



# Digital Preservation Strategies in West African Cultural Heritage Contexts: A Survey Study in Ghana 2004

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## Abstract

Digital preservation strategies are increasingly important for safeguarding cultural heritage in the digital age. In West Africa, where traditional methods of preservation may not be sufficient, the adoption and effectiveness of these strategies vary significantly among regions. A survey was conducted among key stakeholders including museums, archives, and community groups across different regions of Ghana. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and interviews, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of current practices. The survey revealed that while digital preservation is recognised as crucial, its implementation varies widely. For instance, only 40% of respondents reported having implemented any form of digital preservation strategy, with most focusing on metadata standards (65%) rather than advanced technologies like cloud storage or digital archiving. Despite the recognition of the importance of digital preservation, a significant proportion of stakeholders in Ghana do not have established strategies in place. This highlights the need for targeted interventions to enhance digital preservation efforts. Stakeholders should prioritise the development and implementation of comprehensive digital preservation plans. Training sessions on best practices and funding mechanisms are recommended to support these initiatives.

**Keywords:** *Geographical Indicators, West Africa, Digital Preservation, Heritage Studies, Cultural Tourism, Ethnography, GIS Applications*

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