

Biography: Anwar Vahed

Dr Anwar Vahed is the director of the Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa. He manages national research data infrastructure in support of data intensive research, and coordinates the development of relevant expertise, strategies and policies for research data management. His career spans leadership, managerial and capacity development roles across diverse environments such as academia, research and operational information and communications technology (ICT).

Dr Vahed is a computer scientist with more than 20 years' experience in research and development in data science, artificial intelligence, machine learning, artificial neural networks and research data management. He was principal researcher and research group leader of the ICT for Earth Observation Research Group at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. He managed the data and information delivery systems of Statistics South Africa, and chaired the Department of Computer Science at the University of the Western Cape.

He helped develop the National Big Data Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation and is a review editor of several data science journals. He serves on several local and international committees, notably, the African Open Science Platform, the National Institute for Theoretical and Computational Sciences and the US National Institute of Standards and Technology.