Cultural Heritage Digitization in West Africa: A Nigerian Perspective on Preservation Strategies

Fidelis Oluwasanlawo[1], **Chinedu Obiora-Ukeje**[2], **Ocholi Ifeyinfa**[3], **Emeka Nwachukwu**[4,5]

[1] Department of Research, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

[2] Department of Research, University of Lagos

[3] Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso

[4] Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso

[5] University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Author notes

Fidelis Oluwasanlawo is affiliated with Department of Research, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Chinedu Obiora-Ukeje is affiliated with Department of Research, University of Lagos and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Ocholi Ifeyinfa is affiliated with Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Emeka Nwachukwu is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Cultural heritage preservation in West Africa is increasingly focusing on digital methods to ensure long-term accessibility and authenticity of cultural artifacts. Qualitative research methods were employed, including semi-structured interviews and document analysis of existing preservation projects in Nigeria. The study's sample included representatives from cultural institutions, academic researchers, and local communities. The findings indicate that a significant proportion (70%) of respondents prioritise community engagement as the most effective strategy for ensuring authenticity and accessibility of digitized heritage content. This research underscores the importance of involving local communities in preservation efforts to maintain cultural integrity and relevance in digital formats. Recommendations include integrating community participation into digitization plans, fostering collaboration between cultural institutions and academic researchers, and utilising digital platforms that support intergenerational sharing of knowledge.

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ REQUEST FULL PAPER

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa

Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge