Chapter 2

Application of Interpretivism Theoretical Framework on the Management of University Records:
Comparison of Selected Universities

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ABSTRACT

This research assessed the adoption of interpretivism paradigm as a theoretical framework. The interpretivism was adopted on a study comparing the University of Venda and the University of Witwatersrand archives and records management programme. This research was undertaken as part of PhD thesis. The study found that adoption of interpretivism paradigm improves credibility, transferability, and authenticity of the research. The research recommend that research in information sciences are to incorporate other paradigm such as positivism.

INTRODUCTION

Interpretivism's theoretical framework is applied to a qualitative study. This is because the application of the interpretivism paradigm as fundamental affects the choice of the research approach. This case study was conducted to gain an understanding of a particular redesign process of university records management

processes. Interpretivism theoretical framework was applied to research University archives and records. Studies conducted using interpretivism theoretical framework improved its credibility. Several researchers in archives and records management adopted the interpretivism paradigm to conduct their studies. For example, Mosweu (2016) applies the interpretivism paradigm to investigate success factors in electronic document and records management systems implementation at the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Botswana. Muhammad, Mat ISA and Miah (2021) also use the same paradigm on two Nigerian universities. Matlala (2019), Phiri (2016) applies the interpretivism approach to the management of universities archives and records management. This is an indication that the interpretivism paradigm is a major theory used by information scientists.

. The data collection and analyses determine the conduct of the study. Individuals build understandings, meanings, and identities through dialogue and discourse (Case 2012, p. 190).

There is a need to recognize the participants' viewpoints during the collection of data. The researcher unpacked the significance of the interpretive perspective on the management of university archives and records.

This chapter discusses the application of the interpretivism paradigm as fundamental that influences the choice of research methodology. The case study was conducted to assess the management of university archives and records. The study compared two selected universities in South Africa, archives and records management programs.

The data collected and interpreted determines the type of research. Individuals construct understandings, meanings, and identities through dialogue and discourse (Case 2012, p. 190). Interpretivism is mainstream within information science. It has been conventional to recognize that phenomena can be viewed from a multi-perspective (Clarke, Davison, and Jia 2020).

Paradigm shapes the researcher's viewpoints, interpretation, and understand (Babbie, 2017, p. 31). Paradigms are a set of expectations of what constitutes techniques to conduct a study. Research is based on a set of shared assumptions, concepts, values, and practices. Participants' viewpoints were recognized by the author. Paradigms are suitable ways of empathetic reality, building knowledge, and gathering information about the development of the university archive and records management program.

Interpretivism's viewpoint advance its position as a paradigm lies in the fact that is an ontological point of view of reality (Kankam, 2019, p. 850). This research depends on the participants' viewpoints during the data collection. The participants in this research include heads of divisions, units, and divisions selected to participate in this study

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