Archiving Kenya’s Past and Futures:
Stewardship and Care of Research Data

Angela Okune | Leonida Mutuku
Land acknowledgement
Agenda

- 9 AM Welcoming and Opening Presentation
- 9:30 AM Panel 1: Promoting and supporting student interests in research and archiving
- 10:15 AM Tea break (viewing of poster gallery exhibit)
- 10:30 PM Panel 2: Expanding Forms of Research Outputs
- 11:30 Tour of the McMillan Library
- 12:00 Interactive lunch
- 12:45 PM Panel 3: Data Localisation and Governance
- 1.45 PM Break-out Discussion groups: Sharing data
- 3.00 PM Closing remarks and next steps
why research data?
what we are hoping to achieve
“When you participate in so many researches and you don't know what is happening [as a result] and it's not changing the environment that we are in, you feel like wasted. You keep on asking questions, but this data will go where?

The one who takes data will never come back to us like ‘okay, we took this and these are the results.’ So you feel wasted.”

- Nicera Wanjiru (October 29, 2019)
“Scientific Extroversion”
The Academic Knowledge Production Process

The Research Process

1. Research Question
2. Funding + Methods
3. Collect Data
4. Analyze Data
5. Write Up

Authors

The Publishing Process

6. Journal: Editorial Office
7. Peer Review
8. Publisher Proofing
9. Distribution/Dissemination
10. Research Evaluation (Metrics)
11. Networking
12. Finding Academic Employment

Traditional Publisher Role

Open Repositories

The Research Evaluation Process

Source: Posada and Chen (2017)
Community-based repositories and systems

- What is needed to protect, catalyze and further strengthen community-based knowledge repositories and systems?

- What might more “regenerative research” processes might look like — processes that restore, renew or revitalize communities’ own sources of knowledge, energy and materials?
Why is this STS innovation needed?

Relying on diverse examples from history, the exhibit traces archives and libraries as parallels of "innovation" or STS problem and engagement. The curators believe they have an opportunity to highlight our intersehction with the world of "digital democracy". For this reason, historical examples are less focused on political interaction with the world outside of domestic relations. Instead, they are seen to ‘innovate’ within their community to promote change and advance innovation.

What infrastructures have sustained this STS innovation?

The McMillan Memorial Library was established in 1931 by the wife of U.S. born philanthropist, Sir William Northrup McMillan, in his memory. The library became the local library in the city until the country was divided into the National Library in 1970. The National Library is now the national library for the country and is supported by the Ministry of National Education. It is open to the public and contains a large collection of books and other resources. The library is a symbol of the cultural and educational heritage of the country and is a hub for learning and research.

What are notable examples of this STS innovation?

1. McMillan Library
   - Scholarly Memory in Nairobi, Kenya: Care for Sites and Sources

   The McMillan Memorial Library was established in 1931 by the wife of U.S. born philanthropist, Sir William Northrup McMillan, in his memory. The library became the local library in the city until the country was divided into the National Library in 1970. The National Library is now the national library for the country and is supported by the Ministry of National Education. It is open to the public and contains a large collection of books and other resources. The library is a symbol of the cultural and educational heritage of the country and is a hub for learning and research.
Decolonial knowledge practices

Digital archiving

Open Data
Open Data and Records Management
History of Open Data

Data is open if it can be freely accessed, used, modified and shared by anyone for any purpose - subject only, at most, to requirements to provide attribution and/or share-alike. (Both legally and technically open)

- Global movement that is now 11 years old
- OGD objective of promoting good governance - transparency, accountability and innovation

Open Knowledge Foundation
Open Data in our (African) Context

- Data been **central to government planning initiatives** for a long time.
- Kenya 2\(^{nd}\) country with formal open government data portal in Africa.
Progressing from Transparency to broader Development Agenda

- Limitations to scale of open data initiatives and failure to show evidence of value and impact to the citizenry, who are considered the ultimate beneficiary of the open government initiative.
- Mainly been attributed to poor African leadership, which is critically needed especially to drive open data and big data initiatives by government.
Post-2015: A data revolution

Call to use traditional and new sources of data innovatively to accelerate achievement of development goals.
Kenya’s Development Agenda

- Kenya has worked to ensure national MTPs and long-term plan development frameworks, the Vision 2030 action plan and the SDGS are all in alignment.
- Current government in place has four priority development goals - Big 4 Agenda
- Opportunity and need to harness Open (Big) Data to achieve development goals
Beyond Government Data: Open in Era of Big Data/Al

October 2015

October 2018

analysis of mining activities in Ghana from ARDC
Libraries, Archives and Open Data

- How do we find and share data that explains the phenomena that arises from the big data?
- How do we ensure that ‘no one is left behind’ - those not adequately represented in quantitative analysis?
- How do we preserve heritage, public knowledge and culture in age of RTI where artifacts are created at a rapid rate but privacy and personal freedoms under threat?
Bridging Data Communities for Sustainable Development

19-20th November 2020

Bringing the power of the newest technologies to some of the world’s oldest problems through partnership and new models for government-private sector collaboration in the era of the data revolution.
3 PM: Closing Comments

- Book Bunk
- Collaboration
- Next Steps
COLLABORATION
Challenges to Collaborating on Data in Nairobi

- Competition for funding
- Brand risk
- Interoperability of data
- Lack of shared language

- Can we get more and diverse funders interested and invested in the topic?
- How to derisk sharing?
- Is there such a thing as flexible standards?
- Needed for ease of discovery
Research Data KE Working Group

● Review discussion points from today’s event

● Plan actionable next steps

● Report back at International Open Data Conference - Nov 2020