HITLIB NEWSLETTER

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Harare Institute of Technology

success through innovation

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THUMBS UP TO HIT LIBRARY SERVICE PROVISION CONTINUES UNHALTED DURING COVID LOCKDOWN

Battelle has conducted a natural attenuation study to provide information on how long some commonly circulated library materials would need to be quarantined prior to being returned to public circulation.

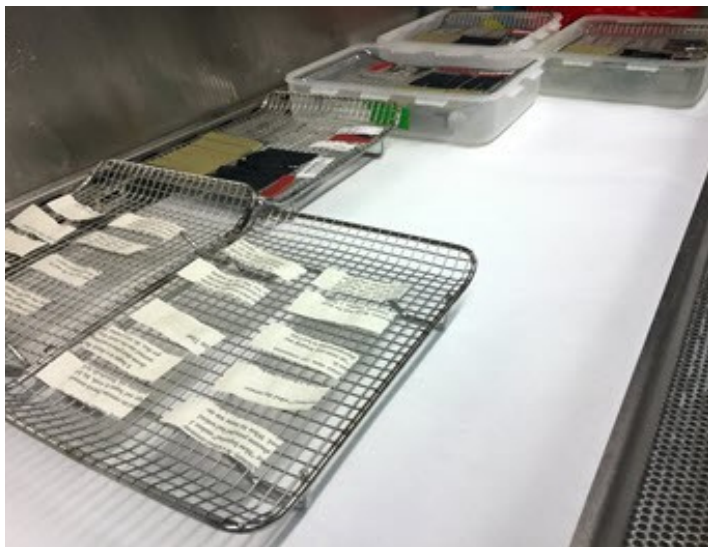# Is it safe to borrow library books? Your COVID-19 questions answered

Testing was conducted by applying the virulent SARS-CoV-2 virus (the virus that causes COVID-19) on five materials held at standard room temperature and humidity conditions. The materials tested included the following items, which were provided by Columbus Metropolitan Library: Hardback book cover buckram cloth, Softback book cover, Plain paper pages inside a closed book, Plastic book covering, biaxially oriented polyester film & DVD case.
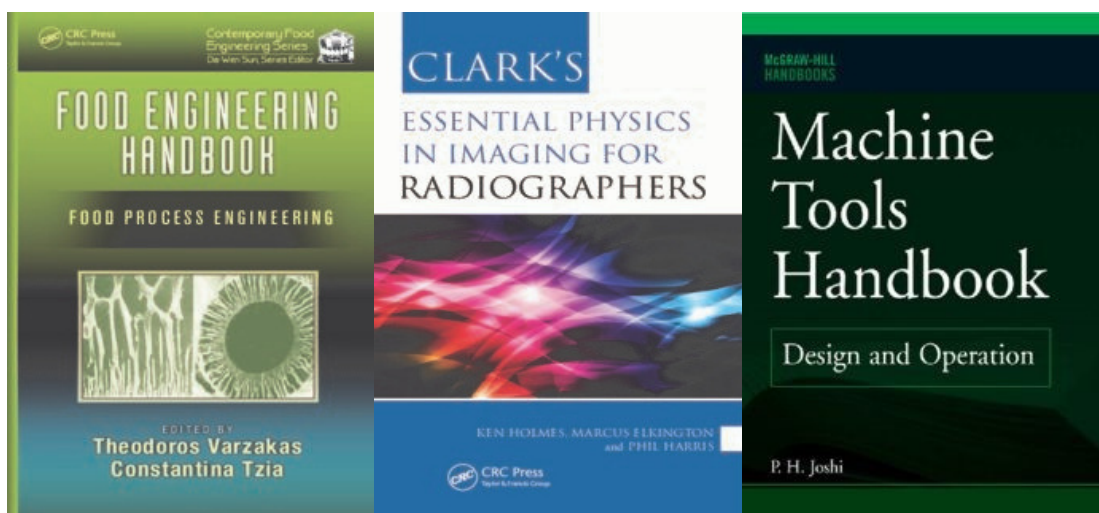

Results show that the SARS-CoV-2 virus was not detectable on the materials after three days of quarantine.AT HIT Library returned books are quarantined at the book trolley and shelved after three days as a mitigatory measure against the infections. In the midst of the corona virus pandemic, HIT library staff members demonstrated unwavering support to their clientele by offering uninterrupted services during the lockdown period. While most services were frozen in a natural and guided response to the pandemic, HIT library innovated around the crisis and their ship continued sailing against the torrid winds of change. The staff members were guided and continually aligned practically to the core values of the library namely, User-Focused Services, Professionalism, Commitment, Integrity & Consultation.

THUMBS UP TO HIT LibrARY SERVICE PROVISION CONTINUES UNHALTED DURING COVID LOCKDOWN

Many publishers and content providers responded by offering free access to their content normally accessible through subscription. EBSCOHost, JISC, Springer et al provided free access to resources normally kept behind paywalls.HIT Library staff managed to take advantage of the situation and downloaded 425 e books from Springer database. The books covered all the disciplines offered at Harare Institute of Technology and are accessible in the library.HIT LIS Staff adopted using Whats App as an Emergency Remote Library Service (ERLS) provision during lockdown. Librarians at HIT have been incorporated into class WhatsApp groups and have been assisting with info downloads for research students and posting on the groups. The librarians also have assisted lecturers to post e-chapters on Moodle e-learning platform and Google Classrooms and creating links as they are guided by the course outlines, assignments and projects being done by the various departments and students.Use of RemoteXs/EZ-Proxy was also a blessing in disguise, fortuitous and deliberate strategy all in one and the HIT community immensely benefitted. HIT is benefiting from Remote/off-campus access to e resources via both subscribe and open access information resourcesCOVID-19 is indeed forcing many librarians to acquire digital skills that they didn't have before so that they are compatible with contemporary trends in service delivery. Use of other Open Access models proved beneficial to HIT community as the Library Staff demonstrated their skills by downloading books from AfLIA list of open access database platforms, e.g. pdfdrive. The platform houses 83 676 808 files in all HIT related disciplines.

IFLA's
COVID-19 and the Library Field: Key Resources for Libraries in Responding to Coronavirus Pandemic, notes that most
HIT
library made a mark and the significant contribution has been recorded in the book of remembrance. As we later visit and unfold HIT historical files to unlock challenges and successful mitigatory activities to remould and re-engineer success stories hinged upon positive contributions. HIT library story will be remembered.
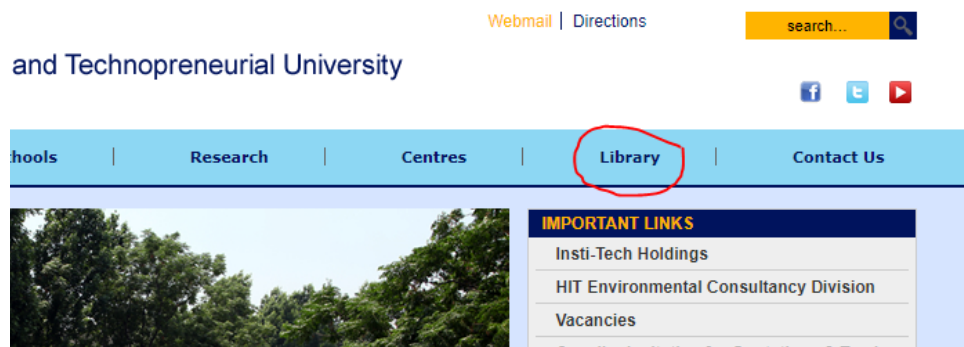
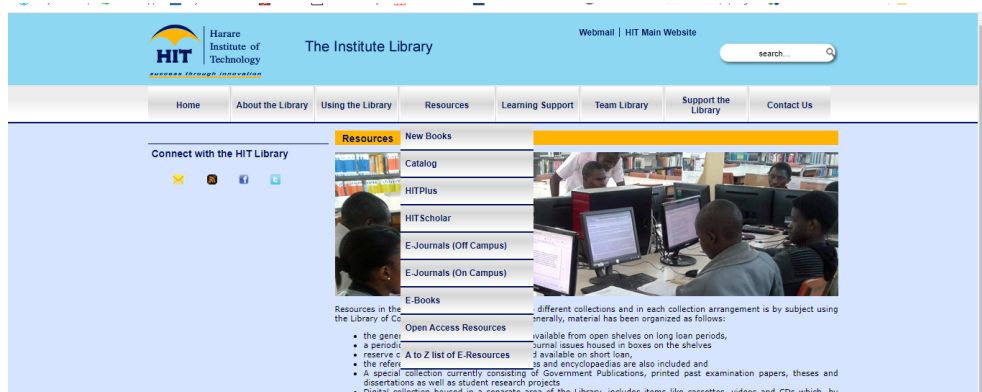# Remote Access to eBooks and Journals in the Covid 19 Lockdown period

The Covid 19 Pandemic has increased the need for Online teaching and learning and people are highly encouraged to work from home. The Library facilitates the access to Information resources by offering subscription based eBooks and journals remotely (Off Campus).

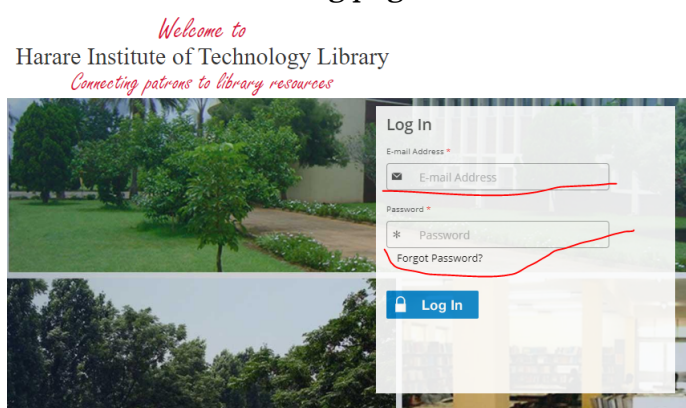Outlined below are the easy steps to get access to these resources;

1. Visit the main Institute website at https://www.hit.ac.zw/
2. Click on the Library tab

3. On the Resources tab, there is a Drop down menu, select E-Journals (Off Campus)

4. Select the Database you want to search from the available list and you will be taken to an authenticating page

5. Sign in with the RemoteXs authentication details you create
6. If you do not have the credentials, visit the The Library or email them at library@hit.ac.zw
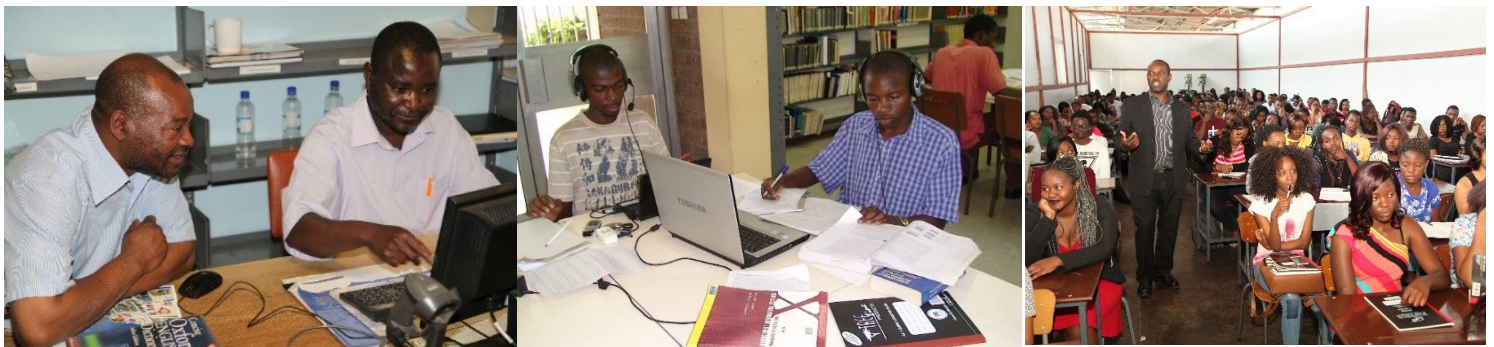
STUDENT PROJECTS: THE GAP FILLED BY LIBRARIANS HIT 200, HIT 300 & HIT 400

One distinguished feature and peculiar characteristic about HIT students is the presentation of finished prototypes as evidence of their studies. HIT 200 is a collaborative project which they present in groups in part two and HIT 300 is the one they present after attachment as individuals. HIT final year students from all the departments always present their HIT 400 Capstone Design projects presentations before sitting for their final examinations. The Capstone Design Projects are scientific and entrepreneurship ideas, premised on creativity, ingenuity and resourcefulness, speaking to the problems being faced by our local industry and commerce. These projects are aimed at offering relevant, usable and practical solutions that can transform and advance peoples' lives and national economic development. These are research and development projects that speak to the nation's aspirations to modernise our agriculture, mining, manufacturing and processing industry, and tourism, health, business and education sectors among others.

The librarians must provide the student with relevant credible literature to study and point them at experts authors on particular discipline's from library hard copies, subscribed databases and open access databases
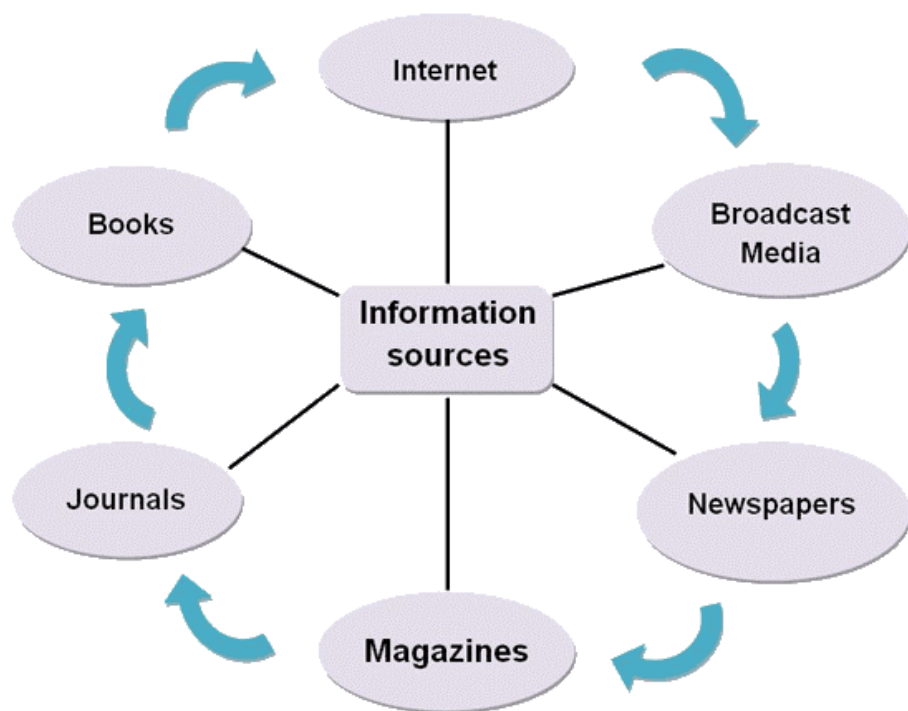
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The librarians must also alert and lead the student and their supervisors to patent organisations like WIPO, ZIPO, ARRIPO, Patent Scope etc. to establish inventions that have been done already.

THE ROLE OF THE NEWSPAPERS IN AIDING TEACHING AND RESEARCH

The HIT Library has a vast collection of many sources of information. The newspapers play a critical and pivotal role in information provision and in stimulating the minds of the students and lecturers to innovate around challenges that are encountered in the communities and societies as large.

Newspapers record and publish stories of events that are of importance to the society at any given time, provide excellent memories of a country's historical events and landmarks, as well as being sources of textual evidence useful to the students, researchers, academia, journalists and the larger society (Nakiganda, 2008) .

THE ROLE OF THE NEWSPAPERS IN AIDING TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Harare institute of Technology Library
subscribes to the Sunday Mail, The Herald, The Daily News, The Financial
Gazette, The Zimbabwe Independent and The Standard Newspapers.

Student research and critical thinking is intrigued, activated and propelled into actionable activities resulting in
problem solving through the reading of newspapers.
At the same time some users would prefer to touch and read or even move with their print copies in their cars or bags
unlike the online where the user is limited to internet access, especially in
developing countries like Uganda.Urge to know the unknown, and thirst for knowledge has always been the inherent
desire of human beings which forced them to explore the unexpected and to know
the unknown. This urge to acquire knowledge led them to invent new technologies
(Hegde and Malagatti, 2010-2011).

Information is key in an academic environment, therefore regarding the information students seek from newspapers,
reading newspapers triggers the students' critical thinking which may
contribute to the students' future research and public presentation, as noted
in (Ugah, 2009 and Aggarwal & Akhter, 2015)'s study that newspapers are major sources of inquiry that help students prove their worth to society and also trigger the IQ and social awareness as well as preparing them for competitive interviews.