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Preservation and Management of Audio-Visual Materials in Nigerian University Libraries

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Abstract: *As higher education institutions increasingly integrate multimedia resources into academic and research ecosystems, university libraries face mounting pressure to develop sustainable strategies for preserving and managing audio-visual (AV) collections. This pressure is particularly acute in Nigerian academic settings, where resource constraints often impede the establishment of robust preservation infrastructure. This qualitative descriptive study examined preservation and management practices for audio-visual materials across three federal universities in South-South Nigeria—the University of Port Harcourt, University of Benin, and University of Calabar. Through semi-structured interviews with 24 purposively selected library personnel and direct observational assessment, identified the range of AV collections maintained, documented existing preservation practices, evaluated infrastructural capacity, and mapped critical operational challenges. Findings indicate that while participating libraries maintain diverse and valuable AV collections—spanning educational media, research outputs, institutional records, and broadcast materials—preservation efforts remain fragmented and underfunded. Both conventional and digital preservation approaches are employed; however, their effectiveness is significantly undermined by inadequate financial resources, insufficient ICT infrastructure, irregular electricity supply, persistent skills gaps, and the absence of comprehensive institutional preservation policies. This study concludes that meaningful progress requires coordinated institutional investment in preservation technologies, sustained professional development initiatives, the formulation of explicit institutional preservation frameworks, and strengthened collaboration among academic libraries at regional and national levels. It was therefore seen that audio-visual preservation must be reconceptualized as a core institutional responsibility rather than a peripheral library function.*

Keywords: audio-visual materials, digital preservation, institutional repositories, preservation infrastructure

INTRODUCTION

The contemporary university library operates in an increasingly complex information environment characterized by the proliferation of multimedia formats, the expansion of digital

scholarship, and growing institutional expectations regarding the preservation and stewardship of diverse information resources. Within this context, audio-visual materials—encompassing sound recordings, video documentation, photographs, institutional broadcasts, digital media, and multimedia teaching resources—have transitioned from marginal library holdings to strategically significant collections that warrant dedicated preservation attention (Corrado & Moulaison Sandy, 2022; IFLA, 2023).

The significance of audio-visual preservation extends beyond conventional conservation concerns. University libraries serve as institutional memory keepers, responsible for documenting and preserving not merely published scholarship but the lived experiences, creative outputs, and organizational history of their host institutions. This archival function—capturing lectures, seminars, cultural performances, research presentations, and administrative records in multimedia formats—has become integral to institutional knowledge management and the construction of academic heritage. Yet this expanded role has created a preservation infrastructure crisis, particularly in resource-constrained contexts such as Nigerian universities. In Nigeria specifically, the preservation challenge is multifaceted. Developing-country contexts routinely confront technical constraints—unreliable electricity supply, limited ICT infrastructure, inadequate storage facilities—that render preservation technologies inaccessible or ineffective. Compounding these technical obstacles are systemic issues: underfunded library operations, insufficient institutional commitment to preservation as a budgetary priority, and acute skills deficits in emerging preservation technologies and methodologies. The cumulative effect threatens the integrity and accessibility of increasingly valuable institutional collections. This research is motivated by three observations. First, while academic library literature has examined preservation challenges broadly, sustained empirical attention to audio-visual preservation specifically remains limited, particularly within West African contexts. Second, most preservation scholarship privileges normative best-practice frameworks developed in resource-rich environments, offering limited guidance for libraries navigating preservation under conditions of scarcity. Third, preservation has often been treated as a technical problem amenable to technological solutions, when in fact sustainable preservation systems require integrated attention to infrastructure, funding, policy, and human capacity simultaneously.
Against this analytical backdrop, investigated preservation and management practices for audio-visual materials across three federal university libraries in South-South Nigeria.
Specific objectives were to:

i. document the range and scope of audio-visual collections currently held;
ii. examine preservation and management practices currently employed;
iii. assess the adequacy of infrastructure supporting preservation activities;

LITERATURE REVIEW

Defining Audio-Visual Materials and Their Role in Academic Libraries

Audio-visual materials encompass information resources that communicate knowledge through sound, visual imagery, video, and multimedia combinations. Historically, this category included analog formats: magnetic tapes, film reels, photographic slides, vinyl records, and magnetic videocassettes (Vinson & Jones, 2025). Contemporary collections increasingly

incorporate born-digital materials: streamed educational content, digitized archival collections, multimedia databases, and institutional repositories of recorded presentations.
The strategic importance of audio-visual holdings extends beyond instructional utility. For academic libraries, AV collections function simultaneously as:

a. Pedagogical resources supporting experiential and multimodal learning;
b. research documentation, capturing primary sources and field recordings unavailable in print;
c. institutional archives, preserving scholarly presentations, lectures, and institutional events; and
d. cultural heritage repositories, maintaining artistic productions, performances, and community documentation (Cox, 2023).

This multiplicity of functions means that audio-visual preservation decisions carry implications beyond the library's technical operations—they affect institutional memory, scholarly access, and cultural patrimony. The proliferation of digital technologies has further complicated the conceptual landscape. Today's academic libraries must manage hybrid collections spanning format categories and technological infrastructures. This heterogeneity creates preservation paradoxes: digital formats promise improved accessibility and longevity through replication and distributed storage, yet simultaneously introduce technological obsolescence risks, dependency on proprietary software, and the constant need for active intervention (format migration, file validation, metadata updating) to maintain usability across changing technological generations.

Digital Preservation: Theoretical Foundations and Practical Implementation
Digital preservation represents a fundamental conceptual departure from traditional conservation practice. Traditional preservation—the approach historically applied to analog audio-visual materials—is fundamentally preservationist in orientation: its objective is to slow or arrest deterioration of physical carriers through environmental control, protective housing, and minimization of handling. By contrast, digital preservation is inherently interventionist, treating preservation as an ongoing curatorial responsibility requiring continuous active management (Olubiyo & Olubiyo, 2023).

This distinction has profound practical implications. A well-stored analog film can remain accessible with minimal intervention for decades; a digital file, conversely, faces perpetual obsolescence risks as storage media degrade, file format specifications evolve, and software platforms change. Addressing these challenges requires what preservation theorists term 'digital stewardship'—a comprehensive approach integrating technological infrastructure (storage, backup systems, recovery mechanisms), organizational practices (workflow standardization, metadata protocols, access policies), and human expertise (technical skills, curatorial judgment, preservation decision-making).

The scholarly consensus emphasizes that preservation technology alone is insufficient. Corrado and Moulaison Sandy (2022) argue compellingly that preservation systems fail not from inadequate software or hardware, but from inadequate organizational commitment, insufficient funding streams, and inconsistent application of preservation methodologies over extended

periods. This observation carries particular weight in developing-country contexts, where technological solutions are frequently adopted without the accompanying institutional infrastructure necessary to maintain them.

Audio-Visual Preservation in African Academic Libraries: Contextual Challenges

African academic libraries confront preservation challenges that are simultaneously universal and distinctly contextual. While digital obsolescence and format migration dilemmas face all libraries, African institutions navigate these challenges within resource environments characterized by chronic underfunding, inadequate technological infrastructure, and inconsistent access to reliable utilities. These contextual factors transform preservation from a technical problem into a systemic challenge.

Recent African library scholarship reveals recurrent implementation gaps. Otolo and Saibakumo (2025) examined preservation practices across Delta State academic libraries, finding that while basic physical preservation measures (storage maintenance, handling procedures) are recognized as necessary, adoption of advanced digital preservation techniques remains severely limited. Their analysis identified a consistent pattern: preservation aspirations exceed preservation capacity. Libraries articulate sophisticated preservation goals—comprehensive digitization programs, institutional repositories, metadata standardization—but possess insufficient infrastructure, funding, and expertise to realize these ambitions at scale.

The broader African context compounds these challenges. Electricity supply inconsistency makes routine digital preservation operations (data backup, integrity checking, format migration processing) unreliable or impossible. Limited internet bandwidth constrains cloud storage options and remote repository access. Cybersecurity infrastructure is often minimal, creating vulnerability to data loss through malware, unauthorized access, or theft. These infrastructure deficiencies are not peripheral technical concerns; they fundamentally constrain which preservation strategies are feasible (Agboke & Oladokun, 2025; Areo et al., 2023).

Critically, however, resource constraints should not excuse preservation inaction. Rather, they demand more deliberate, strategic approaches to preservation prioritization. Libraries must make explicit choices about which collections warrant digitization, which preservation investments offer highest value, and how to sequence interventions within financial limits. Such decisions require clarity regarding institutional priorities and explicit preservation policies.

Preservation Infrastructure, Institutional Policies, and Organizational Commitment

Scholarship examining preservation implementation consistently identifies three interdependent determinants of preservation success: infrastructure, policy, and institutional commitment. Rhima (2023) demonstrates that libraries possessing identical technologies but differing in organizational support and policy clarity achieve markedly different preservation outcomes. This finding is instructive: preservation effectiveness is determined less by technological sophistication than by organizational consistency, clear policy frameworks, sustained funding, and institutional prioritization of preservation within competing budgetary demands.

Institutional policies serve critical functions: they establish preservation priorities (which collections warrant resource investment), define standards (how materials are handled, stored,

and managed), clarify roles and responsibilities (which organizational units maintain preservation responsibilities), and create accountability mechanisms (how preservation performance is monitored and evaluated). Without explicit policies, preservation often becomes a discretionary activity, subordinated to more immediate service demands and dependent on individual staff members' preservation consciousness.

Infrastructure encompasses both physical capacity (storage facilities, climate control, security systems, backup power) and technological capability (ICT systems, data storage, network access, digitization equipment). Critically, infrastructure requirements extend beyond acquisition to ongoing maintenance, replacement, and upgrade. Many African academic libraries have acquired preservation technologies through grants or institutional investment but subsequently lacked maintenance budgets, leading to equipment failure and abandonment of preservation initiatives before achieving substantive outcomes (Agboke & Oladokun, 2025).

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research design, a methodological approach appropriate for investigating organizational practices and institutional processes within real-world settings. Qualitative description enables researchers to develop rich, context-embedded accounts of phenomena, capturing the perspectives and experiences of participants directly engaged with the phenomenon under investigation (Creswell & Creswell, 2023).
Three federal universities in South-South Nigeria were selected:

a) The University of Port Harcourt (Rivers State),
b) University of Benin (Edo State), and
c) University of Calabar (Cross River State).

This region contains multiple higher education institutions with established academic libraries maintaining audio-visual collections, providing an appropriate research context. The selection of three geographically distributed institutions permitted examination of preservation practices across different institutional contexts and resource environments.

Recruited 24 library personnel across the three participating institutions (8 per institution), selected purposively based on their direct involvement in audio-visual collection management, preservation operations, or digital services delivery. Participants included librarians and library officers working in collection development, digital services, archives, special collections, and audio-visual resource management units. Purposive sampling ensured that participants possessed current professional knowledge of preservation practices, infrastructure, and operational challenges.

Data collection occurred through two instruments. Semi-structured interviews (approximately 45-60 minutes each) explored participants' perspectives on preservation practices, infrastructure adequacy, operational challenges, and strategies for improvement. An observational checklist systematically documented the physical condition of preservation facilities, equipment availability, environmental controls, and storage practices. This mixed-

instrument approach enabled triangulation between interview findings and observational evidence.

Interview transcripts were analyzed through thematic analysis, a systematic approach to identifying recurring patterns, themes, and meanings within qualitative data. Initial codes were derived from the research objectives; additional codes emerged inductively as analytical work progressed. Observational data were summarized descriptively and integrated with interview findings to provide comprehensive accounts of preservation conditions across participating institutions. Participation was voluntary, informed by clear communication regarding research purposes and participant confidentiality protections.

RESULTS

Audio-Visual Collections: Range, Composition, and Institutional Significance

Across the three participating institutions, audio-visual collections demonstrated substantial scope and diversity. Libraries maintained educational media (recorded lectures, documentary films, instructional videos), research outputs (recorded seminars, conference presentations, field documentation), institutional records (recorded events, ceremonies, administrative proceedings), broadcast materials (radio programs, television recordings, streamed content), artistic productions (musical performances, theatrical recordings), and multimedia resources (interactive learning modules, digital image collections, multimedia databases). This heterogeneity reflects the multiple functions audio-visual collections serve within contemporary academic institutions.

The prevalence of diverse collection types indicates that audio-visual preservation is not peripheral to institutional operations but rather central to knowledge preservation and scholarly communication functions. Libraries serve implicitly as institutional memory keepers, capturing activities and outputs that would otherwise remain undocumented. This archival function is particularly significant in resource-constrained institutional environments, where recorded documentation may constitute the primary preservation mechanism for significant institutional activities, intellectual contributions by faculty and students, and cultural productions reflecting local contexts and interests.

Preservation Practices: Conventional and Digital Approaches

Preservation practices employed across the three institutions combined conventional conservation approaches (environmental control, protective storage, careful handling) with emerging digital preservation strategies (backup systems, digital storage, digitization). However, the integration and sophistication of these practices varied substantially across institutions. All three libraries reported implementing basic protective measures: materials stored in clean, well-ventilated spaces; staff trained in appropriate handling procedures; collections protected from dust, excessive light, and moisture. These foundational practices represent necessary preservation minimum, though they address physical deterioration without addressing technological obsolescence or long-term accessibility challenges.

Digital preservation initiatives were less uniformly implemented. One participating institution had developed a functional institutional repository with digitized AV collections and associated

metadata; the other two possessed nascent repository infrastructure with limited digital holdings. Backup and disaster recovery procedures were recognized as important but inconsistently practiced, with some units maintaining routine backup protocols while others relied on ad hoc backup approaches dependent on individual initiative rather than systematic procedure. This variability reflects broader organizational differences: institutions with explicit digital preservation policies demonstrated more consistent preservation practice than those lacking formal frameworks.

A noteworthy finding concerns the gap between preservation aspirations and preservation implementation. All respondents articulated sophisticated preservation ideals: comprehensive digitization of AV collections, robust institutional repositories, standardized metadata protocols, disaster recovery planning, and long-term digital stewardship. Yet when questioned regarding actual preservation activities and resource allocation, the scope of realized preservation was substantially more modest. This aspirations-implementation gap is not peculiar to these institutions; it reflects a systemic mismatch between preservation ideals articulated in professional literature and the institutional resources available to realize these ideals.

Infrastructure Assessment: Capacity Constraints and Resource Gaps

Preservation infrastructure encompasses physical storage facilities, climate control systems, security mechanisms, technological resources, and human expertise. Observational assessment revealed that all participating institutions maintained basic preservation infrastructure: storage shelves, protective containers, climate-controlled storage spaces, and fundamental ICT equipment (computers, external hard drives, network connectivity).

However, infrastructure adequacy for contemporary preservation requirements proved inconsistent. Most significant were electricity supply limitations: all three institutions experienced regular power interruptions, ranging from brief (minutes) to extended (hours-long) outages. These interruptions create cascading problems for digital preservation operations: backup processes are interrupted, digitization workflows cannot be reliably completed, and powered preservation technologies (climate control systems, security systems, digitization equipment) become intermittently unavailable. Backup power infrastructure (generators, uninterruptible power supplies) existed at all three institutions but was maintained at insufficient capacity to support comprehensive preservation operations during extended outages.

Data storage capacity presents another critical gap. While all institutions possessed basic data storage systems, the scope was insufficient for comprehensive collection digitization. Respondents indicated that disk storage capacity typically ranged from 1-5 terabytes, adequate for current digitized collections (typically several hundred GB) but inadequate for ambitious digitization programs targeting entire AV collections. Cloud storage options were recognized but underutilized, constrained by limited internet bandwidth and concerns regarding long-term cloud storage costs.

Perhaps most troubling are human resource constraints. Each institution employes between 1-3 individuals with specialized knowledge of digital preservation, metadata management, or

emerging preservation technologies. These individuals often carried additional responsibilities unrelated to preservation, limiting their capacity to oversee systematic preservation programs. Staff development opportunities in emerging preservation methodologies were rare; professional training typically occurred through individual initiative and personal professional development rather than institutional support.

Critical Challenges: Obstacles to Sustainable Audio-Visual Preservation

Respondents identified multiple interconnected challenges undermining preservation effectiveness. Inadequate funding emerged as the most pervasive constraint, limiting acquisition of preservation equipment, storage systems, digitization technologies, and backup infrastructure.

Financial scarcity forces prioritization decisions:

i. should limited resources fund preservation infrastructure maintenance or acquisition of new preservation capabilities?
ii. Should funding support collection digitization or staff development?
iii. These choices pit legitimate preservation priorities against each other, creating systematic underinvestment across preservation functions.

Beyond direct funding constraints, preservation infrastructure has become unreliable due to insufficient maintenance budgets. Equipment acquired through past grants now requires repair, replacement, or upgrading; without dedicated maintenance funding, institutions face progressive deterioration of preservation capabilities. One respondent described this pattern: Identified equipment of three years ago through external funding. Now components are failing, but no budget for repairs or replacement. So the equipment sits unused. This cycle represents a systemic failure: preservation initiatives are initiated through short-term funding mechanisms but lack sustained funding for operations and maintenance.

Institutional policy gaps compound resource constraints. None of the three participating institutions possessed comprehensive preservation policies explicitly governing audio-visual collection management. Without such policies, preservation practices remain inconsistent, dependent on individual staff members' preservation consciousness and technical competence. New preservation procedures cannot be reliably implemented, resources cannot be allocated according to explicit institutional priorities, and accountability mechanisms for preservation performance are absent.

Environmental challenges irregular electricity supply, inadequate climate control, dust and moisture infiltration create constant pressure on preservation systems. These challenges are not unique to audio-visual materials but affect them particularly severely given their technological dependency and format diversity.

Strategic Recommendations for Strengthening Audio-Visual Preservation

Respondents generated pragmatic recommendations for preservation improvement, grounded in their direct experience of institutional constraints and opportunities. These recommendations cluster around four strategic areas:

First, institutional preservation policies must be developed and formally adopted. These policies should specify which collections warrant preservation investment, establish standards for preservation practice, delineate preservation responsibilities across organizational units, and establish performance metrics for preservation effectiveness. Policy development should involve multiple stakeholder groups (librarians, IT personnel, faculty, administration) to ensure policies reflect institutional needs and command institutional commitment.

Second, preservation funding must shift from project-based to sustained streams. Rather than relying on periodic grants or discretionary institutional funding, preservation should be established as a core institutional budget line, ensuring predictable resources for infrastructure maintenance, personnel, and ongoing preservation operations. Respondents particularly emphasized that digitization projects, once initiated, require sustained funding for storage, backup, and access maintenance; without such funding, partially digitized collections become organizational liabilities rather than assets.

Third, human capacity development is essential. Professional development in digital preservation, metadata management, and emerging technologies should be supported institutionally through training budgets, conference attendance, and access to professional networks. Building in-house expertise in preservation methodologies ensures continuity of preservation practice across personnel transitions and reduces institutional dependence on consultant expertise.

Finally, institutional collaboration and resource sharing should be deliberately cultivated. Regional partnerships enable pooling of technological expertise, shared digitization infrastructure, coordinated preservation planning, and distributed digital backup. Such partnerships are particularly valuable in resource-constrained environments where individual institutions lack capacity for comprehensive preservation programs but collective resources permit more ambitious initiatives.

DISCUSSION

This investigation into audio-visual preservation practices within South-South Nigerian university libraries yields findings that are simultaneously institution-specific and reflective of broader challenges confronting academic libraries in resource-constrained environments.
Discussion was organized around three themes:

1. The gap between preservation ideals and institutional realities;
2. The systemic nature of preservation infrastructure challenges; and
3. The strategic implications of these findings for library practice and policymaking.

The Aspirations-Implementation Gap

Library professionals demonstrate sophisticated understanding of preservation requirements. Respondents articulated detailed knowledge of digital preservation principles, recognized preservation challenges, and envisioned comprehensive preservation programs. Yet this preservation consciousness did not translate into equivalently ambitious preservation practice. The gap between aspiration and implementation reflects not individual deficiency but systemic

constraint: preservation ideals articulated in international scholarship and professional standards presume resource availability and institutional capacity that these libraries do not possess.

This gap carries important implications. It suggests that prescriptive preservation guidance developed in resource-rich contexts may have limited applicability in resource-constrained environments. Libraries in developing countries implementing preservation initiatives based on international best practices often achieve disappointing results because those practices assume stable electricity, adequate funding, skilled personnel, and organizational infrastructure that developing-country contexts may not provide. It can be argued that preservation frameworks must be adapted to local contexts rather than imposed from normative international standards.

The Systemic Nature of Preservation Infrastructure

This study confirms that preservation effectiveness depends on integrated infrastructure systems rather than isolated technological capabilities.

Successful preservation requires simultaneous attention to:

1) funding mechanisms sustaining preservation activity;
2) technological infrastructure enabling preservation operations;
3) institutional policies establishing preservation priorities and procedures;
4) human expertise applying preservation methodologies; and
5) organizational commitment prioritizing preservation within competing institutional demands. The absence or weakness of any single component cascades through the system, reducing overall preservation effectiveness.

A concrete example illustrates this systems perspective. One participating institution acquired digitization equipment through external funding but lacked corresponding funding for storage infrastructure, metadata specialists, or ongoing equipment maintenance. The digitization equipment operated sporadically (limited by unreliable electricity), digitized materials accumulated without systematic metadata creation, digital files were stored without organized backup procedures, and personnel familiar with digitized collections departed without documentation transfer. Within several years, digitization equipment sat unused and partially digitized collections represented institutional liability rather than asset. This failure was not technological (equipment was functional) but systemic: missing components included funding, infrastructure, expertise, and organizational procedures.

This systems perspective suggests that preservation initiatives must be comprehensive rather than piecemeal. Libraries cannot simply acquire technology and expect preservation success; they must simultaneously establish policies, secure sustained funding, develop expertise, and create organizational procedures supporting preservation operations. Partial implementations—particularly those dependent on short-term funding mechanisms or individual initiative—tend toward failure.

Strategic Implications for Academic Library Practice

Our findings suggest several strategic imperatives for university library management. First, preservation must be explicitly positioned as a core institutional priority, not a peripheral activity. This repositioning requires dedicated budget lines, explicit preservation policies, and organizational structures with clear preservation responsibilities. Libraries must make the case to university administration that preservation is essential to institutional mission rather than optional service enhancement.

Second, preservation planning should explicitly acknowledge resource constraints rather than defaulting to normative standards. Libraries should adopt deliberate prioritization strategies: which collections most warrant preservation investment? Which preservation strategies offer highest value within budget constraints? How can collaborative approaches enable preservation that individual institutions cannot achieve alone? Such strategic choices require clarity about institutional values and explicit decision-making processes.

Third, preservation programs should emphasize sustainability over ambition. The temptation to initiate comprehensive digitization programs, particularly when external funding is available, should be resisted in favor of more modest initiatives that institutions can sustain with available resources. A smaller digitized collection with systematic preservation procedures, secure backup, and reliable access is more valuable than a larger collection that deteriorates due to inadequate maintenance.

Finally, preservation should be integrated into library culture and professional practice more broadly. All library staff should understand preservation principles and their role in supporting preservation activities. Professional development opportunities should be available not merely for specialized preservation personnel but for broader library staff. Preservation consciousness should be embedded in collection development decisions, circulation procedures, and resource planning conversations.

CONCLUSION

Audio-visual preservation has become a central institutional responsibility for university libraries, reflecting the proliferation of multimedia resources and the expanded role of libraries in documenting and preserving institutional knowledge. The three Nigerian university libraries examined in this study maintain substantial and valuable audio-visual collections that serve multiple institutional functions: supporting teaching and learning, preserving research outputs, documenting institutional history, and maintaining cultural heritage. These collections represent significant institutional assets that warrant dedicated preservation attention.

Yet our investigation revealed that preservation of these collections remains fragmented, underfunded, and constrained by systemic infrastructure limitations. While library professionals demonstrate sophisticated understanding of preservation requirements and commitment to preservation principles, institutional capacity for comprehensive preservation remains limited. Inadequate funding, insufficient ICT infrastructure, unreliable electricity supply, skills deficits, and the absence of explicit institutional preservation policies collectively

undermine preservation effectiveness and threaten the long-term accessibility of valuable collections.

This study contributes to preservation scholarship in several ways. First, it provides empirical evidence regarding preservation practices and challenges in a West African academic library context, addressing a significant gap in preservation literature which remains disproportionately focused on North American and Western European contexts. Second, it articulates how resource constraints fundamentally shape preservation possibilities, suggesting that preservation frameworks must be adapted to local contexts rather than imposed from international standards. Third, it demonstrates the systemic nature of preservation infrastructure, illustrating how preservation success depends on integrated attention to funding, technology, policy, expertise, and organizational commitment.

The findings also have significant implications for library management and policymaking. University administrations must recognize preservation as a core institutional responsibility worthy of dedicated funding and organizational commitment. Library managers must develop explicit preservation policies, establish preservation as an institutional budget priority, and integrate preservation consciousness throughout library operations. Professional bodies and library associations must develop preservation guidance adapted to resource-constrained contexts rather than presupposing the institutional capacity of resource-rich environments.

Moving forward, sustainable audio-visual preservation in Nigerian university libraries requires coordinated attention to multiple strategic areas: (1) development of comprehensive institutional preservation policies; (2) establishment of sustained funding mechanisms supporting preservation infrastructure and operations; (3) investment in professional development and human capacity building; (4) establishment of institutional collaboration and resource-sharing arrangements; and (5) integration of preservation consciousness throughout library culture and practice. These investments are not discretionary amenities but necessary commitments to institutional knowledge stewardship and the preservation of educational, cultural, and scholarly heritage.

Ultimately, audio-visual preservation reflects broader questions about institutional values and priorities. Libraries serve as custodians of knowledge and cultural memory. The decisions institutions make regarding preservation investment communicate what they value sufficiently to preserve for future generations. For Nigerian university libraries, strengthening audio-visual preservation represents an investment in institutional memory, scholarly integrity, and cultural stewardship that will benefit students, researchers, and future institutional constituencies for decades.

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