Digitizing Cultural Heritage: A Case Study of Taiwan

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Abstract

Digitization has become an important tool for cultural preservation. Taiwan is currently undertaking two major projects in digitizing her cultural heritage. They are the "National Digital Archives Program", sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the "National Repository of Cultural Heritage" Program of the Council of Cultural Affairs. While the former focuses on digitizing national archives and cultural treasures, the latter concentrates on local arts and cultural heritage. It is hoped that these two projects, when completed, will provide a complete landscape of the cultural heritage of Taiwan in digital form. In addition to cultural preservation, these archives can also be used for education, research, as well as the cultural material for the digital content industry.

In this talk, we shall present the background and operations of these two projects and compare their differences from the content, organizational, operational, and technical aspects. If there is time, we shall also discuss the current status of the digital content industry in Taiwan and its development of human resources. We hope that the Taiwan experience can be of use for other countries planning on initiating similar projects.