

The Impact of Digital Technology on Cultural Heritage Preservation: A Humanities Perspective

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Abstract

This report examines the role of digital technology in preserving cultural heritage from a humanities perspective. It discusses how digitization, virtual museums, and digital archives help safeguard historical artifacts, languages, and traditions while increasing public access to cultural resources. The report also explores challenges such as digital inequality, copyright concerns, and the long-term sustainability of digital preservation projects. It concludes that technological innovation, when combined with sound cultural policies, strengthens heritage conservation and promotes global cultural understanding.

Keywords:

Impact, Digital
Technology, Cultural
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Background to the Study

Humanities research explores human culture, history, language, philosophy, and the arts. In the digital age, technological advancements have transformed the methods used to preserve and study cultural heritage. Museums, libraries, and archives increasingly rely on digital technologies to document, preserve, and share historical materials. These developments have improved accessibility and enhanced educational opportunities while presenting new ethical and technical challenges.

Literature Review

According to David Lowenthal (1985), cultural heritage shapes collective identity and strengthens social cohesion. He argues that preserving historical resources is essential for understanding the relationship between the past and the present.

UNESCO (2003) emphasizes that both tangible and intangible cultural heritage should be protected using modern technologies to ensure their survival for future generations. Jerome McGann (2001) explains that digital humanities combine traditional humanities scholarship with information technology, enabling researchers to preserve, analyze, and interpret historical documents more effectively.

Discussion

Digital technology has significantly transformed cultural preservation. High-resolution scanning, 3D imaging, cloud storage, and virtual exhibitions allow museums and archives to protect fragile artifacts while making them available to global audiences. Despite these advantages, digital preservation faces several challenges. These include inadequate funding, rapid technological changes, cybersecurity risks, and unequal access to digital resources in developing countries. Effective preservation therefore requires collaboration among governments, educational institutions, and cultural organizations.

Conclusion

Digital technology has become an essential tool in preserving cultural heritage within the humanities. Although challenges remain, continued investment in digital infrastructure and international cooperation will strengthen efforts to protect cultural resources for future generations. The integration of technology and humanities demonstrates that innovation can support the preservation of history, identity, and cultural diversity.

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