

Data literacy : an output focussed model to guide Kenyan academic libraries

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In the era of rapid data generation, researchers at Kenyan universities face challenges in effectively navigating, interpreting, and managing data. This study proposes a collaborative data literacy framework to enhance Kenyan data literacy initiatives, addressing critical areas for improved outcomes. Despite data ubiquity, researchers encounter management challenges. The primary objective of the study was to assess the feasibility of standardised data literacy services across private university libraries in Kenya. The study used a mixed-method approach involving quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Five private chartered universities in the Nairobi metropolitan area, all offering PhD programs, participated in the research. Participants included PhD students, faculty members, heads of university libraries, and research/reference librarians selected for their direct involvement in research data collection and management. Data analysis involved statistical tools and thematic analysis, revealing the pressing need for standardised data literacy services in Kenyan academic libraries and emphasising the crucial role of libraries in advancing data literacy initiatives. The study identifies critical stakeholders, emphasising the crucial role of libraries in promoting data literacy. Key findings of the study shed light on the pressing need for standardised data literacy services in Kenyan academic libraries, highlighting challenges and opportunities for improvement. Furthermore, the study underscores the critical role of libraries as crucial stakeholders in advancing data literacy initiatives within the academic community. The proposed framework developed as a result of the findings has the potential to elevate research quality and innovation. The research underscores the urgent need for concerted efforts to elevate data literacy within Kenyan academic libraries, with the proposed framework guiding future initiatives aimed at improving research outcomes and societal impact.

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