

# Nkechi Jennifer Akinwale (Akwari)

Cincinnati, Ohio | [akwarinj@mail.uc.edu](mailto:akwarinj@mail.uc.edu) | <https://jennifernakinwale.netlify.app>

## OBJECTIVE

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Researcher, engineer, and data scientist proficient in Python, SQL, and Java, with 2+ years of hands-on expertise. Skilled in database, data analysis, and machine learning techniques. Leverages extensive background in analysis, program, and project management to deliver impactful results.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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Python, SQL, Java, Machine Learning, Apache Spark, MS Azure, Tableau, MS Excel, Scrum, Git

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Research Assistant, Database and Machine Learning

January 2022 – Present

University of Cincinnati (UC), Ohio, USA

- Conduct extensive research to uncover novel insights in harnessing data provenance to enhance machine learning (ML) explainability and interpretability
- Collaborate with the research team to pioneer novel methodologies at the intersection of databases, data provenance, and machine learning.
- [Published](#) and presented research findings at the prestigious IEEEW conference

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Engineering Summer Camp Counselor, University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

June - July 2022

- Facilitated engaging and interactive science and engineering activities for campers, fostering hands-on learning and exploration of engineering principles.
- Led campers in successfully completing challenging capstone projects, providing guidance, mentorship, and technical support throughout the project lifecycle.

### Business Process Analyst and Change Manager

2020 – 2021

Heritage Bank PLC, Lagos, Nigeria

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

- Conducted requirement elicitation sessions with project stakeholders to capture project specifications and well-defined phased delivery output and timelines, to align with project expectations at the highest level of quality.
- Performed data analysis to extract meaningful insights from business engagements and drive informed decision-making.
- Designed and built user stories and workflows
- Conducted testing sessions to ensure software product quality and optimal performance.
- Led successful change management sessions, facilitating successful deployment to live environment ensuring business continuity and customer satisfaction

### Technical Project Manager, AppZone Limited, Lagos, Nigeria

2019 – 2020

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

- Led agile teams of up to 20 programmers, analysts, testers, and network specialists to ensure project milestones were completed on time, on budget, and with the desired results.
- Delivered top-tier performance, consistently achieving 100% quality output and deliverables across all project phases.

## EDUCATION

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<b>Ph.D. Computer Science</b>	2022 - 2025 (expected)
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA	
<b>Research Areas:</b> Databases, Data Provenance, Machine Learning	
<b>Adviser:</b> Dr. Seokki Lee	
<b>Coursework:</b> <i>Advanced Algorithms, Database, Applied AI and ML, Intelligent Data Analysis, Networking, Automata, Cloud Computing, Big Data Analytics, Advanced Machine Learning</i>	
<b>Bachelor of Science, Computer Science</b>	2018
University of Ibadan, Oyo, Nigeria	
<b>Award:</b> Best Graduating Student in Computer Science	
First Class Honors	

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Turnau, J., **Akwari, N.**, Lee, S., & Rajput, D. (2023, April). Provenance-based Explanations for Machine Learning (ML) Models. In *2023 IEEE 39th International Conference on Data Engineering Workshops (ICDEW)* (pp. 40-43). IEEE.

## PROJECT

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- Kaggle - Exploratory Data Analysis: Stroke Prediction Using 6 ML models
- Github - <https://github.com/jennifernakinwale?tab=repositories>

## CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

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| • Microsoft Certified: Azure AI Fundamentals   | 2023 |
| • Microsoft Certified: Azure Data Fundamentals | 2023 |
| • Become a SQL Developer, LinkedIn Learning    | 2022 |
| • Project Management Essentials Certified      | 2020 |

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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| • Impact Award, NCWIT Aspirations in Computing                       | 2023 |
| • Graduate Student Engineer of the Month, University of Cincinnati   | 2023 |
| • IEEE International Conference on Data Engineering NSF Travel Award | 2023 |
| • Best Graduating Student in Computer Science, University of Ibadan  | 2018 |

## CONFERENCE PEER-REVIEWING

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| • Reviewer, Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM) | 2023       |
| • Reviewer, International Conference on Very Large Data Bases (VLDB)  | 2022, 2023 |
| • Reviewer, Scientific and Statistical Database Management Conference | 2022, 2023 |

## LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

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| • Teller-Elect, Society of Women Engineering (SWE)             | July 2023 - June 2024 |
| • IEEEExtremel7 Global Strategy Team Member                    | June 2023 - present   |
| • Reviewer, Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC) Scholar Application | May 2023              |

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Computer Society
- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)