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Digitization of Cultural Objects in the Context of Cultural Heritage (Libraries, Archives and Museums)

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to analyze the benefits and limitations of digitization of cultural heritage objects in the context of cultural heritage (Libraries, archives, and museums) and to increase the focus and attention to the digitization of cultural heritage objects that are at risk.

Methodology: This study has been done by a systematic review of resources in the Scopus database. The retrieved resources are then analyzed and visualized by Excel and VOSviewer software.

Findings: Digitization of cultural heritage objects affects the way of access, protection, and management of cultural heritage and has led to the democratization of content, increased global access, and preservation of cultural heritage objects. Digitization will stimulate the integration of libraries, archives, and museums in the context of cultural heritage due to the numerous overlaps in terms of public functions. Digitization of cultural heritage objects also has challenges such as financial issues, lack of expertise skills, legal restrictions on intellectual property, technology obsolescence, the digital divide in societies, the risk of distortion and alteration of information and metadata in the web environment, and finally, the user perceives the sensation of a digitized object relative to its physical version.

Conclusion: Digitization of cultural heritage objects by advanced technologies, in addition to paving the way for the integration of libraries, archives, and museums, has created a new renaissance for cultural heritage objects in the context of cultural heritage. The role of digitization of cultural heritage objects in libraries, archives, and museums is significant, especially during the Covid 19 Pandemic, for remote access and greater audience access to cultural centers. However, it is important to note that our approach to digitalization should be modular, extensible, and flexible to be effective in sustainable protection. Let us also keep in mind that the digitization of cultural heritage objects, with all its benefits, will never replace physical experiences, but will complement and accompany natural cultural objects in the context of cultural heritage.

Value: This study, for the first time, analyzes the benefits and limitations of digitization of cultural heritage objects in the context of cultural heritage and can be useful for decision-makers and policymakers in the field of cultural heritage.

Keywords: *Digital Cultural Heritage, Cultural Heritage Context, Digital Cultural Objects.*

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

Cultural heritage is the rare and irreplaceable wealth endowed by history. Recording and protecting cultural heritage is a common responsibility and obligation of all people (Liu et al., 2021). In this study, authors intend to introduce the digitization of cultural heritage objects as an effective alternative to the traditional protection methods. Digitization of cultural heritage objects in the context of cultural heritage, by emerging new technologies, paves the way for protection and access to cultural objects and integrations of libraries, archives, and museums.

Purpose

the purpose of this study is to analyze the benefits and limitations of digitization of cultural heritage objects in the context of cultural heritage (Libraries, archives, and museums) and to increase the focus and attention to the digitization of cultural heritage objects that are at risk.

Methodology

This study has been done by a systematic review of resources in the Scopus database and then analyzed and visualized by Excel and VOSviewer software. In this way, first, using the keywords considered by researchers, according to the search formula (Title (“Digital Cultural heritage”) OR Title (“Digital Cultural objects”) OR Title (“Digital Cultural Context”) in Scopus (because of coverage of Scopus is more than Web of Science database) and then, from the total retrieved records (619 records), about 81 conference papers, 68 articles, and 19 books, were studied and the most important benefits and challenges of digitizing cultural heritage were explained. Figure 1 shows the network of the most frequently used keywords in Scopus database resources in digital cultural heritage.



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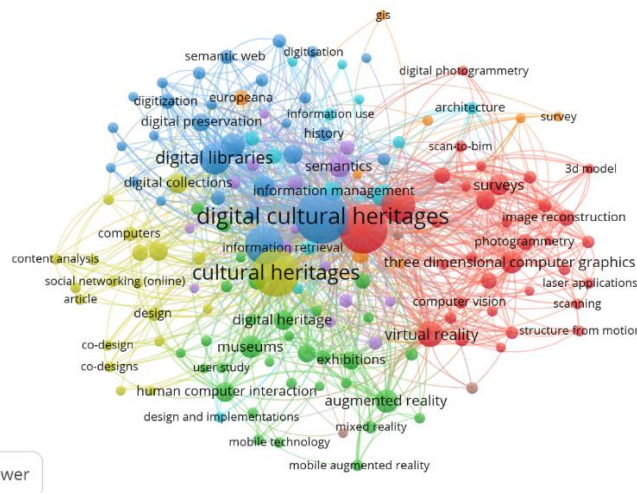


Figure 1: Map of the network structure of the most frequently used keywords in Scopus database resources in the field of digital cultural heritage.

Findings

Digitization of cultural heritage objects affects the way of access, protection, and management of cultural heritage and has led to the democratization of content, increased global access, and preservation of cultural heritage objects. Digitization will stimulate the integration of libraries, archives, and museums in the context of cultural heritage due to the numerous overlaps in terms of public functions. Digitization of cultural heritage objects also has challenges such as financial issues, lack of expertise skills, legal restrictions on intellectual property, technology obsolescence, the digital divide in societies, the risk of distortion and alteration of information and metadata in the web environment, and finally, the user perceives the sensation of a digitized object relative to its physical version.

Conclusion

Digitization of cultural heritage objects by advanced technologies, in addition to paving the way for the integration of libraries, archives, and museums, has created a new renaissance for cultural heritage objects in the context of cultural heritage. The role of digitization of cultural heritage objects in libraries, archives, and museums is significant, especially during the Covid 19 Pandemic, for remote access and greater audience access to cultural centers. However, it is important to note that our approach to digitalization should be modular, extensible, and flexible to be effective in sustainable protection. Let us also keep in mind that the digitization of cultural heritage objects, with all its benefits, will never replace physical experiences, but will complement and accompany natural cultural objects in the context of cultural heritage.

Value

This study, for the first time, analyzes the benefits and limitations of digitization of cultural heritage objects in the context of cultural heritage (Libraries, archives, and museums) and can be useful for decision-makers and policymakers in the field of cultural heritage and also can be used by researchers in future researches.

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