

Enhancing accessibility through digital archival exhibitions: Strategies for balancing inclusivity and curation

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Introduction

Digital archival exhibitions have revolutionized engagements with historical artifacts and cultural heritage, driving towards accessibility and inclusivity. Efforts can be done to enhance inclusivity in digital exhibitions, by include making content more discoverable, usable, and available to a broader user base. Community-driven curation models have become a powerful tool for promoting inclusivity, by involving the public in archive creation, organization, and improvements such as enhanced search functions, alternative formats for users with disabilities, and multilingual support.

Objectives

The primary objective of this study is to investigate and develop effective strategies for balancing content curation with audience needs in digital archival exhibitions, with a focus on enhancing accessibility and inclusivity for diverse user groups, thereby expanding the reach and engagement with historical artifacts and cultural heritage.

Theoretical Framework

The conceptual framework for this study is grounded in the principles of accessibility, inclusivity, and user-centered approach. Focusing on the concept of “social inclusivity” as a critical component of digital archival exhibitions, emphasizing the need to balance content curation with audience needs to ensure that diverse user groups can effectively engage with historical artifacts and cultural heritage.

Discussion on digital archival exhibitions

Digital archival exhibitions can become more inclusive by incorporating social curation models that encourage community participation. When members of the public are invited to contribute to the curation and organization of digital archives, it helps ensure the content is representative and accessible to a wider audience (Wilson, 2024). By allowing the community to participate in the curation process, the exhibitions can better represent diverse perspectives and foster a sense of belonging among the audience.

Recommendation

- Apply metadata source techniques for automatic metadata extraction to ensure easy updates and improved search techniques
- Include public in creating, organizing, and improving digital exhibitions to ensure they are relevant and accessible to diverse user groups
- Develop user-friendly digital exhibition with good documentation, tutorials, and templates to facilitate creation and management by users
- Update digital preservation regularly to ensure the long-term accessibility and usability of their digital collections

Conclusion

Access to historical artifacts has increased thanks to digital archive displays, which place an emphasis on diversity and accessibility to effectively serve a variety of populations. Therefore, digital archives must promote inclusion through community-driven curation models and improve content discoverability and usability in order to be relevant and have an influence as the digital landscape develops.