

**UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE**

**LIB412**

**BACHELOR OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

**MAIN DEGREE EXAMINATION**

**JUNE 2023**

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**Time:** 3 hours

**Subject code:** HISTORICAL LIBRARIANSHIP AND RESEARCH  
METHODS

**Marks:** 100

**This paper consists of two pages including the cover page**

**Internal Examiners**

**Mr SC Ndwandwe**

**External Examiners**

**Dr Gbolahan Olasina**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Answer Question one and any other two questions**
- 2. It is in your best interest to write clearly and legibly.**
- 3. Each question carries equal marks.**

### **Question 1 (Compulsory)**

You are appointed as a researcher by the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) to do an investigation on research procedures used by Master of Library and Information Science students at the University of Fort Hare in the period 2010 – 2020. Through an analysis of masters dissertations produced during this period, the association wants to know the following:

- the commonly used philosophical assumptions underpinning the studies,
- the frequently deployed research methodologies
- the frequently employed research designs,
- how populations for the studies were defined
- the sampling techniques employed by the studies
- the data collection tools and techniques employed by

A study of this nature is significant as the University of Fort Hare awards a master's degree for a dissertation that shows the candidate's knowledge of methods of research and their appropriate application. As such, the articulation of research procedures by the investigators demonstrates the degree of acquaintance with research methods used in social science research.

The answer to each question should be numbered separately and appropriately.

Marks that are awarded for each question are indicated in brackets.

- i. Formulate a topic for this study. (2)
- ii. What is the aim of this study? (3)
- iii. Formulate at least five research objectives for this study. (5)
- iv. Based on the objectives above, formulate at least five research questions for this study. (5)
- v. Explain the significance of this study. (5)
- vi. Which research methodology would you use to conduct this study? Motivate your answer. (5)
- vii. Which research design are you likely to use? (5)
- viii. What is the population for this study? (5)

- ix. Explain how you would locate and access the units of analysis for this study. (5)
- x. Which data collection tools would you use? Motivate your answer. (5)
- xi. What shortcomings do you envisage in the conduct of this study? Explain how you would overcome them. (5)

### **Question 2**

“Writing a report based on quantitative hypothesis-testing research is different from writing a research report on qualitative research. However, regardless of the approach used in the research or the form it takes, every research report should contain various standard components.”

Based on this, discuss the components of a research report. (25)

### **Question 3**

Discuss the differences between qualitative and quantitative research in terms of the following:

- philosophical foundations
- data collection methods
- data analysis
- sampling and sample size
- reporting

(25)

### **Question 4**

Discuss why it is useful to use mixed methods in information science research. (25)

### **Question 5**

List and explain the major stages of the research process. In your view, is it necessary to go through all the stages in a sequential manner? Motivate your point of view.

(25)