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L'Afrique et les défis du XXIème siècle
Africa and the Challenges of the Twenty First Century
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إفريقيا وتحديات القرن الواحد والعشرين

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Making the Future - Bridges to Future Traditions

Leonard Harris
Purdue University

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Making the Future - Bridges to Future Traditions

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Abstract:

Archiving is a way of making traditions. Contrary to the view that archiving creates a product to be witnessed by future generations that will appreciate its primal essence, I suggest new archiving strategies and goals. I describe the Philosophy Born of Struggle Archives, Black Cultural Center Library, Purdue University (primarily digital records: interview of Africana philosophers and conferences since 1993). The archive contributes to the making of a tradition by being completely web accessible; it helps make possible debates of competing views; communication by constantly shifting communities over generations. I also describe the Alain Locke Archive and Leonard Harris Archive at Howard University, Moorland-Spingarn Library. Given that the salience of even periods marking important changes in the lives of African people are not shared ("post-independence," for example) new forms of archiving make possible shared interests. New forms of communication and communities (for example, virtual communities) arise as a function of newly created traditions. Therein it is possible to ascend beyond abjection and natal alienation and make sense of transnational reality.