Preserving Digital Cultural Heritage in Resource-Limited Environments within Zambian Contexts

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Abstract

{ "background": "Digital cultural heritage preservation in resource-limited environments is increasingly recognised as a critical challenge for maintaining cultural continuity and accessibility. Within this context, Zambia offers unique insights into the practical and socio-economic challenges faced by communities aiming to preserve their artistic traditions.", "purposeandobjectives": "The study aims to explore how Zambian artists and cultural institutions are adapting digital preservation methods in resource-limited settings, focusing on the specific needs of local contexts. Objectives include understanding the technological constraints, identifying successful strategies for overcoming these challenges, and assessing the impact on community engagement with their heritage.", "methodology": "This ethnographic study employed participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and document analysis to gather data from a sample of Zambian artists and cultural organizations. Data was analysed using thematic content analysis to identify common themes and innovative practices in digital preservation efforts.", "findings": "A key finding is the significant proportion (80%) of respondents reported experiencing technical barriers such as limited internet access, outdated hardware, and insufficient training, which hinder their ability to fully leverage digital tools for heritage preservation. Additionally, there was a notable theme regarding the role of community leadership in facilitating technological adoption.", "conclusion": "The study underscores the necessity of tailored support strategies that address both the technical and socio-economic challenges faced by resource-limited environments in Zambia's cultural sector. These findings highlight the importance of fostering collaborative efforts between local artists, institutions, and external partners to ensure sustainable digital preservation initiatives.", "recommendations": "Recommendations include developing targeted training programmes for community leaders and practitioners, creating a regional consortium for sharing resources and best practices, and advocating for policy changes that support technological upgrade in cultural contexts. These recommendations aim to bridge the gap between local needs and available technology solutions.", "keywords": "Digital Heritage Preservation, Resource-Limited Environments, Zambian Contexts, Community Leadership", "contributionstatement": "This study introduces a novel framework for digital heritage preservation that integrates community engagement as a core component, providing valuable insights for practitioners

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