



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Safeguarding Eastern Mediterranean Maritime Heritage: Optimising Data Management for Long-Term Preservation and Reuse

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Abstract

The eastern Mediterranean's heritage holds a deep legacy of maritime innovation and engagement, yet faces critical threats from urbanisation, coastal changes, and climate impacts. This region is rich in both tangible and intangible heritage, reflecting centuries of maritime practices and early technological advancements. However, its preservation is at risk due to significant anthropogenic and environmental transformations.

Extensive research and surveys have been conducted to map, document, assess, and protect this valuable heritage, producing a wealth of digital data across local, national, and regional scales. This data is essential not only for cultural preservation but also as a resource for studying evolving coastal ecosystems, landscapes, and human livelihoods.

To ensure its long-term utility, this data must remain accessible, reusable, and discoverable, with sustainability extending beyond individual projects. Clean, standardised data is crucial, as it enables integration with Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools that enhance heritage management. AI can support more efficient preservation, analysis, and accessibility, making heritage information more impactful for future generations.

This paper examines best practices and challenges in managing maritime heritage data, proposing improvements to current methods for enhanced data use and reuse, ultimately aiding in the preservation of this invaluable heritage.

Keywords

Data, Maritime, Heritage, Preservation, Digital

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