



Preserving Digital Cultural Heritage in Resource-Limited Environments: A Mixed-Methods Investigation in Equatorial Guinea

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Abstract

Digital cultural heritage preservation is critical in resource-limited environments where traditional conservation methods are insufficient due to financial and technological constraints. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with quantitative data collection methods was employed. A survey of 100 local cultural heritage practitioners and stakeholders provided quantitative insights, while in-depth interviews were conducted to gather detailed qualitative information. Analysis revealed that the most commonly used digital preservation technologies are open-source software solutions such as BitTorrent and GitLab, which offer cost-effective alternatives for resource-limited environments. The survey also indicated a high proportion (65%) of respondents who believe these tools can be successfully implemented in Equatorial Guinea's cultural heritage sector. The study concludes that while traditional conservation methods are necessary, the integration of digital preservation technologies is essential to ensure the long-term survival of cultural artifacts. The findings suggest that open-source software solutions present a viable and cost-effective option for resource-limited environments like Equatorial Guinea. Recommendations include the establishment of partnerships between local cultural institutions and technology providers to facilitate the adoption of digital preservation technologies, as well as the development of training programmes to enhance skills in these areas.

Keywords: *Digital Preservation, Heritage Documentation, Qualitative Research, Quantitative Methods, Geographic Information Systems, Ethnography, Community Engagement*

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