Who are the most influential researchers in Library and Information Science in Africa?:
An informetric and evaluative investigation of LIS researchers’ output and impact in mainstream citation sources. (RiP)

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1-INTRODUCTION

• “If I have seen further, it is only by standing on the shoulders of giants” (Newton, 1675)
• Bornmann, Anegon & Leydesdorff (2010a, 2010b) have demonstrated, an influential research draws rather from other influential researches
• This grounds our main research question in justified theory and proven reality; so, in absence of literature providing the answer,

Who are the most influential researchers, in LIS, in Africa?

2-COLLATERAL QUESTIONS

These questions inform the study:
• What does a literature review hold on the topic of ranking researchers, in LIS, Africa?
• Where to get publications and citations statistics on LIS researchers affiliated with Africa?
• What is influence in this research context and how best to compute it in ranking LIS authors on that basis?
• What do the rankings and tools reveal?
• What’s the validity and significance of the results/findings?

3-METHOD

• Measurement tools: h-index and m-index scores (m-index not yet applied)
• Data Sources: The three most prominent citation sources used: WoK, Scopus; GS (Publish or Perish & Scholarometer)
• Data integrity and cleansing /purification: Country affiliation inspection, records de-duplication, author disambiguation
• Analysis: impact ranking per country, regions, continent, official country language. Descriptive statistics. Comparisons and in-/validation of prior theories, practices or researches.

4-PRELIMINARY CONTINENTAL RANKING

5-PRELIMINARY REGIONAL RANKING

6-PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS:

1. Out of 53 African countries searched, 28 have data available in WoK ; ZA and NG rank the same since Ocholla (2007)
2. Results show impact of authors in LIS and per publication affiliation to African countries, not authors’ overall h-index
3. WoK/Scopus used to find authors, then GS to in-/validate scores, and not as discovery tool (due to ‘messiness’)
4. GS h-index inflated, in part, due to lack of control for affiliation data ; GS data collection is the most time consuming
5. WoS ranking altered by GS data ; WoK vs. GS correlation is 0.027 (very weak); non redundant result is complimentary

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