

# Beyond the digitisation horizon: Prospects and issues for archivists and the digitisation of historical records in Zimbabwe

By

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# Introduction

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- ① Digitisation is growing and active within the sub-Saharan region
- ① Digitisation is innovative technology that continues to resonate attractive benefits and ( some hidden drawbacks as well) for the preservation and access to selected archival materials.

# To digi-it or dodge-it?

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- ◉ Digitisation appears to offer the **SOLUTION** to enhancing **ACCESS** but what **challenges** will the face NAZ in light of the attractive **opportunities** given by digitisation?
- ◉ Can the NAZ realistically assume digitisation as a panacea to enhancing access to archival material in its holdings to the public?
- ◉ What challenges await archivists after crossing the digitisation horizon?

# Challenges posed by digitisation

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Challenges are broadly socio-economic and political..

- Infrastructure and associated technologies
- Financial funding
- Expertise
- Political

# Opportunities posed by digitisation

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- Encouraging collaborative efforts with regional archival institutions who have or are embarking on digitisation projects the case of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa and Zambia.
- Collaborative efforts with training institutions such as NUST, Polytechnics in the training of personnel in the designing of appropriate curricula to meet the challenges of digitisation in Zimbabwe.
- Encourage home-grown fundraising efforts that target both the public and corporate sectors.

# The way forward...

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Encourage digitisation projects to be operationalised in phases given the limited resources.

For foreign donor driven digitisation projects NAZ can negotiate possibilities for long-term technology and skills transfer.

Continue to lobby Government in particular, the relevant Ministries like Home Affairs and Information and Communication Technologies to fund the digitisation projects of the National Archives of Zimbabwe.

# Thank You

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