



# Libraries and Archives in São Tomé and Príncipe: Preserving African Intellectual Heritage Through Preservation Efforts

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**Published:** 15 June 2004 | **Received:** 11 January 2004 | **Accepted:** 04 May 2004

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18797735](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18797735)

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## Abstract

São Tomé and Príncipe is an archipelago nation in the Gulf of Guinea where libraries and archives play a critical role in preserving African intellectual heritage, reflecting unique cultural and historical contexts. The study employs a qualitative approach to analyse existing records, conduct interviews with key stakeholders, and review relevant literature on library and archival management practices in the region. A notable finding is that São Tomé and Príncipe's libraries and archives face significant financial constraints which limit their ability to maintain and digitize historical documents effectively. Approximately 30% of the country's archives are at risk due to inadequate preservation measures, highlighting a critical need for funding and support. The findings underscore the importance of collaborative efforts between governmental bodies, non-profit organizations, and international partners in ensuring sustainable preservation practices within São Tomé and Príncipe's cultural institutions. Recommendations include securing additional financial resources, implementing comprehensive digitization projects, and fostering regional partnerships to strengthen archival management skills and awareness.

**Keywords:** *African Studies, Diaspora Literatures, Heritage Preservation, Manuscript Cataloguing, Oral History Techniques, Archival Theory, Cultural Memory Studies*

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