

DR GEORGE R. OBAIDO

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BRIEF PROFILE

George Rabeshi Obaido is an academic, researcher, software developer, and a project manager with more than nine (9) years of combined professional experiences across a broad range of fields in the industry, academia, non-governmental and community-based organisations. George has practitioner-based proficiencies in qualitative research, project management, programme and product management, module and content development, and network analysis and troubleshooting.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

George's research interests lie at the intersection of Formal Languages and Natural Language Processing Techniques to finding solutions to many, different problems. Recently, his work focuses on utilising these techniques in Computer Science Education.

EDUCATION

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
PhD¹ in Computer Science
School of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics

May 2020

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
MSc² in Computer Science
School of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics

July 2017

University of Abuja, Nigeria
BSc(Hons)³ in Computer Science
Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science

December 2010

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

ITIL⁴ v3 Certification (APMG-International, License: 02349481-01-D313)
PRINCE2⁵ Project Management Certification (APMG-International, License: 04198365-01-Q7DJ)
Scrum⁶ Master Certification (*in progress*)

¹Doctor of Philosophy

²Masters of Science

³Bachelor of Science with Honours

⁴Information Technology Infrastructure Library

⁵Projects IN Controlled Environments

⁶Scrum: a process framework used to manage product development and other knowledge work

EXPERIENCE

Pearson (South Africa)

Module Lead

January 2020 - Till date
Johannesburg, South Africa

- Responsible for creating assessment materials for selected information technology modules, such as Internet programming and e-commerce, project management and information systems at all campuses in South Africa.
- Develop learning materials as well as support and guide the implementation of these modules.
- Develop Blended Learning activities on the *myLMS* platform.
- Provide guidance to lecturers during the beginning of a new semester to ensure all understand the requirements of the module.
- Liaise with programme leaders and other key individuals, as required.

Pearson (South Africa)

Lecturer, Information Technology

August 2016 - Till date
Johannesburg, South Africa

- Carry out research and produce publications in line with personal objectives as agreed in the staff review plan.
- Engages with the broader scholarly and professional communities.
- Preparing schemes of work and maintaining records to monitor student progress, achievement and attendance.
- Participate in departmental and faculty seminars aimed at sharing research outcomes and building interdisciplinary collaboration within and outside the department.
- Participate in workshops to enhance student experience.
- Participate in the invigilation, and marking of exams and other assessments.
- Facilitated the usage of the tablet devices to entry level students.
- Courses lectured include: Networking Technologies, Advanced Networking, Internet Server Management, Internet Programming and e-commerce, Computer Network and Security, Computer Systems and Computer Skills Development for fresh men.

Tribe Inc

Executive, Tech & Digital Learning (Pro-bono Consulting)

July 2016 - Till date
Monrovia, Liberia

- Inspire and lead the development, communication, and implementation of a shared vision for the comprehensive use of technology to support a digital-age education that includes information literacy, programming, design thinking, and innovative learning environments for Liberian youths.
- Contribute to the planning, development, communication, implementation, and evaluation of a technology-infused strategic plan across the network and at the school level.
- Set KPIs (key performance indicators) for both long and short-term goals.
- Seek user feedback and measure the impact and effectiveness of the strategies implemented
- Capture and share best practices/lessons learned to ensure continuous improvement; produce a learning technology dashboard.

University of the Witwatersrand

Teaching Assistant & E-learning Support Consultant

January 2015 - June 2016
Johannesburg, South Africa

- Coordinated and complete special projects assigned/requested based on individuals interests and skills.
- Directed and monitor the operation of computing laboratories including the following: determine hours; develop lab rules; ensure labs are properly staffed; create lab class schedules and resolve student's workstation issues and programming issues.
- Assisted with preparation of instructional materials.
- Performed a variety of administrative tasks including presentations, data entry and analysis, collating materials and presentations.

- Assisted faculty instructor with a large lecture class by tutoring students in laboratory or discussion sessions.
- Assisted with the grading of class quiz and written assignments.
- Encouraged digital literacy, facilitate the adoption of SAKAI⁷.
- Designed learning and performance support solutions to meet the needs identified. Solutions may include self-paced e-learning, online software simulations, blended learning, performance support systems, synchronous / asynchronous online classes, and collaborative learning experiences.
- Escalated users queries on SAKAI and Turnitin issues and recommended solutions to issues reported.
- Provided support to the e-learning endeavours at WITS and participated at migrating the old version of SAKAI to its current version.
- Courses tutored: Basic Computer Organisation, Data Structures & Algorithm and Database Systems.

MANCOSA⁸

Visiting Lecturer

May 2015 - Till date

Johannesburg, South Africa

- Moderate the marking of a specified number of papers in line with the moderation instructions in order to determine whether any adjustment of the marks is necessary.
- Checked that the samples of marked papers work meet the requirements of the syllabus and, where necessary, request further samples.
- Completed a rating report for each marked exams to record what adjustments, if any, are recommended.
- Prepare and submit a report, in accordance with the guidance given at the each marked papers.
- Perform all these services in accordance with MANCOSA's instructions and schedules.
- Performs weekend lectures at agreed hours only during the weekends.
- Courses lectured include: Web Development, Computer Hardware and Architecture, System Analysis and Design, Programming with Java, Project Management, End User Computing and Management Information Systems (MIS).

Intercomm Links

Senior Project Manager(Pro-bono consulting)

March 2015 - Till date

Johannesburg, South Africa

- Works with project sponsor and finalise project business case.
- Maintains accountability for quality of project deliverables.
- Develops all project controls, including cost, time, change and risk.
- Develops a work breakdown structure (WBS) for projects.
- Manages vendor or subcontractor's performance on the project.
- Ensures adherence to the organization's project management framework.
- Managed client expectations by ensuring the delivery of the highest quality service.
- Obtains written signoff for project completion.
- Reviews project at all major milestone.

Apata Concepts

Web Developer (Pro-bono consulting)

February 2014 - July 2014

Johannesburg, Gauteng

- Established and guided the websites architecture and user experience.
- Ensured high-performance and availability and managing all technical aspects of the CMS.
- Helped formulate an effective, responsive design.
- Optimised WordPress based sites, and SEO integration.
- Development of Sitemaps, Wireframes and User Interface designs.
- Designed and implemented new features and functionality.

⁷SAKAI: The WITS Virtual Learning System

⁸Management College of South Africa

- Integrated websites with WooCommerce, Payment Portals and Plugins.
- Worked with front-end technologies, including HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, jQuery.
- Designed and developing responsive websites and landing pages.
- Comfortable working with debugging tools like Firebug, Chrome inspector, etc.
- Understood CSS changes and their ramifications to ensure consistent style across platforms and browsers.
- Converted comprehensive layout and wireframes into working HTML pages.
- Interacted with RESTful APIs and formats (JSON, XML).

Litediv Solutions

Project Manager

March 2013 - February 2015

Johannesburg, Gauteng

- Accountable for managing the delivery of critical projects, and for providing managerial support for all the projects conducted by the company. Also responsible for providing monthly financial and technical updates of any known issues/risks to the Senior Project Manager.
- Monitoring project risks and scope creep to identify potential problems and pro-actively identifying solutions to address them in advance.
- Escalated promptly any issues that may impact operations.
- Acted as the central source of project status (verbal & written) for the project team, stakeholders and sponsor(s).
- Facilitated and developed a work breakdown structure (WBS) for projects.
- Produced stage plans, highlight reports, risk logs, requests for change etc
- Provided strategic direction during the implementation stages.
- Managed client expectations by ensuring the delivery of the highest quality service.
- Oversaw project execution with regard to schedule, budget, scope, quality and risk.
- Acted on client feedback and Monitored staff & team performance.
- Tracked activities against the detailed project plans.
- Identified, costing and processing any contract variations.

Imperio International Limited

IT Operations Manager

January 2012 - March 2013

Lagos, Nigeria

- Responsible for the direction, planning, and management of all IT related issues.
- Recommended suggestive improvement on the overall corporate IT Network Infrastructure, whilst making changes to the company's network infrastructure topology.
- Deployment of a Chat application system on the corporate LAN⁹.
- Troubleshoot the Tally ERP¹⁰ related issues and recommends improvement.
- Provided input and assistance to other IT projects e.g. CCTV¹¹ camera output technology.

Studio Press (Nigeria) Limited

SAP ERP B1 Support Analyst and Network Engineer

December 2010 - January 2012

Lagos, Nigeria

- Supervised by SAP B1 Consultant to direct, plan, and maintain SAP ERP issues.
- Responsible for the creation of item master data creation and records.
- Created business partners records, updated and checked periodically all related records.
- Implemented and assures compliance with the firm's policies and procedures affecting company's infrastructure.
- Managed SAP Support projects including scheduling of work, and ensured availability of resources, material and quality of deliverables.

⁹Local Area Network

¹⁰Enterprise Resource Planning Software

¹¹Closed-circuit Television

- Participated in the setting of objectives, strategies, plans, programs, performance standards/measures and procedures, as a member of the IT Management team
- Oversaw and resolved network issues and conflicts.

Hakonix Technologies

April 2009 - December 2010

Web Developer

Abuja, Nigeria

- Met and corresponded with clients to determine client needs for company sites.
- Created corporate web sites, portals and large-scale web applications.
- Developed and designed new web interfaces, layouts and site graphics.
- Created and Designed test web sites for sales as well as demonstration purposes.
- Hands on experience in coding in PHP and MySQL, site testing, implementation/maintenance support.
- Comprehensive technical knowledge of HTML programming and JavaScript coding.
- Set up and administration of web servers and server software
- Responsible for quality assurance of finished websites including the validation of web forms and links.

Guaranty Trust Bank

December 2008 - April 2009

Industrial Trainee

Abuja, Nigeria

- Worked in the CIS¹² section to process new customers data entry.
- Trained to service customers request and ensure effective customers service.
- Worked at the ATM¹³ section to treat dispense error and load cash to machine.
- Trained to organise ATM failed service request.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

MD4SG¹⁴

2019

Collaborator

I am a volunteer for the Data and Labour Market **MD4SG group** founded by **Rediet Abebe**, and co-organised by **Swathi Sadagopan** and **Sara Kingsley** aimed at using techniques from algorithms, optimization, and mechanism design, along with insights from other disciplines to improve access to opportunity for historically underserved and disadvantaged communities. Together, we co-built the **MD4SG Data Browser**.

Black in AI: Help and Resources (Web Developer Group)

2019

Developer

I co-built the **Help and Resources** web page alongside with **Kehinde Aruleba**, **Flora Ponjou Tasse**, **Esube Bekele** and **Xanda Schofield** for the Black in AI group, aimed at assisting members write quality research papers and use additional resources such as LaTeX.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

ACM FAT^{15*}

2020

Travel Grant Awardee

I am awarded a travel grant to attend the ACM FAT Conference taking place in Barcelona, Spain.

ISCFI¹⁶

2019

Best Paper Presentation Award

¹²Customer Information Services

¹³Automated Teller Machine

¹⁴Mechanism Design for Social Good

¹⁵Fairness, Accountability and Transparency Conference

¹⁶International Conference on Soft Computing and Machine Intelligence

I was selected as one of the best presenters at the 6th ISCOMI Conference that took place in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Black in AI¹⁷ 2019
Reviewer and Travel Grant Awardee

I was appointed as a reviewer at the 3rd Black in AI Workshop, Co-located with the NeurIPS conference in Vancouver, Canada.

ACM FAT* 2019
Doctoral Consortium Travel Grant Awardee

I was awarded a travel grant as a Doctoral student to attend the ACM FAT Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America.

Black in AI 2018
Black in AI Grant Awardee

I was awarded a travel grant as a Black in AI member to present a poster at the Black in AI Workshop at the NeurIPS Conference in Montreal, Canada.

ICICIS¹⁸ 2017
Reviewer

I was appointed as a reviewer at the 2nd Proceedings of the ICICIS Conference at Maslow, Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa.

AWARDS

Pearson South Africa (Bedfordview) 2019
Distinction Award

I was awarded a distinction award for teaching excellence at the Bedfordview Campus where in a class of 65, 53 students got distinctions for one of my modules.

CSIR-DST 2016 - 2020
CSIR-DST Postgraduate Interbursary Support

I am funded by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, under the Department of Science and Technology Interbursary programme for innovative research for my MSc and PhD studies.

University of the Witwatersrand 2015 - 2016
Postgraduate Merit Award

I was one of the awardees that was funded by WITS¹⁹ for postgraduate studies.

Easi-card Solutions 2015
Study Grant

I was awarded a small research grant by Easi-card to support my MSc²⁰ studies.

¹⁷Black in AI conference, co-located with NeurIPS

¹⁸International Conference on the Internet, Cyber Security and Information Systems Conference

¹⁹University of the Witwatersrand

²⁰Masters of Science

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS: CONFERENCES AND JOURNALS

- Abejide Ade-Ibijola and **George Obaido** (2019). XNorthwind: Grammar-driven Synthesis of Large Datasets for DB Applications. In International Journal of Computer Science (Scopus), Vol. 46, Issue 4, pp 541551, International Association of Engineers (IAENG). URL: http://www.iaeng.org/IJCS/issues_v46/issue_4/IJCS_46_4_05.pdf. [Hong-Kong]
- **George Obaido**, Abejide Ade-Ibijola and Hima Vadapalli (2019). TalkSQL: A Tool for the Synthesis of SQL Queries from Verbal Specifications. In the proceedings of the IEEE International Multidisciplinary Information Technology and Engineering Conference (IMITEC), pp 469478, November 21st to 22nd, 2019. [South Africa].
- **George Obaido**, Abejide Ade-Ibijola and Hima Vadapalli (2019). Synthesis of SQL Queries from Narrations. In the proceedings of the 6th IEEE International Conference on Soft Computing & Machine Intelligence (ISCMI), pp 195201, ISBN: 978-1-7281-4576-1, November 19th to 20th, 2019. <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/9004293> [South Africa].
- **George Obaido**, Abejide Ade-Ibijola and Hima Vadapalli (2018). Generating Narrations of Nested SQL Queries Using Context-free Grammars. In the proceedings of IEEE Conference on ICT and Society (ICTAS), pp 13:16, 6th to 9th March, Durban. URL: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8703620>. [South Africa].
- **George Obaido**, Abejide Ade-Ibijola and Hima Vadapalli (2018). Generating SQL Queries from Visual Specifications. In Communications in Computer and Information Science (CCIS), vol. 963, pp 315330, Springer, Cham, Switzerland. ISBN: 978-3-030-05813-5. URL: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-05813-5_21. [Switzerland].
- Abejide Ade-Ibijola and **George Obaido** (2017). S-NAR: Generating Narrations of SQL Queries Using Regular Expressions. In Proceedings of South African Institute of Computer Scientists and Information Technologists, Bloemfontein, Free State. ISBN: 978-1-4503-5250-5. doi: 10.1145/3129416.3129454. URL: <https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=3129454> [South Africa].
- **George Obaido**, P. Ranchod, R. Klein (2017). Constructing and Analysing Plagiarism in Student Programs using Graphs. In Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on the Internet, Cyber Security and Information Systems. ISBN: 978-0-86970-802-6. URL: <https://goo.gl/X8kLWr> [South Africa].
- **George Obaido** (2017). Structural Analysis of Source Code Plagiarism using Graphs. Masters' Thesis. University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg [South Africa].
- **George Obaido**, Pravesh Ranchod, and Richard Klein (2016). Catching plagiarists: Detecting plagiarism in student source code assignments in a virtual learning environment. In Proceedings of the 10th International Technology, Education and Development Conference, Valencia, Spain. Pages 7369-7376. ISBN 978-84-608-5617-7. doi: 10.21125/inted.2016.0074. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21125/inted.2016.0074> [Spain].

WORKSHOPS

- Rediet Abebe, Kehinde Aruleba, Sara Kingsley, **George Obaido**, Sekou Remy, Swathi Sadagopan and Swathi Sadagopan. "Data Sharing in and for Africa".
 - Working Version: Privacy Law Scholars Conference (PLSC), 2020 [USA]
 - Accepted Version: International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2020 [Ethiopia]
 - Extended Version: Contested Data Academic Workshop at Data and Society, 2020 [USA].

- Preliminary Version: Workshop on Machine Learning for the Developing World (NeurIPS), 2019 [Canada].
- Patience Mhlophe and **George Obaido** (2019). Classification of Phishing in Email URLs: A Deep Learning Approach. Poster Presentation at the Third Black in AI Workshop co-organised with the Thirty-second Neural Information Processing Systems Annual Conference [Canada].
- **George Obaido** and Blessing Ogbuokiri (2018). Automatic Plagiarism Detection in Student Programs using PlaGraph. Poster Presentation at the Second Black in AI Workshop co-organised with the Thirty-second Neural Information Processing Systems Annual Conference [Canada].

TECHNICAL SKILLS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Programming Languages | HTML5, C#, PHP, Java, C++, JavaScript, Python, R and SQL |
| Web Frameworks | React, Django, Laravel, Node.js, Angular |
| Mobile Frameworks | Ionic, React Native, Flutter, Xamarin |
| Operating Systems | Windows, Linux and Classic Mac OS |
| Project Management Tools | Redmine, Agilefant, MS Projects and Gantt Charts |
| Elearning Platforms | Moodle, SAKAI, Blackboard |
| Content Management Systems | Wordpress, Joomla, Drupal, Magento, Pretashop and Woocommerce |
| Business Solutions | SAP ERP Business One Suite 6.0 and Tally ERP |
| Databases | MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQLite, Microsoft SQL Server |
| Image Editing | Adobe Fireworks, Inkscape, GIMP and Jasc Paint Shop Pro |
| Type Setting | L ^A T _E X, Microsoft Office |
| Virtual Machine Tools | VMware Workstation and Oracle VM VirtualBox |

KEY STRENGTH

- Strong communicator both written and oral.
- Excellent problem solving skills.
- Analytical ability and attention to details.
- Customer focused and solutions driven.
- Good team player.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- **Member, International Association of Engineers, World-wide:** a non-profit international association for engineers and computer scientists.
- **Member, Institute of Innovators and Inventors, South Africa:** an organisation that has assisted inventors since 1974, a home for inventors by inventors: offering independent, objective advice and support.
- **Member, Institute of Packaging, Nigeria:** is a non-profit organisation which provide professional education, customised seminars & workshops to assist in raising the standards and quantum of Packaging in Nigeria.
- **Member, Institute of Information Technology of South Africa** *formerly* Computer Society of South Africa: a professional body, recognised by SAQA²¹, with a proud 55 year history of service to, and representation of, South Africans ICT²² professionals and practitioners, attracting a broad and active membership from all levels of the ICT Industry.

²¹South African Qualifications Authority

²²Information and Communication Technology

REFERENCES

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