

Use of Online Collaboration Tools amongst Academics in Zambia: A Case Study of the University of Zambia

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Online collaboration tools are increasing becoming popular tools the world over as effective communicative tools. This is because these tools allow people to connect and work collaboratively with other people regardless of where they are spatially located. Amongst academics online collaboration tools are not only used in their teaching and research but also as social media to engage others. In the process they are involved not only in creating several knowledges but also importantly are contributing to Africa's online presence. Additionally, the process ensures that knowledge is shared amongst them. This paper is an exploration of what tools University of Zambia lecturers and researchers are using in teaching and research; which ones are popular and favoured and why; what purposes are they using these online collaboration tools. Examples of how these tools are applied in the Zambian context; especially in the generation of new knowledges and sharing of that knowledge are discussed in detail. Finally; the paper looks at what challenges are being faced by the lecturers and researchers in order to for them to effectively benefit from using these online collaboration tools.

