

Review Article

Potential of Sense of Place in Cultural Heritage Conservation: A Systematic Review

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ABSTRACT

Sense of place is a fundamental aspect of cultural heritage conservation and management, as it plays an important role in understanding the connection between individuals and the places they inhabit. This study aims to provide heritage managers and scholars with up-to-date insights into the importance of a sense of place in maintaining cultural heritage. The main objectives of this research are to explore whether a sense of place's role in cultural heritage research has been adequately investigated and to assess the sense of place potential in cultural heritage conservation. We conducted a systematic literature review of 42 articles to achieve these goals. Through thematic analysis, this study reveals a sense of place's impact on various aspects of cultural heritage conservation. From the results, six prominent themes emerged, highlighting that a sense of place is a key determinant

in the effectiveness of cultural heritage management initiatives. Based on these findings, authors advocate for enhanced collaboration between the government and local communities, acknowledging the importance of heritage tourism and reinforcing policies for cultural heritage conservation to bolster the sense of place. In future research, examining a sense of place can expand to interdisciplinary intersections, quantitative studies, cross-

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national comparative research, and the exploration of the role of technology in augmenting both the sense of place and cultural heritage conservation.

Keywords: Conservation, culture heritage, sense of place, systematic review

INTRODUCTION

According to earlier research, residents' emotional, mental, and behavioral experiences are frequently gauged at the community level using sense of place (Ghoomi et al., 2015; Mohammad et al., 2013; Stedman, 2002). Numerous previous studies on topics pertaining to a sense of place and physical space demonstrated the extensive academic interest of researchers in the sense of place. Furthermore, and perhaps significantly, these studies demonstrate a strong correlation between cultural and social characteristics and the prevalence and strength of a feeling of place. Interactions between individuals and places generate a sense of place (Steele, 1981) and are mutually formed by ecological and cultural processes (Ryfield et al., 2019). Thus, knowledge about a place is a multifaceted subjective experience (Jorgensen & Stedman, 2006). Eisenhauer et al. (2000) demonstrated that the meaning of the environment is derived from people's social and cultural experiences. At the same time, it forms the ordinary meaning of culture and provides a reference for constructing a sense of place. Under the circumstances, social and cultural significance is crucial for converting space into place.

However, the framework within which heritage managers operate is increasingly being questioned due to the gap between past and present (Waterton, 2005). Thus, this study systematically reviews related articles to resolve the gap in the literature and comprehensively answers the research question. The sense of place is connected to the concept that certain physical, emotional, and spiritual connections can be made with particular places or places that are typically of personal or cultural significance. This attachment to and familiarity with a place has traditionally been associated with cultural heritage, which refers to the traditional values, customs, and beliefs transmitted across generations within a cultural group. Recently, a growing number of studies have attempted to determine how a sense of place might aid in conserving and promoting cultural heritage. Therefore, the present researchers conducted a review following the PRISMA 2020 Checklist and flow illustration proposed by Page et al. (2021). Using the Scopus, Molecular Diversity Preservation International (MDPI), Taylor and Francis Online, and SAGE databases to search for literature, this study reviews essential findings on the involvement of a sense of place in the management of cultural heritage from different countries and regions to examine the correlation between place and cultural heritage. This study addresses the following research topics: (i) whether the role of sense of place in cultural heritage research has been adequately explored and (ii) the potential of sense of place in cultural heritage conservation.

Simultaneously, this systematic literature review aims to synthesize the current published works on this topic and focuses on the interaction between the sense of place and the conservation and management of cultural heritage. Furthermore, this research tracked the trends and highlighted areas and directions for future research.

Literature Review

Collaboration between individuals and places produces a sense of place (Steele, 1981). Jorgensen and Stedman (2006) viewed it as a self-referential, organizational belief, an emotional and behavioral commitment, a generalized attitude toward the spatial environment, and a complex sociopsychological structure. The capacity to distinguish between many places and identities inside a place is the weakest consequence of a sense of place. Furthermore, over the past 20 years, a considerable number of academic researchers have focused on the sense of place and physical space. For instance, Pretty et al. (2003) employed a sense of place to reveal the attitudes of adolescents and adults toward rural remoteness under economic and sustainability pressures. Rogan et al. (2005) shed light on the changing perceptions and associations about the nature of the biophysical environment. Shamsuddin and Ujang (2008) underlined the value of place attachment in the sense of place to identify special and crucial locations in a particular sociocultural context. Soini et al. (2012) used a sense of place to examine

how people and the environment interact along urban-rural boundaries. Ellis and Albrecht (2017) examined how a sense of place in a community is impacted by climate change. Furthermore, Shaykh-Baygloo (2021) broadened the definition of a sense of place to encompass travel locales and concentrated on travelers' perceptions from diverse geographical, historical, social, and cultural backgrounds.

Furthermore, a sense of place is an experience of memory, tradition, history, culture, and society instead of a preset event (Ghoomi et al., 2015). In addition, it considers place relationships and views within their social and geographical contexts (Hay, 1998). Undoubtedly, the sense of place, which unites the user and place, plays a crucial part in the cultural context (Mohammad et al., 2013). Nonetheless, according to Hausmann et al. (2016), one of the greatest underappreciated cultural services is a sense of place while simultaneously demonstrating the importance of integrating place values into conservation decisions. To integrate the other benefits of cultural ecology with a sense of place, Ryfield et al. (2019) used material and socially generated features that can accommodate it.

Cultural identity and heritage are closely attached to a sense of place (Cantillon & Baker, 2022). However, Szymanski and Schofield (2016) recommended that, in the increasingly democratic management of change, sense of place is a strategy and procedure that can be understood, appraised, and considered in heritage practice.

Nevertheless, in heritage conservation practices, the operational tendency continues to prioritize concrete material structures, weakening groups and their sense of place (Lesh, 2020). In addition, Dutson and Convery (2007) reiterated that the idea of a sense of place is a potentially helpful mechanism for framing community sustainability projects and as a viable umbrella term for community heritage/cultural projects. A sense of place and cultural heritage are developed as a result of people interacting with their surroundings (Raatikainen & Barron, 2017). For local people, a sense of place is derived from the physical constraints of a settlement in space and the recognition of the settlement, which considerably enhances its sense of uniqueness and identity (Tuan, 1977). Moreover, da Silva and Pereira (2022) highlighted that meaningful, recognizable, and memorable features in physical spaces can promote a sense of place. Additionally, a sense of place is a symbol that renders a unique place and a characteristic of a certain geographical location that distinguishes it from other places (Parker & Doak, 2014). Alternatively, conserving heritage is essential because it contributes to sustainability, gives a feeling of place, and reflects and strengthens the identity of local communities.

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection and Screening

Systematic reviews, as opposed to other types of reviews, aim to determine the current level of knowledge in an area so that future

research objectives can be established (Page et al., 2021). It combines scientific evidence to provide a transparent and duplicable response to a particular research question while considering all available information on the issue and assessing the quality of such data (Lame, 2019). To minimize the risk of selection bias, Nightingale (2009) noted that researchers could establish inclusion and exclusion criteria and employ two or more independent reviewers to assess the inclusion of the studies under review. This process demonstrates systematic reviews' comprehensiveness, transparency, and rigor (Klassen et al., 1998; Weed, 2006).

Therefore, to determine the operational propositions of scholars in related fields on cultural heritage, the researchers conducted a systematic review of papers on the involvement of a sense of place in cultural heritage. The study's main focus was the recommended reporting item checks for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (Moher et al., 2009; Page et al., 2021). The 27 items on the suggested PRISMA 2020 item checklist by Page et al. (2021) were the subject of a systematic study. To prepare a systematic review paper, the researchers conducted a comprehensive literature search for journal articles published up to the end of January 2023.

The researchers created a review methodology to direct the literature search to minimize any bias resulting from post hoc revisions and modifications in the review procedure dependent on the review's goal. Scopus has been recognized as the largest database for abstracts and citations of peer-reviewed literature, with a broad range of

subjects and appropriate quality (Ghani et al., 2022). Additionally, the researchers used MDPI, Taylor & Francis Online, and SAGE individually as additional data sources to obtain more comprehensive literature. Second, the keywords selected for the search for discovering potential studies linked to the topic of interest were “sense of place” AND culture* AND heritage. Third, the researchers targeted articles with search terms in their titles, abstracts, and keywords. Finally, one of the researchers entered the search terms into the aforementioned online databases to screen all previous articles published in English in the social sciences and the arts and humanities. The last search was performed on February 2, 2023. Table 1 outlines the precise procedures for selecting papers for review.

Initially, the researchers identified 408 articles, including 321 articles retrieved from Scopus using TITLE-ABS-KEY. However, the results of content retrieval limited to the title, abstract, and keywords were 0. Therefore, the researchers made appropriate adjustments for the three other databases. Only the pre-determined search terms were checked in the abstract. As a result, the study identified 37 articles from Taylor & Francis Online and seven articles from SAGE. In addition, the study retrieved 43 articles by entering the search terms in the Title/Keyword search bar in MDPI. Following the flowchart shown in Figure 1, 42 of the 408 identified articles were screened for review.

Table 1
Steps and results of the review

Step	Stage	Criteria/Reasons	Result	
			Included	Excluded
1	Identification	Enter the set search terms in the title, abstract, and keywords	408	–
2	Screening	Discipline: Social sciences or humanities and arts Language: English Article type: Article Duplicate	174	234
		Exclude articles that are irrelevant or weakly relevant to the research question	86	88
3	Eligibility	Reason 1: Only focus on a sense of place. Reason 2: Only focus on cultural heritage. Reason 3: Focus neither on a sense of place nor cultural heritage Reason 4: Not a journal article	42	44
4	Included		42	

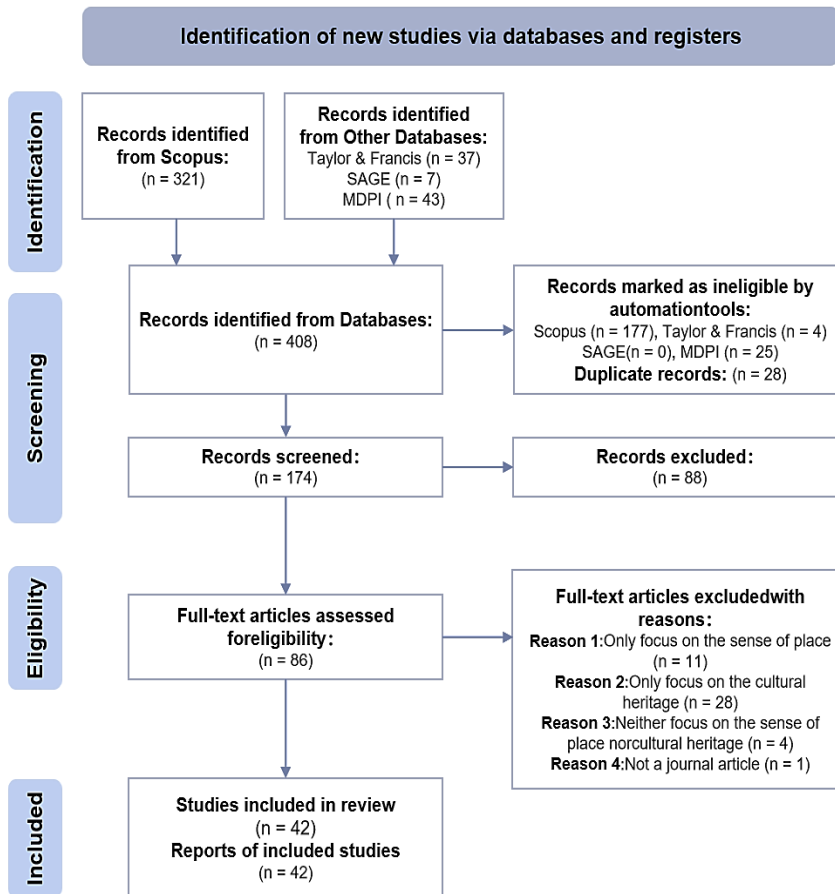


Figure 1. PRISMA chart for reporting systematic reviews

Data Analysis

Considering the context of diverse regional, methodological, and thematic approaches in examining the sense of place in cultural heritage conservation, this study used thematic analysis to comprehensively assess the outcomes of the current state of academic research and identify existing gaps. As an independent qualitative descriptive method, thematic analysis helps identify, analyze, and report data (Braun & Clarke, 2012). Building upon Braun and Clarke's

(2006) six-step method, along with insights from Tozan's (2023) study, the researchers summarized the thematic analysis process as follows: (1) data integration and preparation, (2) coding, (3) classification of themes, and (4) interpretation and drawing conclusions. To minimize bias, three independent researchers individually classified the themes of the selected papers, and after their respective results were examined as a group, they engaged in discussions to reach a consensus (Ayres, 2008).

Thematic analysis was used to code and categorize data into themes for the final set of 42 selected articles. It allowed the researchers to accurately identify relationships between concepts and compare them with the data collected, connecting various learner concepts and perspectives from different conditions throughout the project. The literature was categorized by publication year, country, research methodology, and thematic tags to gain insight into cultural heritage conservation. Through thematic analysis, similar and related themes in different articles were compared and summarized, revealing key issues, research trends, and findings related to a sense of place in cultural heritage conservation. The coding, based on research methodology and themes, further

helped understand the methodological characteristics and thematic focuses of studying the sense of place in cultural heritage conservation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overview of Existing Research

The researchers coded the final 42 articles. The coding aims to enhance the accuracy of the analysis while establishing a solid foundation for the impending comprehensive overview and assessment, ensuring the rigor of both theoretical and empirical dimensions. Table 2 depicts that the researchers first included the year of publication, authors, study area, a list of research topics, and research methodologies for each article.

Table 2
Details of articles included in the review

No.	Research (authors) and year	Country	Methodology	Topic tags
1	Cantillon and Baker (2022)	Australia	Qualitative	Heritage site-management
2	da Silva and Pereira (2022)	Portugal	Qualitative	Landscape elements (paving)
3	Csurgó and Smith (2022)	Hungary	Qualitative	Cultural-ecosystem
4	Bindi et al. (2022)	Italy	Qualitative	Biocultural Heritage (sustainability)
5	Bahauddin et al. (2022)	Malaysia	Qualitative	Built heritage-composition
6	Al-Alawi et al. (2022)	Germany	Qualitative	Built heritage-sustainability
7	Chen and Shih (2022)	China	Qualitative	Intangible cultural heritage (Folk belief)
8	Muhammad et al. (2020)	Nigeria	Qualitative	Landscape (place-name)
9	Ng and Feng (2020)	China	Quantitative	Heritage site (attitude)
10	Dogan and Kan (2020)	-	Qualitative	Heritage site (immersive)
11	Misirlisoy (2020)	Hungary	Qualitative	Built heritage (authenticity and identity)

Table 2 (continue)

No.	Research (authors) and year	Country	Methodology	Topic tags
12	Hussein et al. (2020)	Egypt	Qualitative	Landscape (component: square)
13	da Silva (2019)	Portugal	Qualitative	Geodiversity (Coats of arms)
14	Gallou and Fouseki (2019)	The United Kingdom	Qualitative	Landscape (sustainability)
15	Taylor (2019)	China	Qualitative	Landscape (cultural values)
16	Lillevold and Haarstad (2019)	Norway	Qualitative	Heritage site (sustainability)
17	Garcia et al. (2018)	Ecuador	Quantitative	Built environment (place attachment)
18	Tan et al. (2018)	Malaysia	Qualitative	Intangible cultural heritage (community)
19	Savić (2017)	Portugal	Qualitative	Cultural mapping (contemporary city)
20	Auer et al. (2017)	Argentina	Qualitative	Cultural (ecosystem)
21	Skjeggedal and Overvåg (2017)	Norway	Qualitative	Heritage site (management)
22	Khakzad and Griffith (2016)	The United States	Mixed	cultural ecosystem (sustainability)
23	Craith et al. (2016)	-	Qualitative	Virtual heritage (film)
24	Ujang (2016)	Malaysia	Qualitative	Historical places
25	Poe et al. (2016)	The United States	Qualitative	Cultural (ecosystem)
26	Yung and Chan (2015)	China	Quantitative	Built heritage (willingness to pay for conserving)
27	Lau and Li (2015)	China	Quantitative	Intangible cultural heritage (Cultural festival)
28	Ivanovic (2014)	South Africa	Quantitative	Heritage site (authenticity)
29	Azmi et al. (2014)	Malaysia	Qualitative	Built environment (place identity)
30	Yung et al. (2014)	China	Mixed	Heritage site (sustainability)
31	Howell and Chilcott (2013)	-	Qualitative	Digital heritage
32	Borrelli and Davis (2012)	-	Qualitative	Eco-museum
33	Wang (2011)	China	Qualitative	Heritage site (authenticity)
34	Wells (2010)	The United States	Qualitative	Built heritage (cultural values)
35	Haas (2009)	Croatia	Qualitative	Landscape (component: square)

Table 2 (continue)

No.	Research (authors) and year	Country	Methodology	Topic tags
36	Malpas (2008)	-	Qualitative	New media (possibilities and limits)
37	Budruk et al. (2008)	The United States	Quantitative	Heritage site (authenticity)
38	Dutson and Convery (2007)	The United Kingdom	Qualitative	Community (sustainability)
39	Waterton (2005)	The United Kingdom	Qualitative	Landscape (component)
40	Jamal and Hill (2004)	-	Qualitative	Heritage site (authenticity)
41	Kaltenborn and Williams (2002)	Norway	Quantitative	Heritage site (place attachment)
42	Stewart et al. (1998)	New Zealand	Qualitative	Heritage site (evaluation of interpretation)

Note. “-” indicates that these articles do not specify or mention any countries

Over the previous decades, various articles have discovered that a sense of place can help conserve cultural heritage. Figure 2 clearly illustrates that among the 42 selected studies, the most significant number was published in 2022; 29 research articles were published after 2013, and the remaining 13 were published in or before 2013. In

addition, the earliest published related articles date back to 1998. According to statistical analysis of the number of articles published from 1998 to 2022, increasing numbers of scholars have gradually explored a sense of place in cultural heritage despite fluctuations.

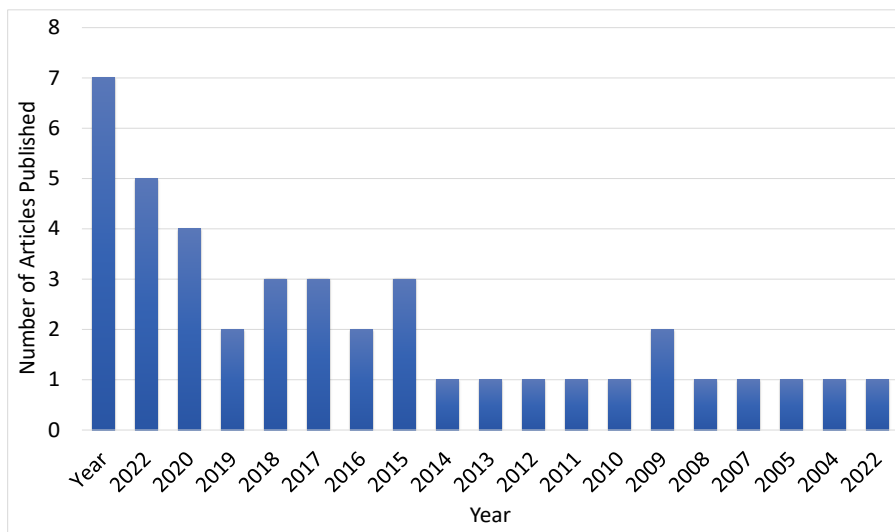


Figure 2. Number of included articles published by year

Second, the selected studies were conducted in various countries and settings. Except for six studies that did not mention the region involved, the remaining ones were conducted in 17 countries: Argentina, Australia, China, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, South

Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States (Figure 3). Developing and developed countries accounted for approximately 35% and 65%, respectively. Moreover, according to the articles, 15 and 21 involved developing and developed countries, accounting for approximately 42% and 58%, respectively.

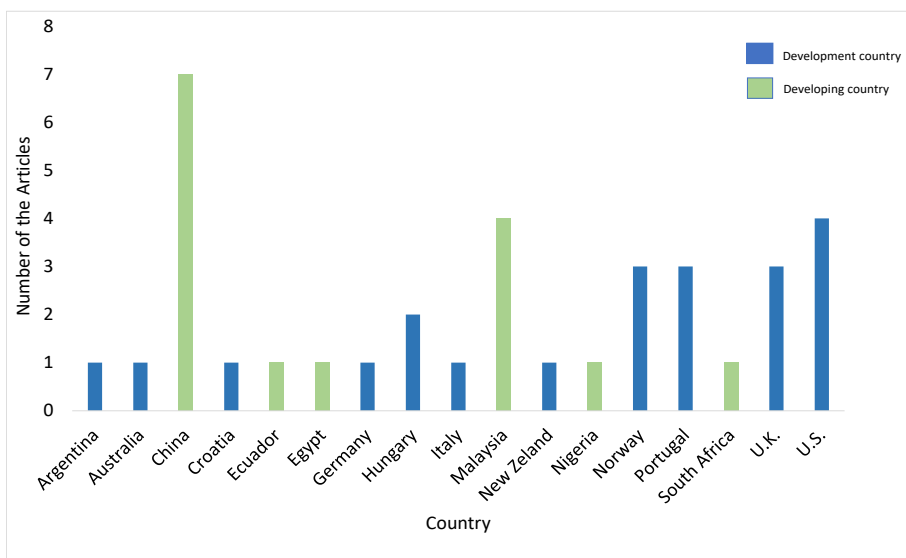


Figure 3. Countries covered by the study

As demonstrated in Figure 4, qualitative research represents 78% of the total. In contrast, only seven articles (17%) were conducted using quantitative methods, while the remaining 5% employed qualitative and quantitative techniques. The predominance of qualitative methods suggests that they are preferred for analysis; it mostly depends on the sense of place being a highly subjective and contextual phenomenon. In addition, qualitative research provides an in-depth understanding of a subject under

the local scale or in a specific scenario because it is primarily based on interviews and observations and emphasizes a deep understanding of individuals and groups that can excavate emotions, motivations, and culture behind the connotations of the sense of place. However, compared with qualitative research, quantitative methods focus on quantitative data, suitable for a large-scale and comprehensive understanding of people’s overall sense of place.

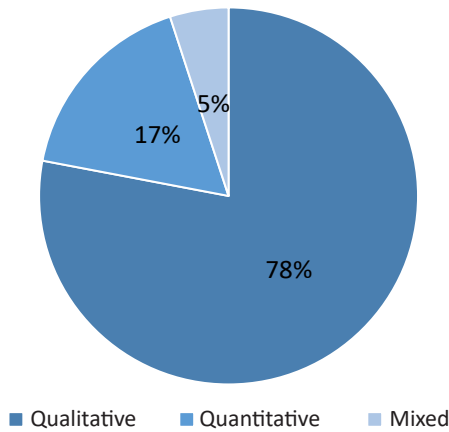


Figure 4. Percentages of the research methodologies of the selected articles

Throughout the coding process, the researchers recorded thematic keywords from the abstracts that concisely conveyed the article’s focus. Subsequently, they categorized these keywords into thematic tags, representing the cultural themes identified during the rapid abstract review. From these tags, the researchers further synthesized the insight that all articles report

the interdependence between a sense of place and the conservation and management of cultural heritage. These articles cover material from anthropology, geography, tourism, and heritage management to architecture, among other fields. However, the research mainly focuses on six topics: cultural ecosystem, heritage site, intangible cultural heritage, built heritage, and built environment (Figure 5). Additionally, a few scholars explore the significance of a sense of place in other heritage fields, including new media (Malpas, 2008), eco-museum (Borrelli & Davis, 2012), and digital heritage (Howell & Chilcott, 2013). Moreover, most of these publications stress the importance of a sense of place in maintaining cultural sites.

Relationship Between Sense of Place and Cultural Heritage

To delve deeper into the results, researchers will continue to utilize the coding numerals outlined in Table 2 for a more systematic

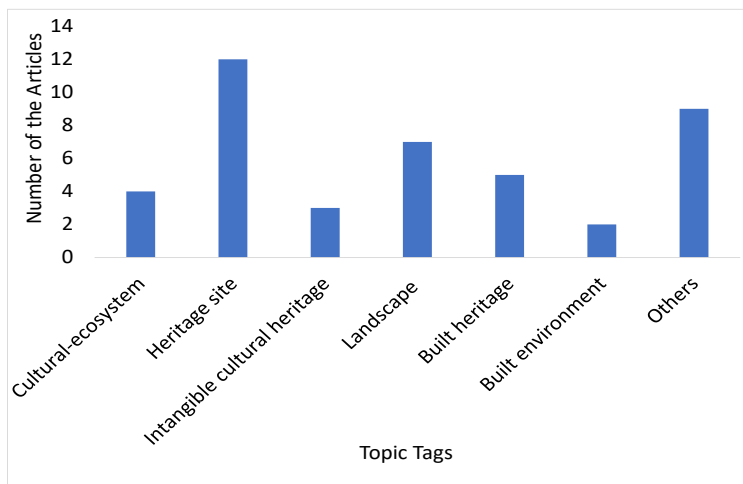


Figure 5. Statistics of research topics

and refined classification and organization of the themes and subthemes within the selected literature. All pertinent data will be methodically arranged in Table 3.

Table 3
Themes and sub-themes of the selected articles

Themes	Subthemes	Articles	Examples
Contribution of sense of place (SOP) to cultural heritage (CH)	Conservation and preservation of CH	1,5, 6, 7, 34, 41	<p>1: “... sense of place is as much about what shapes the meanings of a heritage site as it is about how that site and its meanings contribute to cultivating individual and collective identity.” (Cantillon & Baker, 2022, p. 107)</p> <p>5: “The sense of interiority established through the sense of place of St. Peter’s Church creates an intimate, reassurance and safeness of the constructed narrative and imageries towards the Portuguese descendants, despite changes in the modern society.” (Bahauddin et al., 2022, p. 70)</p>
	Sustainability of CH	9, 17, 18, 30, 37	<p>9: “A strong sense of place of tourism site, implying that a person had accumulated a lot of experiences about the tourism site, probably caused greater sensitivity to the benefits and costs brought by tourism.” (Ng & Feng, 2020, p. 12)</p> <p>17: “Place attachment and challenges of historic cities A qualitative empirical study on heritage values in Cuenca, Ecuador” (Garcia et al., 2018, p. 397)</p>
Contribution of CH to SOP	Creating an SOP	2, 3, 13, 17, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32,35, 39	<p>2: “The calçada is a meaningful, recognizable, and memorable trait of Lisbon, having become crucial for its image, for its memorability, which in turn generates sense of place.” (da Silva & Pereira, 2022, p. 98)</p> <p>3: “...cultural heritage is clearly an essential resource used to shape a sense of place and identities in rural place-making and potentially, tourism development.” (Csurgó & Smith, 2022, p. 14)</p> <p>13: “As noted by Gray (2004), one important manifestation of the cultural value of geodiversity is the strong bond experienced by human communities... when interacting with aspects of their physical environment. These emotional and social ties to native geodiversity provide humans with a feeling of belongingness, of local identity; in other words, they contribute to their sense of place.” (da Silva, 2019, p. 950)</p>

Table 3 (continue)

Themes	Subthemes	Articles	Examples
	Developing an SOP	4, 10, 16, 21, 31, 38, 40, 42	4: “Moreover, shared rules about architecture recovery and transborder development of a pastoral/tourist route (La Routo) show awareness about a development process based on local culture and sense of place, anticipating regional/national laws addressing local policies toward local cultural heritage valorization as a crucial element of territorial regeneration.” (Bindi et al., 2022, p. 18) 16: “We would argue that the link between sustainable urban development and cultural heritage in Røros is mainly associated with the fact that it creates a strong sense of place and keen involvement in local affairs and the development of the city.” (Lillevold & Haarstad, 2019, p. 10)
	Sustainability of an SOP	8, 12, 14, 33, 38,	14: “...the link between sustainable urban development and cultural heritage in Røros is mainly associated with the fact that it creates a strong sense of place and keen involvement in local affairs and the development of the city.” (Gallou & Fouseki, 2019, p. 357) 33: “The over-emphasis of the authenticity in tourist setting interrupts the continuity of collective memory of local residents and damages the authenticity in its sense of place.” (Wang, 2011, p. 28)
	Ecology	20, 25	20: “According to the participants, close connection with the natural landscape in general and with the sierras in particular was the principal supply of sense of place,....” (Auer et al., 2017, p. 92)
	Threats and opportunities of new media in CH and SOP	36	36: “The problem with taking this latter sense of ‘place’—place as significant locale—as the basis for thinking further about the sense of place as it relates to new media and to cultural heritage is that it does not actually take us very far at all.” (Malpas, 2008, p. 201)
Others	Loss of CH identity leading to loss of SOP	11, 19	11: “Loss of relationships between sustainability, community and cultural heritage causes the loss of sense of place and identity.” (Mısırlısoy, 2020, p. 13)
	Role of place attachment in SOP and CH	15, 24	15: “... place attachment is developed as a result of interaction in diverse activities. The significance commercial functions of the historic places are mixed with cultural, educational and recreational activities have sustained the sense of place.” (Taylor, 2019, p. 97)

A sense of place is essential for cultural heritage to be conserved and survived. The first dimension is the contribution of a sense of place in conserving cultural heritage. For example, Article 5 analyzed the importance of a sense of place by exploring the history and culture ingrained in St. Peter's Church of Melaka (Bahauddin et al., 2022). Furthermore, Article 6 extensively examined the status of the advocacy of a sense of place in cultural and architectural heritage (Al-Alawi et al., 2022). Article 7 drew attention to how a sense of place affects religious, architectural, and cultural heritage (Chen & Shih, 2022). Article 34 explored the role of revival cultures in establishing a sense of place, which reveals the treatments that revival cultures consider acceptable for their historic environment and the ethical notions of *authenticity* and *honesty* to which traditional revival cultures adhere (Wells, 2010). Alternatively, Article 1 discussed the contribution of a sense of place to the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (Cantillon & Baker, 2022).

Article 41 highlighted how a well-defined sense of place can harmoniously reconcile the often conflicting interests of conserving cultural heritage and granting public access to it (Kaltenborn & Williams, 2002). The sustainability of cultural heritage is the second dimension, which is influenced by a sense of place. Article 9 explored the maintenance of cultural heritage and its conservation through residents' attitudes toward cultural tourism in World Heritage sites (Ng & Feng, 2020). Although Article 17 argued that place attachment could

effectively enhance the sustainability of heritage values (Garcia et al., 2018), Article 30 investigated this aspect to systematize the implementation of community restoration strategies better (Yung et al., 2014). Conversely, Article 37 emphasized its importance in linking tourists and people to places (Budruk et al., 2008). Article 18 discussed the significance of human-place integration in the sustainability of intangible cultural heritage (Tan et al., 2018).

Second, a powerful sense of place in three dimensions is influenced by cultural heritage. The first is the important role of cultural heritage in shaping a sense of place. By examining the sense of place and tourism, Article 3 revealed the broad character of the importance of cultural heritage (Csurgó & Smith, 2022). Article 22 focused on the contribution of the material culture of fisheries to a sense of place (Khakzad & Griffith, 2016). Articles 13 and 2 provided examples of the key role of geography in establishing a sense of place (da Silva, 2019; da Silva & Pereira, 2022). Moreover, Article 13 shifted their attention to the sustainability of heritage values (Garcia et al., 2018). Article 23 emphasized constructing a new sense of place (Craith et al., 2016). Additionally, Article 26 confirmed the role of historical sites in place identity (Yung & Chan, 2015). Article 32 focused on the function of ecomuseums in preserving heritage (Borrelli & Davis, 2012).

Meanwhile, Article 27 concluded the critical importance of religion and social connection and imagined locality in the sense of place of people (Lau & Li, 2015).

Article 38 argues that authentic heritage attributes contribute to a sense of place (Ivanovic, 2014). Article 29 found that the physical built environment is an important starting factor for place identity (Azmi et al., 2014), in addition to Article 35, which argued that the built environment is a main factor in creating a sense of place (Haas, 2009). Meanwhile, Article 39 focused on the character of archaeological perspectives in British cultural landscapes and stated that museum landscapes provide identity, a sense of belonging, and a sense of place (Waterton, 2005). These origins demonstrate that cultural heritage is important in establishing a sense of place.

The next dimension is the contribution of cultural heritage to creating a sense of place, and scholars explore the contribution of cultural heritage management to creating a sense of place. Article 21 highlighted that cultural heritage management contributes to the improvement of a place (Skjeggedal & Overvåg, 2017). The importance of digital heritage and interpretive practice in generating a meaningful sense of place was emphasized by Articles 16 and 31 (Howell & Chilcott, 2013; Lillevold & Haarstad, 2019). Article 38 emphasizes a sense of place and community development (Dutson & Convery, 2007). Moreover, the importance of historical sites to immersive experiences was examined by Dogan and Kan (2020; Article 10). To improve people's comprehension of place, Article 42 created a novel method for assessing cultural heritage interpretive services (Stewart et al., 1998).

Furthermore, Article 4 explored the critical role of biocultural heritage in developing a sense of place (Bindi et al., 2022). Alternatively, Article 40 developed a professional framework of authenticity indicators for cultural heritage tourism, which provides essential guidance for conserving cultural heritage (Jamal & Hill, 2004). Articles 8 and 12 also confirm that place names might conjure cultural landscape heritage, while cultural memory is a crucial aspect that influences the sense of place (Hussein et al., 2020; Muhammad et al., 2020). Articles 14 and 33 demonstrated how cultural heritage might contribute to the social sustainability of a rural landscape (Gallou & Fouseki, 2019; Wang, 2011), whereas Article 38 focused on the larger dimension of sense of place and community development (Dutson & Convery, 2007). These aspects construct a third dimension, the critical value of cultural heritage in maintaining a sense of place.

In addition to the two abovementioned aspects, some studies emphasized other areas. Article 20 examined the importance of the natural environment in creating identity, sense of place, and cultural legacy (Auer et al., 2017). Meanwhile, Article 25 revealed the special function of a sense of place in ecological restoration (Poe et al., 2016). Article 36 used a new media lens to evaluate the opportunities and challenges that arise between cultural heritage and sense of place (Malpas, 2008). Article 11 pointed out that the loss of identity dependence on heritage buildings will firmly squeeze

the sense of place (Misırlısoy, 2020), and Article 19 posited that cultural maps provide a specific basis for reshaping the sense of place (Savić, 2017). According to Taylor (2019; Article 38), place attachment and cultural values impact a sense of place and cultural heritage landscapes. Article 24 investigated emotional perceptions derived from attachment to historical urban places in Kuala Lumpur (Ujang, 2016).

Potential of Sense of Place in Cultural Heritage

The importance of a sense of place has been

recognized in conserving cultural heritage as a crucial factor in sustaining the distinctive cultural worth of a region. A sense of place is a pervasive, deep-rooted, and enduring sense of identity and attachment to a place (Azmi et al., 2014). As a multidimensional concept, the sense of place is often difficult to measure, but it is crucial for understanding the value of a particular place and the role it plays in conserving or preserving cultural heritage. Table 4 summarizes the potential of a sense of place in cultural heritage after the researchers examined them.

Table 4
Potential of a sense of place in cultural heritage

Potential of sense of place in cultural heritage	Articles	Examples
Encourages social sustainability	14, 20, 21.22, 25, 39	21: <i>“The focus in planning and management should shift from the competitive attractiveness approach towards using cultural heritage to strengthen inhabitants’ knowledge, identity and ‘sense of place’ as part of a local community development approach.”</i> (Skjeggedal & Overvåg, 2017, p. 43)
Facilitates visitor engagement and interpretation of cultural heritage	4, 7, 10, 20, 30, 33, 36, 42	10: <i>“Sense of place is intrinsic part of this model for the visitor in order to become part of the context and enjoy the immersive experience.”</i> (Dogan & Kan, 2020, p. 95) 42: <i>“Sense of place is a valid, probing and insightful conceptual tool in evaluation... it expresses the interrelationships between people and their experience of place, and services such as interpretation that enhance or impede those experiences”</i> (Stewart et al., 1998, p. 265)
Promotes community building and development and supports local revitalization	2, 6, 12, 15, 27, 31, 34, 35, 38	12: <i>“...intangible values such as memories, sense of place, place attachment and identity are very important for marking the place experience and are responsible for psychosocial well-being”</i> (Hussein et al., 2020, p. 10) 38: <i>“Nevertheless, the concept of sense of place appears to be a potentially useful mechanism to frame community sustainability projects and to serve as a viable umbrella term for community-based heritage/cultural projects.”</i> (Dutson & Convery, 2007, p. 45)

Table 4 (continue)

Potential of sense of place in cultural heritage	Articles	Examples
Strengthens identity and fosters a sense of belonging	3, 8, 10, 13, 16, 23, 29, 32	29: “ <i>Symbiosis between physical forms of environment and social meanings are central to the delineation of identity.</i> ” (Azmi et al., 2014, p. 62) 32: “ <i>Globalization and cultural homogenization have been factors in this rediscovery of local heritage and territorial identity.</i> ” (Borrelli & Davis, 2012, p. 36)
Develops heritage tourism	3, 9, 16, 18, 28, 40	3: “ <i>Sometimes, it may be as fruitful to focus on the sense of place, cultural heritage conservation or the revival of traditions and identity creation for local communities to try to develop tourism.</i> ” (Csurgó & Smith, 2022, p. 14)
Promotes the protection and preservation of cultural heritage	1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 11, 21, 24, 26, 33, 37, 41	26: “ <i>The results indicate that sense of place, social inclusion and cohesion and community participation are significantly correlated to the willingness to pay per month amount.</i> ” (Yung & Chan, 2015, p. 98) 33: “ <i>If the priority objective of preserving a historic city is to continue the local way of life, it is important to approach the discourses of authenticity of a historic city from the settlement’s integrity, including the authenticity in physical setting, tourist setting and sense of place.</i> ” (Wang, 2011, p. 18)

The first finding is that a sense of place is essential for appreciating the importance of cultural heritage and its importance in promoting social sustainability. Several studies determined the role of a sense of place in promoting sustainable development, protecting traditional rural biomes, and supporting local transformation (Auer et al., 2017; Gallou & Fouseki, 2019; Khakzad & Griffith, 2016; Poe et al., 2016; Skjeggedal & Overvåg, 2017; Waterton, 2005). The selected studies emphasized the significance of comprehending people’s emotional and psychological ties to particular places and how these ties may encourage environmentally friendly growth and cultural heritage conservation.

Second, a sense of place can facilitate visitor engagement and the explanation of cultural heritage. Studies that explored the use of immersive experiences, digital interpretation, and new media as tools for encouraging visitor engagement and appreciation of cultural heritage support this finding (Bindi et al., 2022; Dogan & Kan, 2020; Malpas, 2008; Stewart et al., 1998). These articles and those of da Silva and Pereira (2022) and Wang (2011) demonstrate how a sense of place may foster memorable experiences for tourists, advance one’s knowledge of the cultural heritage of a place, and motivate stewardship of these places.

Third, a sense of place benefits community building and development and supports local revitalization. Research on the importance of a sense of place in community development demonstrates that sense of place can be used to strengthen connections among community members and foster social cohesion and a sense of belonging (Al-Alawi et al., 2022; Dutson & Convery, 2007; Haas, 2009; Howell & Chilcott, 2013; Hussein et al., 2020; Lau & Li, 2015; Savić, 2017; Taylor, 2019; Wells, 2010). Moreover, these studies examine how a sense of place could encourage local revitalization, foster community growth, and deepen the bond between individuals and their surroundings.

Fourth, a sense of place reinforces identity and a sense of belonging. According to the stream of research on the relationship between place and self-identity (Azmi et al., 2014; Borrelli & Davis, 2012; Craith et al., 2016; Csurgó & Smith, 2022; da Silva, 2019; Dogan & Kan, 2020; Lillevold & Haarstad, 2019; Muhammad et al., 2020), understanding the emotional and psychological ties of people to particular places is crucial for fostering sustainable development, conserving cultural heritage, and for leveraging places to promote a sense of belonging and strengthen identity.

Fifth, creating historic tourism requires a strong sense of place. Research exploring the context of tourism emphasizes understanding the relationship between a sense of place and tourism experience. Moreover, it examines how a sense of place can be harnessed to promote sustainable tourism and used to

increase visitor engagement and satisfaction (Csurgó & Smith, 2022; Ivanovic, 2014; Jamal & Hill, 2004; Lillevold & Haarstad, 2019; Ng & Feng, 2020; Tan et al., 2018).

Finally, a sense of place is becoming an increasingly vital component of conserving and preserving cultural heritage. According to several studies, a sense of place is essential for conservation efforts and the preservation of cultural heritage. Apart from this notion, these studies focused on what it means to grasp the use of a sense of place to advance cultural heritage conservation, sustainable development of cultural heritage, and the preservation of traditional and indigenous cultural practices (Bahauddin et al., 2022; Budruk et al., 2008; Cantillon & Baker, 2022; da Silva & Pereira, 2022; Dogan & Kan, 2020; Garcia et al., 2018; Kaltenborn & Williams, 2002; Mısırlısoy, 2020; Muhammad et al., 2020; Skjeggedal & Overvåg, 2017; Ujang, 2016; Wang, 2011; Yung & Chan, 2015).

CONCLUSION

This systematic literature review illuminates the multifaceted role of the sense of place in cultural heritage conservation. The synthesis of reviewed articles underscores that the sense of place is instrumental in bolstering sustainable development, amplifying visitor engagement, and adeptly facilitating the digital interpretation of cultural and architectural heritage.

Nevertheless, this nexus inherently presents challenges and complexities. Integrating evolving digital technologies, including virtual and augmented reality,

poses opportunities and challenges. These advancements offer innovative modalities to engage with and experience cultural heritage. However, they also bring critical questions regarding the potential dilution of the authentic and intrinsic sense of place, necessitating a nuanced and rigorous exploration of phenomenological approaches and the embodiment of cultural narratives.

Furthermore, while the sense of place's influential role is evident, gaps and opportunities for enrichment in applying this concept within the conservation practice persist. A nuanced understanding of its interplay with sustainable development, digital interpretation, and enhancing visitor engagement and satisfaction is requisite. It is compounded by the linguistic limitation of this review, which is confined to English-language sources, thus underscoring a need for more inclusive, varied, and cross-cultural research engagements.

While the review affirms the integral role of the sense of place in cultural heritage conservation, it concurrently illuminates the necessity for an expanded and more inclusive research landscape. Focusing on cross-cultural, multidisciplinary, and technologically integrated approaches is paramount to unveil the latent potentials and address the intricate challenges inherent in the dynamic interplay between the sense of place and cultural heritage conservation. The pivotal findings of this review, thus, serve not only as an affirmation but also as a clarion call for a deeper, broader, and more nuanced engagement in the ongoing

discourse on cultural heritage conservation in the contemporary global landscape.

Implication for Practice

The selected articles in this review demonstrate a strong link between a sense of place and cultural heritage conservation and the potential of a sense of place in the conservation of cultural heritage. The selected studies demonstrate that a sense of place is crucial in conserving cultural heritage and preserving and managing cultural resources. Therefore, this comprehensive research assessment demonstrates the promise of a sense of place in conserving cultural heritage. The results can encourage the sustainable development of cultural heritage, increase visitor engagement and satisfaction, and facilitate the preservation of cultural and architectural heritage. In this regard, a sense of place is crucial for conserving and preserving cultural heritage sites and landscapes. Consequently, in cultural heritage management and conservation practices, governments and relevant institutions may consider adopting several measures to enhance the importance of a sense of place.

A primary and essential approach for governments and cultural heritage managers is to promote social sustainability through close collaboration with local communities. This objective can be effectively achieved by organizing community activities, workshops, and educational programs tailored to heighten people's awareness of and active participation in their cultural heritage. Community involvement is highlighted in

these efforts as it fosters a stronger sense of ownership and responsibility among residents towards their cultural heritage.

Furthermore, by recognizing the pivotal role of tourism in several regions, governments can actively support the development of sustainable tourism projects. It entails encouraging tourists to appreciate cultural heritage and ensuring they respect and protect it. Measures include establishing guidelines for visitor behavior, providing cultural education, and actively facilitating interaction between tourists and local communities.

Finally, governments should reinforce cultural heritage protection policies to ensure that sites with a strong sense of place receive proper conservation. It includes offering financial support, strengthening cultural heritage protection regulations, and actively involving communities in conserving their cultural heritage. These comprehensive measures collectively promote and safeguard cultural heritage with a deep-rooted sense of place.

Future Outlooks

This systematic literature review reveals the intricate relationship between a sense of place and the conservation and management of cultural heritage, encompassing various disciplinary domains such as anthropology, geography, tourism studies, heritage management, and architecture. Therefore, future research endeavors can further explore the intersections among these disciplines to gain a comprehensive understanding of the role of a sense of place. Interdisciplinary

research can contribute to uncovering best practices from different fields, thereby better addressing cultural heritage conservation challenges.

Furthermore, while qualitative research has played a pivotal role in elucidating the complexity and profundity of a sense of place, future research can use more quantitative methodologies to quantify the impact of a sense of place on cultural heritage. Researchers can provide quantitative evidence to assist decision-makers in comprehending the importance of a sense of place by using surveys, statistical analyses, and data modeling. It is conducive to a better understanding people's perceptions and emotions of cultural heritage sites and avoids the limitation of relying extensively on individual subjective experiences.

In addition, future research may consider conducting more cross-national comparative studies to understand the similarities and differences in the sense of place across diverse cultural contexts. For example, additional research on wealthy and developing nations is required to broaden the geographic focus and raise the bar on methodology. Comparative research can offer a broader perspective, promoting sharing of best practices in cultural heritage conservation on a global scale. It will aid in determining the universality of a sense of place in various cultural and geographical settings and potential cultural variations.

Finally, as digitalization and new media continue to advance, future research can explore the role of these technologies in enhancing a sense of place and cultural

heritage conservation. Subsequent studies may focus on how virtual reality, augmented reality, and social media enhance visitor engagement and disseminate cultural heritage. It will contribute to the convergence of cultural heritage management and technology.

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