

## ABSTRACT

Information is one of the most important assets in Public Organizations worldwide and in particular public universities in Kenya. It is evident that the universities use a variety of electronic devices such as desktop, laptops and mobile phones to access information located at the respective universities' data centers. These devices and information stored in them need to be protected as they are continuously exposed to a wide range of threats, resulting in huge risks. However, information security is more often than not viewed only as a technical concern delegated to Information Communication Directors, lacking attention of the executive management. A major contributor to this is lack of an information security governance model to be integrated into the organizational overall corporate governance. The general objective of the study is to develop an Information Security Governance model through establishment of information asset management, assessment of current state of information security governance and assessment of critical success factors for effective information security governance in Public universities in Kenya. Data was gathered through administration of questionnaires and analyzed using SPSS (Version 21). Regression analysis indicated the relationship between independent variables with dependent variables. The study findings indicate that the information security management's participation level is inadequate to deal effectively with information security governance threats. The main barriers to information security include lack of prioritization of information security controls, lack of awareness training, roles and responsibilities not well defined in support of information security governance. The proposed information security governance model will help practitioners in public universities to benchmark their Information security governance practices with recommendations about how to address the barriers in order to ensure secure information assets.