Digital Guardianship: Strategies for Cultural Heritage Preservation in Morocco's West African Context

Ahmed El-Khairy[1,2]**, Zahra Al-Hassanein**[2,3]**, Abdullah Bounouar**[4]

[1] Department of Research, Cadi Ayyad University of Marrakech

[2] Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II

[3] Department of Advanced Studies, Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH)

[4] Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Cadi Ayyad University of Marrakech

Author notes

Ahmed El-Khairy is affiliated with Department of Research, Cadi Ayyad University of Marrakech and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Zahra Al-Hassanein is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abdullah Bounouar is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Cadi Ayyad University of Marrakech and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Digital technologies have become integral to cultural heritage preservation in Morocco's West African context, necessitating innovative strategies for safeguarding intangible and tangible assets. A mixed-method approach combining qualitative interviews with policymakers and stakeholders, along with a thematic review of existing literature on digital preservation in Africa's cultural sectors. The analysis reveals a significant disparity in access to digital tools among various regions within Morocco, particularly in rural areas where less than 30% of the population has internet connectivity. Digital guardianship efforts must prioritise equitable access and capacity building for local communities to effectively preserve cultural heritage in a digital age. Develop targeted digital literacy programmes for marginalized communities; advocate for public-private partnerships to fund infrastructure improvements; integrate community engagement into digital preservation initiatives.

Keywords: *Morocco, West Africa, Intangible Heritage, Tangible Heritage, Digital Preservation, Cultural Policy, Ethnography*

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