Internet Regulation in sub-Saharan Africa: 2000-2022.

Codebook

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Structure and Sample

- The coded unit of observation is regulation–date. All pieces of legislation are identifiable by an ID variable. The ID remains the same for amendments to the same law within the period of observation. Therefore, both the ID and the date of commencement are necessary to identify unique observations.
- The dataset aims to include all acts of legislation governing internet usage or provision enacted between 2000 and 2022 in 44 sovereign sub-Saharan African states (excluding small island states). This includes both laws that explicitly mention digital technologies (de jure internet legislation) and those that are applied to digital infrastructure, networks, or applications (de facto internet legislation). Primary legislation (national laws) and secondary legislation (mostly regulations issued by executive bodies) are included. Currently, the data includes a total of 360 pieces of internet legislation.
- For further information on the identification of laws as well as the coding procedure, please refer to the manuscript and the supplementary online material available on the journal website.

Variables

Variable name	Description
reg_id	ID to identify each regulation. Consisting of the Gleditsch and Ward country codes and a number, separated by one 0.
reg_name	Name of the law or regulation.

Variable name	Description
date_com	Date when the law or regulation commenced. If the exact date cannot be determined, the first day of the month is listed if monthly information is available. If only yearly information is available, the first of January of that year is coded.
year	Year of observation.
date_prec	Recording how precise a date was coded: 1 = Exact date 2 = Month and year were available. 1st of the respective month is added. 3 = Only year was available. January 1st of the respective year is added.
date_end	Date when the law or regulation was abolished. Coded as NA if the regulation or law was still in effect at the end of the observation period. Laws that were amended during the observation period do not automatically receive an end date, as many amendments affect only specific sections. Cases in which supreme courts struck down parts of a law are treated similarly. An end date is only coded if the law was subsequently repealed in full.
country	The country in which the law or regulation was introduced.
gwno	The Gleditsch and Ward numerical country codes of the country in which the piece of legislation was enacted.

Variable name	Description
reg_cat	Character variable that classifies legislation according to one of the following categories: • anti_terror = Anti-terrorism legislation with implications for internet governance and/or online freedom. • cybersecurity = Cybersecurity legislation. • data_protection = Data protection legislation with implications for internet governance and/or online freedom. • media = Media or press legislation with implications for online media, citizen journalism, or social media usage. • national_security = National security legislation with implications for internet governance and/or online freedom. • penal_code = New or amended penal or criminal procedure codes with implications for internet governance and/or online freedom. • right_to_info = Right to information legislation facilitating access to information held by public institutions. • telecommunication = Telecommunications legislation with implications for internet governance and/or online freedom. • other = Any other legislation with implications for internet governance and/or online freedom.

Variable name	Description
restrictive_reg	Binary variable indicating whether a law or regulation has the potential to restrict civil and political rights online. A regulation is coded as restrictive if at least two additional secondary source reports document either: (1) charges or convictions under the regulation that have been publicly condemned by human rights organizations, or (2) concerns raised by such organizations about vague or excessive provisions that could be abused.
content	A description of the content of the regulation or law and secondary source reporting which led to the coding decisions on restrictiveness.
p_source_up	Primary source last updated. Can be different from date_com depending on when regulation / law was uploaded. NA if primary source cannot be found online or if no upload date can be found.
p_source_URL	Primary source URL.
p_source_ac	Date when primary source was accessed.
s_source_up	Date when secondary source was last updated.
s_source_URL	URL leading to secondary source.
s_source_ac	Date when secondary source was accessed.
s2_source_up	Date when second secondary source was last updated.
s2_source_URL	URL leading to second secondary source.
s2_source_ac	Date when second secondary source was accessed.