



Libraries and Archives in Niger: Preserving African Intellectual Heritage Through Time

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Abstract

Niger, a landlocked country in West Africa, faces significant challenges in preserving its rich intellectual heritage due to limited resources and accessibility issues. A structured questionnaire was administered to a sample of librarians and archivists in key institutions across Niger. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis to derive insights into the state of library and archival services in the country. The survey revealed that while there is some investment in digital preservation, physical archives remain underutilized due to limited funding and space constraints. There is a notable gap between theoretical knowledge about intellectual heritage and practical application within the sector. Current library and archival services in Niger are insufficient for effectively preserving African intellectual heritage. The lack of adequate resources hinders their ability to engage with diverse communities and maintain accurate records. To address these challenges, a comprehensive funding strategy should be implemented alongside capacity-building initiatives for staff members. Collaborative efforts between government bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academic institutions are also recommended.

Keywords: *African geography, archival studies, heritage preservation, library science, intellectual property rights, oral tradition documentation, regional cultural history*

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