AN INFORMATION SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT IN UGANDA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO THE SMALL-SCALE SECTOR: A PROPOSAL

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
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AN INFORMATION SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN UGANDA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE SMALL SCALE SECTOR.
A PROPOSAL

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This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my wife Victoria, daughter Loussie and son Philip, who endured my stay away from home for a period of two years.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all those who advised, supported, and encouraged me during the course of my research work.

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I feel indebted to the manufacturers, researchers, information officers, and all other public servants, who spared their valuable time to make themselves available to me for interview, or to fill my questionnaires.

I should state it here that the views contained in this document were a contribution of all those groups of people mentioned above. However, I must excuse them of all the shortcomings and limitations that may be reflected in this document as these are mine and mine alone.

Lastly, I must express my appreciation to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada for awarding me a scholarship enabling me to take up this course in SISA.
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ABSTRACT

The role of information in the scientific, technical and socio-economic development of nations is becoming widely accepted. In what has come to be referred to as the "information age", a larger percentage of people in the developed world are now employed in the information sector and the same trend is perceptible in the industrialising economies as well. In Uganda, the future of the country lies in the rejuvenation of the industrial sector, which presently, accounts for less than 5 per cent of the GDP. More than 80 percent of the manufacturing sector in Uganda is comprised of small scale enterprises. The problems faced by the SSIs are numerous and diverse. However, a critical analysis of these problems reveal that they all have a bearing to the information situation in the country, which presently remains grossly ill-developed.

Twice the government of Uganda, assisted by international agencies has tried to address the issue of industrial information in the country. These two attempts, however, proved futile, partially due to poor perception of information as a resource by planners, decision makers, manufacturers, etc.

With the advent of information technology, the information component has gained new dimensions. Information technology (IT) is today an indispensable tool in the capture, storage, processing, analysis and dissemination of data and information in industries as well as in other organisations. IT application has transformed information systems and centres from mere custodians of information to a
management tool of industries. Its impact is being felt in all sectors of the national economy, the manufacturing sector in particular. Information, industrialisation and economic development are a mutually synergising trinity.

This thesis discusses the relevancy of information systems and centres in industrialisation from Uganda's point of view. It proposes the need to develop a national scientific, technical and industrial information centre (NSTIIC). It is proposed that among other things, NSTIIC should aim at bringing together in a network of database system, all institutions, organisations, etc., whose activities and functions are contributory to the growth of the industrial sector in Uganda. It also advocates for a serious campaign to sensitise planners, decision makers, manufactures and all those involved in guiding the national economy, big or small, so as to help them develop an information culture in their day-to-day activities.
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<tr>
<td>APT</td>
<td>Appropriate Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS</td>
<td>Current Awareness Service</td>
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<td>CCF</td>
<td>Common Communication Format</td>
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<td>CMA</td>
<td>Canadian Manufacturers Association</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<td>IAC</td>
<td>Information Analysis and Consolidation</td>
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<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO</td>
<td>International Standards Organisation</td>
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<td>ITIU</td>
<td>Industrial Technological Information Unit</td>
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<td>MTAC</td>
<td>Management Training and Advisory Centre</td>
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<td>MOIT</td>
<td>Ministry of Trade and Industry</td>
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<td>MUL</td>
<td>Makerere University Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Government Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCST</td>
<td>National Council of Science and Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRM</td>
<td>National Resistance Movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSTIIC</td>
<td>National Science, Technical and Industrial</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Information Centre</td>
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<td>PTA</td>
<td>Preferential Trade Area</td>
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<td>SAP</td>
<td>Structural Adjustment Programme</td>
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<td>SMI</td>
<td>Small and Medium Industries</td>
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<td>SSI</td>
<td>Small-Scale Industry</td>
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<td>TIC</td>
<td>Trade Information Centre</td>
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<td>TIS</td>
<td>Trade Information Service</td>
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<td>UBS</td>
<td>Uganda Bureau of Standards</td>
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<td>UDC</td>
<td>Uganda Development Corporation</td>
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<td>UEPC</td>
<td>Uganda Export Promotion Council</td>
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