Sheriff Ola

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EDUCATION

University of British Columbia   Vancouver, CA
MLIS. Data Service specialization   2017–2019

University of British Columbia   Vancouver, CA
MSc. in Forestry, Advisor: Dr. T.C.H Sunderland   2019–2020

Memorial University of Newfoundland   St. John's, CA
MA Political Science. Public Administration specialization   2015–2017

University of Ghana   Accra, GH
B.A. Political Science, First Class Honors   2004–2008
Specialization: Rural Development and Administration

EXPERIENCE

Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER)   Legon, GH
Research Associate   2009 - 2010

- Provided exceptional assistance and support during implementation of ISSER's 2009/10 research agenda which featured multi-donor sponsored projects on rural development, population dynamics, and poverty alleviation in several regions in Ghana. More specifically, I:
- developed thorough understanding of objectives and scope of ongoing research projects in order to draft appropriate literature reviews for said projects
- collected and analyzed data using survey tools like ODK Collect, CSPro and Survey-to-Go as well as statistical and GIS software such as ArcInfo 9, Stata and Microsoft Excel
- randomly selected and recruited subjects for interview following carefully designed sampling procedures as well as interviewing ethics and best practices
- supervised student fieldworkers/interviewers by issuing assignments and recording completion status, and served as liaising between student fieldworkers and research project supervisors
- managed budgets for fieldwork such as interviewer transportation, food and related logistical needs, incentive payments for interviewees, and acquisition of equipment to support field interviews
- liaised with municipal and regional census bureau for information on demographic trends and distribution to help streamline execution of field interviews

University of Ghana Balme Library   Legon, GH
Instruction Technology Support, Distance Learning   2010 - 2012

- Provided support for distance learning instructional delivery by assisting lecturers with the effective use of digital technology and resources to ensure easy-to-use online learning experiences and enhanced learning outcomes. More specifically, I:
- assisted remote learning instructors in setting up teaching contents on the KEWL LMS platform
- helped users resolve problems with accounts or access to instructional contents on KEWL
- answered support emails and similar queries from students and instructors
- reported complex support issues to Balme library's central IT department for expedited resolution
- kept informed and up to date on KEWL platform developments

- created and posted simple video and text-based tutorials on platform activities and troubleshooting tasks for users
- submitted recommendations to supervisor on technologies and strategies for improving service delivery
- notified Balme library central IT department of software and hardware update necessities and requirements
- assisted course instructors in searching for, downloading and uploading specific multimedia contents and resources for inclusion in teaching

EH Commodities (West Africa Operations) <div align="right">Abidjan, CI</div>

Procurement Analyst <div align="right">2012-2014</div>

- Took responsibility for sourcing/recruiting reliable, serious and professionally-minded vendors and suppliers of forest products/commodities, providing accurate and reliable commodities analysis, and negotiating favorable procurement contracts on behalf of employer. More specifically, I:
- developed a thorough understanding of the supply needs of employer and painstakingly researched, identified and recruited potential suppliers and vendors to fill such needs
- acted as liaison between employer and vendors/suppliers by exchanging and negotiating supply and purchasing information and demands between both parties
- recruited the most reliable and dedicated vendors and suppliers by negotiating favorable procurement contracts with them
- kept a keen eye on company/employer's supply needs in order to avoid situations or instances of supply shortages
- documented business processes and generated monthly cost analysis reports
- Kept up to date with vendor/supplier related trends in the industry

Surrey Public Library <div align="right">Surrey, CA</div>

Practicum Student <div align="right">June 2018</div>

- Used observational and inquiry-based approaches to learn about the various administrative and service-based operations within a public library setting. More specifically, I:
- gained first-hand, practical experience observing and participating in reference interviews and use of library software, SirsiDynix Horizon, for reference services
- gained practical understanding of, and experience in, the cataloging and collection service systems implemented within Surrey Public library
- undertook web-based data collation and collection tasks to assist with development of a staff learning portal
- gained thorough understanding of, and familiarity with, programming at Surrey Public Library, and helped deliver a child reading program at the Guildford branch

PUBLICATIONS

1. Sunderland, T., Gaston, C., Dai, C., and **Ola, s**. (2020). Participation Challenges in Natural Resource Leadership for Women in Ghana. *Manuscript submitted for publication*

2. **Ola, s**. (2020). Women Leaders as Transfer Agents of Conservation Information in High Forest Zone Communities: Challenges and Opportunities. *Manuscript submitted for publication*

3. **Ola, s**. (2021). Measuring Progress in the AU's STI Agenda: a look at research production among selected African research institutions. *Manuscript submitted for publication*

4. **Ola, s**. A user experience assessment of virtual reference services in selected research libraries in Canada. *Manuscript in progress*

5. **Ola, s**. A supervised classification of e-libraries in Canada using selected web-based indicators. *Manuscript in progress*

Teaching

- **Graduate Assistant** Memorial University of Newfoundland   Winter and Fall 2015
  Introduction to Political Science (POSC 1000)
  Empirical Methods in Political Science (POSC 3010)

- **Graduate Teaching Assistant** University of British Columbia   Winter 2019
  Sustainable Forests (FRST 100) | Instructor: Andres Vahola, Ph.D

Skills

- **Communication:** Clearly present ideas in written & oral forms
- **Analytical:** Able to think critically & make evidence-supported decisions
- **Computing:** Good professional experience in usage of the internet & library software
- **Organizational:** Independent & team-oriented work ethic

Languages

- **English:** proficiency - fluent
- **French:** proficiency - basic
- **Yoruba (Nigeria):** proficiency - fluent
- **Asante Twi (Ghana):** proficiency - fluent

Projects

- **Street Library Project** (launched in 2012)
  A rural-based library van project

- **AfriConserv** (implementation in progress)
  A learning object repository to support conservation

Practical & Technical Proficiency

- Research to support library services: Knowledge of simple & complex survey design & implementation
- Instructional Design: Completed UBC's certificate program in Advanced Teaching & Learning (2019)
- Web Development: Intermediate knowledge of HTML, CSS, Javascript, XML, Wordpress
- Library Automation: Use Python & Powershell to automate simple administrative tasks
- Virtual Service Delivery: Provide exceptional online support for research & teaching

Extracurricular Activities & Interests

- Member: VIMLOC   2017–to Present
  Helped launch a UBC SLAIS chapter in 2018

- Member: BCLA   2017–to Present
  Active membership

- Research Data Management & Sharing Certification | Coursera Mooc   in-progress
  Course on management needs across the research data lifecycle

- Citation Analysis for Bibliometric Studies Course | Coursera Mooc   in-progress
  Project-based instruction on bibliometric analysis

- Statistical Learning | Stanford Online   in-progress
  Instruction on machine learning for research

- Volunteer | Code Canada program, Surrey Public Library   2018
  Helped run the Code Canada session at surrey library - Central City Guildford branches