



GWANDA STATE UNIVERSITY NOTICES

APPOINTMENT OF PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR AND LIBRARIAN



PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR – ADMINISTRATION AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr Xavier Poshiwa

Dr Xavier Poshiwa is an accomplished academic, researcher, innovator, and higher education leader with more than 14 years of distinguished experience in university administration, research, innovation, and academic programme development. He brings to Gwanda State University a proven record of transformational leadership, institutional development, and excellence in advancing Education 5.0 through research, innovation, industrialisation, and heritage-based education.

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Rangeland Ecology from Wageningen University in the Netherlands, a Master of Science in Animal Sciences, and a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Agriculture from the University of Zimbabwe. His academic training has positioned him as one of Zimbabwe's leading scholars in rangeland ecology, animal nutrition, climate change, and sustainable agricultural systems.

Prior to joining Gwanda State University, Dr Poshiwa served as Executive Dean of Agriculture and Engineering at Great Zimbabwe University, where he provided strategic leadership in expanding academic offerings and strengthening research and innovation. During his tenure, he spearheaded the introduction of new agricultural and engineering programmes and played a pivotal role in establishing the Innovation Centre for Dryland Agriculture (ICEDA), advancing research and innovation in dryland agriculture, climate resilience, and rural industrialisation.

Earlier, he served for eight years at Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUASt) as Senior Lecturer and Acting Dean of Studies. He was instrumental in the institution's successful transition from a university college under the University of Zimbabwe into an autonomous university. His professional career began at the Grasslands

Research Station, where he spent 12 years conducting pioneering research in rangeland ecology before transitioning into academia.

A prolific scholar and innovator, Dr Poshiwa has authored 43 peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and book chapters. His innovation portfolio includes four registered industrial designs, four patent applications, and four trademark applications filed with the Zimbabwe Intellectual Property Office (ZIPO), demonstrating a strong commitment to translating research into impactful technologies. He has also supervised two Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) candidates and nine Master of Philosophy (MPhil) students to successful completion, contributing significantly to postgraduate education and research capacity development.

As Pro-Vice Chancellor – Administration and Academic Affairs, Dr Poshiwa provides strategic leadership in strengthening academic excellence, institutional governance, innovation, and operational effectiveness. His extensive experience, research credentials, and visionary leadership will be instrumental in advancing Gwanda State University's mission of delivering world-class heritage-based education that drives innovation, industrialisation, and sustainable national development.



LIBRARIAN

Mr Phillip Ndhlovu

Mr Phillip Ndhlovu is an accomplished library and information science professional with more than 15 years of distinguished experience in academic librarianship, scholarly communication, research support, digital scholarship, institutional repositories, and open science. He brings extensive expertise in developing modern knowledge ecosystems that enhance teaching, learning, research, innovation, industrialisation, and community engagement within higher education.

He holds a First-Class Master of Science Degree and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Library and Information Science, reflecting exceptional academic achievement and an enduring commitment to professional excellence.

Mr Ndhlovu was appointed University Librarian at Gwanda State University with effect from 1 July 2026, assuming strategic responsibility for providing visionary leadership to the University's library system while driving innovation in digital scholarship, scholarly

communication, knowledge management, and information services. His leadership is central to positioning the University Library as a catalyst for academic excellence and research impact.

He serves on the Executive Committee of the Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC), where he is the Secretariat and Chairperson of the Capacity Building and Mentorship Workgroup. Through these national leadership roles, he continues to contribute to strengthening academic libraries and advancing professional development across Zimbabwe's higher education sector.

Before his appointment as University Librarian, Mr Ndhlovu served as Deputy Librarian at Gwanda State University from January 2022 to June 2026, providing strategic and operational leadership that significantly strengthened library services, institutional repository development, scholarly communication programmes, research support services, and open science initiatives. Prior to joining GSU, he served at the National University of Science and Technology as Faculty Librarian and Institutional Repository Librarian, where he advanced research visibility and open access systems. He also held professional appointments at the University of Zimbabwe and Africa University, building a broad foundation in academic librarianship.

Internationally recognised for his expertise in scholarly communication, open access, bibliometrics, research visibility, digital libraries, institutional repositories, and research data management, Mr Ndhlovu served as Managing Editor of the *IASSIST Quarterly* from 2022 to 2024, overseeing editorial processes for a leading international open-access journal. He has published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at numerous local and international conferences, contributing to the advancement of open science and research visibility across Africa.

His professional excellence has earned him numerous competitive international fellowships and grants, including awards supporting participation in prestigious programmes and conferences in South Africa, Canada, Switzerland, Ghana, and the United States. These opportunities have strengthened his expertise in digital libraries, scholarly publishing, bibliometrics, open repositories, and research data management while expanding international collaborations in higher education and library innovation.

As University Librarian, Mr Ndhlovu is committed to building a modern, technology-enabled library that empowers teaching, learning, research, innovation, industrialisation, and community engagement. His vision is to position the Gwanda State University Library as a dynamic knowledge hub that advances academic excellence through digital transformation, collaborative partnerships, evidence-based decision-making, and inclusive access to information.

Congratulations, Amhlophe, Makorokoto!

