



SUSTAINABLE SAFETY AT MUSEUMS IN SOUTHEAST NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS ON NATIONAL REFORMATION

Despite the significant roles of museum to the human society, threat to museum collections, visitors, staff and facilities has been identified as amongst the challenges to sustainable existence of museums in developing countries. Some of the museums in Nigeria are at the verge of collapse owing to issues bordering on safety. This could result to the depletion of the rich cultural heritage resources and their values to national reformation of the Nigerian nation. This paper however, through ethnographic studies, coupled with cluster and purposive sampling techniques, studied selected museums in Southeast Nigeria with focus on safety issues. Some of the identified threats include poor maintenance culture, hostilities from host communities, criminal activities, antiquity theft and smuggling, collapse of weak structures etc. The study further proposed "Collaborative Management and Research" as one of the escape routes towards maximizing the gains of museum to national reformation of Nigeria and other developing nations.



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