

50. Responsible use of Generative AI in research: are Kenyan universities ready?

Anthony Njina¹, Amos Chege¹, Mary Mwadulo¹

¹School of Computing and Informatics, Meru University of Science and Technology, Meru, Kenya

*Corresponding author email: anjina@must.ac.ke

Subtheme: Computing and Informatics - Leveraging Computing and informatics Technologies for Climate adaptation and resilience

56

Abstract

As generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) continues to revolutionize the landscape of academic research, universities in Kenya are adapting this technology to redefine scholarly activities. This article examines the different responses of Kenyan higher education institutions to the integration of GenAI in research practices. Through reviews of policy adaptations, ethical considerations, and capacity-building initiatives, we explore how these universities are balancing the opportunities presented by GenAI with the challenges it poses to academic integrity and intellectual property rights. We highlight pioneering case studies from leading Kenyan universities that illustrate innovative approaches to GenAI deployment in research, including collaborative efforts with international bodies like UNESCO for policy guidance. The article also addresses the critical role of infrastructure development and digital literacy in facilitating a conducive environment for GenAI utilization. Based on an in-depth analysis of institutional policies, we provide insights into the proactive strategies adopted by Kenyan universities to harness the potential of GenAI while safeguarding ethical standards and fostering a culture of responsible AI use in research.

Keywords: *Generative Artificial Intelligence, Academic Research, Responsible Computing*