



Cultural Heritage Preservation in Digital West Africa: A Survey of Burkina Faso Practices

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Abstract

Cultural heritage preservation in Burkina Faso is increasingly challenged by digitization processes that threaten traditional cultural expressions and practices. The research employs a quantitative survey methodology, conducted among local community leaders and cultural heritage practitioners across Burkina Faso. Respondents were selected through purposive sampling based on their expertise in cultural preservation techniques. Findings indicate that while digital platforms are utilised to some extent for the documentation of cultural practices (75% of respondents use digital technologies), there is a notable lack of standardised protocols and infrastructure, leading to inconsistencies in preservation efforts. The survey reveals an urgent need for improved guidelines and support systems to ensure effective and consistent digitization processes that safeguard cultural heritage in Burkina Faso. Recommendations include the development of national digital preservation policies, training programmes for practitioners, and partnerships with international organizations to enhance technical capabilities and resources.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Digitalization, Ethnography, Heritage, Identity, Sustainability, Community Engagement*

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