

THE CURRENT STATE OF DIGITISATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN UGANDA

**By
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**CERN-UNESCO school on Digital Libraries, Kumasi
GHANA**

Aims of digitizing CH

- ❑ Promoting international and intercultural understanding;
 - ❑ Expanding the volume and variety of cultural content on the Internet;
 - ❑ Providing resources for educators, scholars, and general audiences;
 - ❑ Building capacity in partner institutions to narrow the digital divide within and between countries;
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The Scan Centre

Equipment

- ❑ Suprascan II that can scan documents of up to A1 size including newspapers and maps.
- ❑ Overhead camera with an optical resolution of 200 to 800 DP I and it produces very high quality images.
- ❑ Two PCs.

Conservation Unit

The Digitisation staff

- A Project Coordinator,
 - Scan Operators,
 - Meta data Specialist,
 - ICT Specialist and
 - A Conservation Specialist.
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The Scan Centre



What the DL in Uganda offers

Access and Publicity – To Ugandans and beyond

**Preservation and Conservation –
Information handlers are getting to
realise the importance of preserving
and conserving our cultural heritage**



Records from the early 1900s found neglected in a basement in an up-country district

The content

- A representation of all the cultures of Uganda.
 - Stakeholders engaged right from the beginning.
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The content (Cont...)

- Theme running through is 'Unity in diversity'- the coming together of the Nation of Uganda.'
 - Documents scattered in various institutions and private collections.
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Challenges

- ❑ **Poor environment for documents** – The tropical nature of Uganda's climate is very hostile to paper documents. They are easily damaged by humidity, mould, insects, water and dust.
 - ❑ **Scattered documents** – Several institutions have important documents but most do not have a continuous series of any of the publications.
 - ❑ **Lack of awareness** – Many people, especially those who have private collections are unaware of the 'treasures' they have
 - ❑ **Intangible heritage**
 - ❑ **Competing national priorities**
 - ❑ **Lack of Internet access by most ordinary Ugandans**
 - ❑ **Still developing IRs**
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Challenges (Cont...)

- ❑ **Lack of awareness** – Many people, especially those who have private collections are unaware of the 'treasures' they have
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Benefits

- ❑ Publicizing what Uganda has.
 - ❑ Conservation realization
 - ❑ Conservation work on cultural heritage documents
 - ❑ Training
 - ❑ A forum is being created for cultural institutions to work together to preserve the country's cultural heritage.
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Conclusions

In Uganda, DL is helping information institutions re-examine the way they get information to the intended users and to start working out how ICTs can best be harnessed for preservation while at the same time making a wide range of materials in the public domain accessible to the public.

Thank you
