



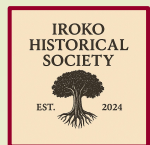
Digitizing the Sacred

A Case Study of the Library of Babaláwo Irete Obara

Presented by Délé Fággbémí O., JD, MA, MBA

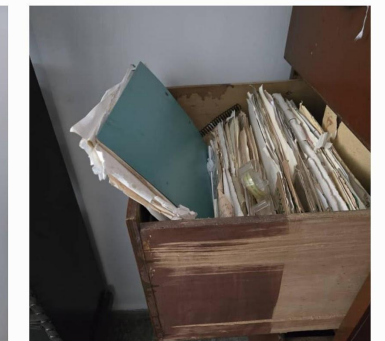
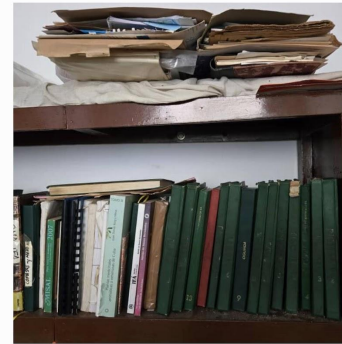
MLIS Candidate, University of Alabama

Founder and Steward, Iroko Historical Society (irokosociety.org)



The Library / Archive

- ❑ Rare, annotated documents, many deteriorating, holding linguistic, ritual, and historical insights across multiple lineages.
- ❑ Housed in a living spiritual lineage, not an institution
- ❑ Accessible through trust, presence, and reciprocity
- ❑ These papers carry voices of ceremonies, migrations, and the ancestors.



The Library / Archive



The Library / Archive



What's At Stake

- ❑ Rare, annotated documents, many deteriorating, holding linguistic, ritual, and historical insights across multiple lineages.
- ❑ These pages carry voices of ceremonies, migrations, ancestors.

Problem Statement

- Afro-Diasporic memory is treated as folklore, not record
- Western archives can't hold what they don't recognize
- Digitization risks desecration without ethics

Proposed Research Methods

- Document scanning with sacred consent
- Metadata grounded in spiritual categories
- Community-informed digital storage & access

Digitization Tools / Workstation



Expected Results and Findings

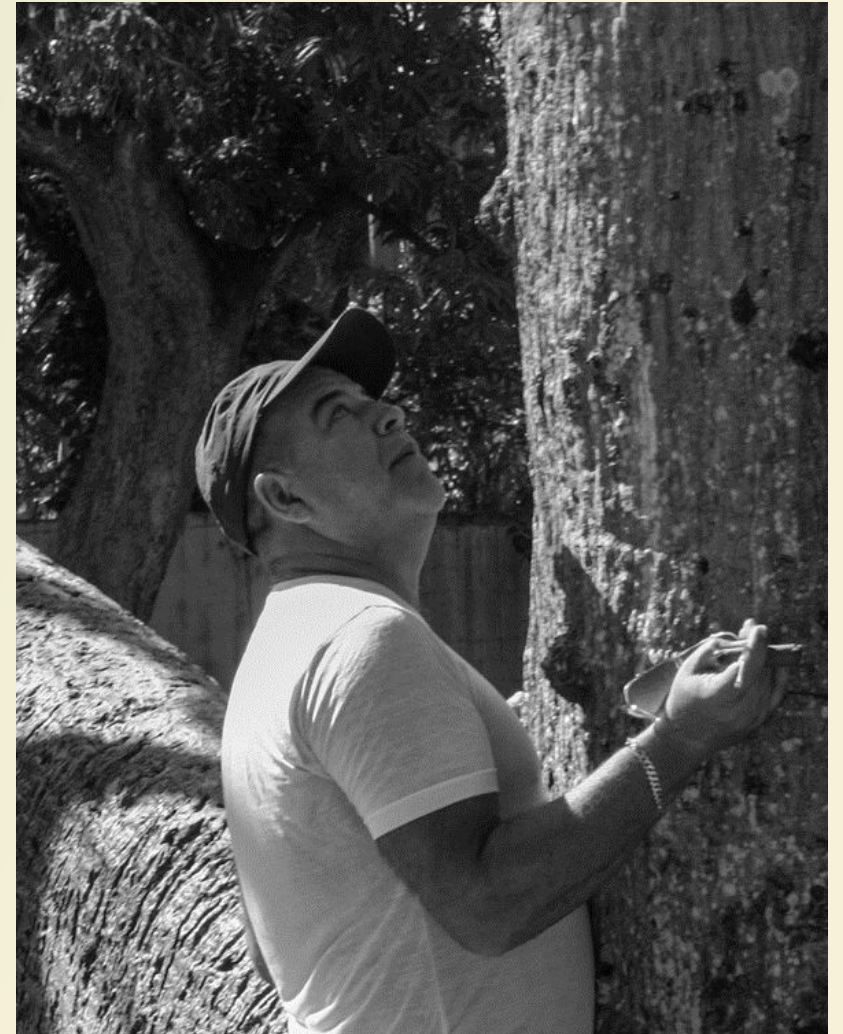
- Models for Afro-diasporic archival sovereignty
- Frameworks for metadata that honor ritual meaning
- Expanded dialogue between LIS, anthropology, and spiritwork

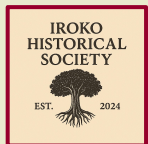
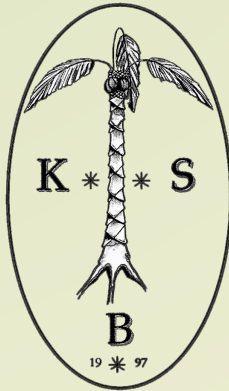
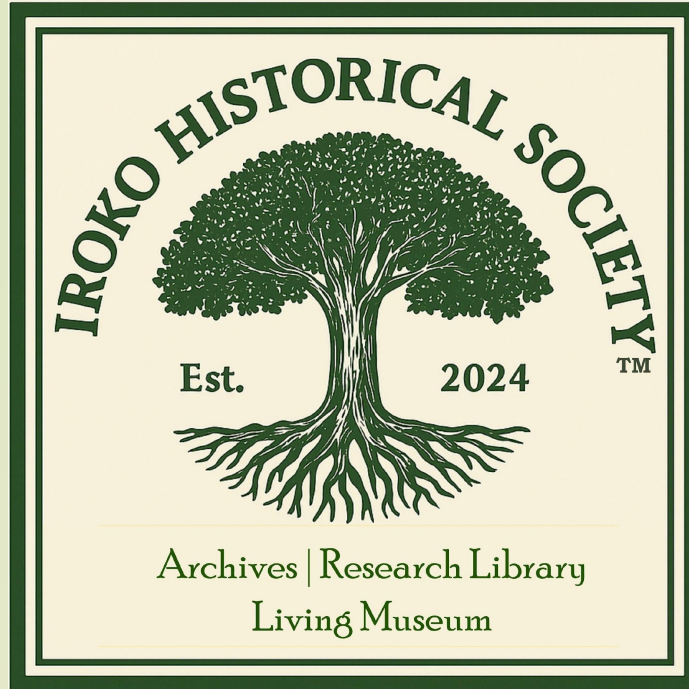
Next Steps

- ❑ Complete the raw digital preservation of this library
- ❑ Finalize metadata & ethical access protocols
- ❑ Develop MLIS thesis as foundational case study (2025–2027)
- ❑ Grow a long-term model for sacred archives across traditions

Acknowledgments & Gratitude

- ❑ My Oluo Siguayu, Babaláwo Irete Obara, for his teachings on humility, lifelong learning, and the constant pursuit of spiritual evolution
- ❑ The University of Alabama, for welcoming me into this incredible institution of learning. For those considering an MLIS, it is a place where community and critical inquiry meet
- ❑ My brothers and sisters in all African-inspired traditions, who continue with strength, devotion, and little fanfare. They are the true rock stars
- ❑ Deep thanks to all who assist with the Iroko Historical Society, through archives, memory, ritual, and care
- ❑ And to Iroko itself: for standing tall through it all





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