

The Impact of Digital Yao Jewelry on Cultural Inheritance

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ABSTRACT

Incorporating digital technology into cultural preservation endeavors has gained growing importance in recent years. This abstract is a study that examines the influence of digitalization on the cultural transmission of Yao jewelry, a traditional skill deeply rooted in the historical and cultural heritage of the Yao population. The Yao people, renowned for their exceptional silversmithing mastery, have a profound heritage of crafting jewelry that encapsulates their cultural essence and principles. The study examines using digital resources, such as 3D modeling and virtual reality, to document, showcase, and promote Yao jewelry. The main objective is to investigate the capabilities of modern technologies in improving the visibility and recognition of this art form, specifically among younger generations and a worldwide audience. While digitalization offers advantages like improved accessibility and broader audience reach, there are apprehensions about the authenticity and conservation of the traditional craftsmanship employed in the production of Yao jewelry. The study investigates the equilibrium between utilizing digital technology and preserving the authenticity of the craft. This study employed quantitative analysis to examine the utilization of digital technology in the conservation and advancement of Yao jewelry among various regions of the Yao community. The research seeks to discern patterns and themes about using digital tools to preserve culture, specifically in lesser-known rural regions where traditional traditions may be in danger of extinction. The study's primary objective is to enhance the ongoing discussion over the impact of digital technology on the conservation and advancement of traditional cultural practices.

Keywords: Digitalization, Yao Jewelry, 3D Design, Cultural Inheritance



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1 INTRODUCTION

In a time characterized by the swift evolution of technology, the convergence of tradition and digital innovation has emerged as a significant concern for conserving culture. The Yao ethnic jewelry exemplifies the cultural legacy of the Yao people and demonstrates how digital technology may impact and potentially reshape cultural heritage. This introduction establishes the context for examining digitalization's diverse and profound influence on the conservation and dissemination of traditional art forms, with a specific emphasis on the complex and symbolic Yao jewelry.

The Yao people, who reside in many areas throughout southern China, possess a rich heritage of artistic expression, particularly in the intricate creation of silver jewelry that holds profound cultural and social importance. Historically, these artifacts not only function as decorations but also act as representations of one's individuality, social standing, and cultural stories. With the world's growing digitalization, one must consider the impact of this technological shift on the cultural legacy of

traditional crafts. The emergence of digital technology has resulted in a fundamental change in how cultural objects are viewed, conserved, and distributed. The Yao jewelry industry has embraced advancements such as 3D modeling, virtual displays, and online marketplaces. These technological innovations provide unique chances for increased visibility and interaction. These digital channels facilitate the global dissemination of Yao jewelry and serve as a means for engagement and education, promoting a more profound comprehension and admiration of the artistry involved. However, shifting to digital representation is full of difficulties. The cultural significance of Yao jewelry is closely tied to the authenticity and authentic experience of traditional craftsmanship. Consequently, it is crucial to treat the digitization process cautiously to guarantee that it enhances rather than undermines the authenticity of the art. The study focuses on the delicate equilibrium between innovation and preservation. This study seeks to assess the impact of digital Yao jewelry on cultural preservation by conducting a thorough analysis of the current state of digital technology in connection to traditional art forms. The objective is to explore how digital tools might be utilized to improve the exposure, recognition, and dissemination of Yao jewelry. Additionally, it aims to tackle the potential hazards and ethical concerns linked to digitalization.

This study will employ a quantitative analysis methodology, which involves gathering data through surveys from designers, artisans, cultural experts, and consumers. Additionally, quantitative data analyses will examine digital engagement and market trends. This dual approach will offer a comprehensive understanding of the influence of digitalization on Yao jewelry and its cultural legacy. This research is predicted to have numerous contributions. The objective is to offer a deeper understanding of how digital technology contributes to preserving culture, expand the existing knowledge on the digitalization of traditional crafts, and propose sustainable approaches that honor and highlight the cultural importance of Yao jewelry. The main objective of this study is to initiate a broader discussion on how tradition and technology cross in the framework of cultural legacy.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Digital Jewelry Design Technology

In the current age of digital technology, the design of jewelry brands presents exceptional chances and problems that have never been experienced before. The utilization of digitalization and technical innovation has had a significant influence on the process of designing, manufacturing, and marketing jewelry companies. Jewelry designers employ digitalization and technology innovation to investigate and exploit technical methods, expanding the potential and creating novel opportunities for jewelry firms. Digital jewelry is a novel concept that has emerged in recent years. It encompasses the virtual models created using computer software driven by digital technology. These models are then transformed into physical jewelry products using hardware technology, primarily 3D printing. Additionally, digital jewelry includes intelligent wearable products that are personalized, intelligent, virtual, and convenient. This is made possible through continuous advancements in science and technology, particularly on the Internet, big data, the Internet of Things, cloud computing, and virtual reality. The ultimate goal is to create intelligent wearable jewelry products (He &Hao, 2017).

The utilization of digitization in jewelry brand design is initially evident in the design process. The production process in the gold jewelry business has been stagnant for centuries, with no substantial innovations in jewelry design and manufacturing. In the past few decades, the gold industry has started using technological inventions from the twentieth century, such as electroforming, CNC machining, rapid prototyping, laser soldering, and metal injection molding (MIM), in their production process. This has resulted in significant innovations in the industry (Damiano Zito, 2017). In the present era, the jewelry industry relies on conventional manufacturing processes characterized by expensive labor and

unrefined craftsmanship. There is a need for more efficiency in these methods and an improvement in the quality of the end product (Ferreira et al., 2013). Typically, traditional jewelry designs are created through hand-drawing or handcrafting. Nevertheless, due to the advancement of digital technology, many jewelry designers opt to use computer-aided design tools like Midjourney, Matrix, Rhino, 3D printing, Procreate, CNC, and other cutting-edge technologies for their design process. Using this innovative digital program, designers can produce jewelry design sketches within a virtual setting and make immediate adjustments and modifications to the design, resulting in a notable enhancement in the design's adaptability and productivity. Simultaneously, the software can replicate jewelry's natural appearance and texture, aiding designers in effectively showcasing their design work. Using digital technology in jewelry brand design enables designers to showcase their creativity and concepts with enhanced speed and precision. Furthermore, implementing digital and technical advancements has led jewelry brands to emphasize personalization and customization in their design. Consumers can engage in jewelry design and personalize jewelry to suit their preferences and requirements using digital technologies. Jewelry manufacturers can utilize virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technology to enable consumers to immerse themselves in a virtual setting where they may explore and select their preferred jewelry styles, materials, and accessories. This personalized and customized jewelry design mode not only caters to consumers' specific preferences but also boosts the market competitiveness of jewelry manufacturers.

2.2 Yao Jewelry

The Yao people are an ethnic minority in China, primarily residing in Guangxi, Hunan, Guangdong, Yunnan, and Jiangxi provinces. Some Yao individuals have also migrated to other countries, including Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar in Southeast Asia, as well as the United States and France in Europe. The Yao people have a lengthy historical background and a prosperous culture, renowned for their distinctive cultural customs, abundant ethnic essence, and the portrayal of a diligent and brave demeanor (Yang, 2023).

The jewelry tradition of the Yao people has a lengthy and traceable lineage dating back to prehistoric times. The Yao people have consistently preferred silver jewelry, which they adorn daily, during marriage ceremonies, and at significant festivals. The silver jewelry culture of the Yao people holds a crucial place. It carries significant meaning in the hearts of the Yao people, serving as an integral component of their intangible cultural legacy. The Yao people lack a written vocabulary, relying solely on their spoken language. Consequently, preserving their nation's historical memory relies solely on transmitting their language from one generation to the next. During the migration process, the ancestors of the Yao people would inscribe significant totems and objects onto jewelry patterns to preserve their culture for future generations (Yan, 2019). The costume accessories of the Yao people are crafted from various materials, predominantly metals like gold, silver, and copper, as well as natural elements such as bamboo, wood, animal bones, and feathers. Initially, the Yao accessories predominantly consisted of materials derived from nature. Subsequently, metal jewelry increasingly supplanted them, with silver jewelry emerging as the predominant adornment. This is because silver is an inherent form of currency with distinct economic worth. Nevertheless, while it may not possess the same level of value as gold, it surpasses the value of copper, tin, and other metals. Silver, commonly used for crafting silver jewelry, has also emerged as a viable alternative for numerous other natural adornments. Furthermore, silver possesses the qualities of malleability, excellent ductility, vibrant hue, and corrosion resistance, making it an ideal material for crafting jewelry among the Yao people. The silver jewelry produced is aesthetically pleasing and possesses enduring worth, making it a prevalent accessory in various ethnic clothing cultures (Deng, 2023).



Figure 1 Yao Silver Headdress
(Source: Guangdong Yao Museum Photographed by the author)



Figure 2 Yao Silver Collar
(Source: Guangdong Yao Museum Photographed by the author)



Figure 3 Yao Silver Chest and Neck Jewellery
(Source: Guangdong Yao Museum Photographed by the author)

2.3 Cultural Inheritance

Presently, there is a heightened focus on the role and significance of culture in sustainable development. Cultural elements are distinctive attributes that can be included in products to ensure culture's sustainable dissemination and its value transformation (Hartley,2019). Consequently, it is vital to verify the techniques for incorporating cultural components into the design of creative products. Previous studies have identified several aspects that influence cultural and creative product design. These factors include aesthetics, creativity, practicality, and commercial value. They are carefully considered during design (Hsueh,2022). The cultural significance of traditional elements is evident in the following aspects: First and foremost, traditional aspects serve as a crucial medium for preserving the national cultural legacy, symbolizing the nation's historical recollection and cultural history. Furthermore, historic elements possess distinctive artistic worth, exemplifying a nation's artistic aptitude by their profound significance, aesthetically pleasing appearance, and meticulous craftsmanship. The traditional principles encompass profound philosophical concepts, such as the "unity of heaven and mankind" and "harmonious coexistence," which continue to hold valuable guidance for advancing contemporary society. Traditional symbols possess significant social cohesion, enhancing national identity, fostering pride, and facilitating social peace and stability (Jin, 2022).

Traditional symbols encompass various design components and forms, including patterns, colors, shapes, and techniques. The components and forms are intricately interwoven to provide the distinctive allure of traditional symbols. Patterns are a significant means of expressing cultural symbols, showcasing a country's artistic skill with deep significance, aesthetically pleasing patterns, and meticulous craftsmanship. Furthermore, colors also have a significant impact on traditional symbols. Varying color combinations can evoke distinct emotions and convey specific meanings. For instance, red is often associated with feelings of excitement and good fortune, while blue is commonly linked to a sense of tranquility and profoundness. Regarding modeling, conventional symbols again underscore the utilization of lines, the fusion of form and essence, and the abundance of meanings portrayed in a minimalist fashion. Regarding handicrafts, the traditional emblems embody the distinctive artistry of several historical times, including techniques like confetti, embroidery, and ceramics. They showcase

the national culture's extensive range and profound nature through their exceptional abilities and distinctive artistic approaches (Chen&Sharudin,2023).

3 METHODOLOGY

This study will utilize a quantitative analysis methodology, which entails collecting data through questionnaires from designers, craftspeople, cultural specialists, and consumers. In addition, the quantitative data studies will assess digital engagement and market developments. Broadly speaking, this study uses quantitative methodologies to analyse data. The main objective of quantitative research is to employ statistical methods to examine data and identify correlations. Large-scale survey research is carried out by using organised interviews or questionnaires, which produce statistics through quantitative research and are quickly distributed to a substantial sample of participants (Dawson, 2007a). Sekaran (2003), Creswell (2014), and Dawson (2007) assert that employing a quantitative technique facilitates a swift and effective engagement with a substantial number of participants. Furthermore, as stated by Polit and Beck (2010), evaluating a study's quality greatly depends on its generalizability, which can be attained through qualitative methods. Furthermore, quantitative statistics are widely acknowledged for their standardization and reproducibility, making them a reliable source of exact and unbiased information (Frechting, 2002). Accordingly, data will be collected just once throughout the research duration of this study to evaluate the relationship between the specified parameters.

The study sought to determine the relationship between digital technology and the cultural history of Yao jewelry, as previously stated. The researchers employed quantitative analysis methodologies in their examination. Quantitative methodologies are better suited for social sciences rather than humanitarian studies. The data utilized consisted of quantitative numbers, such as statistics, percentages, and graphs. Using quantitative analysis in digital Yao jewelry design allows researchers and designers to acquire valuable knowledge regarding market trends, consumer preferences, design efficiency, and manufacturing processes by employing a data-driven methodology. The jewelry business in China's domestic market has experienced substantial expansion, especially in economically thriving cities and areas. Regions such as the northern areas, with Beijing as the leading force, and the Jiangsu and Zhejiang areas, with Shanghai as the leading force, together with the Greater Bay Area, with Guangzhou and Shenzhen as the leading forces, have more excellent representation. The study explicitly targets the Guangshen area within the broad bay region as the subject of sampling. This decision is influenced by the proximity of the area to Hong Kong and Taiwan, where advanced design concepts and development models were implemented at an early stage. The expansive bay area is widely regarded as the earliest and most highly developed location, showcasing a jewelry design pattern that epitomizes China's most usual and all-encompassing design style.

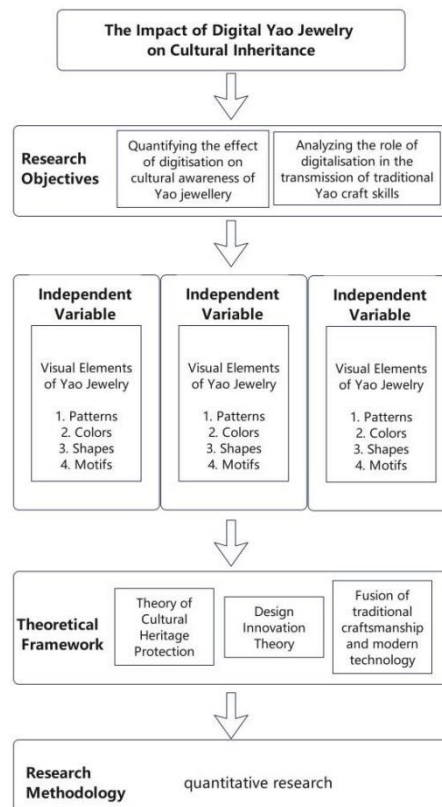


Figure 4 Research Design

4 RESEARCH FINDING

The combination of digital technology and traditional crafts has recently led to the emergence of a new style in jewelry production known as digital Yao jewelry. The fusion has profoundly influenced the cultural heritage of the Yao people, encompassing their own history and creative customs.

4.1 Conservation of Traditional Artistry

Incorporating digital technology into conventional handicrafts has dramatically benefited the preservation of the opulent legacy of elaborate designs, such as those seen in Yao jewelry. The accuracy of contemporary instruments has created new opportunities for protecting and disseminating these cultural artifacts. 3D scanning technology, specifically, has demonstrated its transformative impact. It allows for the generation of intricate digital designs of Yao jewelry, accurately capturing every contour, spiral, and etching with great precision. Preserving the jewelry's cultural relevance and artistic integrity relies heavily on this level of detail. After being scanned, these digital models can be stored eternally, protecting against the potential loss or deterioration of the physical elements in the future. Furthermore, digitization enables the dissemination of Yao jewelry creations worldwide. Yao craftsmanship can be accessed and appreciated by folks worldwide through internet media. Enhanced visibility encourages cultural diversity and cultivates a more profound comprehension and admiration of the cultural tales inherent in each jewelry item.

Moreover, converting Yao jewelry designs into digital format enables artisans and designers to enhance their creativity and develop new ideas. Utilizing a digital model as a foundation allows them to explore various materials, scales, and interpretations of conventional designs. This enables them to

produce modern items that attract new consumers while paying homage to their historical roots. Combining traditional elements and contemporary design ideas guarantees that Yao jewelry maintains its relevance and vibrancy worldwide. 3D modeling enhances the efficiency of the production process. Designers can replicate the production process, detect possible obstacles, and make modifications before utilizing any tangible materials. This conserves time and resources and reduces waste, which aligns with contemporary sustainability objectives.

Overall, the emergence of digital technology has significantly influenced the conservation and widespread distribution of Yao jewelry. The technology has facilitated the precise replication of intricate designs, thereby preserving the old craftsmanship and patterns and making them more widely available to a larger audience. The application of 3D scanning and modeling techniques has played a crucial role in capturing the fundamental nature of these cultural items, establishing a solid basis for their ongoing appreciation and development in the digital era.

4.2 Expanding the Influence Of Yao Culture

The digital revolution has brought about a new age in the recognition and admiration of cultural arts, specifically the detailed and richly symbolic patterns of Yao jewelry. The worldwide stage has been prepared for the world to observe the remarkable beauty and expert artistry of the Yao people, thanks to the advent of digital Yao jewelry. The digital transformation has made Yao jewelry readily available. It has also sparked the curiosity and appreciation of many audiences, particularly the younger generations, who are increasingly attracted to combining traditional and contemporary elements. The digital renditions of Yao jewelry function as mere duplicates and act as portals to individualized modification and self-expression. The technology empowers craftspeople to provide a higher degree of customization, enabling consumers to actively participate in the creation process and infuse their jewelry with their own narratives and artistic preferences. This customization not only amplifies the uniqueness of each piece but also encourages the individuality of Yao craftsmanship, resulting in each piece becoming a one-of-a-kind representation of the wearer's identity.

Furthermore, the internet domain has allowed Yao artists to exhibit their craftsmanship to a broader clientele, surpassing geographical limitations. The growth of this industry has resulted in a significant increase in the need for customized and culturally diverse jewelry, establishing Yao craftsmanship as a highly desirable artistic expression in the international market. The outcome is a dynamic interchange of cultural legacy that enhances worldwide culture while safeguarding and advocating the distinctive customs of the Yao people. The influence of digital Yao jewelry extends beyond its visual appeal and ability to be customized to individual preferences. This signifies a notable advancement towards implementing sustainable practices in the jewelry sector. It is possible to reduce waste and optimize resource utilization by enabling digital designs before physical production. This approach is in line with current values of sustainability and environmental awareness, guaranteeing that the attractiveness of Yao jewelry can be appreciated without harming the integrity of our earth.

To summarize, the advent of digital Yao jewelry has increased the availability of this magnificent art form and revitalized the recognition of Yao culture globally. Technology has facilitated the connection between a new generation and traditional creativity, customized expression, and sustainable methods. This ensures that the legacy of Yao's artistry thrives in the digital age.

4.3 Fostering Cultural Identity and Promoting a Sense of Pride

Digitalizing Yao jewelry has increased prominence and significantly strengthened the Yao community's cultural identity and pride. The use of digital platforms has allowed for the display of the

intricate craftsmanship of Yao jewelry, serving as a potent means of cultural validation. This has facilitated the Yao people's ability to rediscover and embrace their cultural past within a contemporary framework. The Yao people's cultural inheritance is now more accessible than ever, thanks to the compelling digital exhibition of their traditional handicrafts, which has instilled a sense of pride in their community. The convenience of access has played a crucial role in promoting a stronger feeling of community and collective history among the Yao people while reinforcing a revitalized sense of pride and contentment in their cultural traditions.

Furthermore, the digital medium has created an interactive platform that allows the Yao people to participate actively in preserving and promoting their cultural legacy. Online forums, social media, and virtual exhibitions provide platforms for individuals to discuss and share their thoughts on the cultural importance of Yao jewelry. This contact has fostered a dynamic community life that flourishes through recognizing and perpetuating traditional values. The influence of digital Yao jewelry extends to the younger cohorts, who are now more predisposed to adopt and perpetuate their cultural legacy. Digital technology has facilitated the younger generation's acquisition and admiration of traditional craftsmanship, guaranteeing the preservation and evolution of the art of Yao jewelry creation for future cohorts.

Moreover, the internet domain has created fresh economic prospects for the Yao community. The capacity to access a worldwide audience has resulted in a surge in the demand for genuine Yao jewelry, bolstering the economic sustenance of artisans and craftspeople. The economic empowerment of the Yao people is a clear demonstration of their ability to bounce back from challenges and adjust to new circumstances. They have effectively utilized technology to maintain their cultural traditions. The emergence of digital Yao jewelry has acted as a catalyst for the revitalization and sense of cultural identity within the Yao community. Utilizing this method has empowered the Yao community to regain and commemorate their cultural heritage in a modern and easily understood manner, promoting a deep feeling of togetherness and contentment that extends throughout the community and beyond.

4 FOSTERING INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

Incorporating digital technology into crafting Yao jewelry has brought about a revival of creativity and resourcefulness, revitalizing an age-old form of artistic expression. Designers are now free from the limitations of conventional materials and techniques, enabling them to explore new realms of artistic innovation. Designers have a wide range of new materials to explore in the digital realm, including sustainable and eco-friendly possibilities and innovative materials with distinctive qualities. These novel materials expand the possibilities in jewelry design and respond to the contemporary consumer's inclination toward ethical and innovative items.

In addition, digital technology has brought forth many novel techniques to produce Yao jewelry. Methods such as 3D printing, laser cutting, and computer-numerical control (CNC) machining have facilitated designers in creating intricate and elaborate patterns that would have been exceedingly difficult, if not unattainable, using conventional manual techniques.

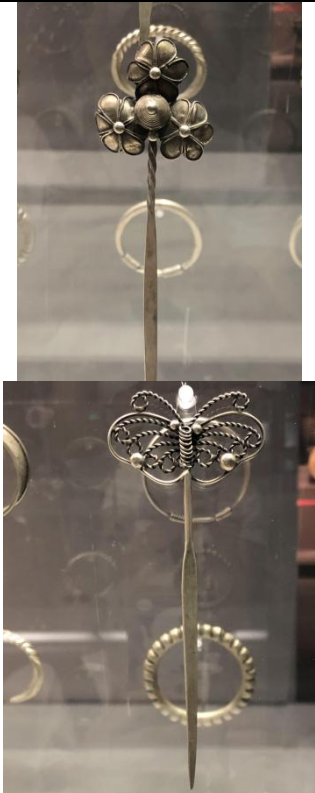
Designers are interested in using new technology and maintaining the essential ideas of ancient Yao craftsmanship. The Yao culture seamlessly integrates artistic aspects with modern design, creating a harmonic fusion of traditional and contemporary influences. This combination results in unique and contemporary artworks that convey a narrative, a cultural legacy, and a progressive outlook. The appeal of these groundbreaking yet culturally authentic works has drawn a wide range of customers. Customers who cherish the distinctiveness of traditional craftsmanship blended with contemporary aesthetics find



these objects highly valuable. The increased clientele includes traditional art enthusiasts and individuals interested in contemporary designs with a significant narrative.



Moreover, the digitization of Yao jewelry creation has facilitated increased customization and personalization. Customers now have the opportunity to engage in a collaborative process with designers to produce unique artworks that embody their personal preferences and interests while still paying homage to the esteemed tradition of Yao craftsmanship. Ultimately, integrating digital technology into the art of crafting Yao jewelry has ignited a surge of creativity that has rejuvenated the industry. Designers are expanding the limits of what can be achieved, producing unique and contemporary artworks that engage a broader audience and guarantee the ongoing development and significance of Yao jewelry in the worldwide art and culture scene.


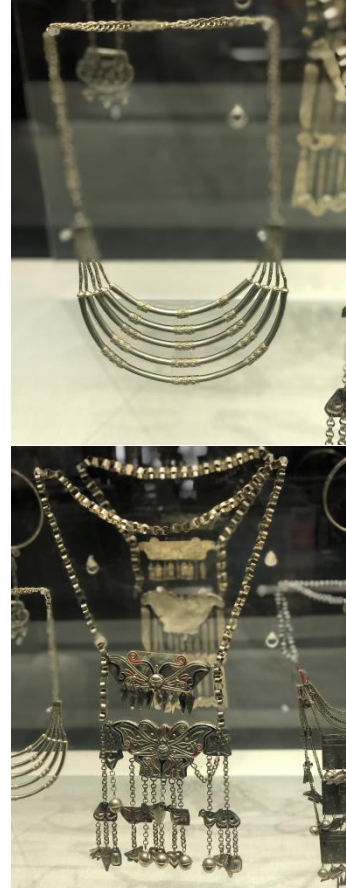
Digital Yao jewelry's impact on cultural heritage preservation is significant. It has conserved ancient artisanal skills, expanded the influence of Yao culture, strengthened cultural identity and pride, and fostered innovation and creativity. The rapid advancement of technology presents a vast opportunity for digital Yao jewelry to enhance and spread this valuable cultural heritage.




Table 1. Types of Yao Jewelry


Batch	Types of Jewelry	Jewelry Name	Jewelry Pictures	Jewelry Meaning
1	Head Jewelry	Silver Hairpin		<p>The silver hairpin is an ornament that Yao women put in their hair, with a flat head and only one, which is aesthetically pleasing and has value for use. Silver hairpin is a kind of historical memory of Yao folk craft, a kind of remembrance and inheritance left by Yao ancestors to their descendants.</p>

Batch	Types of Jewelry	Jewelry Name	Jewelry Pictures	Jewelry Meaning
2	Head Jewelry	Silver Earrings		<p>The earrings of Yao jewelry are mainly in large circles, and the earrings are in the shapes of fans, plum blossoms, cones, etc. Yao women like to wear them regardless of their age. Some of the complex and flexible patterns engraved with various totems convey the Yao people's worship of historical heroes and ancestors as well as their good wishes for good fortune and avoidance of misfortune.</p>
3	Head Jewelry	Silver Crown		<p>The Silver Magic Crown is a fan-shaped silver jewelry that resembles a flame in shape, is usually a decoration fixed to a woman's hat and is also sewn onto her clothes when in full regalia. Not only can it indicate their honourable status, but also a manifestation of might.</p>

Batch	Types of Jewelry	Jewelry Name	Jewelry Pictures	Jewelry Meaning
4	Head Jewelry	Silver Tree		<p>The silver tree is the unique headdress of Yao men, and it is the headdress of men who have status and prestige in the local villages of Yao people. It is shaped like a small tree with various shapes of flowers, birds, fishes and insects carved on it and decorated with colourful threads, and at the top of it is the statue of the national hero-worshipped by the local Yao people.</p>
5	Head Jewelry	Silver Cone		<p>A silver cone is a type of silver jewelry whose head is shaped like a cone, an ornament that can be added to the head, hat, or tiara. It can be worn by both men and women and is worn at grand festivals or at weddings. As part of the silver jewellery of the Yao people, it carries the cultural connotations of the Yao people for thousands of years and has accumulated the religious beliefs of the Yao ancestors.</p>

Batch	Types of Jewelry	Jewelry Name	Jewelry Pictures	Jewelry Meaning
6	Neck Jewelry	Silver Collar		<p>The Yao people wear silver collars around their necks regardless of gender. Twelve collars are worn during grand festivals, tied up with red threads, and usually, only one is worn during regular times. Each of the twelve collars is engraved with a different pattern, representing different blessings and meanings.</p>
7	Neck Jewelry	Silver Necklace		<p>A silver chain is used to connect the silver collar, adorned with rich shapes underneath, mainly flowers, bats, unicorns and other motifs representing auspicious symbols, each layer of which symbolizes a different meaning and represents the good wishes of the Yao people.</p>

Batch	Types of Jewelry	Jewelry Name	Jewelry Pictures	Jewelry Meaning
8	Chest Jewelry	Silver Lock		<p>It is a traditional custom for Yao people to wear silver locks. It is similar to a rectangular shape, modelled like a lock. It is engraved with words such as "long life" and "long life and wealth" and is hung on the chest with a silver chain, meaning it can ward off evils and wish for a long life.</p>
9	Chest Jewelry	Silver Drum		
10	Hand Jewelry	Silver bracelet		<p>There are three types of bracelets for the Yao people: large flat round bracelets, flat head bracelets, and coil bracelets. Bangles are one of the more common types of jewelry, and almost every Yao woman carries one in her hand.</p>

Batch	Types of Jewelry	Jewelry Name	Jewelry Pictures	Jewelry Meaning
11	Hand Jewelry	Silver ring		It is a love token for young Yao men and women. Woven with silver thread symbolizes the unity of the Yao people.

Source: Author's field research

5 CONCLUSIONS

The investigation of the impact of digital Yao jewelry on cultural inheritance has highlighted the significant influence of technology on the conservation and spread of traditional art forms. Digitalization has become a means of documenting and a dynamic platform that rejuvenates the cultural narrative of the Yao people. This study has revealed that digital Yao jewelry acts as a medium for cultural exchange, surpassing geographical limitations and involving a worldwide audience in the diverse legacy of the Yao people. The combination of 3D design and virtual reality has specifically emphasized the capacity of immersive technologies to capture the complex features and symbolic significance of Yao jewelry. This enhances the aesthetic appeal and enlightens viewers on the cultural value inherent in each artwork. The study has demonstrated that digital representations may coexist with and enhance

traditional craftsmanship, thereby preserving the essence of Yao's creativity and celebrating it in the digital domain. Nevertheless, the process of achieving a digital cultural legacy is challenging. It is crucial to carefully handle the equilibrium between technological advancement and safeguarding genuine cultural traditions. When undertaking digitalization, it is of utmost importance to prioritize the preservation of the cultural identity of the Yao community. This means taking measures to prevent the erosion of cultural value or displacement of traditional artisans as they shift to digital platforms.

The results of this study support the idea of a cooperative strategy in which digital platforms and the Yao community collaborate to select and distribute digital Yao jewelry carefully. This collaboration can result in a more profound recognition and comprehension of Yao culture, promoting a feeling of common humanity and cultural variety. To summarize, the impact of digital Yao jewelry on cultural preservation is complex, presenting both advantages and obligations. At the crossroads of history and technology, it is crucial to carefully utilize digital innovation to ensure the ongoing success and inspiration of Yao jewelry for future generations. When approached with cultural awareness and respect, the digital sphere can serve as a valuable tool in protecting and promoting the abundant cultural history of the Yao people.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

YanLi contribute to this research, including data collection, analysis, writing etc. Emilia Manan guided author to do this research.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest declared for this paper.

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