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Report and summary of the workshop on the matters related to Information Ethics in Africa
that was held on June 3ʳᵈ 2012 at the Laico Hotel in
Nairobi, Kenya

Introduction

The workshop brought together academics in Schools of Information Studies in Africa, teachers of secondary schools, librarians, parents-teachers associations and information technologists to engage and dialogue about the emerging influence of Information Ethics in Africa. The workshop was held in Nairobi Kenya on 3 June 2012 as a preconference activity of the Standing Conference for East, Central and Southern Africa Librarians (SCECSAL).

The workshop was organised by the Africa Network on Information Ethics (ANIE) and the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics (ACEIE). This group of academics, information practitioners and policy makers in Africa supported by experts from Europe and the United States aimed at *inter alia* developing and implementing an information ethics curriculum for/and in Africa.

This workshop followed on the previous workshop on the theme *Information Ethics Research in Africa.* It was held on 5-6 July 2011 at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. The main purpose of the workshop was to develop a draft information ethics curriculum in Africa and for Africa. A list of issues emerged from the workshop that needed further elaboration and interrogation such as; ethical dimension of social media in Africa, bioethics, e-waste management, e-democracy, e-participation, freedom of information, service delivery, information poverty, ICT4D, etc. From the Pretoria workshop the need was identified to create this Kenya workshop as an opportunity for further discussions on the current results related to the teaching of Information Ethics in Africa as well as the relation between Information Ethics and the Social Media.

Structure and rationale for the Kenya workshop

The workshop took place in two parts. Part One received and discussed reports by universities who form part of the ANIE Information Ethics Curriculum Development Project. This session aimed to standardise the future way of reporting by universities on their activities and results in teaching Information Ethics.

Part Two of the workshop focused on discussions related to Social Media and Information Ethics. The outcome of this session will guide and structure the research for the September 2012 ANIE Conference that will lead a full discussion on the matter.

Both Information Ethics and Social Media have in significant ways changed the world's information and knowledge landscape, impacting lives, cultures, and economic development. In the African context, citizens, entrepreneurs, educators, and policy makers are turning to social media for communication purposes. For example in 2011, Facebook was rated as the most popular social networking space with an estimated 550,000,000 unique monthly visitors (eBizMBA, 2011). Corbet (2010) says the largest demographic group on Facebook in January 2010 was 35 to 54 year olds followed by 18 to 24 year olds (Y & Z generation respectively). As much as social media has spread like wildfire in the last five years, the safety of its users remains of great concern. Mr. Bob Collymore an ardent user of social media speaking in his capacity as the chief executive of Safaricom (a mobile service provider in Kenya) says 'social media is a place for people to tell you what's good and what's bad about what you are doing as well as a place for people to vent their frustrations, it's therefore important that I hear this directly as well as join the debate'. Collymore further says people join social media for three reasons: identity, to get connections and to socialize within a community. He says people have secured jobs and others lost theirs on social media. He adds, on social media, no one is safe, whether it is to spread rumours, release naked pictures, or just poke fun at a celebrity.

This workshop is particularly informed by recent and on-going political events in North Africa particularly in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain and other parts of the Arab world where young people have successfully leveraged social media and other new technologies to stir dissent against autocratic regimes and force political transformation never experienced before. Furthermore, it is becoming apparently clear that political parties and key political personalities are using social media to propagate their ideals to attain and sustain political power. Besides, a number of individuals in the private sector and government are turning to social media platforms to promote their brand. Social media therefore has become an important agent for social, economic and political transformation in Africa where poor governance and lack of democracy has been the norm rather than the exception.

As great parts of society embraces social media, it is timely to interrogate and examine the ethical implications for research programmes, teaching practices, social justice, democracy,

development and political empowerment. For these reasons, the proposed workshop will on among other things focus on:

- o Ethical dimensions of social media in Africa
- o Empirical research on the impact of social media in Africa
- o Impact of social media on the youth in Africa
- o Social media, privacy and confidentiality
- o Evaluation of use of social media in Africa
- o Political analysis of application of social media in Africa
- o Social media and socio-economic empowerment
- o Social media and information poverty in Africa
- o Social media and respect for human dignity
- o Protection from informational wrongdoings in social media environment

Objectives of the Workshop

The objectives included:

- To receive feedback from participating universities on the progress to teach Information Ethics
- To standardise reporting on Information Ethics curriculum implementation progress in Africa
- To identify, coordinate and unpack topics that should be included in the September 2012 ANIE Conference programme
- In general, to discuss the opportunities and challenges for integrating ethical dimension of social media into curricula.

References

- 2011 Funding proposal for the SCACSAL Pre Conference workshop by Prof Stephen Mutula
- Corbet, P. 2010. Facebook demographics and statistics report 2010: 145% growth in 1 year [Online].
- eBizMBA. 2011. Top 15 most popular social networking websites [Online].

Programme for the ANIE Workshop on the matters related to Information Ethics in Africa that was held on 3 June 2012 at the Laico Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya

Saturday June 2nd 2012

Guests arrived in Nairobi

Sunday June 3rd 2012

08:30 Arrival at the workshop venue in the Laico Hotel in Nairobi

- Guests arrived at the workshop, registered and had some refreshments. Mr Coetzee Bester called the participants to order and made some administrative announcements. The various Workshop objectives were discussed.

09:00 Welcoming remarks

- Prof Stephen Mutula: Welcoming remarks
- Prof Johannes Britz: Opening of the workshop

09:15 Presentation of reports from universities participating in the ANIE project to teach Information Ethics in Africa

- Current status of the ANIE Proposed Curriculum for Information Ethics – Coetzee Bester
- Report by University of Zululand – Prof Dennis Ocholla
- Report by the KZN University – Prof Stephen Mutula
- Report by the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe – Dr Lawton Hikwa
- Report by Kenya Polytechnic University College – Ms Sarah Kibugi
- Report by Moi University – Prof Japhet Otike
- Report by the University of Pretoria – Prof Jesse Mugambi
- Report by the University of Fort Hare – Prof Edwin Ijeoma
- Report by Makerere University – Prof Abel Mukakanya
- Reports by all the other participating universities
- Report by the University of Pretoria – Coetzee Bester

Participating Individuals and their Universities:

Title	Surname	Name	Institution	Country
Ms	Amunga	Hellen	Kenyatta University	Kenya
Ms	Anduvare	Everlyn	Marist International University College	Kenya
Prof	Banjo	Adewale	University of Zululand	South Africa
Mr	Bester	Coetzee	University of Pretoria	South Africa
Dr	Constance	Bitso	University of Pretoria	South Africa
Me	Bothma	Rachel	University of Pretoria	South Africa
Prof	Britz	Hannes	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	America
Prof	Bukenya	Isaac	Makerere University	Uganda
Prof	Capurro	Rafael	Capurro-Fiek Foundation	Germany
Prof	Du Plessis	Jacques	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	America
Dr	Hoskins	Ruth	University of KwaZulu Natal	South Africa
Prof	Ijeoma	Edwin	University of Fort Hare	South Africa
Mrs	Ingutia-Oyieke	Lilian	University of Pretoria	South Africa
Dr	Kaddu	Sarah	Uganda Christian University	Uganda
Ms	Kagwiria	Evangeline	Ministry of Immigration	Kenya
Ms	Kawalya	Jane	T.B.C.	Kenya
Ms	Kibugi	Sarah	Kenya Polytechnic University College	Kenya
Mr	Kingori	George	University of Nairobi	Kenya
Prof	Kuplangat	Joseph	Moi University	Kenya
Mr	Maepa	Kgosi	University of Pretoria	South Africa
Ms	Maina	Jane	T.B.C.	Kenya
Mrs	Mashiyi	Nozipho	Department of Communication	South Africa
Prof	Mnjama	Nathan	University of Botswana	Botswana
Prof	Mugambi	Jesse	University of Nairobi	Kenya
Dr	Mugambi	Wesley	University of Nairobi	Kenya
Mr	Mukakanya	Abel	Makerere University	Uganda
Prof	Mutula	Stephen	University of KwaZulu Natal	South Africa
Ms	Nsibirwa	Zawedde	University of KwaZulu Natal	South Africa
Ms	Obachi	Esther	University of Nairobi	Kenya
Prof	Ocholla	Dennis	University of Zululand	South Africa
Prof	Otike	Japhet	Moi University	Kenya
Mr	Too	Rogers	Marist International University College	Kenya
Mr	Warsame Jama	Abshir	Somalia University	Somalia

11:00 Refreshments

11:30 Discussion of reports and a standardised format for future reports by universities on their activities to teach Information Ethics in Africa

- Evaluation of the format and information included in current reports
- Participants brought their current issues and academic experiences to the table. A discussion took place of the issues that need to be addressed regarding the curriculum format as well as the practical applicability thereof.
- Layout and format of a standardised report

    (Please see Addendum A for the Pro-forma Report)

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Towards the ANIE International Conference in September 2012 – a round table discussion on topics related to information Ethics and Social Media

- Introduction – Prof Rafael Capurro gave an introduction to topics related to Information Ethics and Social Media in Africa. He continued with a discussion with the group on their current research and opinions on Information Ethics and Social Media

The listing of the most critical topics for the September 2012 ANIE Conference.

These topics were identified in the form of themes for the conference. The participants formed smaller groups in which they created themes which they felt are significant. They were tasked to address Social Media, Information Ethics or both in these themes.

Group1:

Global Commonalities and Regional Differences in Social Media Dimensions

Freedom and aspiration the role of Information Ethics

Nexus between mobile technology and e-governance

Africanisation of the global Social Media: events, trends and options

Group 2:

Coping with Social Media era in Africa

Social Media trends in Africa

Social Media environment in Africa

Group 3:

Current trends in Information Ethics

Information Ethics in a digital era

Africa at cross-roads; Information Ethics in a digital era

Group 4:

Social Media and Information Ethics for socio-economic development in Africa

Group 5:

Ethical concerns in using Social Media: a curriculum approach

Relevant curriculum for teaching Information Ethics: an African approach

Group 6:

Information Ethics in a digital environment: the African perspective

Group 7:

Social Media in Africa: new forms of sociation and rules of fair play

Group 8:

Designing [the moral/fair play] track(s) for the 'Cheetah Generation': A critical reflection on the ethical challenges of Social Media in Africa

15:00 Refreshments

15:30 Preparation for the Social Media input at the September 2012 ANIE Conference - Introduction of speakers and topics

- Listing of participants and their topics related to Social Media and Information Ethics. Each participant was tasked to give one or more possible topics for their presentation at the September Conference:

Topics for Papers for September 2012 ANIE Conference

Professor Edwin Ijeoma

- **University of Fort Hare**

    1. Africanisation of the global social media, events, trends and options

    2. Globalisation versus public information ethics in an African perspective

Professor Jacques du Plessis

    - **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

    1. Child Protection and social media

Ms Esther Obachi

- **University of Nairobi**

    1. Social media of social exclusion

    2. Gender and social exclusion in Kenya

Ms Nozipho Mashiyi

- **South African National Department of Communications**

    1. Social media: urban and rural considerations: Is there a gap?

Dr Jane Kawalya and Mr Abel Mukakanya

- **Makerere University**

    1. Ethical challenges of supervising undergraduate research – a case study of Ugandan universities.

Ms Hellen Amunga

- **Kenyatta University**

1. Students' perception on dissemination of information through social media by university libraries in Kenya.

Prof Japhet Otike

- **Moi University**

   1. The impact on privacy and freedom of [unclear] laws on the social media.

Ms Jane Maina

- **Unknown**

   1. Social media and information ethics awareness on universities in Kenya.

Prof Isaac Kigongo-Bukenya

- **Makerere University**

   1. Ethics and the social media: An LIS educationalist view.

Dr Sarah Kaddu

- **Uganda Christian University**

   1. Challenges of social media in LIS Ethics in Africa.

Prof Nathan Mnjama

- **Botswana University**

   1. Social media and rewards management: the missing link.

Unknown

- **Unknown Institution**

   1. E-government in selected African States.

Ms Sarah Kibugi

- **Kenya Polytechnic University College**

1. Social media for information dissemination in libraries.

17:30 Closing

- Summary of Workshop decisions and the Way Forward – Prof Johannes Britz
- Vote of thanks – Mr Coetzee Bester

18:00 ANIE Reception