

Title: Exploring Watermarks in Historical Sierra Leonean Documents

Abstract:

Watermarks in historical documents provide crucial insights into the origins, trade networks, and cultural exchanges of past societies. In Sierra Leone, a country with a rich history shaped by trade and colonial influences, many archival materials remain understudied, particularly in terms of their watermarks. This presentation will explore watermarks found in historical documents from Sierra Leone, focusing on their digitization and analysis. Using modern techniques, including AI-driven tools, the project seeks to identify and classify watermarks while connecting them to global historical narratives, such as the transatlantic trade and colonial administration. Additionally, this work highlights the importance of preserving these artifacts through digital platforms, ensuring their accessibility for researchers worldwide. By sharing this research, I aim to contribute to the broader understanding of watermarks in African historical archives and promote collaboration in the digitization of underrepresented collections.

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