Building the IsiXhosa Intellectual Traditions (isiXIT) Digital Archive: Challenges & Solutions

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Abstract

- IsiXhosa Intellectual Traditions (IsiXIT) Digital Archive
- Hosts digitized texts and images of early isiXhosa newspapers and books
- IsiXIT responds to two key debates
  1. Current importance of African intellectual traditions and their indigenous language sources
  2. Generating African social sciences which are contextually relevant.
- Our presentation has two dimensions
  1. How we have built the IsiXIT Digital Archive from scratch
  2. Challenges & Solutions
Introduction

- IsiXIT digital archive
  - What
  - Where
  - How
- Immediate & long-term goal
- Structure of presentation
12 Challenges & Solutions

- **Challenge 1:** Responding to the demand for early isiXhosa Texts.
- **Challenge 2:** Identifying and locating isiXhosa texts
- **Challenge 3:** Accessing & obtaining quality scanned copies of the isiXhosa Texts with the necessary permissions.
- **Challenge 4:** Funding.
- **Challenge 5:** Identifying & purchasing suitable OCR software for converting images to text.
- **Challenge 6:** Recruiting & training a research team.
- **Challenge 7:** Storing image & texts files separate from isiXIT website.
- **Challenge 8:** Cleaning converted text files & quality control
- **Challenge 9:** Deciding on a webhost software platform for IsiXIT
- **Challenge 10:** Deciding on the website design and site search function.
- **Challenge 11:** Preserving of all the IsiXIT files for future generations
- **Challenge 12:** Planning new innovations.
IsiXIT Website
https://ibali.uct.ac.za/s/isixit/page/welcome
Imvo Zabantsundu

IsiXhosa

Inkazelo


Engels

Description

_Imvo Zabantsundu_ (Eng trans: African Opinion) was the first African owned and run newspaper in South Africa. It was founded by John Tonpo Jabanu in King William's Town, present day Eastern Cape, with its first edition published in November.
## Imvo Zabantsundu 1886-12-22

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<td>High Resolution Images are available through the National Libraries of South Africa. Word Documents are downloadable and reusable under license conditions.</td>
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### Download Documents
- IMVO_1886-12-22_p001.docx
- IMVO_1886-12-22_p002.docx
- IMVO_1886-12-22_p003.docx
- IMVO_1886-12-22_p004.docx