



Libraries and Archives in Burundi: Preserving African Intellectual Heritage

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Abstract

Libraries and archives play a critical role in preserving African intellectual heritage across various regions. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including interviews with library staff and archival managers, as well as a survey of public awareness about these institutions. Public awareness regarding the importance of libraries and archives is notably low (only 35% reported knowing about them), indicating a need for greater educational initiatives. While Burundi's library and archive systems face significant challenges, there are promising signs of community engagement and support from government bodies. Increased public awareness campaigns should be undertaken to highlight the importance of libraries and archives in preserving cultural heritage. Government funding for maintenance and expansion is also recommended.

Keywords: *African Studies, Preservation Theory, Oral History, Documentation Practices, African Intellectual Heritage, Heritage Conservation, Anthropology of Knowledge*

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