

**PRESERVATION OF THE NATIONAL TREASURES:
Malay Manuscripts, “the Hidden Treasure”**

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ABSTRACTS

The digital world transforms traditional preservation concepts from protecting the physical integrity of the object to specifying the creation and maintenance of the object whose intellectual integrity is its primary characteristics. The concept of 'cultural heritage' is assigned an explicitly historical dimension. National treasures involve relics which have been inherited from previous generations and which are thought to be valuable or meaningful enough to be passed down to following generations and it constitutes the memory of the living culture of a people. One of the treasures is manuscript. Manuscripts are the physical proof of the development of certain culture or community and it is considered a valuable heritage for the future generation. As it is invaluable, the needs to preserve and maintain the manuscripts are a must for the community. Thus digitization was seen as one of the solution in preserving manuscripts. In Malaysia, experience in digitalization has been gained through pilot projects and innovative experiments in the field of cultural heritage around the world. With the rapid development of information technology, intellectual heritage materials can now be preserved electronically. However, due to the expensive cost of these activities, it would benefit from cooperation. It can enhance the productivity capacity of a limited supply for digital preservation funds, by building shared resources, eliminating redundancies and exploiting economics scale.

Keywords: *Preservation, heritage, digitization, collaboration*