

**THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**BACHELOR OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND STUDY SKILLS UNIT**

**LIS 4302 ADVANCED DATABASES AND INFORMATION RETRIEVAL**

**January 2024**

**Marks: 100**

**Time: 3hrs**

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

- **Answer FOUR questions ONLY**

**Question 1 is compulsory**

**Situation A**

Dr Lefuma Sejane, a lecturer in the Information Studies Programme of the National University of Lesotho, is preparing a lecture on the use of the Internet in university libraries in Africa. She is more interested in countries located in South of the Sahara than the documents dealing with libraries in South Africa. (12)

**Situation B**

Dr Teboho Thamae specializes in Hepatitis B virus and is planning to conduct a study on the prevalence of the virus in the former Ovamboland (of Namibia). Meanwhile, he is looking for any publication that may have been produced on the virus in Ovamboland. (13)

Assuming you have access to the following databases: EBSCOHost, MEDLINE, ScienceDirect, for each of the situations indicated above, give the following:

- a) Name of the database you would use.
- b) A list of all the search terms that you would consider using.
- c) Linked (using Boolean operators) search terms that you think you would finally use to interrogate the database. [25]

**Question 2**

Discuss the major components of an information retrieval system. [25]

**Question 3**

Write brief notes on the five evaluation criteria you would use to evaluate web-based information systems. [25]

**Question 4**

Describe in detail the phases together with related activities involved in pre-search process (developing a search strategy). [25]

**Question 5**

Supposing you have been asked to propose fields for a bibliographic database to store records for theses and dissertations collected by a university library. Indicate all the fields that you would use and briefly describe each field to be stored in the field. [25]