



Digital Preservation Paradigms in West African Cultural Heritage Contexts

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Abstract

Digital preservation in cultural heritage contexts is increasingly recognised as crucial for safeguarding intangible and tangible assets from digital obsolescence. This study employs a qualitative comparative analysis approach to examine existing digital preservation initiatives in selected West African countries, with an emphasis on Tanzanian case studies. The theoretical framework underscores the necessity of tailored digital preservation strategies that account for local socio-economic conditions and technological infrastructures to effectively safeguard cultural heritage. Policy recommendations include the development of a comprehensive national digital preservation strategy supported by institutional partnerships, alongside increased funding allocations for digital infrastructure in cultural sites.

Keywords: *West African, Digital Obsolescence, Intangible Heritage, Tangible Assets, Preservation Strategies, Community Engagement, Ethnography*

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