Chapter 10
Digitization of Archival Materials in South Africa:
A Literature Review Perspective

Nkholedzeni Sidney Netshakhuma

https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0673-7137

Department of Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa & National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, South Africa

ABSTRACT

Digitization projects enable organisations to disseminate their information all over the world. This book chapter assessed digitization of archival materials post-apartheid in South Africa. The literature review was used to assess the state of digital records in South Africa. The researcher found that most of digitisation project conducted in post-apartheid South Africa were conducted without digital framework or strategy, lack of skills, and lack of personnel to conduct digitization project. The success of digitization project depends on collaboration of organisation.

INTRODUCTION

This book chapter assessed the prospect of current storage technologies for long-term preservation and access to archival materials in South Africa. Digitization is considered an integral part of archives materials for the part of Southern Africa. This study adopted a qualitative research approach by reviewing the literature on digitization. Data was gathered through literature reviews. It is hoped that this chapter fills the gap left by other scholars when assessing the digitization of records in South Africa because of challenges concerning the digitization of records in South Africa.

Post-apartheid South Africa has the responsibility to provide complete and accurate information to all its citizens. The provision of information to wider communities is made possible through disruptive information technology such as artificial intelligence and machine learning. Therefore, this chapter reviews post-apartheid digitization initiative in South Africa. Digitization in this chapter is defined in

terms of technology, infrastructure, and practice. Strategies, policies, strategies, and actions are to be in place to implement digitization project.

Digitization is the transfer of analog or manually created items such as documents or photographs into digital form for electronic access and use (Millar, 2010). The digitization projects involves converting physical collections to digital formats and displaying surrogates of these primary sources on websites. Various projects in South Africa to document the history of South Africa were initiated after 1994.

The business model for digitization strategies, policies, and investment in information and communication technologies to preserve archives materials and provide access to information remain a challenge (Nengomasha 2013). Digital archives are important to appreciating the continuous build-up, complete collection, long-term preservation, centralized management, security control, and the effective utilization of human digital memory (Li & Chen 2022). Challenges by most organizations include limited resources to conduct research, ineffective policies, policy and a lack of investment in information and communication technologies (Stephen 2014. In the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA) were summarized by Wamukoya & Mutula (2005) as an absence of digitization budgets. Organizations experienced challenges from a lack of preservation of archives and providing access to digital records (Masenaya and Ngulubel 2021). Hence digital preservation establishment's purpose is to ensure that digital content is accessible to user communities for a long term preservation and future generations. Thedigitization of archives transformed the business world (Tsvuura and Ngulube 2021). Provision of digital records requires an organization to align its digitization strategy, policy and framework. This book chapter provided lessons learned on a digitization project conducted in South Africa. Organizations are required to establish and maintain an institutional archive by ensuring that they adopt technological and social issues (Cocciolo 2016).

Establishing and maintaining an institutional archive necessitates dealing with a complex set of technological and social issues (Cocciolo 2016). Heritage institutions are poorly resourced and digital heritage preservation management should be pursued to assist alleviate the knowledge gap (Stephen 2014)

AIM OF THE STUDY

This study aims to assess the digitization of records in South Africa to make recommendations to ensure long-term preservation and access of archives materials. The specific objective of the study was to:

§ Identify challenges faced by Southern African countries during the digitization of archives
§ Suggest ways to improve digitization practices in South African organizations.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA

This study employed a historical literature review to explore the prospect of current storage technologies for long-term preservation and access to archival materials. This study employs a historical, cultural, and textual analysis of South Africa's annual reports. More specifically, the themes that guide this qualitative analysis from a close reading and textual analysis of the report. The researchers reviewed several documents in Southern Africa to identify provisions that address the preservation of archives. A literature review may be neither historical, methodological, nor thematic. The literature review identi-

14 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/digitization-of-archival-materials-in-south-africa/319631

Related Content

Startup Ecosystem for Rural Development in India
Sonam Prabhakar, Ashok Nimeshand Pawan Prabhakar (2023). *Socio-Economic Disparities, Vulnerable Communities, and the Future of Work and Entrepreneurship (pp. 26-50).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/startup-ecosystem-for-rural-development-in-india/325307

Open Innovation in Entrepreneurships: Taxonomies of Innovation in Knowledge-Based Economy
Hakikur Rahman (2013). *International Journal of E-Entrepreneurship and Innovation (pp. 1-15).*
www.irma-international.org/article/open-innovation-in-entrepreneurships/100358

Toward the Conceptual Model of Continuous Improvement Teamworking: A Participant Observation Study
Suryadeo Vinay Kissoon (2008). *Information Technology Entrepreneurship and Innovation (pp. 250-276).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/toward-conceptual-model-continuous-improvement/23640

Mass Communication Education: Using the Tenants of Social Entrepreneurship to Disrupt Social Equilibrium
Anthony Troy Adams (2023). *Research Anthology on Approaches to Social and Sustainable Entrepreneurship (pp. 277-287).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/mass-communication-education/316259

Social Media Influencers' Effect on Chinese Gen Z Consumers: Management and Use of Video Content Platforms
Rob Kim Marjerisonand Songcheng Gan (2020). *Journal of Media Management and Entrepreneurship (pp. 1-18).*
www.irma-international.org/article/social-media-influencers-effect-on-chinese-gen-z-consumers/264417