

Library Support and the Innovative Application of Indigenous Knowledge Systems

N. P. Mahwasane

University of Venda, South Africa

KEYWORDS Indigenous Knowledge. Libraries. Oral Tradition. Oral Knowledge. Society. Disseminate. Application

ABSTRACT The purpose of the study was to identify the importance of the contemporary library services in the modern use of indigenous knowledge system in order to determine how it can best be managed in order to contribute progressively to the society. The importance of libraries in preserving and disseminating the indigenous knowledge was also discussed. The paper highlighted the indigenous knowledge method and procedures. It also established that with the indigenous knowledge stored in human mind, the knowledge is susceptible to be lost because when a person possessing that knowledge dies, she or she dies with the entire knowledge in abundance. The paper further examined that Indigenous knowledge is mostly understood in rural areas and that most of that knowledge is not documented. As a result, the libraries should device a means to collect, store and disseminate Indigenous Knowledge (IK). The study recommends that libraries should take full responsibility of collecting and developing Indigenous Knowledge for ease of storage and dissemination as well as access.