Meet our Research Faculty

Dr. Victor Kabata

Post-doc

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Research Interests

My research focuses on leveraging information (records and archives) for development, accountability and good governance. I have investigated the international, regional and national legal framework underpinning freedom of information and data protection. The advent of data driven technologies has resulted in a datafied society. In this regard, I am fascinated by topics covering contemporary issues related to surveillance capitalism, information ethics and data justice.

My current work focuses on fostering inclusivity, trust and safeguarding privacy in data management systems.

Lately, many countries have prioritized provision of legal identity to their citizens by establishing unique identity management systems. Whilst implementing identity management systems is a useful step towards closing the proof of identity gap and ensuring efficient access to essential services, ensuring that the systems are inclusive and trusted to safeguard privacy remains a challenge. My current project focuses on identifying the privacy risks inherent in the implementation of the National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMs) in Kenya. While the government has sought to assure citizens that the personal data held in the system is safe, these assurances are not backed by credible data on the privacy risks and protective measures within the NIIM system.

In view of this, I intend to fill this research gap by undertaking a privacy impact assessment to identify the privacy risks associated with implementation of the NIIM system. Specifically, the study will outline the functions and business needs that the system seeks to fulfil and how this can be done while maintaining privacy of personal data; identify the privacy governance framework underpinning the operation of the system; assessing the system design features and the extent to which they adhere to privacy principles; identifying problematic data actions within the system that could undermine data privacy and proposing measures for mitigating the identified privacy risks.

Research Collaborations

2019-2021

- Participation in the International Council of Archives (ICA) Congress in Abu Dhabi in October 2021. Presenting a paper titled 'An assessment of the legal framework governing the management of digital information in Kenya'.
- Participation in the 3rd Biennial Department of Library and Information Science Conference held in Botswana in April 2019. Present a paper titled 'An assessment of Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) strategy towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030'.

2014-2018

- Participation in the University of South Africa, Biennial International Conference on Library and Information Science research in Africa (UNILISA) in March 2017. Presented a paper titled 'Assessment of the readiness of public bodies to implement of the Access to Information Act (ATI) 2016 in Kenya'.
- Participation in the East and Southern Africa Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA) Conference in June 2015 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Presented a paper titled 'Challenges of managing records in a social media environment: Lessons for records managers in Africa'.

2012-2013

- Participation in the Information Ethics Conference, University of Zululand, Durban, South Africa in September 2013. Presented a paper titled 'Ethical and legal Aspects of storing Information in the Cloud'.
- Participation in the East and Southern Africa Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA) Conference in June 2013, Nairobi, Kenya. Presented two papers titled 'Archival Legislation and management of Public records in Kenya' and 'Management of business records during Mergers and Acquisitions'.
- Participation in the South Africa Society of Archivists Conference in June 2012 in Pretoria, South Africa. Presented a paper titled 'Outsourcing records storage to the cloud: Opportunities and challenges for records managers in Africa'.

Consultancy Projects

2012-2013

Acted as an independent consultant in an Archiving project at Mount Kenya Bottlers Limited, Kenya between October 2012 and June 2013. The project entailed conducting a business system analysis of the company's records and information management structures. The analysis provided a framework for redesigning and restructuring of the records and information management systems and processes resulting in the following deliverables;

- Records management policy for the company
- File classification system for the company registry
- Records retention and disposal schedule
- Capacity building of company staff on records management international best practices
- Appraisal of the company records
- Preservation of the Company's archival collection through accessioning, coding, serializing, boxing and shelving of archival materials
- Finding aids to facilitate retrieval of the preserved records

April-July 2012

Acted as an Independent Consultant in a Records and Archives project at Inform Action, Kenya. The purpose of the consultancy was to conduct an audit of the records in the organization and develop a records management system. The project resulted in the following deliverables;

- Records Management System for the organization
- Records management policy for the organization
- File classification system for the organization registry
- Records retention and disposal schedule

Publications

Journal Articles

Information Development Journal, Volume 36, Issue 3, 2020, Victor Kabata and Francis Garaba
Review of the legal and regulatory framework supporting the implementation of the Access to information (ATI) Act 2016 in Kenya.

Records Management Journal, Volume 29, 2019, Issue 1. Page 117-133 Victor Kabata and Francis Garaba
Leadership and political will for the implementation of the ATI Act 2016 in Kenya.

Mousaion, Journal of Information Science (University of South Africa) Volume 30, 2012, Issue 2. Page 137-157
Outsourcing Records Storage to the Cloud: Challenges and Prospects for records Managers in Africa.

Journal Articles Reviewed

Participated in review of articles for the following journals:

2019-2020

Journal of Information and Knowledge Management
Manuscript Title: ICT in Knowledge Management of Students Information for Institutional Sustainability of Universities in Meru County, Kenya.

South African Journal of Communication and Information Science
Manuscript Title: Memories and Archives: Documenting white minorities in Post-Colonial Zimbabwe.

News Paper Articles

I have authored articles in the following newspapers:

Business Daily Newspaper, Kenya 25 July 2019
• How firms can forestall personal data breaches

The Standard Newspaper, Kenya 13 July 2008
• Title of Article: 'There is need for leaders to pen their memoirs to safeguard history'

The Standard Newspaper Kenya 23 July 2008
• Title of Article: 'Disease a double tragedy for women and children'

Drum Magazine, Kenya 20 November 2006
• Title of Article: 'To arm or not to arm-a question of security'

Affiliations

Member, Kenya Association of Records Managers and Archivists. (KARMA)

External Supervisor: KCA University, Kenya. School of Business and Public Management, Masters in Knowledge Management and Innovation.

Adjunct Faculty, University of Embu, Department of Humanities.