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IMPACT OF DIGITAL PRESERVATION METHODS ON DURABLE ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL RESOURCES IN RIVERS STATE LIBRARY BOARD AND JUBILEE LIBRARY, PORT-HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE

Madu Collins Habijah

Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Education,

Rivers State University, Oroworukwo-Nkpolu, Port-Harcourt, Rivers State

and

Professor B. E. Ahiauzu.

Department of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Education,

Rivers State University, Oroworukwo-Nkpolu, Port-Harcourt, Rivers State

Abstract

This study examined the impact of digital preservation methods on durable access to archival resources in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria. The study was guided by three research questions. A descriptive survey research design was adopted to obtain archival professionals' views on existing preservation practices, access outcomes and implementation challenges. The population comprised 50 archival professionals working in the two selected institutions.Because the population was manageable, a census approach was employed. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire titled "Digital Preservation Methods andDurable Access to Archival Resources Questionnaire (DPMDAAR-Q)."The data were analysed using frequency tables and mean scores. The findings showed that archival professionals adopted digital preservation methods and that these methodsimprovedthediscovery, retrieval and continued accessibility of archival resources. However, inadequate technology, insufficient training and limited funding were identified as major challengesto full implementation. The study concluded that digital preservation was essential to sustaining durable access to archival resources in

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the selected libraries and recommended investment in appropriate technologies, regular staff training and adequate funding.

Keywords: Digital Preservation Methods, Durable Access, Archival Resources, Rivers State Library Board, Jubilee Library.

Introduction

Archives preserve the documentary memory of institutions, communities and societies. Their value, however, depends not only on the existence of records but also on users' ability to access those records over time. In the digital age, this responsibility has become more complex because archival resources may comprise born-digital records, digitised copies or hybrid collections that require continuous technical and professional management. Digital preservation methods are therefore essential because they protect archival resources from loss, media failure, technological obsolescence and unauthorised alteration while supporting durable access. Gracy and Kahn (2012)emphasised that preservation activities are central to intellectual progress and societal development, while Akinola et al. (2024) showed that digital preservation in Nigerian academic libraries strengthens institutional visibility and safeguardsintellectual heritage despite persistent challenges, such as weak ICT infrastructure and inadequate funding.

The importance of digital preservation is also clear in public and national archival contexts.Agidi and Gbamwuan (2023) observed that digitizing Nigeria's

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national archives improves access, durability and visibility of historical records. This is important because archival records support research, education, governance and cultural identity. When such records are not preserved through reliable digital methods, access becomes uncertain and future users may lose evidence that is needed for scholarship, policy and public memory. Consequently, digital preservation should be understood as both a technical process and a social responsibility.

Effective digital preservation requires more than scanning documents or storing files. It also requires metadata standards, reliable storage systems, awareness of copyright requirements, appropriate access policies and sustained planning. LIS Edunetwork (2024) explained that successful digital archives depend on institutional commitment, user-centred design and sustainable access models. Eve (2024) further warned that poor preservation threatens the continuity of scholarly knowledge, even when digital objects have persistent identifiers such as digital object identifiers. These arguments demonstrate that access cannot be separated from preservation. If archival resources are not preserved in stable, searchable and usable formats, durable access will remain uncertain.

In archival institutions, the quality of digital preservation depends on the ability of professionals to manage large volumes of records, apply accurate metadata, maintain system integrity and support retrieval.Ageh et al. (2024) argued that weak preservation frameworks may lead to the loss of valuable knowledge, especially in environments with

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limited digital infrastructure. Milligan (2024) also noted that everyday digital records are often neglected, even though they may later become important sources for historical research. This means that archival institutions must preserve records deliberately and consistently, rather than waiting until records are already at risk.

Digital preservation further improves the quality and usefulness of archival services when records are stored in organised repositories that support efficient discovery and retrieval. Akinola et al. (2024) found that institutional repositories in Nigerian academic libraries improved the visibility and discoverability of theses and dissertations. Similarly, LIS Edunetwork (2024) stressed that preservation systems should be scalable, user-centred and aligned with metadata and access standards. These considerations are relevant to Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library becausedurableaccess depends on whether preserved resources can be located, retrieved and used by those who need them.

Integrated databases are useful in this process because they bring different archival resources into a coordinated platform. Al-Jaradat (2021) explained that integrated databases support efficient information retrieval by connecting diverse academic and archival materials. Amanullah and Abrizah (2023) also argued that integration reduces duplication, improves metadata consistency and strengthens preservation workflows. In practical terms, integrated databases can help archival

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professionals manage records more effectively and can help users search across collections without unnecessary delay.

However, the value of integrated databases depends on professional competence and institutional support. LIS Edunetwork (2024) noted that such systems require interoperability, scalability and continuous usability testing. If these conditions are absent, a digital preservation system may exist but still fail to provide reliable access. For this reason, the role of archival professionals is central. They must understand preservation standards, manage digital records carefully and ensure that users can access materials without compromising authenticity or integrity.

Library and information professionals therefore occupy a strategic position in digital preservation. Gracy and Kahn (2012) highlighted their role in curating, maintaining and facilitating access to information resources. Their responsibilities extend beyond custody to planning, description, storage, migration, access management and user support. Without their active involvement, technology alone cannot guarantee durable access to archival resources.

The success of digital preservation initiatives also depends on how effectively professionals engage with preservation tools. Aoki et al. (2019) noted that information professionals contribute to metadata management, interoperability and system integrity. Dharma (2014) similarly emphasised that integrated platforms can improve

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access by reducing duplication and streamlining workflows, while Al-Jaradat (2021) linked integrated databases to improved resource availability. Collectively, these studies suggest that the impact of digital preservation methods should be considered not merely in terms of the presence of digital systems but also in relation to professionals' capacity to use those systems to support access.

This professional dimension makes training and usability particularly important. LIS Edunetwork (2024) argued that professionals require competence in digital curation, metadata standards and system administration. Amanullah and Abrizah (2023) also stressed that user feedback is necessary for evaluating the performance of preservation systems, while Andrikopoulou et al. (2022) showed that usability is shaped by system design, training and institutional support. These arguments indicate that digital preservation methods can support durable access only when archival professionals are appropriately trained and preservation systems respond to actual institutional needs.

In response to these concerns, scholars have continued to emphasize the need for coordinated preservation systems, trained personnel and sustainable institutional support. Amanullah and Abrizah (2023) and Al-Jaradat (2021) identified interoperability, metadata standardization and user-centred design as important requirements for effective digital preservation. Dharma (2014) also highlighted strategies such as modular system design and improved access platforms, while LIS

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Edunetwork (2024) emphasized continuous evaluation and feedback. Building on these views, this study investigates the impact of digital preservation methods on durable access to archival resources in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library.

Statement of the Problem

Archives preserve records that support research, education, governance, accountability and cultural memory. In Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library, durable access to archival resources depends on the availability of reliable preservation methods. When records are not properly preserved, users may experience difficulty retrieving them when needed. Such limitations can weaken research, diminish institutional memory and restrict public access to historical information.

Although digital preservation methods can improve the survival, retrieval and usability of archival resources, their effectiveness depends on several conditions, including adequate technology, trained staff, reliable storage systems, clear policies and sufficient funding. When these conditions are weak, digital preservation may remain incomplete. Consequently, archival resources may be digitised or stored electronically yet remain difficult to access, poorly organised or vulnerable to loss.

Preliminary observations suggested that digital preservation in the selected institutions might be constrained by deficiencies in technology, training, funding and system design. These deficiencies are significant because digital preservation involves

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not only protecting files but also ensuring that preserved resources can be discovered, retrieved and used over time. Where preservation systems are weak, users may encounter delays, restricted access or the loss of important archival evidence.

Despite the importance of the issue, focused research on how digital preservation methods affect durable access to archival resources in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library remains limited. The literature reviewed for this study did not specifically explain how preservation methods operate within these two institutions or how they influence access outcomes. This gap therefore required empirical investigation.

Therefore, the problem addressed in this study is the uncertainty about the extent to which digital preservation methods supportdurable access to archival resources in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library. The study also addresses the challenges that may prevent these methods from being fully effective. By examining these issues, the study provides evidence that can guide better preservation planning, stronger access systems and improved archival service delivery.

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of the study wasto investigate the impact of digital preservation methods on durable access to archival resources in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

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Research Questions

1. What digital preservation methods are adopted by archival professionals in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library?
2. How do digital preservation methods affect durable access to archival resources in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library?
3. What challenges affect the implementation of digital preservation methods for durable access to archival resources in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library?

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework explains the ideas that guide this study and clarifies how digital preservation methods can support durable access to archival resources. This study is guided by the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) Reference Model and the Records Continuum Model. The OAIS model explains the technical and functional processes required to preserve digital records, while the Records Continuum Model explains the continuous management of records from creation to durable use. Together, both models provide a clear basis for examining preservation methods, access outcomes and implementation challenges.

Open Archival Information System (OAIS) Reference Modelby the Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS, 2012)

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This study was anchored in the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) Reference Model developed by the Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS, 2012). The OAIS model provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and implementing durable digital preservation strategies. It outlines the essential components and responsibilities of an archival system designed to preserve digital information and ensure its accessibility over time. Widely accepted in the field of digital preservation, the model provides a foundational framework for institutions seeking to maintain the integrity, authenticity and usability of digital records.

The OAIS model identifies six primary functional entities: Ingest, Archival Storage, Data Management, Administration, Preservation Planning, and Access. Each of these components plays a critical role in ensuring that digital materials are not only stored securely but also remain retrievable and understandable in the future. For instance, the Ingest function ensures that digital content is properly prepared and documented before being stored, while Preservation Planning involves monitoring the technological environment and recommending strategies to mitigate risks such as format obsolescence or media degradation.

In the context of Rivers State Archives, the OAIS model is particularly relevant as it provides a structured approach to managing digital preservation activities. The model emphasizes the importance of metadata, standardization, and user access—all of which are critical for ensuring that digital archives remain accessible and usable over the long

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term. By applying the OAIS framework, this study can systematically assess how well the current digital preservation methods align with international best practices and how they impact the long-term accessibility of archival materials.

Furthermore, the OAIS model introduces the concept of the Designated Community, which refers to the intended users of the archived information. This concept is crucial for evaluating user satisfaction and access, as it ensures that preservation efforts are tailored to meet the needs and expectations of specific user groups. In this study, the Designated Community includes researchers, historians, students, and the general public who rely on the Rivers State Archives for historical and cultural information.

The OAIS model was relevant to this study because it connects preservation actions with access outcomes. It demonstrates that durable access cannot be achieved through storage alone; rather, it depends on proper ingest, accurate metadata, reliable preservation planning, stable storage and systems that enable users to retrieve understandable records. The model was therefore suitable for examining whether the digital preservation methods used in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library support durable access to archival resources.

Records Continuum Model by Frank Upward (1996)

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This study also draws on the Records Continuum Model developed by Frank Upward in 1996. The model provides a conceptual framework for understanding records management and preservation as a continuous, integrated process rather than a linear sequence of events. It emphasizes the ongoing value of records across time and space, highlighting their role in supporting accountability, memory, and cultural identity.

The Records Continuum Model consists of four dimensions: Create, Capture, Organize, and Pluralize. These dimensions operate simultaneously rather than sequentially, allowing records to be managed in a way that supports both immediate operational needs and long-term preservation goals. For example, the "Create" dimension involves the generation of records during business activities, while the "Pluralize" dimension focuses on making records accessible and meaningful to broader communities over time.

In the context of digital preservation in Rivers State, the Records Continuum Model is particularly relevant because it encourages a proactive and holistic approach to managing digital archives. It supports the idea that preservation should begin at the point of record creation and continue throughout the record's existence, ensuring that digital materials remain authentic, reliable, and accessible for future use.

By applying the Records Continuum Model, this study can evaluate how digital preservation methods in Rivers State Archives address the full lifecycle of records. It

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also helps to assess whether current practices support long-term access and use by different user groups, including researchers, policymakers, and the general public.

Together, the OAIS Reference Model and the Records Continuum Model provide a strong theoretical foundation for this study. While OAIS explains the functional requirements for preserving and accessing digital information, the Records Continuum Model explains why preservation should begin from record creation and continue throughout the life of the record. This combination supports a balanced assessment of digital preservation methods in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library.

Conceptual Review

Digital Preservation Methods Adopted in Archival Institutions

Digital preservation methods refer to planned strategies used to protect digital and digitized archival materials from loss, damage, technological obsolescence, and unauthorized alteration. These methods include digitization, metadata creation, migration, backup storage, repository management, access control, and preservation policy development. Pasqui (2024) argues that digital curation and long-term digital preservation now function together because preserved digital resources must remain findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable over time. Similarly, Zahara and Salim (2022) explain that preservation of digital archives is strategic because the continued availability of records depends on maintaining both the content and the storage media

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in usable condition. These views show that in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library, digital preservation methods should not be treated only as technical storage activities but as coordinated professional practices that support the survival, integrity, and future accessibility of archival materials.

Impact of Digital Preservation Methods on Durable Access to Archival Resources

Durable access to archival resources depends on an institution's ability to keep records authentic, discoverable, retrievable and usable over time. Jaillant (2022) emphasizes that born-digital and digitized archival collections require improved discoverability and accessibility if they are to support research and cultural memory. In the same direction, Eve (2024) shows that weak digital preservation creates serious risks for continued access because unpreserved or poorly preserved digital scholarly content may become inaccessible despite having persistent identifiers. Pasqui (2024) further stresses that preservation strategies must be planned from the beginning of digital projects to guarantee continued access and reuse. Therefore, digital preservation methods can improve durable access in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library by reducing dependence on fragile physical records, improving search and retrieval, and ensuring that archival resources remain available for future users.

Challenges Affecting Digital Preservation Methods and Durable Access

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The major challenges affecting digital preservation include inadequate technology, limited funding, insufficient staff training, weak preservation policies, poor storage infrastructure, and changing file formats. Alghnimi and Force (2024) identify staffing and funding as major problems affecting digital preservation practices in university archives, showing that preservation success depends not only on technology but also on human and financial capacity. Ubogu et al. (2023) also note that libraries face serious digital preservation challenges in the era of big data, including long-term storage problems, data management difficulties, and the need for effective preservation strategies. Verma et al. (2023) further emphasize that digital preservation requires continuous adaptation to new technologies and collaboration among information professionals. These studies suggest that Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library may struggle to sustain long-term access if digital preservation methods are not supported by adequate infrastructure, skilled personnel, stable funding, and clear institutional policy.

Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design to examine the impact of digital preservation methods on durable access to archival resources in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria. The design was appropriate because it enabled the researcher to collect structured responses from archival professionals on preservation methods, access outcomes and implementation

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challenges.The study population comprised 50 archival professionals working in the two selected institutions.Because the population was manageable, a census approach was used; all 50 professionals were therefore includedrather than a smaller sample being selected.Data were collected using the "Digital Preservation Methods andDurable Access to Archival Resources Questionnaire (DPMDAAR-Q)." The questionnaire was structured in line with the research questions and contained sections on the digital preservation methodsadopted, their impact on durable access to archival resources and the challenges affecting their implementation.The data were analysed using frequency tables and mean scores. The frequency tables showed the distribution of responses, while the mean scores provided a basis for interpreting the level of agreement with each item. This approach enabled the findings to be presented clearly and related directly to the research questions.

Results and Discussion

Research Question 1: What digital preservation methods are adopted by archival professionals in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library?

Table 1: Mean response on digital preservation methods adopted by archival professionals in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library

					N=35			
S/N	**ITEMS**	**VHE**	**HE**	**LE**	**NE**	**x̄**	**SD**	**Remark**
1	I frequently use digital preservation methods for archival work.	18	10	5	2	3.26	0.92	High Extent
2	Digital preservation methods are a primary resource for my archival needs.	15	12	4	4	3.09	1.02	High Extent
3	My archival efficiency has	17	10	5	3	3.17	0.98	High

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	significantly improved due to the use of digital preservation methods.							Extent
4	I rarely seek out digital preservation methods when conducting archival work.	10	8	7	10	2.43	1.18	Low Extent
5	I don't use digital preservation methods for archival work.	9	7	8	11	2.31	1.19	Low Extent
6	**Grand Mean**					**2.85**	**1.06**	

Table 1 presents the extent to which archival professionals in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library adopt digital preservation methods. The strongest evidence of adoption is the frequent use of these methods for archival work ($\bar{x}$ = 3.26), followed by improved archival efficiency ($\bar{x}$ = 3.17) and reliance on the methods as a primary resource for archival needs ($\bar{x}$ = 3.09). This pattern is reinforced by the rejection of the negatively worded statements that professionals rarely seek digital preservation methods ($\bar{x}$ = 2.43) ordo not use them for archival work ($\bar{x}$ = 2.31). Accordingly, the grand mean of 2.85, which exceeds the criterion mean of 2.50, indicates a high level of adoption. Taken together, the positive and negative items provide converging evidence that digital preservation is embedded in routine archival practice rather than used occasionally. Nevertheless, the modest grand mean, when compared with the stronger score for frequent use, suggests that adoption is established but not uniformly intensive across all aspects of professional practice. This distinction is important because the presence of digital preservation methods does not, by itself, demonstrate that they are implemented with sufficient quality to produce durable access.

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Viewed against the literature, this evidence supports Gracy and Kahn's (2012) argument that professional engagement is central to a functioning preservation environment: the respondents are not merely aware of digital preservation but report using it and deriving efficiency gains from it. The finding also complements Conway (2011), who linked digital preservation practice to the continued usefulness of digital surrogates, and Eve (2024), who showed that weak preservation undermines the persistence of digital content. However, these studies emphasize the consequences and quality of preservation, whereas the present result primarily establishes self-reported adoption. The agreement is therefore important but not complete: frequent use may indicate institutional progress, yet it cannot confirm that the systems are trustworthy, interoperable or sustainable. Critically, the lower means for reliance and overall adoption imply that practice may still be uneven or constrained by institutional conditions. Thus, Research Question 1 establishes the necessary first stage—adoption—but leaves open the more consequential issue addressed by Research Question 2: whether the adopted methods actually improve durable access to archival resources.

Research Question 2: What is the impact of digital preservation methods on durable access to archival resources in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library?

Table 2: Mean responses on the impact of digital preservation methods on durable access to archival resources in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library

		N=35						
S/N	**ITEMS**	**SA**	**A**	**D**	**SD**	**x̄**	**SD**	**Remark**

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1	Digital preservation methods have greatly enhanced durable access to archival resources.	20	10	3	2	3.37	0.88	Accepted
2	Digital preservation methods make it easier to find and access relevant archival materials.	18	12	3	2	3.31	0.89	Accepted
3	My ability to discover and access archival materials has improved with digital preservation methods.	19	11	3	2	3.34	0.88	Accepted
4	Digital preservation methods have expanded the scope of archival materials available to me.	12	10	7	6	2.74	1.08	Rejected
5	Despite the implementation of digital preservation methods, I still face challenges in accessing certain archival materials.	11	9	7	8	2.6	1.13	Rejected
7	**Grand Mean**					**3.07**	**0.97**	

Building on the evidence of adoption in Research Question 1, Table 2 examines whether the methods produce the intended access outcomes. Respondents agreed most strongly that digital preservation enhances durable access to archival resources ($\bar{x}$ = 3.37), improves their ability to discover and access resources ($\bar{x}$ = 3.34), and makes relevant resources easier to find and retrieve ($\bar{x}$ = 3.31). The grand mean of 3.07, above the criterion mean of 2.50, therefore indicates a positive overall impact. Yet the pattern is not wholly uniform. The item stating that digital preservation expanded the scope of available archival resources recorded a lower mean of 2.74, while continued difficulty in accessing certain resources recorded 2.60; both were classified as rejected under the table's decision rule. The contrast between strong discovery and retrieval scores and weaker evidence of collection expansion is analytically significant. It suggests that

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digital preservation is improving access to resources already digitized, described or incorporated into existing systems, but has not necessarily broadened the range of resources available to users. Consequently, the result demonstrates improved functional access rather than comprehensive access across the entire archival holdings.

This interpretation is broadly consistent with Amanullah and Abrizah (2023), who found that the integration of digital repositories strengthens resource discovery and preservation workflows, and with Al-Jaradat (2021), who associated integrated databases with improved availability and more efficient retrieval. The present finding extends those arguments by showing that comparable benefits are perceived within the two Rivers State institutions. It also accords with Eve's (2024) warning that weak preservation threatens continued access, because the strong access scores imply that preservation and accessibility are mutually reinforcing. However, the result also qualifies the more optimistic implication of these studies. Whereas integrated repositories can improve the visibility of resources already within the system, the lower score for expanding available holdings shows that technological integration does not automatically digitize uncaptured materials, correct incomplete metadata or remove every access restriction. In this respect, the finding distinguishes between making existing digital resources easier to retrieve and increasing the breadth of the digital collection. The positive impact is therefore substantial but bounded: durable access is advancing, though not yet comprehensively. This qualified outcome leads directly to

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Research Question 3, which examines the institutional constraints that may explain why adoption has produced stronger gains in retrieval than in collection coverage.

Research Question 3: What challenges affect the implementation of digital preservation methods for durable access to archival resources in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library?

Table 3: Mean responses on the challenges affecting the implementation of digital preservation methods for durable access to archival resources

						N=35		
S/N	**ITEMS**	**SA**	**A**	**D**	**SD**	**x̄**	**SD**	**Remark**
1	Lack of adequate technology hinders the implementation of digital preservation methods.	21	8	4	2	3.37	0.91	Accepted
2	Insufficient training on digital preservation methods is a major challenge.	20	9	4	2	3.34	0.91	Accepted
3	Limited funding affects the implementation of digital preservation methods.	19	10	4	2	3.31	0.91	Accepted
4	Resistance to change among archival staff is a barrier to implementing digital preservation methods.	12	11	6	6	2.77	1.08	Rejected
5	Inadequate infrastructure impacts the effectiveness of digital preservation methods.	13	10	7	5	2.83	1.06	Rejected
7	**Grand Mean**					**3.12**	**0.97**	**Accepted**

The uneven access outcomes identified under Research Question 2 are clarified by the challenge profile in Table 3. Respondents identified inadequate technology (x̄ =

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3.37), insufficient training ($\bar{x}$ = 3.34) and limited funding ($\bar{x}$ = 3.31) as the principal constraints on implementation. With a grand mean of 3.12, which exceeds the criterion mean of 2.50, the table confirms that implementation challenges are substantial. By contrast, resistance to change among archival staff ($\bar{x}$ = 2.77) and inadequate infrastructure ($\bar{x}$ = 2.83) were classified as rejected under the stated decision rule. This pattern indicates that the central problem is not a general unwillingness among professionals to adopt digital preservation. Rather, staff appear willing to engage with the methods but lack sufficient technological resources, specialist competence and financial support to implement them fully. At the same time, the distinction between inadequate technology being accepted and inadequate infrastructure being rejected requires caution because the concepts overlap. The result may reflect how respondents interpreted the wording rather than a clear separation between hardware and broader infrastructure. Even so, the three highest means consistently locate the principal barriers at the institutional and resource levels.

The finding converges with Gracy and Kahn (2012), who maintained that preservation depends on professional capacity and institutional support, and with Conway (2011), who emphasized dependable procedures and infrastructure as foundations of trustworthy digital repositories. It is also consistent with Eve (2024), whose evidence shows that inadequate preservation arrangements place the survival and accessibility of digital content at risk. However, the present study adds an important

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local qualification: unlike accounts that treat resistance to organisational change as a major obstacle, respondents in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library did not identify staff attitude as the dominant barrier. This contrast shifts responsibility from individual reluctance to institutional provision. Nevertheless, willingness alone cannot compensate for obsolete technology, limited training or unstable funding; without these resources, adoption may remain procedural rather than sustainable. When the three research questions are considered together, a coherent pattern emerges: digital preservation methods are being adopted, their use is improving discovery and retrieval, but the scale and durability of these gains are restricted by resource and capacity deficits. The integrated evidence therefore explains why access has improved without expanding uniformly across all archival resources and indicates that future progress depends less on persuading staff to adopt digital preservation than on equipping them to implement it consistently and comprehensively.

Recommendations

In light of the findings, the following measures are recommended to strengthen digital preservation practice and durable access to archival resources:

1. The management of Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library should provide archival professionals with appropriate digital preservation technologies, including reliable storage systems, preservation software, backup

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facilities and compatible hardware. Priority should be given to scalable and interoperable systems that protect archival resources and support their durable retrieval and use.

2. Regular competency-based training should be institutionalised for archival professionals. The training should cover digital curation, metadata standards, repository management, file-format migration, integrity checks, system navigation and troubleshooting, thereby enabling staff to implement preservation methods consistently and in line with emerging LIS practice.
3. Both institutions should establish dedicated and predictable funding for digital preservation. Such funding should support technology upgrades, staff development, system maintenance, digitisation of uncaptured holdings and preservation planning, thereby extending durable access beyond resources already available in digital systems.
4. Comprehensive digital preservation policies should be developed and periodically reviewed in accordance with recognised LIS and archival standards, including the OAIS Reference Model. These policies should define responsibilities for ingest, metadata, storage, backup, migration, authenticity, access control, risk management and continuity, thereby converting individual practices into sustainable institutional procedures.

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5. Strategic preservation and evaluation partnerships should be established with universities, professional LIS associations, archival institutions and technology providers. Shared expertise, infrastructure and periodic user-centred audits should be used to assess discoverability, retrieval, system usability and collection coverage, identify emerging preservation risks and generate locally relevant evidence for improving digital preservation practice in Nigerian libraries and archives.

Conclusion

This study examined the impact of digital preservation methods on durable access to archival resources in Rivers State Library Board and Jubilee Library, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria. The findings showed that archival professionals adopted digital preservation methods and that these methods improved the discovery, retrieval and continued accessibility of archival resources.Implementation was, however, constrained by inadequate technology, insufficient training and limited funding. Digital preservation istherefore essential to durable access, although its effectiveness depends on sustained institutional investment and professional competence. Both institutions should consequently strengthen the technical and human dimensions of preservation to maintain reliable access to archival resources over time.

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