

# NKECHI JENNIFER AKWARI

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## EDUCATION

### Ph.D. Computer Science 2022 – 2026 (expected)

University of Cincinnati, College of Engineering and Applied Science (CEAS), Cincinnati, Ohio

**Research Areas:** Database, Provenance, Machine Learning

**Adviser:** Dr. Seokki Lee

### Bachelor of Science, Computer Science 2018

University of Ibadan, Oyo, Nigeria

First Class Honors

**Award:** Best Graduating Student in Computer Science

**Thesis:** Design and Implementation of an Academic Advisory System

**Adviser:** Dr. Onifade, O.F.W.

**Courses:** Programming and Algorithms, Structured Programming, Abstract Algebra, Statistical Inference II, Data Structures, Computer Operating Systems I-II, Formal Languages, and Automata Theory, Database Systems, Information Theory and Computer Communication Systems

### Associate Degree (OND), Computer Science 2013

Yaba College of Technology, Nigeria

Distinction

**Award:** Yaba College of Technology, Special Merit Award for Overall Best Student

**Courses:** Logic and Linear Algebra, Elementary Probability, Introduction to Programming, Programming in C++, Scientific Programming using Java, File Organization and Management, Management Information System, Calculus

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Graduate Research Assistant, University of Cincinnati, CEAS, Cincinnati, Ohio January 2022 – Present

- Working with Dr. Seokki Lee researching Data Provenance and its benefits to machine learning pipelines and the decision-making process

## TEACHING (VOLUNTEER)

### Tutor, University of Ibadan, Nigeria 2015 – 2017

- Taught Information Management System, Compiling Techniques, and Database Systems
- Organized tutorials covering coursework and practicals, during my second and final year at the University
- Conducted mock exams to establish confidence in the students prior to the examinations in the courses taught

### Tutor, Yaba College of Technology 2013

- Taught Computer Application
- Organized tutorials for Urban and Regional Planning students prior to the examination

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- Best Graduating Student in Computer Science, University of Ibadan 2018
- Cyber Security Challenge (CYSEC) NG Inter-Platoon NYSC Hacking Challenge (2nd place winner) 2018
- NACOSS Representative Council Award of Service 2018
- Most Influential Student, Female (400 level Category) 2017
- Federal Government of Nigeria Scholarship Awards 2017
- NACOSS Award of Excellence for Dean's Cup Winners (Soccer) 2015
- Yaba College of Technology, Special Merit Award for Overall Best Student 2013

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

Python, SQL, Java, Scala, Excel, Tableau, Scrum, Jira, Microsoft Office, CorelDraw

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Business Process Analyst and Change Manager, Heritage Bank PLC, Lagos, Nigeria 2020 – 2021

**Industry:** Financial Institution; Projects Domain: Web, Mobile, API

- Engaged in requirement elicitation, data analysis, and documentation to guide business in improving processes, products, and services and inform business decisions; Worked with Cross-Functional Teams; Data Visualization; User Story and Workflow Build
- Change Management

### Project Manager, AppZone Limited, Lagos, Nigeria 2019 – 2020

**Industry:** FinTech; Projects Domain: Web, Mobile

- Managed and led agile teams of up to 20 developers, programmers, analysts, testers, and network specialists to ensure project milestones were completed on time, on budget, and with the desired results.
- Collaborated towards the development of new software applications as well as modifications to existing software, ensuring that goals and performance expectations are met in line with customer requirements.
- Functional and Non-Functional Testing; User Acceptance and Pilot Test Activity; User Training and Project Sign-off Engagements

**Web Administrator | Community Manager**, Premier Medical Systems, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria 2018 – 2019

**Industry:** Health Technology

- Introduced innovations that improved user interactions by 55% in the online community; Data-driven business analysis and targeted sales.
- Led projects that improved the look and feel of the indigenous Drupal website thereby improving user engagements.

**Software Developer (Internship)**, CWG Group, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria 2016 – 2017

- Collaborated with the team on software development and back-end database maintenance

## CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| • Become a SQL Developer, LinkedIn Learning Path | 2022 |
| • ITIL Foundation Level AXELOS                   | 2021 |
| • Project Management Essentials Certified        | 2020 |
| • Certified Secured Computer User                | 2018 |
| • Google Africa Scholarship Front End Course     | 2018 |

## LEADERSHIP/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Engineering Summer Camp Counselor, CEAS, University of Cincinnati                     | June 2022 - July 2022    |
| Treasurer, EECS Graduate Student Association, University of Cincinnati                | January 2022 – present   |
| Career/Scholarship Counselor, SoftSeven Initiative                                    | January 2020 – present   |
| The One Habitat, @The1Habitat   |                          |
| • Social Media Manager/Graphic Designer   | May 2019 – Dec 2021      |
| • Counselor   | May 2019 – present       |
| Lead, Singles Fellowship, True Worshipers International Ministries                    | January 2019 – July 2021 |
| National Association of Computer Science Students (NACOSS) Legislative Representative |                          |
| • Chief Whip  | 2016                     |
| • Secretary   | 2017                     |

## CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| • 39th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)       | July 2022  |
| • Cyber Summer School  | July 2022  |
| • ACM SIGMOD/PODS International Conference on Management of Data | June 2022  |
| • EDBT/ICDT 2022 Joint Conference                                | March 2022 |

## WORKING PAPER(S)

**Nkechi J. Akwari\***, Dwarkesh Rajput\*, Justin Turnau, Seokki Lee In submission, 2022  
Unboxing Machine Learning (ML) Model Predictions using Provenance

## CONFERENCE REVIEWING

- |                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| • Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment | 2022 |
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## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- |                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| • Society of Women Engineers | 2022 |
| • IEEE Computer Society      | 2022 |
| • IEEE Women in Engineering  | 2022 |