

MANAGING DIGITAL INFORMATION RESOURCES: A QUEST FOR AN AFRICAN STRATEGY

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*7th IAMS LIC Conference
Zanzibar, Tanzania, October 16-20, 2011*

Abstract: African emancipation from information deficiencies will require a continental strategy as the revolutionary trend of information in the global information ecology has created greater challenges for the continent of Africa. The discovery and proper management of information with efficient preservation will greatly enhance the mobility, accessibility and applicability of timely and relevant information, and will also help to bridge the information divide in the continent. This paper critically examines the fundamental issues facing the continent of Africa for effective and efficient management of digital information. Apart from the obvious challenges of infrastructural deficiencies, there are other inherent issues that have caused the continental information leanness. These include the information seeking behavior of Africans, especially the scientists and researchers who are generators of data and information, and the need for ways to manage and add value to information. The paper therefore makes suggestions for strategies to confront the challenges, and strongly recommends that African countries elevate information and communication technology (ICT) management to the status of national and continental policy in order for the continent to benefit from the digital information revolution