2012 Annual Report
Report period
December 2011 to
December 2012
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1. Background to the Report

This report focuses on the activities planned and completed by the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics (ACEIE) during 2012. These activities relate to the participating entities that include the Africa Network for Information Ethics (ANIE), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Department of Communications (DoC) and the University of Pretoria (UP). This report include the management and financial matters relating to the contract between the University of Pretoria and the Department of Communications; the compilation and distribution of the Information Ethics Curriculum to the participating universities in Africa; various workshops and the 2012 3rd ANIE Conference.

1. Background on the establishment of the ACEIE

The ACEIE activities are all based on a formal Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the South African Department of Communications and the University of Pretoria. The ACEIE is based at the Department of Information Science within the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology at the University of Pretoria and is managed according to the policies and procedures of the University of Pretoria. The ACEIE was established according to a UP Senate decision on 17 May 2012.

1.1. Main focus of the MoA

1.1.1. promote academic research in the field of Information Ethics;

1.1.2. develop tools for the practical application of ethical reasoning;

1.1.3. ensure that the opportunities offered by the developing Information Society are effectively utilised for socio-economic advancement and a better life for all;

1.1.4. establishment an office and manage the administrative operations of the ACEIE;
1.1.5. support establishment of other Ethics Centres in Africa through the African Ethics Research Centre Network;

1.1.6. convening, coordination and administration of Ethics Conferences, and follow-up implementation of the conference resolutions;

1.1.7. hosting of Ethics Award Ceremonies in collaboration with other partners as determined;

1.1.8. the Centre will focus on research and training in Information Ethics; and

1.1.9. ensure research and publication of Information Ethics Journals.

1.2. Information Ethics Purpose Statement

Information Ethics in Africa is a relatively new field in terms of academics and science. It seeks to establish a discourse regarding the impact that technology has on the life world of Africa’s inhabitants and the impact it has on their implementation of technology. Although research has been done, there is a challenge to translate the research into teaching. This is the aim of ANIE; to introduce Information Ethics in a structured curriculum to various identified participant universities. To establish this aim, it is necessary to have a clear understanding of what Information Ethics entail.

As a descriptive theory IE explores the power structures influencing informational and communicational attitudes and traditions in different cultures and epochs. As an emancipatory theory IE develops criticisms of moral, i.e., life-world attitudes and traditions in the information and communication field at an individual and collective level. It includes normative aspects.

IE explores and evaluates:

- the development of moral, i.e., life-world values in the information and communication field,
– the creation of new power structures in the information and communication field,
– information and communication myths,
– hidden contradictions and intentionalities in information and communication theories and practices,
– the development of ethical conflicts in the information and communication field.

As a philosophic discipline, IE takes a holistic view on the phenomenon of human communication as based on the relationship between man and world. This holistic view provides a ground for the integration of other disciplines dealing with information and communication such as anthropology, sociology, political science, information studies, media studies, computer science, social informatics, law and the liberal arts. IE in Africa provides a unique platform to build an Information and Knowledge Society driven by critical reflection on ethos and values within the African Context. It addresses opportunities and challenges unique to the development of the African Continent.

This vision will be realised in the implementation of identified themes and topics in a structured Information Ethics curriculum.

1.3. The support structure of the Africa Network for Information Ethics (ANIE)

1.3.1. UNESCO
1.3.2. South African Department of Communications
1.3.3. University of Pretoria, South Africa
1.3.4. University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, United States of America
1.3.5. University of Zululand, South Africa
1.3.6. The Capurro-Fiek Foundation (Europe)
1.3.7. The Management structure of ANIE includes the ANIE Academic Board, ANIE Management Executive Committee and ANIE Information Ethics Curriculum design committee.

1.4. Resources to support the management of the ANIE activities

As a signatory to the UNESCO and WSIS agreements, the South African Government via its Department of Communications and the Presidential National Commission on Information Societies and Development was amongst others sponsors involved in the support of the Information Ethics in Africa since 2007. The continuous support culminated into negotiations to ensure the sustainability of the ANIE activities and the implementation of projects in South Africa and other African countries. The negotiations started in 2009 and concluded in 2011 with the approval of an R7.4m (about $1m) budget over 3 years according to a Memorandum of Agreement between the University of Pretoria and the Department of Communications. The agreement inter alia contributed to the establishment of the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics (ACEIE) as well as the implementation of the Information Ethics curriculum at 12 participating universities in Africa.

2. Participating Institutions and ACEIE Activities of 2012

2.1. Current participating academic institutions in Africa

2.1.1. University of Zululand, South Africa

2.1.2. University of Pretoria, South Africa

2.1.3. Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa

2.1.4. University of Zambia, Zambia

2.1.5. Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology, Tanzania
2.1.6. University of Technology, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

2.1.7. University of Fort Hare, South Africa

2.1.8. Rhodes University, South Africa

2.1.9. Kenya Polytechnic University College, Kenya

2.1.10. University of Botswana, Botswana

2.1.11. University of Nairobi, Kenya

2.1.12. Kenyatta University, Kenya

2.1.13. Tumaini University, Tanzania

2.1.14. Moi University, Kenya

2.1.15. Makerere University, Uganda

2.1.16. University of Ibadan, Nigeria

2.1.17. University of Zanzibar, Tanzania

2.1.18. University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

2.1.19. University of Ghana, Ghana

2.1.20. Uganda Christian University, Uganda

2.1.21. National Institute for the Deaf, South Africa

2.2. ACEIE activities of 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1. Management and report meetings</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2. Setting up of the office of the ACEIE on the 6th floor of the Information Science Building in Room 6-46 on</td>
<td>January to March 2012</td>
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the University of Pretoria campus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3. Delivery of 1000 copies of the Africa Reader on Information Ethics</td>
<td>1 March 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.4. Workshop at the University of Zululand to start with the writing of a Handbook for Information Ethics and to coordinate a Journal for publication of related articles</td>
<td>18 to 20 March 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.5. Presentation at 2012 South African Society for Greek Philosophy and the Humanities (SASGPH) Conference</td>
<td>17 to 19 April 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.6. Formal public photo session for the establishment of the ACEIE attended by the DG DoC, the Rector of the University of Pretoria and UNESCO</td>
<td>25 April 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.7. University of Pretoria Senate final approval of the establishment of the ACEIE</td>
<td>17 May 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.8. Presentation at the Afrikaans Nederlandstalig Wyserige Gemeenskap (ANWG) Conference</td>
<td>25 to 27 May 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.9. SCECSAL Pre-Conference Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>3 June 2012</td>
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<td>2.2.10. ANIE International Pre-Conference Workshop on Information Ethics, Pretoria, South Africa</td>
<td>3 to 4 September 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2.11. 3rd ANIE International Conference on Information Ethics, Pretoria, South Africa</td>
<td>5 to 7 September 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2.12. Vodacom Workshop on Privacy</td>
<td>13 November 2012</td>
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<td>2.2.13. Eastern Cape Workshop with the Department of Education</td>
<td>16 November 2012</td>
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2.3. Management Structures

2.3.1. Advisory Board

2.3.1.1. Prof Roelf Sandenbergh (Chairperson)
2.3.1.2. Prof Theo Bothma
2.3.1.3. Prof Rafael Capurro
2.3.1.4. Prof Dennis Ocholla
2.3.1.5. Prof Stephen Mutula
2.3.1.6. Mr Themba Phiri (or representative)
2.3.1.7. Ms Nozipho Mashiyi
2.3.1.8. Mr Lucky Musi
2.3.1.9. Mr Coetzee Bester

2.3.2. ACEIE Office Personnel

2.3.2.1. Mr Coetzee Bester
2.3.2.2. Ms Rachel Bothma
2.3.2.3. Ms Thoriso Maloka

2.3.3. UP Management Committee

2.3.3.1. Prof Theo Bothma
2.3.3.2. Mr Coetzee Bester
2.3.3.3. Ms Rachel Bothma
2.3.3.4. Ms Thoriso Maloka

2.3.4. DoC Project Management Committee

2.3.4.1. Ms Nozipho Mashiyi
2.3.4.2. Mr Lucky Musi
2.3.4.3. Mr Coetzee Bester
2.3.4.4. Ms Rachel Bothma
2.3.4.5. Ms Thoriso Maloka
3. Report of activities and future planning

3.1. Activities

An overview of activities of the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics (ACEIE) for the period 2011/2012 and 2012/2013

3.1.1. ACEIE OBJECTIVE 1

Development of Information Societies
To create an awareness of the importance of information in different communities and amongst responsible persons and information practitioners, in terms of where to access information and overcome inequalities in the access to information, how to integrate it, and to create awareness of societies dependence on information.

3.1.2. ACEIE OBJECTIVE 2

Provide training to government officials
To provide training for government officials in different areas of government with respect to ethical reasoning applied to e-government; and ensuring awareness of ethical issues arising from the management of information amongst information practitioners.

3.1.3. ACEIE OBJECTIVE 3

Education in information ethics
To develop short courses to enhance ethical reasoning amongst information practitioners.

3.1.4. ACEIE OBJECTIVE 4

Community development activities
To promote the effective and ethical use of information for different communities, such as ensuring SMMEs are aware and able to handle responsibly information flows using ICTs, such as for access market information, business marketing, and in running businesses.

3.1.5. ACEIE OBJECTIVE 5

Knowledge distribution
To ensure the development of the information ethics teaching curriculum amongst 12 African universities participating in the teaching of Information ethics.

3.1.6. ACEIE OBJECTIVE 6

Internationalisation of Information Ethics policies and practises:
To promote key proposals and research as agreed concerning the research on Information Ethics and its application, for consideration within African and International inter-governmental organisations, such as the AU, African Regional Communities and UNESCO.

3.2. Brief report of activities between December 2011 and December 2012

3.2.1. Finalising of MoA: December 2011

The main focus was to negotiate the final MoA and to prepare for the implementation of the objectives included in the MoA. The MoA was finally signed on 15 December 2011.

3.2.2. ACEIE Office: January and February 2012

The setting up of the office of the ACEIE on the 6th floor of the Information Science Building in Room 6-46 on the University of Pretoria campus took place during January and February
2012. The setting up included, but was not limited to, the purchasing of furniture, stationery, laptops and the collection of research material.

3.2.3. Management Meetings: Monthly

UP Management Meetings and DoC Project Management Committee (PMC) meetings took place monthly. When it was deemed necessary, more meetings were scheduled.

3.2.4. Reader: March 2012

The delivery of 1000 copies of the Africa Reader on Information Ethics to the ACEIE office took place during March. Approximately 200 Readers were distributed during the 3rd ANIE Conference, 3 to 7 September 2012.

3.2.5. Workshop on Textbook: 18 to 20 March 2012

A workshop at the University of Zululand to start with the writing of a Textbook for Information Ethics and to coordinate a Journal for publication of related articles took place from 18 to 20 March 2012.

3.2.6. Conference Paper: 17 to 19 April 2012

A conference paper entitled “Teaching Ethics in Africa, why we cannot and why we should” was delivered by Ms Rachel Bothma at the South African Society for Greek Philosophy and Humanities (SASGPH) Conference hosted by Unisa.

3.2.7. Senate Approval: 17 May 2012

On 17 May 2012 the University of Pretoria Senate delivered the final approval of the establishment of the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics.
The African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics

10.6.2 S 3128/12 (amended)

The establishment of the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics.

Decision:

Approved by Senate with the recommendation that further discussion between the responsible Heads of Department take place.


A conference paper entitled “‘n Verlies aan ‘n Tragiese Bewussyn” (Loss in a Tragic consciousness) was delivered by Rachel Bothma during the Afrikaans Nederlandstalig Wysgerige Gemeenskap (ANWG) Conference at Antwerp University, Belgium.

3.2.9. Workshop on Social Media: 2 to 3 June 2012

On 3 June 2013 thirty individuals participated in the research workshop on Information Ethics and Social Media held at the Laico Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. The outcomes of this workshop contributed to the planning and content of the 3rd ANIE Conference. The participants had to select themes concerning either Information Ethics or Social Media (or both) on which they would base their research for the conference presentations.

3.2.10. Workshop on an IE Curriculum and its Implementation: 3 September 2012

Participants from the Nairobi workshop as well as other identified universities were invited to partake in a research workshop concerning the Information Ethics curriculum. They were requested beforehand to prepare a report on their progress to implement the curriculum on
Information Ethics at their own university. This workshop was held at Kievits Kroon, Pretoria.

3.2.11. Training of IE lectures: 4 September 2012

On the following day Prof Johannes Britz led the training of lecturers from participating universities in topics of Information Ethics. This training session built on the previous day’s workshop where problem areas and content issues were identified.

3.2.12. 3rd ANIE Conference: 5 to 7 September 2012

During 5 to 7 September the ANIE and ACEIE International Conference on Information Ethics and Social Media took place. This conference sought to identify and discuss the impact that Social Media has on academia and civil society.

3.2.13. Public Launch of ACEIE: 6 September 2012

The public announcement of the ACEIE and the launch of the ACEIE website and activities took place on the evening of 6 September during a gala dinner. The organising committee of the gala dinner invited 80 guests of whom there were also honorary guests such as the Director-General of the Department of Communications and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Pretoria.


The ACEIE was one of the partners involved in the planning and execution of a Vodacom Workshop on Privacy. Other partners included Vodacom, the Film and Publication Board (FPB) and the Department of Communications. The workshop was addressed by various experts in the fields of industry, government and academia. They included the CEO of Vodacom, the CEO of the Film and Publication Board, the Minister of Communications and
the Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Pretoria. This workshop took place at the University of Pretoria.

### 3.2.15. Department of Education Workshop: 16 November 2012

Eastern Cape Workshop with the Department of Education on issues pertaining to Information Ethics. More than 800 delegates were addressed on the practical importance of Information Ethics in their personal and professional endeavours.

### 3.3. Research Activities 2012

#### 3.3.1. Publishing of a textbook on Information ethics

**Title:** A handbook for Information Ethics in Africa  

**Structure:**

**3.3.1.1. PART ONE: INFORMATION ETHICS CROSSCUTTING THEMES**

**Chapter One:**  
- Ethics and Information Ethics – Rafael Capurro (RC)

**Chapter Two:**  
- Ethical theories and ethical reasoning – RC

**Chapter Three:**  
- Ethics, Morals and Laws – RC

**Chapter Four:**  
- Values/rights: truth, justice, freedom and information based rights – Johannes Britz

**Chapter Five:**  
- Information ethics issues: Privacy, access, quality of information, ownership of information – Stephen Mutula (SM)

**Chapter Six:**  
- Information ethics fields: Individual, professional and society – Coetzee Bester (CB)

**Chapter Seven:**
• Information societies and development - CB/DO

Chapter Eight:
• Intellectual Property – Dennis Ocholla/Dick Kawooya
• Copyright
• Industrial property (Patents, trademarks, standards, industrial designs, Licencing and contractual agreements)

3.3.1.2. PART TWO: SOCIAL ETHICAL ISSUES

Chapter Nine:
Information policy and Legislation – Sandra Braman
• power
• politics
• legislation
• surveillance
• law and ethics

Chapter Ten:
Digital divide – Stephen Mutula
• Know and not know
• Affordability
• Availability
• Open access

Chapter Eleven:
Information poverty – Johannes Britz
• Social justice
• Marginalisation
• Access and use of information
• Economic fairness
• Chapter Twelve: Emerging ethical Issues - Rafael Capurro
• Robotics
• Cyber warfare
• Cyber porn
• E-waste
• New media
• Bio medical issues
• Cloud computing
• Virtual reality
• Human life

Editors:
Dennis Ocholla, Johannes Britz, Coetzee Bester and Rafael Capurro

Purpose:
To provide a comprehensive, coherent book for basic/advanced teaching and learning of information ethics largely in IS Schools in Africa.

Contribution:
Open to all academics/scholars/faculty in IE, Ethics, Philosophy, and Computer/cyberethics

Target Audience:
Undergraduate and post graduate students, researchers on IE, faculty/academics/university teaching staff, librarians, information providers, producers and users.

Size:
Approximately 350 pages /150000 words

Writing Schedule:
April 2012 –November 2012

Editing:
December 2012

Publishing and Distribution:
February 2013

Referencing style:
APA style
3.3.2. Recording of events

All recording of events such as workshops, conferences and lectures will be edited and made available on the ANIE website. The nature of this availability is premised on open access.

3.3.3. Commissioning of articles

Throughout 2012 various academics were approached to do research on the impact or importance of Information Ethics in their field of expertise. These academics will have the opportunity to publish their articles in the 2013 Innovation Journal whose special edition is focused on Information Ethics.

3.4. Overview of planned activities: January 2013 to December 2013

3.4.1. Provincial workshops for government officials
3.4.2. Publishing of a 2nd Reader on Information Ethics
3.4.3. Coordinating research and academic articles
3.4.4. Publishing of the July 2013 Innovation Journal on topics related to Information Ethics
3.4.5. Organising of a research workshop on Information Ethics for students
3.4.6. Visits to participating universities

3.5. Marketing and awareness activities

3.5.1. Formal establishment and activities of the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics (ACEIE)
3.5.2. Government activities and workshops
3.5.3. UNESCO activities

3.5.4. Activities by participating academic institutions

3.5.5. Contact with additional academics and new universities

3.5.6. Public Lectures

3.5.7. Industry awareness

3.5.8. Workshops for new students

4. Vote of Thanks

ANIE would like to express their gratitude towards the following parties for their continuous support;

4.1. All the stakeholders at above-mentioned universities and institutes;
4.2. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
4.3. The University of Pretoria (UP);
4.4. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM);
4.5. ANIE Executive Members; and
4.6. Department of Communication (DoC), South Africa.