

NKECHI JENNIFER AKWARI

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Computer Science

2022 – 2025 (expected)

University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

Research Areas: Database, Data Provenance, Machine Learning

Adviser: Dr. Seokki Lee

Coursework: Advanced Algorithms, Database, Applied AI and ML, Intelligent Data Analysis, Networking, Automata, Cloud Computing, Big Data Analytics, Advanced Machine Learning

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.

Coursework: Programming and Algorithms, Data Structures, Operating Systems, Database Systems, Information Theory

Associate Degree (OND), Computer Science

2013

Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria

Distinction

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

Coursework: Logic and Linear Algebra, Elementary Probability, Programming in C++, Calculus

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Database and Machine Learning Researcher, University of Cincinnati, Ohio

January 2022 – Present

- Working with the Databases group on research focused on databases and data provenance, their benefits to machine learning pipelines, and its decision-making process

WORK EXPERIENCE

Engineering Summer Camp Counselor, CEAS, University of Cincinnati, OH

June 2022 - July 2022

- Guided campers through engineering practices via hands-on science and engineering activities and capstone projects

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, data visualization, and documentation to guide business in improving processes, products, and services and inform business decisions; Worked with Cross-Functional Teams; User Story and Workflow Build; Testing; Change Management

Technical Project Manager, AppZone Limited, Lagos, Nigeria

2019 – 2020

Industry: FinTech; Projects Domain: Web, Mobile

- 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.
- Executed functional and Non-Functional Testing; User Acceptance and Pilot Test Activity; User Training and Project Sign-off

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 indigenous Drupal website's look and feel, thereby improving user engagement.

Software Developer (Internship), CWG Group, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria

2016 – 2017

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

PUBLICATIONS

- Justin Turnau*, **Nkechi J. Akwari***, Seokki Lee, Dwarkesh Rajput
Provenance-based Explanations for Machine Learning (ML) Models
Accepted DBML 2023
- Nkechi J. Akwari***, Justin Turnau, Seokki Lee
Unboxing Machine Learning (ML) Model Predictions using Data Provenance
In submission, 2023

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Python, SQL, Java, ML Framework, Apache Spark, MS Azure, Tableau, MS Excel, Scrum, Jira

PROJECT

- Kaggle - Exploratory Data Analysis; Stroke Prediction Using 6 ML models (<https://www.kaggle.com/code/nkechiyeree/simple-eda-stroke-prediction-using-6-ml-models>)
- Github - <https://github.com/jennifernakinwale?tab=repositories>

CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

- Microsoft Certified: Azure Data Fundamentals 2023
- Become a SQL Developer, LinkedIn Learning 2022
- ITIL Foundation Level AXELOS (ISO 20000) 2021
- Project Management Essentials Certified 2020
- Certified Secured Computer User (CSCU) 2018

AWARDS AND HONORS

- IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE) Travel Award 2023
- 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
- Federal Government of Nigeria Scholarship Awards 2017
- Yaba College of Technology, Special Merit Award for Overall Best Student 2013

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Graduate Affairs Officer, SWE UC Chapter April 2023
- Reviewer, SWE scholarship (undergraduate) application April 2023
- Reviewer, Research Poster, UC Undergraduate Scholarly Showcase April 2023
- STEM Judge, State and District Science Day, Ohio Academy of Science March - April 2023
- SWENext Club Counselor December 2022 - present
- SWENext Invent It, Build It (IIBI) Volunteer @SWE22 Conference October 2022
- STEM Judge, Research Poster Competition, Society of Women Engineers Conference October 2022
- Content Developer - Magazine, University of Cincinnati Nigerian Students Association July 2022 - present
- Treasurer, EECS Graduate Student Association, University of Cincinnati January 2022 – present
- Career and 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 2016 - 2017
- Tutor, University of Ibadan, Nigeria (Compiling Techniques, and Database Systems) 2015 - 2017
- Tutor, Yaba College of Technology (Computer Applications) 2013

CONFERENCE PEER-REVIEWING

- Reviewer, Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment 2022, 2023
- Reviewer, Scientific and Statistical Database Management (SSDBM) 2022

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

- IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE 2023), International Workshop on Databases and Machine Learning (DBML) April 2023
- NVIDIA GTC Developer Conference March 2023
- Women Who Code CONNECT 2023 February 2023
- SWE Local Conference 2023 Detroit, MI February 2023
- weSTEM (Women Empowered in STEM) Conference February 2023
- Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Conference WE22 October 2022
- 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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
- IEEE Computer Society
- Society of Women Engineers (SWE)
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- Anita B.org