



Libraries in the Age of AI: Safeguarding Cultural Heritage and Trust

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As AI reshapes our world, are we overlooking our most trusted public institutions? Libraries are vital pillars of democracy, yet they remain largely invisible in national and European AI strategies.

This policy brief warns this is a critical oversight. Europe risks missing a chance to use these trusted institutions as drivers for an equitable digital transformation. Evidence from national libraries shows they are already grappling with the complex governance, ethical, and funding challenges of AI.

Libraries are uniquely positioned to act as public testbeds and mediators between AI systems and society. However, they cannot succeed without support. This brief outlines the dedicated policy measures required to formally recognize and fund libraries, ensuring they can safeguard trust in our digital future.

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