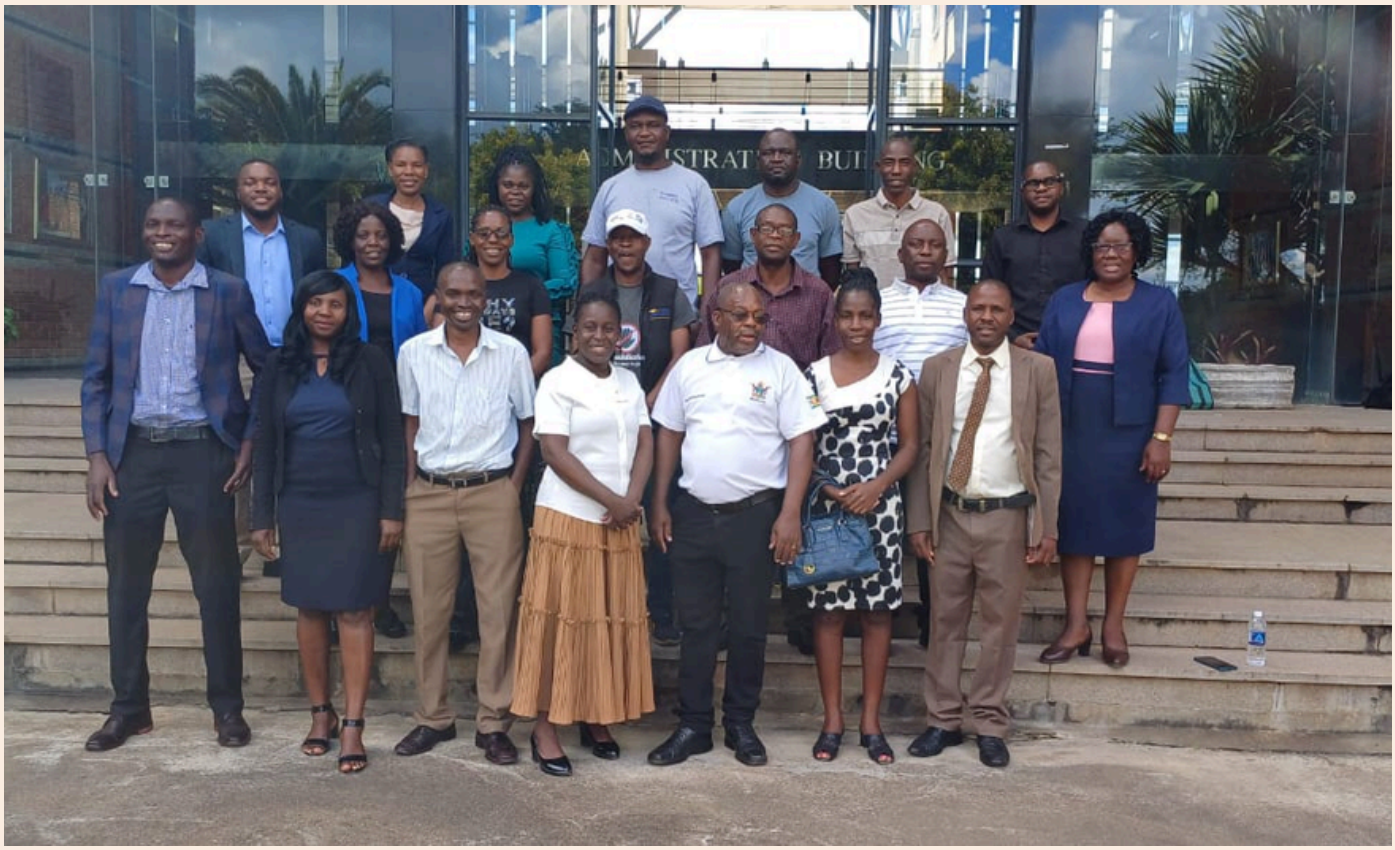


The training covered cataloguing principles, RDA terminology and Toolkit, the IFLA Library Reference Model (LRM), MARC21, Library of Congress tools, and BIBFRAME.

Participants also gained practical experience in Koha installation, configuration, cataloguing, Z39.50 copy cataloguing, and the creation and editing of bibliographic records using RDA and MARC21.

The workshop further addressed cataloguing of different resource types, including books, serials and electronic resources.

Participants completed both theoretical and practical assessments, which evaluated their understanding and application of the concepts covered. Overall, the training strengthened participants professional competencies in metadata creation, bibliographic description, resource organisation and Koha library management, while promoting knowledge sharing and professional collaboration among library and information professionals.



Workshop Delagates posing for a photo

Shaping the Future of Research: GSU Equips Academics and Researchers for Global Impact



Group 1 Partipant and Facilitators Photo

On the 28th of May 2026, the Gwanda State University (GSU) Library hosted an intensive, forward-focused workshop specifically designed for researchers, faculty members, and postgraduate students. The ORCID and Emerging Technologies Workshop provided the academic & research community with practical tools to elevate their research visibility and navigate the evolving global publishing landscape. The workshop focused on Securing Global Identity with ORCID.



Workshop Participant -

"Participating in the ORCID workshop highlighted how vital digital visibility is in modern research. Maintaining an updated ORCID iD isn't just about administrative compliance—it's about ensuring our global community can effortlessly discover, credit, and connect with our work."

Name ambiguity remains a major hurdle in academic publishing. Gwanda State University (GSU) has an active ORCID Community of Practice championed by the University Library and the Research Innovation and Industrialisation Directorate

The initiative helps researchers, academics and MPhil students adopt persistent identifiers to improve the visibility, accurate attribution, and global tracking of their scholarly work.

The workshop was a follow up session for a workshop that was held in October 2025.For researchers who did not attend the first session - learned how to create and manage their unique, permanent ORCID iDs. This digital identifier ensures that your work is never confused with another author's, automating publication tracking and guaranteeing proper attribution across international databases.

Tracking Research Through Bibliometrics and Research Impact Workshop

Understanding citation data is no longer just an academic exercise—it is now crucial for securing competitive grants, gaining promotions, and proving institutional value. To bridge this gap, the University Library hosted an intensive training session showcasing its dedicated Bibliometric and Research Impact (BRI) Analysis Services, drawing academics and researchers from across disciplines.

The training focused on transforming raw data into strategic career tools. Rather than viewing citations as mere numbers, attending researchers learned how to actively leverage metrics to advance their work and visibility.

Key takeaways from the session included:
Targeting High-Impact Venues: Academics learned how to analyze journal-level metrics to strategically identify top-tier, high-impact journals for their upcoming manuscript submissions.

Expanding Global Footprints: The presenter demonstrated how to trace citation networks, allowing researchers to uncover hidden citation clusters and identify potential global collaborators working in parallel fields.

Proving Value for Funding and Promotion: Attendees practiced quantifying and presenting their research impact, learning how to translate bibliometric data into compelling narratives for funding bodies and promotion committees.

By equipping researchers with these critical data skills, the library's BRI service continues to ensure that institutional research is not only published but strategically positioned for maximum global and societal impact.

For direct, one-on-one research support, contact our faculty librarians via WhatsApp at 0771433367 or email us at library@gsu.ac.zw





Our specialized training sessions are designed to enhance your academic output and streamline your research workflow. These sessions are tailored specifically to support advanced research milestones and undergraduate projects. Sessions have been held on the following:

Research Commons

- **Advanced Literature Mapping:** Learn to navigate high-impact databases, track citation networks, and conduct rigorous systematic reviews.
- **Bibliometrics & Research Impact:** Discover how to identify key journals in your field, understand h-index metrics, and leverage alternative metrics to demonstrate your research reach.
- **Referencing & Research Data Management:** Master tools to seamlessly organize your sources and build structured data management plans (DMPs) that meet institutional guidelines.
- ... and many more.

Learning Commons

- **Kickstarting Your Dissertation:** Transition from casual coursework to deep academic inquiry with structured strategies for searching literature.
- **Citing with Confidence:** Avoid academic misconduct by learning the nuances of proper referencing, paraphrasing, and maintaining academic integrity.
- **Navigating E-Resources:** Gain practical, hands-on experience locating peer-reviewed articles, e-books, and subject-specific databases available through the library.
- ... and many more.

Book for a session: Contact our faculty librarians via WhatsApp at 0771433367 or email us at library@gsu.ac.zw

PILLARS OF LIBRARY SUPPORT

Gwanda State University Library is your dedicated partner in academic excellence. The University Library is built on three pillar services dedicated to empowering your academic journey. Whether you are a first-year student or a senior researcher, we are here to support you at every stage. These are Client Services, Research Support & Scholarly Communication.

Client Services

The Client Services section Strives to ensure seamless access to information and accessible learning environments for all students, faculty, and researchers.

Client Services section services include:

Library Orientation: Conducting guided tours and onboarding for incoming first - year students and new university staff.

Information & Digital Literacy Skills Training: Teaching structured sessions on advanced database searching, resource evaluation, and academic literature mapping.

Circulation Services: Managing check-out, renewal, and return workflows for physical books, reserve collections, and high-demand textbooks.

Patron Registration: Onboarding new undergraduate and MPhil students and staff into the library management system.

Course Reserves: Managing short-loan collections restricted to high-demand curriculum materials designated by lecturers for specific modules.

Study Space Management: Providing and allocating diverse physical zones, including quiet individual study carrels and a group / individual 24 Hour study rooms.

Assistive Technology Services: Offering specialized assistive technologies for users with diverse learning or physical needs.

User Trainings and Workshops: In conjunction with other sections organises various trainings.

Reprographic Services: Providing staff-assisted photocopying, document scanning, multi-format printing, and binding services.

Live Chat & Virtual Reference: Providing real-time, remote helpdesk assistance via the library website, WhatsApp, and official library email.

Exhibitions & Subject Guides: Curating online LibGuides, thematic book displays, and promotional institutional marketing for academic departments.

Service Quality Evaluation: Analysing student and faculty feedback from client satisfaction surveys to refine frontline desk services.

Resource and Space Utilisation: Reviewing borrowing patterns, database download statistics, and library spaces usage data to align our future budget allocations directly with patron demand.

Current Awareness Services (CAS): Keep you updated on general developments in your field.

Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI): Delivers highly personalized updates tailored strictly to your specific research.



Research Support Services

The Research Support Services provides comprehensive research support services designed to assist faculty, researchers, and students at every stage of their academic journey.

Our specialized support includes but is not limited to:

Bibliometrics & Research Impact Assessment: Expert assistance in tracking, analyzing, and demonstrating the reach and impact of your publications using citation metrics, h-index, and alternative metrics.

Literature Searching: Expert guidance from librarians to help you locate high-quality academic sources, navigate databases, and conduct systematic reviews.

Reference Management: Support and training on tools to easily organize your citations and automatically format your bibliographies.

Research Data Management: Assistance with creating data management plans (DMPs) and safely storing your research data to meet funder requirements.

One-on-One Consultations: Personalized, deeply tailored sessions with a subject librarian to help troubleshoot your specific research challenges.

For personalized assistance, schedule a research consultation with faculty librarians who can recommend databases, develop search terms, and guide you toward authoritative sources. These services are designed to make complex research more manageable while supporting accurate, ethical scholarship.

Faculties are welcome to request course-specific research instruction or customized resource guides. Faculty Librarians can introduce students to discipline-specific databases, and help students build strong information-literacy skills.

Visit the library website to explore tutorials, electronic resources, research projects, past examination papers, and
Research Guides.



Gwanda State University Library is committed to empowering our academic community throughout the entire research lifecycle. Whether you are a seasoned researcher or an emerging scholar, we offer dedicated support to maximize the reach and impact of your work.

Our services include:

- **Open Access Publishing:** Guidance on navigating open access journals, understanding publisher policies, and avoiding predatory journals.
- **Institutional Repository Population:** The section works with authors to deposit their research outputs into the institutional repository to increase global visibility and citation counts.
- **Author Profiles & Metrics:** Support in setting up and managing your ORCID iD, Google Scholar profile, and tracking your research impact metrics.
- **Copyright & Licensing:** Clear advice on retaining your author rights and choosing the right Creative Commons licenses for your work.



GSU ORCID COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Gwanda State University (GSU) is committed to global academic excellence, research integrity, and visibility. Through the Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC) and the global DataCite Initiative, GSU adopted the Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) drive. ORCID is a persistent digital identifier (PID) which ensures research is discoverable and correctly cited worldwide.

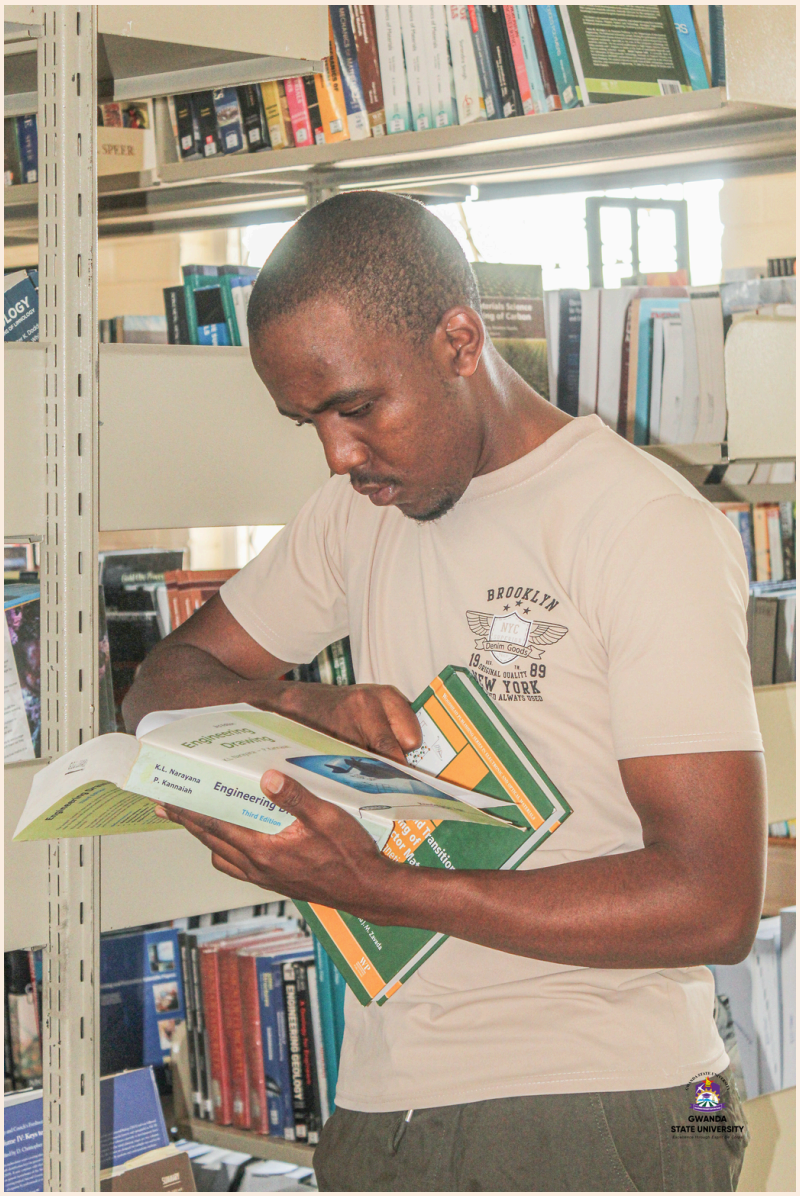
Following national capacity building workshops facilitated by ZULC, the GSU Library in conjunction with the Research, Innovation and Indusrtialisation Directorate adopted the ORCID Account Registration drive in 2025. A GSU ORCID Community of Practice (CoP) was set up to raise awareness and increse adoption, enhance visibility and proper attribution to works. GSU, has seen a remarkable growth in the adoption rate of ORCID from 35% in 2025 to 75% as of September 30, 2026. Gwanda State University, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Bindura University of Science Education, and Women's University in Africa were selected for a 7 month accelerated ORCID adoption project in Zimbabwe (January to July 2026). Activies included training, marketing, and raising awareness targeted at Postgraduate students and academics. Through this drive, the GSU ORCID CoP saw several activities being implemented which include the integration of ORCID in the Institutional Repository, marketing activities, trainings, ORCID Account clinics, integration into existing policies and the integration of ORCID on the online recruitment system for academics.

Why ORCID Matters for GSU Researchers

Eliminate Name Ambiguity: Ensures your work is credited to you, even if someone else shares your name.
Institutional Visibility: Directly links your research achievements to Gwanda State University, elevating GSU's global profile.
Digital Curriculum Vitate: ORCID iD as a dynamic, automated digital CV that permanently connects your unique identity to your entire body of research now a mandatory requirement by most major funding bodies worldwide.
Streamline Submissions: Automates data entry when submitting manuscripts to international journals or sending applications to funding bodies.

Get connected Today - Register for an ORCID ID. Its free!





Vuyani Fabian Tshuma

Meet Vuyani Fabian Tshuma, a Level 3.1 Metallurgical Engineering student in the Faculty of Engineering and the Environment.

While digital resources dominate the modern era, Vuyani remains a dedicated champion of the physical university main library. For his studies and research, he relies heavily on hardcopy textbooks and a mix of electronic resources.

As a self-described "information-hungry individual," Vuyani frequents the library not just for its physical materials, but for its welcoming and quiet, study-conducive environment.

"Everything I need is right here, and I am always confident I will find exactly what I am searching for," Vuyani shares. "I am certain that through continued access to the GSU Library and its resources, I will ace my exams and secure my degree."

"I highly recommend that other students frequently visit the library, as it provides everything necessary for your degree. It is truly your gateway to knowledge, discovery, and innovation."



Simbarashe Nyadore

Meet Simbarashe Nyadore, a Level 3.1 Metallurgical Engineering student in the Faculty of Engineering and the Environment.

Simbarashe is a passionate champion of the library's digital landscape, openly preferring our extensive electronic resources over traditional physical materials. By diving into diverse e-books, academic journals, and specialized research databases, he has drastically accelerated his academic journey.

Simbarashe notes that the digital library not only expands his technical engineering knowledge—but also actively sharpens his advanced research skills.

"Personally, for me, the library is more than just a place of study. It is where my adventurous self gets to discover what other adventurers have left behind for me to explore," Simbarashe shares.

Reflecting on his time spent utilizing our resources, he beautifully concludes that while he initially came to the library seeking academic knowledge, he is walking away with the lifelong skills required to successfully navigate the world.

"Every book or journal is like a trail left by someone who ventured into the unknown before me, giving me the opportunity to follow and learn from their discoveries"

GWANDA STATE UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY LIBRARY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BOOK DONATION INITIATIVE PHASE 2

On 30–31 March 2026 the Gwanda State University (GSU) Library, in collaboration with Information, Marketing & Public Relations, completed Phase 2 of its Book Donation Initiative, delivering textbooks and reading materials to Gwanda High School, Gwanda Prison & Correctional Services, and Esigodini Prison & Correctional Services. The initiative supports the Education 5.0 pillar - community engagement, a strategy to promote inclusive access to learning materials and support knowledge-building across the wider Matebeleland South community.

Building on the Foundation of Phase 1 (2025), this latest push directly expands on the massive success of Phase 1, which took place on 26–27 November 2025. During the foundational Phase 1 drive, donated textbooks and reading materials to multiple institutions across the Insiza District. Academic materials and literature were successfully delivered to:

Schools: Filabusi High School, Dekezi High School, Siwazi High School, Marvel Primary School, and Filabusi Government Primary School.
Community Centers: Filabusi District Hospital and the Filabusi Prison & Correctional Services.

Alongside the 2025 donation drive, IMPR staff conducted crucial career guidance sessions, equipping local students with academic strategies and career roadmaps.



Gwanda High School Learners and GSU Library Team

Inmates are showing remarkable inventiveness—transforming scrap materials into quality crafts, running nurseries, and developing practical solutions for everyday challenges. These creative projects teach technical skills, foster teamwork and entrepreneurship, and produce innovative products. Such innovation not only boosts self-worth and employability but also strengthens prospects for successful reintegration.

Esigodini Prison & Correctional Services Inmate: *"These donated books give us a real chance to transform our time here into a stepping stone for a brighter, more successful future."*



Esigodini Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre

Dekezi High School student: *"These books give us the opportunity to explore new ideas, expand our knowledge, and reach our full potential as students."*



Dekezi High School and GSU Library Team



Siwazi High School and GSU Library Team

Siwazi High School student: *"Thank you for investing in our education; these textbooks will be put to great use as we pursue our studies."*

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Open Access Week (19–25 October 2026)
The final quarter of the year brings one of our most significant calendar events: International Open Access Week. This year's global theme is “The Cost of Knowledge.”

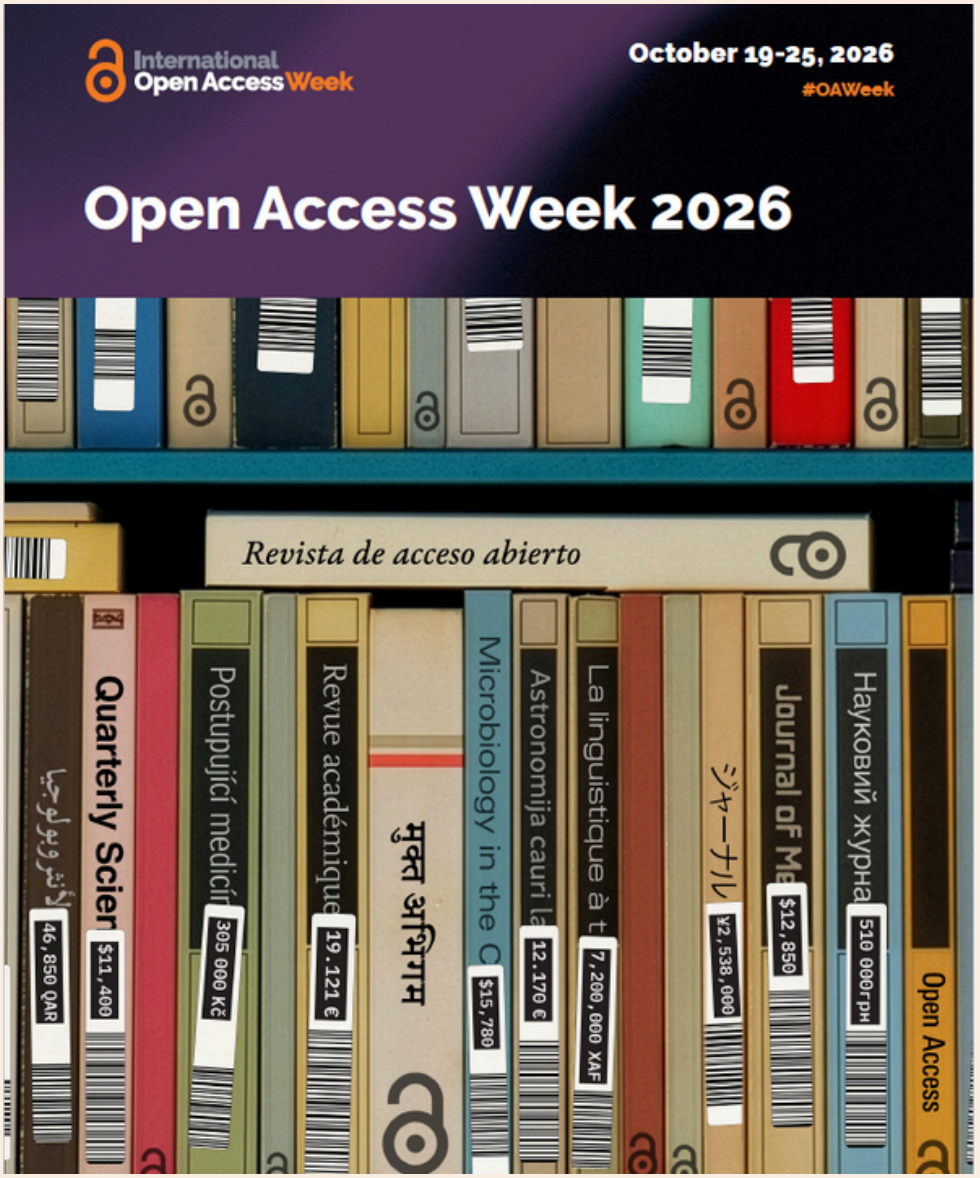
At Gwanda State University, we are marking the week with two major events scheduled for the 21st of October 2026:

Signing Ceremony: GSU will host the landmark signing ceremony for the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities solidifying our commitment to open research.

Workshop Series: As part of out celebrations for the International Open Access Week, the University Library; Research, Innovation and Industrilisation Directorate; Econet, Centre for Wildlife Conservation and Research and the Centre for University-wide Modules will facilitate a workshop series for the GSU Community under the theme **“The Cost of Knowledge”.**

Our sessions bridge the gap between cutting-edge technology, open science, and securing crucial research funding.

Whether you are looking to publish your next paper or source funding for your next project, this workshop has a seat for you!



ORCID Help Desk
Do you want to quickly deposit your research into our G-Space Institutional Repository, create your mandatory ORCID iD, or simply chat about how open access can advance your academic career? Our team is ready for you.

Extended Study Sessions (Examination Preparations):
To support you during the upcoming assessment season, the library will resume extended study hours. We will offer dedicated quiet zones as well as collaborative group spaces, and on-demand librarian support. These sessions provide a structured environment to prepare and review study materials.

Stay Updated: Full event details and times will be shared through the Library’s website and social media platforms. We look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming programs!



Our Motto

‘Your Gateway to Knowledge, Discovery and Innovation’

CONNECT WITH US

Email: library@gsu.ac.zw

WhatsApp: 0771433367

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/gsulibraryzim

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/gsulibraryzim

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@GwandaStateUniversityLibrary

Live Chat on the Library Website: https://library.gsu.ac.zw

Gwanda State University Epoch Mine Campus, Filabusi

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