



Cultural Heritage Digitization Policies in West Africa: An Analysis of Preservation Strategies in Nigeria

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Abstract

Cultural heritage in West Africa, particularly in Nigeria, faces significant challenges due to natural disasters and human activities such as looting and vandalism. An examination of existing policies, interviews with stakeholders, and a review of relevant literature to identify best practices and gaps. Digitization efforts are unevenly distributed across different regions of Nigeria, with urban areas showing higher adoption compared to rural zones. Current policies lack comprehensive coverage and uniformity in their application, leading to inconsistencies in the protection of cultural heritage sites. Implement a national digitization strategy that includes training for local authorities and the public, and establish partnerships between government agencies and non-profit organizations.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Digital Preservation, Cultural Memory Studies, Heritage Management, GIS, Sustainable Development, Ethnography*

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