

**SCIENTIFIC AND METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR DIGITIZING THE  
COLLECTION MATERIALS OF THE SHAROF RASHIDOV MUSEUM**

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**Abstract:** In the context of global digital transformation, the preservation and dissemination of cultural heritage through digitization have become a priority for museums worldwide. Museum collections, which include manuscripts, photographs, archival documents, and material artifacts, are increasingly vulnerable to physical deterioration and limited accessibility. Digitization offers an effective solution by ensuring long-term preservation, systematic organization, and broader scientific and educational use of cultural assets.

This article examines the scientific and methodological foundations for digitizing the collection materials of the Sharof Rashidov Museum. The study analyzes theoretical approaches to museum digitization, identifies key methodological stages, and evaluates the role of digital technologies in preserving cultural heritage.

Special attention is given to issues of metadata creation, information security, and intellectual property protection. The findings demonstrate that a systematic and methodologically grounded digitization process significantly enhances the research, educational, and cultural value of museum collections.

**Keywords:** museum digitization, cultural heritage, digital preservation, museum collections, Sharof Rashidov Museum, metadata, digital archives.

## **1. Introduction.**

The rapid development of information and communication technologies has fundamentally transformed the ways in which cultural heritage is preserved, studied, and disseminated. Museums, as custodians of historical memory and material culture, face the challenge of ensuring both the physical preservation of their collections and their accessibility to a wider audience. Traditional methods of storage and exhibition, while valuable, are no longer sufficient to meet contemporary scientific and educational demands.

Digitization has emerged as a strategic tool for safeguarding cultural heritage. By converting physical objects into digital formats, museums can reduce the risks associated with aging materials, environmental factors, and limited physical access. Moreover, digitized collections facilitate interdisciplinary research, support educational initiatives, and contribute to the global exchange of cultural knowledge.

In Uzbekistan, increasing attention is being paid to the digitization of museum collections as part of broader cultural and educational reforms. The Sharof Rashidov Museum holds a unique collection reflecting the political, social, and cultural history of the twentieth century. These materials represent an invaluable source for historians, educators, and researchers. However, many of these resources remain accessible only in physical form, which limits their scholarly and educational potential.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the scientific and methodological foundations of digitizing the collection materials of the Sharof Rashidov Museum. The study aims to identify effective digitization strategies, outline key methodological stages, and assess the significance of digitization for preserving and utilizing cultural heritage in scientific and educational contexts.

## **2. Research Methodology (Methods).**

This research employs a комплекс and interdisciplinary methodological approach. The primary methods used include qualitative analysis, comparative study, content analysis, and systematic review of academic literature and international guidelines on cultural heritage digitization.

The research process consisted of several stages. First, the existing theoretical frameworks and best practices in museum digitization were examined. International standards and recommendations, particularly those developed by UNESCO and leading cultural institutions, were analyzed to identify methodological principles applicable to national museum contexts.

Second, the collection materials of the Sharof Rashidov Museum were examined as a case study. The analysis focused on the types of materials preserved in the museum, including archival documents, photographs, personal belongings, and exhibition artifacts. Particular attention was paid to their physical condition, informational value, and suitability for digitization.

Third, the methodological stages of digitization were systematized. These stages include selection and classification of materials, assessment of physical condition, choice of appropriate digitization technologies, creation of metadata, and development of digital storage and access systems.

Finally, issues related to information security and intellectual property rights were analyzed using legal and normative documents regulating museum activities and digital content management. This comprehensive methodology ensured the reliability and relevance of the research findings.

### **3. Results.**

The Sharof Rashidov Museum is a cultural and educational institution dedicated to preserving and promoting the life, legacy, and intellectual heritage of Sharof Rashidov - a prominent Uzbek statesman, writer, and public figure. The museum serves as a bridge between history and the present, helping visitors understand Rashidov's multifaceted contributions to literature, politics, and national development.

The museum's primary mission is to:

- Preserve historical memory related to Sharof Rashidov's life and work
- Promote national values, patriotism, and cultural identity
- Educate younger generations about Uzbekistan's historical path and intellectual traditions
- Inspire respect for literature, public service, and moral responsibility

Through exhibitions, research, and educational programs, the museum functions not only as a repository of artifacts but also as a center for spiritual and civic education.

The museum's collection includes a wide range of historically and culturally significant items, such as:

- Personal belongings of Sharof Rashidov (clothing, personal items, awards)
- Manuscripts, books, and literary works authored by him
- Archival photographs and documents reflecting key moments of his life and public activity

- Official records and correspondence related to his political and social leadership
- Audio-visual materials that illustrate his speeches and public engagements

Each exhibit is carefully curated to present Rashidov not only as a statesman, but also as a thinker, writer, and humanist.

For young people, the Sharof Rashidov Museum plays an especially important educational role. It:

- Develops historical awareness and a deeper understanding of national history
- Encourages love for literature and intellectual creativity
- Strengthens civic responsibility and leadership values

- Inspires youth to serve society with honesty, dedication, and vision
- Promotes critical thinking by connecting past experiences with present challenges

By engaging with authentic historical sources and real-life examples, young visitors gain not only knowledge, but also moral guidance and motivation for personal growth.

The Sharof Rashidov Museum is more than a memorial space-it is a living educational environment. By preserving cultural heritage and transmitting timeless values, the museum contributes significantly to shaping an informed, patriotic, and intellectually active young generation.

The research results indicate that the digitization of museum collection materials must be based on clearly defined scientific and methodological principles. One of the key findings is that digitization should not be viewed solely as a technical process but as an integrated scientific activity that combines historical analysis, information management, and technological expertise.

The study identified several essential methodological principles. First, systematic classification of materials is crucial. Each object must be documented with accurate descriptive information, including origin, date, authorship, and historical context. This ensures the scientific reliability of digital collections.

Second, the quality of digitization technologies plays a significant role. High-resolution scanning and professional digital photography are necessary to preserve visual and textual details. In the case of fragile documents, non-invasive digitization methods are particularly important. Third, the creation of comprehensive metadata significantly enhances the usability of digital collections. Metadata should include descriptive, technical, and administrative information, enabling effective search, retrieval, and long-term management of digital objects.

The results also show that digitization contributes to the preservation of original materials by reducing the need for physical handling. Furthermore, digital collections expand opportunities for remote access, interdisciplinary research, and educational integration.

#### 4. Discussion.

The findings of this study confirm that digitization constitutes a strategic component of contemporary museum management and development. In the case of the Sharof Rashidov Museum, digitization functions not only as a technical instrument for the preservation of collection materials, but also as an effective mechanism for integrating historical and cultural heritage into modern scientific, educational, and informational contexts. The transformation of physical artifacts into digital formats significantly enhances their accessibility, supports scholarly research, and promotes wider public engagement.

A comparative analysis of international museum practices indicates that many museums in developed countries have already established advanced digital infrastructures, enabling the creation of comprehensive digital archives, virtual exhibitions, and interactive educational platforms. In contrast, national museums are still in the process of developing systematic and sustainable digitization strategies.

Nevertheless, the increasing institutional and governmental support for cultural heritage preservation in Uzbekistan, along with the implementation of relevant legal and organizational

frameworks, creates favorable conditions for the gradual and consistent digitization of museum collections.

One of the key issues identified in the discussion is the need to maintain a balance between accessibility and protection. While digital access expands opportunities for education, research, and cultural dissemination, it also raises challenges related to copyright protection, data security, and the ethical use of cultural materials. Without appropriate regulatory mechanisms, digitized content may be subject to misuse or unauthorized reproduction. Therefore, the establishment of clear legal guidelines, the adoption of international standards, and the provision of professional training for museum staff in digital competencies are essential for addressing these challenges.

Overall, the discussion highlights that the digitization of museum collections should be approached as a multidimensional process that integrates scientific methodology, technological innovation, institutional management, and legal regulation. Only through such a holistic approach can digitization initiatives achieve long-term effectiveness, sustainability, and cultural significance.

## **5. Conclusion.**

In conclusion, the digitization of the collection materials of the Sharof Rashidov Museum represents a crucial step toward the preservation of cultural heritage and the enhancement of its scientific and educational value. A methodologically grounded digitization process ensures the accuracy, reliability, and long-term sustainability of digital collections, thereby contributing to the effective safeguarding of historical resources.

The results of the study demonstrate that digitization plays a significant role in the long-term preservation of museum materials, expands research opportunities, and supports innovative educational practices. To fully realize these benefits, it is necessary to adopt internationally recognized standards, invest in modern digital technologies, and systematically address issues related to information security and intellectual property rights.

Future efforts should focus on the comprehensive digitization of museum collections and their integration into national and international digital platforms. Such initiatives will strengthen the role of museums as dynamic centers of knowledge, research, and cultural memory, ensuring their relevance and impact in the digital age.

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