



Looking after the future? The digital environment, intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development

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This paper will explore regulation of the evolving digital environment through the lenses of intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development. Is adequate regard had to these perspectives or are they forgotten?

This will be evaluated from the perspective of the digital environment as part of contemporary cultural heritage, and also the contribution of digital opportunities to wider sustainability and generating and preserving different parts of cultural heritage. Key issues will be the existing and potential contributions of, and interactions between, inter alia the Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003 and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005; the Digital Agenda for Europe; Internet Rights and Principles Charter, the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2015 and other human rights developments; discussions at the Internet Governance Forum; and the work of scholars, in particular Burri and Coombe. In so doing, regard will be had to a diverse range of examples, which may include museums and digital collections, avatars and identity, online education models, the superseding of technologies and treatment of records of disease in a community and responses to it, and to laws and regulations which are more directly focused on these activities.

From these bases, the paper will evaluate the need for new approaches to law and regulation with a digital and technological focus; which look beyond the digital and technology, to their wider place in society – now and in the future.