



Libraries and Archives as Custodians of African Intellectual Heritage in Ghana: A Review

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Abstract

Libraries and archives play a crucial role in preserving intellectual heritage across various contexts, including African societies where traditional knowledge systems are deeply intertwined with cultural practices. The analysis is based on secondary data from scholarly articles, government reports, and interviews with librarians and archivists in Ghana. The review synthesizes existing literature to explore the challenges and successes faced by these institutions in safeguarding African intellectual heritage. A key finding is that while there are significant efforts to digitize archival materials, traditional oral histories remain underrepresented in digital repositories, highlighting a need for more comprehensive cataloguing practices. Ghanaian libraries and archives have made substantial progress in their role as custodians of African intellectual heritage. However, ongoing challenges include the preservation of intangible cultural elements such as oral traditions and modern digital archiving standards. The review recommends increased funding for traditional oral history projects to ensure they are recorded and preserved alongside written records. Additionally, there is a need for better integration between digital and physical archives to maintain comprehensive coverage of African intellectual heritage.

Keywords: *African Studies, Intellectual Heritage, Preservation Theory, Ghanaian Culture, Oral Tradition, Archival Practice, Cultural Memory*

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