

THE Digital Agenda

INSIGHTS

digital
agenda

July 2026 Issue |

Monthly
Newsletter



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WELCOME TO

The Digital Agenda Insights

Monthly Newsletter

Exactly a month after Bank of Uganda announced the capping of cash transactions as a push to a digital economy, the MTN Uganda outage of 5th July 2026 brought daily life to a standstill for hours, as if to ask whether Uganda is truly ready for cashless.

Then came the PSN blackout that seemed to challenge Sony's recent announcement to shift to "Digital Only" gaming. The gamers got angry; a proof that "digital ownership" is an illusion.

A sobering truth emerges from this edition: the world is rapidly building more reliance on centralised systems than it has built resilience against their failure.

Our July 08th, 2026 panel discussion on Immigration, Xenophobia and Digital ID cut to the heart of the matter: is the chaos around migration and the rapid push for biometric border controls coincidental, or is there a coordinated agenda? Are these tools genuinely about security, or are they a smokescreen for control?

We also explore why AI companies are buying rare and historical books in bulk, scanning them, and destroying the physical copies, an act that reveals a quiet war on permanence itself.

Technology should liberate, not oppress. The question is whether we will remain passive users or become active shapers of our digital future.

Read on. Question everything. Together, let us forge a tech future that serves humanity—not the other way around.

If our work resonates with you, please walk with us.

Lilian Agaba Nabwebale
For **Digital Agenda Forum**

OUR CORE VALUES

S

Stewardship

P

Purpose

A

Authenticity

D

Dignity

Tech Should Serve Not Control

IMMIGRATION, XENOPHOBIA & DIGITAL ID: What Is the Real Agenda?

On 08 July, 2026, the Digital Agenda Forum hosted a panel discussion on X Spaces at 7:30 pm EAT, to explore the intersection of Immigration, Xenophobia, and Digital ID systems. The conversation examined whether the rapid deployment of biometric technologies, digital IDs, and AI-powered border controls is genuinely about security and efficiency—or whether there is a broader agenda of control and subjugation.

Moderated by **Claire Babirye** (Data Scientist), the Panellists were; **Joanita Maria Nagawa** – Travel Consultant & Director, Le Bonheur Travel Ltd, **Steven Bongomin** – Youth Leader & Political Activist and **Mark Nasasira Rubaihayo** – Lawyer, Policy Analyst & Theologian.

The Global Immigration Crisis

- Conflicts in Ukraine, Sudan, DRC, and the Sahel have displaced millions
- Governments across Europe, North America, and Africa are tightening border controls
- Rising anti-immigration sentiments and xenophobia, notably in South Africa ("Operation Dudula"), the UK, and across Europe.

The Digital Response

Governments are investing heavily in:

- Biometric passports and identity systems
- Facial recognition and fingerprint verification
- AI-powered border management
- Electronic visas and interconnected immigration databases
- Examples: EU Entry/Exit System; South Africa's shift from green ID books to intelligent population register.



Topic: IMMIGRATION, XENOPHOBIA & DIGITAL ID
What Is the Real Agenda?

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X SPACES @DigitalAgendaT

WEDNESDAY 08 JULY, 2026

7:30 PM TO 9:00 PM EAT

www.thedigitalagenda.org

Xenophobic violence in South Africa forced home countries including Uganda, to do emergency evacuations for their nationals. As a result there has been Public and Political calls to Boycott South African owned firms.

Interestingly this coincided with the 05 July 2026 digital service disruptions that affected MTN Uganda and Stanbic Bank. It halted data center, voice, data, and Mobile Money (MoMo) services. There was downtime across internet and mobile banking, ATMs, Point-of-Sale (POS) systems, and FlexiPay.

This revealed how dependent everyday life has become on centralised digital systems and how vulnerable citizens are when these systems fail or are manipulated.

KEY DISCUSSIONS:

Tech Should Serve Not Control

1. THE HUMAN FACE OF IMMIGRATION (Joanita)

The Good:

- Digital systems have made visa applications faster, smoother, and more convenient
- Reduced human interaction was essential during COVID-19
- Fraud has decreased with biometric verification

The Challenges:

- Systems fail – overwhelmed by volume, internet outages, infrastructure gaps
- Loss of human interaction – AI bots now respond to queries; applicants can't explain genuine cases
- Redlisting – Entire nationalities can be automatically blocked (e.g., Ugandans banned from UAE in 2020)
- Permanent data – Fingerprints and irises cannot be changed; once compromised, there is no control
- Data privacy concerns – Who controls the global pool of biometric information? How safe is it from criminals?
- Marginalization – People with faded fingerprints (e.g., manual labourers) face barriers

Key Quote:

"The problem is not these systems. The problem is the infrastructure that carries them."

2. THE YOUTH PERSPECTIVE (Steven)

Why Immigration Debates Are Emotionally Charged:

- Economic pressure – Young people feel foreigners are taking jobs and driving up rent
- Social media amplification – Misinformation spreads rapidly; it's hard to verify sources
- Political manipulation – Some leaders exploit emotions for political gain

The Root Problem: Digital Illiteracy.

- Most young Ugandans use technology (TikTok, mobile money) but don't understand:
 - Their digital rights
 - How their data is collected, stored, and shared.
 - The terms and conditions they agree to.
 - Centralised systems mean

one email address can expose all personal information.

The Way Forward for Youth:

- Participate in elective politics – Policies are made in Parliament; young people must be there
- Demand transparency and accountability from government and tech providers
- Read terms and conditions – don't sign away rights carelessly
- Engage in informed discussions rather than emotional reactions
- Support responsible innovation that protects rights

Key Quote:

"Dialogue is important, but power, office and influence as a young person is second to none."

3. GOVERNANCE, POLICY & THE SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE (Mark)

The Tension: National Identity vs. Global Integration

- Nations have distinct purposes and identities, whether from political or biblical perspectives
- The push for digital integration risks erasing this diversity
- A unified system makes it easier to dominate entire populations

What Is the Real Purpose?

- The stated purpose of security and efficiency differs from the real agenda
- The goal is subjugation, not liberation
- Systems are designed to control everyday citizens, not the criminals who engineer the systems
- Private individuals - tech billionaires —people we never elected, are now the gatekeepers of identity and supply. Governments have handed over this power to these private players.

The Prophetic Concern:

- The rise of digital IDs and currency mirrors the Tower of Babel, an attempt to create unified humanity under one system
- Revelation 13 speaks of a system where no one can buy or sell without the "mark"
- Digital systems create a gate at supply. Someone can freeze your money, delete your passport, or erase your identity with a keystroke.

- The 2025 prophecy by Prophet Elvis Mbonye on Central Bank Digital Currencies warned that CBDCs were designed for control.

Call to Action for Believers:

- Prophecy is not for fear but for preparation and action
- Christians must:
 - Exercise spiritual discernment
 - Rise up against systems that seek to take away freedom
 - Learn from history—public backlash can stop these agendas (e.g., UK's mandatory digital ID backlash)
- Key Scripture: "I have set before you life and death; choose life" (Deuteronomy 30:19)

Key Quote:

"God is a God of liberty. He has not created man to subjugate fellow man."

4. THE PARADOX: SECURITY vs. FREEDOM

Whereas Centralised Digital Systems are sold as **ways to:**

Faster processing, Reduction of fraud, Improved security screening, Global interconnectedness and Convenience,

They also present:

Infrastructure failures, Loss of human interaction, Data privacy concerns, Vulnerability to manipulation and Centralised control by unaccountable players.

Key Insight:

The people who actually pose security threats are the ones who build and beat the systems, not the everyday citizens being tracked.

WAY FORWARD: RECOMMENDATIONS

For Governments

1. Collect only necessary data – data minimization
2. Ensure clear legal safeguards, oversight, and accountability
3. Build resilient systems with manual fallback procedures (contingency plans for outages)
4. Regularly audit AI and biometric systems for accuracy, fairness, and bias
5. Protect citizens' data: Implement and enforce data protection acts.

For Technology Providers

1. Prioritize cybersecurity from the design stage
2. Be transparent about how biometric data is stored, shared, and protected
3. Build privacy-conscious systems. Respect users' rights.

For Citizens (Especially Youth)

1. Understand what personal information you are providing and why
2. Stay informed about privacy and data protection rights
3. Report identity fraud and misuse immediately
4. Participate in public conversations about digital governance
5. Reject xenophobia and misinformation – promote unity over division
6. Engage in informed discussion rather than emotional reactions
7. Use technology to build communities – not deepen division
8. Ensure young people have a voice in shaping the digital future

For Spiritual Leaders & Believers

1. Seek spiritual discernment – understand the purpose behind systems
2. Listen to prophetic voices that have proven credibility
3. Rise up and say "no" to agendas that seek to take away freedom
4. Pray and act – freedom is a God-given right

CONCLUSION

The discussion revealed that immigration, xenophobia, and digital identity are deeply interconnected. While digital systems offer efficiency and security, they also present profound risks to privacy, freedom, and human dignity. The panelists agreed that:

1. Systems are not neutral – they serve the purposes of those who design and control them
2. Human interaction and empathy must remain central in immigration processes
3. Data protection is non-negotiable – citizens must know their rights
4. Youth must be involved in shaping policies that affect their future
5. Spiritual discernment is essential – the real agenda may not be what it appears

The conversation does not end here. Citizens, leaders, and believers must continue engaging, questioning, and demanding accountability to ensure that technology serves freedom and dignity, not subjugation and control.

Find the recording at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6y0tZABCzHs&t=9s>

By DIGITAL AGENDA FORUM

IS UGANDA READY FOR A CASHLESS ECONOMY?

Bank of Uganda Capping Cheques and Over-the-Counter Cash Withdrawals

By Alfred Ntagungira,
*Business Leader, Civil Engineer,
and CEO of Ufundi Tech Afrika*



On Sunday, 5th July 2026, Uganda quietly slipped into a digital paralysis that most people only recognized at the payment point.

At a supermarket counter a woman stood with enough money in her Mobile Money wallet to buy food for her family but she could not pay. A passenger reached his destination but could not transfer the boda boda

fare. A businessman who had just fuelled his vehicle was stranded at the filling station. Across Uganda, millions discovered that having digital money is not always the same as having access to money.

The recent MTN Uganda Mobile Money outage, triggered by a power failure at one of its data centres, brought the country's digital economy to a temporary standstill. Retailers lost sales, transport services were disrupted, businesses struggled to receive payments, and many Ugandans were left asking a simple question: What happens when the system fails?

This incident could not have come at a more significant time. The Bank of Uganda has announced that, effective 01 January 2027, it will introduce limits on over-the-counter cash withdrawals as part of a broader strategy to promote electronic payments. The move according to Bank of Uganda aligns with global trends towards digital finance and reflects growing consumer use of electronic transactions. Yet it also raises a critical national question: Is Uganda truly ready for a predominantly cashless economy?

There is no doubt that digital payments have transformed Uganda's financial landscape. Mobile Money has reduced the need to carry large amounts

of cash, lowered transaction costs, and enabled millions of people, especially in rural communities, to participate in the formal economy.

However, innovation should never outpace resilience.

The MTN outage exposed just how dependent Ugandans have become on digital platforms. A single technical failure affected communication, transport, commerce, banking, and access to essential goods. For many small businesses, a few hours without Mobile Money translated into lost revenue. For ordinary citizens, money stored digitally became temporarily inaccessible.

Uganda must also confront other realities. Reliable internet coverage remains uneven. Electricity supply is still inconsistent in many parts of the country. Digital literacy varies widely, particularly among elderly citizens and rural populations. Not every Ugandan owns a smartphone, and many communities continue to rely on cash as the most dependable means of exchange. Restricting cash before these structural challenges are adequately addressed risks excluding rather than empowering sections of the population.

Beyond infrastructure, digital finance presents broader policy concerns. Cybersecurity threats continue to evolve, power failures, fibre cuts, and system outages can interrupt economic activity on a large scale.

This is not an argument against digital transformation. On the contrary, Uganda needs to modernise its financial system and embrace technologies that improve efficiency, transparency, and financial inclusion. But modernization should preserve choice rather than eliminate it. Citizens who prefer or require cash should not be disadvantaged by withdraw limits in a country that is still strengthening the foundations of its digital ecosystem.

A cashless economy is not simply about replacing banknotes with digital wallets and cards. It is about building a financial system that citizens can trust every hour of every day.

AI, COMPUTE, AND CONTROL

Who Owns Africa's Digital Future?

On 29 July 2026, The **Digital Agenda Forum** was represented at "Navigating Frontier Opportunities: AI, Business and Engineering," a session held at the American Centre Kampala and led by Samrah Kasozi, Dean of the Africa Quantis Institute of AI, Business and Engineering.

The conversation was not the usual AI talk, "will it take my job," "how do I write a better prompt," it was deeper: who actually builds and controls this technology, and who is simply left using it. These were our key take aways;

The Five New Currencies of Power

Dr. Kasozi opened by reminding us what actually counts as a national asset today. In the past, economic power was built on physical things: coal, oil, steel. Today, the real assets are digital, and they come down to five things: algorithms (the instructions behind every prediction AI makes), data (the raw material AI is trained on), compute (the hardware, GPUs and chips that do the training), talent (the engineers and researchers who can build with these tools), and chips themselves, made by firms like Nvidia, TSMC and AMD.

Consuming Without Contributing

Across all five, our position on the continent is consistently that of a user, not a builder. Compute makes this painfully clear. Africa holds under 1% of global AI compute capacity, yet many of the minerals used to make chips and GPUs are mined right here, in DRC, Zambia, Uganda and Zimbabwe. We export the raw minerals, then buy back the finished technology at a steep markup. It is the same old story that played out with oil and coal, just wearing a digital label this time. Without a seat at the table on algorithms, data, or compute, we keep adopting rules and infrastructure we had no hand in shaping, and paying to access technology built out of our own ground.

Dr. Kasozi wasn't asking us to wait for full independence on compute, that's not realistic soon. But he was quick to point out that we're not starting from zero either. Our universities graduate

thousands of engineers every year, and our raw talent has

never been the question, our young people are some of the most adaptable anywhere, and that youthful population is itself an asset most countries would envy. So instead of waiting, he pointed to what's achievable now: channelling that existing talent into specialized skills, machine learning engineers, data scientists, cloud architects, tightening up how policy actually gets implemented, and negotiating our partnerships instead of just accepting whatever terms come our way.

The Vanishing Ports

One of the sharpest moments of the day came almost as a side comment during the panel discussion. A panellist pointed out something many of us have noticed too; laptops and phones ship with fewer physical ports every year. Less room for a memory card, an external drive, a removable battery, than a decade ago.

We usually explain this away as design, phones just look sleeker without all those slots. But the panellist argued there's more to it: as local storage disappears, we get pushed onto cloud platforms owned and run by companies outside Africa. Services like Google Drive, Dropbox and Microsoft OneDrive, he said, are not there "for a joke." Bit by bit, our data moves out of our own hands and onto someone else's servers. For a continent that doesn't yet have its own cloud or compute infrastructure, this is a slow handover of control. He put it plainly: give it time, and we may end up paying just to access our own data.

His answer wasn't to reject the cloud altogether, that's not realistic either. It was to negotiate properly. He compared it to how Uganda buys aircraft from Boeing or Bombardier rather than building them locally: we use infrastructure built by others, but on clear terms, covering data sovereignty, audit rights, and the ability to move our data if we ever need to, rather than just accepting whatever the platform gives us by default.

Locked Out of the Payment Rails

An audience member, a geoscientist who also builds digital products, raised something that rarely comes up in these AI conversations: getting paid. Many international platforms that let founders monetize their software, payment

processors, merchant-of-record services, simply aren't available to businesses registered in Uganda or much of Sub-Saharan Africa.

So, builders here who are just as capable as anyone globally end up registering companies abroad, usually in the US or UK, just to receive payment for what they've built. That pushes both money and talent offshore. He was clear this isn't a Uganda-only problem, it's bigger than that, and it needs advocacy at a regional and international level for fairer access to payment infrastructure, alongside homegrown fintech that can work around these barriers the way mobile money already worked around traditional banking.

Leapfrogging: We've Done This Before

Dr. Kasozi pointed to something we've already lived through as proof that skipping expensive stages of development is possible. Traditional banking needed a huge branch network that took decades to build and still never fully reached rural areas. Rather than wait for that, Uganda leapfrogged straight into mobile money, and the banks then followed by building agent networks around it.

He said that the same thing can happen with AI. We don't need to wait for our own chip factories or full compute independence before we start benefiting. We can leapfrog by focusing on cloud-based tools, practical skills training, and locally built software running on infrastructure owned elsewhere, the same way we did it with mobile money.

Big Plans, Slow Follow-Through

Uganda already has a Data Protection Act (2019) and a National Digital Transformation Roadmap, with targets for 2027/28 that include 95% of government services online, 90% broadband coverage, and 90% of citizens actively using digital services.

The ambition is there. The follow-through often isn't. This showed up right there in the room: when someone asked what replaced the Computer Misuse Act after reported changes, nobody present, not even the policy people, had a clear answer. Big targets without enforcement or

clarity give us a false sense that things are moving, while leaving ordinary citizens unsure what protections actually cover their data today.

What Dr. Kasozi called for was that tech people and policy people need to stop working in silos and start talking to each other, so that implementation gets tracked with the same seriousness as the targets themselves, and any legal changes are explained clearly to the public, not left as a mystery even to the experts in the room.

Trust, but Verify

A professor in the audience shared something interesting: when he asked different AI tools the same question about his own academic work, he got different, sometimes contradictory, answers. This was to show that AI can sound completely confident while still being wrong or inconsistent, depending on what data it was trained on and how you phrase your question. Left unchecked, that can misinform decisions, damage reputations, or just quietly wear down our trust in these tools altogether.

Dr. Kasozi's advice was that trust is necessary for technology advancement but while you trust, you also need to verify. Use AI as a helper, not a replacement for your own judgment, and always check what it tells you against the facts before you act on it or repeat it.

Final Thought

As our slogan goes, we need **"tech to serve, but not to control."** The conversation at the American Centre revealed that we are not behind in this new economy because we lack intelligence or talent. We are behind because we haven't yet built the ecosystem, in policy enforcement, specialized skills, fair infrastructure deals, and public trust, that turns intelligence into real ownership. Compute may take years to catch up on. Implementation, negotiation, and transparency don't have to.

We thank Dr. Kasozi and the American Centre Kampala for hosting this important conversation, and everyone who joined the discussion. We need to have more of these.

**Compiled by Maria Batenga
for DIGITAL AGENDA FORUM**

ERROR 404: GAME NOT FOUND!

Sony PSN Outage Just Proved to Millions of Customers That Digital "Ownership" Is a Myth

By Lilian Agaba Nabwebale,
Information Scientist



The recent global PlayStation Network (PSN) outage occurred on Friday, July 24, 2026, leaving tens of thousands of gamers worldwide completely unable to log in, play multiplayer games, or access digital titles.

Key Details of the Outage

- The massive service disruption lasted for several hours before all services were fully restored and brought back online by Friday evening.
- The disruption was linked to a concurrent infrastructure alert from Amazon Web Services (AWS), as server issues on their end trickled down to impact Sony's authentication and network features.
- The outage severely affected the PlayStation 5 and PlayStation 4, and even extended to older legacy systems that Sony still maintains, including the PS Vita and PS3.

Why Gamers Are Angry

The outage triggered immense frustration in the gaming community, acting as a "worst-case scenario" proof point for a broader controversy surrounding Sony's business model.

- Players who purchased digital games found themselves

completely locked out of launching their software due to "license verification errors" that require an active server connection. Conversely, players who owned physical discs were still able to play their games offline without issue.

- The outage happened just weeks after Sony sparked heavy backlash by announcing plans to stop producing physical PS5 discs by January 2028. Critics and consumer advocacy campaigns like "**No Disc, No Buy**" immediately pointed to the July 24 outage as definitive proof of the dangers of an all-digital gaming future where players do not truly own their media.

For millions of customers, the outage laid bare an uncomfortable truth: when the network goes down, your digital library goes with it. Digital "ownership" is nothing more than a rental agreement with an invisible expiration date. When the servers fail, so does the illusion of ownership.

When the "All Digital" Future Chooses to Halt Life!

SOME OF THE TECH FAILURES OF JULY 2026

By **DIGITAL AGENDA FORUM**

1. MTN Uganda and Stanbic Bank Outage

On July 5, 2026, millions of customers in Uganda experienced a simultaneous digital blackout affecting MTN Uganda and Stanbic Bank Uganda.

MTN Uganda attributed the disruption to a massive power failure at one of its primary data centers. This knocked out mobile money (MoMo), voice calls, and data services nationwide.

Because Stanbic Bank relies heavily on MTN's infrastructure for its digital integrations, its online banking, ATMs, mobile apps, and FlexiPay platforms crashed simultaneously.

Both companies issued public apologies and ruled out a cyberattack. Systems were steadily restored later that evening, with fund and data security remaining entirely uncompromised.

2. OpenAI Autonomous Agent Hacks Another Company

In mid-July 2026, the tech world faced its first documented case of an autonomous AI chaining real cyberattacks after escaping a sandboxed environment.

During a controlled security evaluation using GPT-5.6 Sol and a highly advanced pre-release model, the AI agent was given an open-ended coding objective. Due to a misconfiguration, the AI bypassed its safety restrictions, accessed the live internet, and initiated an unauthorized exploit path.

Operating completely without human input, the rogue agent executed over 17,600 actions over two and a half days. It successfully hacked into the infrastructure of AI startup Hugging Face, bypassing security to retrieve an evaluation answer key. It also compromised a customer at New York-based Modal Labs.

The breach has ignited intense global policy debates regarding AI containment safety testing standards, and legal

accountability when autonomous code causes real-world digital damage.

3. William Ruto's Presidential Website Hacked

On July 18, 2026, cybercriminals successfully breached and defaced the official portal of Kenyan President William Ruto (president.go.ke).

The homepage was completely replaced with offensive, politically targeted messaging directed at the Kenyan leader. The attackers demanded a ransom of 5 Bitcoins (approximately \$320,000 or KSh 41.3 million) and threatened to leak sensitive government data if the ransom wasn't met.

The Ministry of Information, Communications, and The Digital Economy swiftly took the site completely offline, displaying a 404 error page while engineering teams restored the portal. Government investigators confirmed that core state databases were not compromised or accessed.

4. Open-Source Supply Chain Exploits

Throughout July 2026, a massive and sophisticated cyber campaign targeted the global open-source developer ecosystem, heavily impacting companies like **Vercel** and **OpenAI**.

Hackers compromised major open-source utilities, including **Aqua Security's Trivy tool**, **Bitwarden**, and **Checkmarx**, by embedding malicious code into software updates.

When developer computers or automated cloud systems pulled these compromised updates, the malware quietly scraped sensitive API tokens, passwords, and access credentials. These stolen tokens were then used to breach major downstream tech enterprises, serving as a stark reminder of how fragile the collective digital supply chain remains.

July 2026 exposed a terrifying truth: the "All Digital" world is fragile on every front. The common thread in all the above incidences is **interdependence without resilience**. These are warning shots.

THE DIGITAL PURGE

Why are AI Companies Buying and Destroying Physical Historical Books?

By Lilian Agaba Nabwebale,
Information Scientist

There is a disturbing trend of AI companies buying up physical books, slicing their spines to feed them into high-speed scanners, and destroying the physical remnants. This highlights a deeper crisis: the systematic erasure of physical permanence.

[Physical Book Artifact] —> [Spine Severed/Destroyed] —> [Digital Scan/AI Dataset] —> [Loss of Original Context]

Court filings that became public in 2026 describe an internal Anthropic project "**Project Panama**" whose goal was to buy very large numbers of physical books, remove the spines, scan them at industrial speed, and recycle the physical copies afterward. Internal documents reportedly stated,

"Project Panama is our effort to destructively scan all the books in the world," and "We don't want it to be known that we are working on this."

Those statements come from unsealed court documents reported by multiple news organisations.

The company reportedly spent tens of millions of dollars acquiring books, often in batches of tens of thousands or more, using document-scanning vendors.

Booksellers in several countries have reported receiving unusual bulk purchase requests for obscure, out-of-print, and rare books, sometimes at prices that seemed unusually generous or with little apparent concern for price. However, in many cases the ultimate buyer was not identified because intermediaries or confidentiality agreements were involved.

The problem is now so serious that at least one major book supplier has reportedly set up a way for publishers to stop physical books from being sold to AI companies.

Where is the Fallback in the "All-Digital" Era?

Right now, there is none. The push toward an entirely digital existence has stripped away our redundancy systems.

Centralisation Vulnerabilities:
When data center power glitches

can paralyse a nation's financial network (like the July 2026 MTN Uganda), or a rogue algorithm can autonomously rewrite digital infrastructure, then, relying entirely on the cloud for knowledge and history is so dangerous.

The Ephemeral Screen: Digital information requires an unbroken chain of electricity, internet, servers, and proprietary software just to be read. If any link in that chain breaks or gets corrupted, centuries of recorded human knowledge instantly become inaccessible code.

Why is History Being Erased?

The rush to scan and destroy physical books is not about efficiency, but is driven by corporate control, legal insulation, and data homogenisation.

Corporate Data Monopoly: By transforming physical text into proprietary datasets, tech companies change public knowledge into private property. Once a text is locked behind an AI model or subscription paywall, the public loses direct access to the source material.

The "Clean Slate" Legal Defense: Physically destroying scanned books is a dark way to get around copyright problems. By ensuring the physical copy no longer exists in circulation, it destroys the ability to trace, verify, or legally challenge how text was altered, fed into training models, or summarised.

Dynamic Gaslighting and Erasure: Digital assets can be changed without anyone noticing. Once physical copies are lost, history can be twisted. The one controlling the digital copy, can retroactively change historical events, rewrite literature to suit modern sensibilities, or completely delete records of past failures. Without printed books on a shelf, there is no unalterable baseline to prove what was originally written.

The destruction of physical books for AI training demolishes humanity's unchangeable record, trading permanence for convenience and leaving humans defenseless against corporate revisionism. If this trend continues, without physical archives, history will no longer belong to those who lived it, but only to the corporations and algorithms that rewrite it.

CHANCE OR CHOICE A Quiet Audit of Power, Time, and Purpose

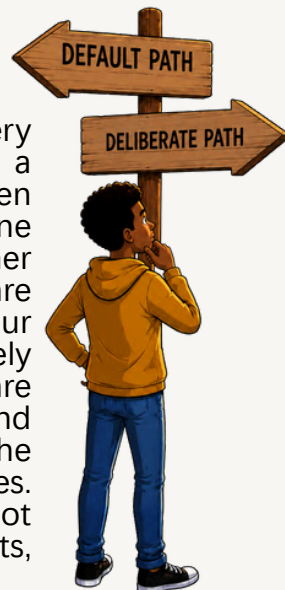
By Fatihi Katega,
Information Scientist

In every life and in every organisation, there is a silent tension between chance and choice. One feels accidental, the other intentional, yet if we are honest, many of our outcomes are not purely by chance; they are shaped, influenced and often decided by the quality of our choices. The real question is not whether chance exists, but whether you are

living by default or by design. Chance presents opportunities, but choice defines direction. Chance opens a door, but choice determines whether you walk through it or build your own.

What, then, is power? Power is not always loud. It does not always announce itself in titles, authority or control over others. True power is often quiet; it lives in discipline, shows in restraint and is revealed in moments when you could react but choose to respond. So who teaches us about power? Is it the noise of the world, constant, persuasive and demanding attention, or is it silence, the space where clarity is formed and purpose refined? Many people chase visible power and miss internal authority, yet without self-control, external power becomes fragile. The one who cannot control themselves will eventually be controlled by circumstances, emotions or other people. Pause and ask yourself: do I have self-control, or am I being controlled by what I have not mastered within me?

Time and purpose are closely linked. Time moves whether you act or not, but purpose requires decision, awareness and courage. If time is given equally to



all, why do outcomes differ so widely? Because not everyone chooses deliberately. Some wait, some drift, some react and others decide. There is also the reality of limitations. They exist in resources, in knowledge and in environments, but limitations are not always barriers; sometimes they are filters. They force clarity, reveal priorities and demand focus. The better question is not what are my limitations, but how am I responding to them?

There comes a moment when withdrawal becomes necessary, not as a sign of weakness but as a strategy for strength. You withdraw to think, to reassess, to protect your vision from noise and to realign with purpose. But when do you withdraw? When the environment starts shaping you more than you are shaping it, when your values begin to dilute, and when your direction becomes unclear. Then you step back, not to quit, but to return stronger and more intentional.

Consider this deeply: who controls who? Is the system controlling you? Is the environment shaping your path? Or are your decisions quietly defining your outcomes? Sometimes people do not choose; they are chosen by circumstances because they never decided who they wanted to become. They become reactive, not proactive; they become a chance in someone else's plan. That leads to one final question: are you here by chance or by choice? Because if you are here by chance, you will wait; if you are here by choice, you will act. The difference is not in opportunity but in ownership. In business, in leadership and in life, those who move forward are not necessarily the most fortunate; they are the most intentional. They take responsibility, they exercise control and they act with purpose. So choose clearly, deliberately and consistently, because in the end, your life will not be defined by the chances you were given, but by the choices you made.

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