

## **EMBRACING DIGITISATION: FROM DUST TO BYTES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Digitisation is defined as the process of converting data from analogue to digital by using suitable electronics tools so that the information can be processed, stored, transmitted and accessed through networks, equipment and computers. Digitisation is vital in National Archives of Malaysia (NAM) in recognition of the value of protecting its cultural legacy. The standard quality of the process is complying with MS 2473:2012 Information and Documentation – Implementation guidelines for digitisation of records. To date, the digitisation in NAM has been implemented comprehensively and data shows that 11,300,492 digital images have been produced. The records that have been digitised, including historical, governance, economic and social records. NAM utilises high-end overhead scanners to cater fragility of archival materials. The digitisation process which consists of scanning, editing, quality check, format conversion and uploading are carefully monitored to produce digital images that follow the specifications and requirements. Significant barriers for all those processes include lack of funding and manpower shortage. Coordinated efforts from archivists, Information and Technology (IT) experts, researchers and policymakers are needed to overcome these obstacles. Despite these challenges, the results of Malaysia's archives digitisation have been revolutionary. For scholars, students and public, online access to digital records are now available via the establishment of digital repositories. Accessibility has strengthened national identity and historical preservation while also facilitated research and education. By adopting digital technologies, NAM aims to widening access and preservation in sustaining an inclusive archival ecosystem.