

Assessing the prospects of digitisation at University of Ghana Library System (UGLS)

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Background

- Digitisation is gaining prominence at the University of Ghana (UG) in recent years.
- The UGLS has been at the forefront of digitisation activities at the university and continues to lead digitisation initiatives at UG.
- 2010-Digitisation introduced to the UGLS
- 2011- Actual Scanning began
- Africana rare materials (a colonial era (1470-1958) (**Barfi-Adomako 2011:3**)



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Research Purpose

- Major issues affects digitisation
- Assess the prevailing digitisation processes, practices, and activities
- Identify opportunities and challenges
- Make Recommendations
- Develop sustainable UGLS digitisation programme
- It is imperative to examine the prospects of digitisation at UGLS



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Research objectives

1. To review the policy which guides digitisation at the UGLS.
2. To determine the adequacy of expertise required to carry out digitisation projects.
3. To determine digital preservation practices for long term access of digital content as recommended practices.
4. Identify the major issues and hindrances affecting digitisation practices.
5. To make recommendations, where necessary, to improve and sustain UGLS digitisation project.



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Asking the Research Question



What are the major issues hindering and contributing to the prospects of a sustainable digitisation unit / department at UGLS?

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Subsidiary Questions

1. What does the UGLS policy state in terms of digitisation?
 - 1.1. What are the digitisation priorities and goals of the UGLS?
 - 1.2. What criteria are used to select materials for digitisation at the UGLS?
2. What skills are currently available to effectively support digitisation practices at the UGLS?
3. What measures have been put in place to ensure the long-term preservation and access to digitised contents of the UGLS?
4. What measures are being used by management to measure the progress of the digitisation programme?
5. What are the major issues, hindrances affecting digitisation at UGLS?

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The Research Approach

Approach of Qualitative Research

- Qualitative research – different assumptions/ approach than quantitative research
- Emphasis on seeing the world from the eyes of the participants
- Strive to make sense of phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them
- Holistic emphasis – studying the person, group, culture in the natural setting

(Creswell, 2009:4)

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Reviewing the Literature



- “Digitisation” defined
- Digitisation in Libraries
- Digitisation : International Scenario
- Digitisation: African Scenario
- Benefits to Libraries
- Digital project planning
- Selection and selection criteria
- Skills and staffing requirement
- Digitisation as a Preservation strategy
- Digital Perseveration (DP) and
- DP strategies

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The Research Strategy



- Intrinsic case study is carried out for no other purpose than to give us a better understanding of the case (Pickard, 2007:86)

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Analysis and Interpretation

Step 1:
Familiarization
of data

Step 2:
Initial coding

Step 3:
Generating
themes

Thematic analysis by Braun and Clarke

Step 4:
Validity and
Reliability of
themes

Step 5:
Defining and
naming themes

Step 6:
Interpretation
and reporting

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Key Findings



- No written digitisation policy
- Does not follow established digitisation plan and procedures
- Does not have laid down selection criteria
- Goal is to preserve unique and rare collection/provide access
- Basic skills available; Advanced skills lacked; insufficient staff; lacked training and exposure.
- No laid-down procedure for monitoring and tracking the progress
- Faces critical challenges
- Contributory factors
- No formalized preservation plan or strategy
- Digitised contents on storage media without appropriate DAMS
- Open and non-proprietary file formats.
- Access copies digitally archived IR

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Conclusion : Evidence of “poor practice”



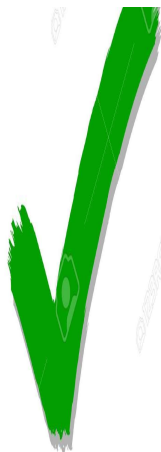
- No guiding digitisation policies.
- Poor and lack of planning
- Insufficient and lack of advanced skills
- No formal procedure for monitoring and tracking the progress of digitisation.
- No clear selection processes , guidelines or criteria.
- Advanced skills and expertise as required
- Inadequate funding/budget re-allocation
- No formalized DP plan or strategy
- Institutional repository server downtime
- Digitised contents are stored on storage media without any appropriate DAMS
- Insufficient storage facilities

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Conclusion : Evidence of “best practice”



- Enhanced preservation and broader access
- Improved resource capacity and quality of information services delivery
- Developing collaborations and partnerships
- Huge initial financial support
- Institutional support and commitment
- Availability of basic skills
- open and non-proprietary file format
- Access copies on OAIS compliant IR

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Recommendations

- Implement digitisation policy
- Ensure proper planning
- Formalize procedure for monitoring and tracking\
- Develop a formal selection policy
- Training and exposure
- Employs sufficient and permanent staff
- Adequate funding
- Develop sustainable strategies
- Leverage and build on the contributory factors
- Develop DP plan or strategy
- open and non-proprietary file formats
- Expand storage facilities
- Technical expertise



RECOMMENDED

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Taking stock!

- Increased management commitment and support
- Improved staff training and exposure
- Improved culture of maintenance



- Institutional inertia.
- Entrenched organisational culture
- Some institutional bureaucracies

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That's All Folks!



Thank You !

Any Comments or questions 😊

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