



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Memory of
the World

SAFEGUARDING THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE OF HUMANITY



While stone, papyrus, parchment and paper formerly contained the evidence of our past, radio, film, television and the Internet are the canvas of modern life.

In a world where emphasis is placed on speed and where life is becoming increasingly hurried, we must take time to conserve the records of what defines our roots, our past and our existence.

To this end, in 1992, UNESCO created the Memory of the World Programme.

Book from the collection of Sigismund Augustus
Bound in Vilnius in 1557
Photo : Vilnius University Library



The map of the world as imagined by Ibn-al-Wardi founded in 698 C. E.
Photo : National Library of the Czech Republic, Prague



Inventory of the estate of Lachwa
(Coat of arms of the Radziwills and the first page of the text)
Dated in 1672
Photo: The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw (AGAD)



Damage by insects on an oriental manuscript
Dated around 1276
Photo : C. Karadana

A SHARED MEMORY

Documentary heritage in archives, libraries and museums constitutes a major part of the memory of the peoples of the world and reflects the diversity of peoples, language and cultures. However, this memory is fragile.

Millions of textual and print items such as books, manuscripts, newspapers, photographs and governmental records; millions of films, audio and video tapes and discs are at risk of crumbling into dust or fading away and disappearing for eternity! Floods and fires, storms and earthquakes can destroy our heritage overnight. Humidity, heat, dust and salt-laden atmospheres also play their part, and losses can arise from technical obsolescence as well as physical decay affecting not only traditional carriers but also the new digital media.

Together, we must act to preserve this heritage, mobilize efforts and resources so that future generations can enjoy our legacy. Not taking action will result in the loss of entire chapters of our heritage and lead to impoverishment of the global identity.

Only collective action can save our documentary heritage!

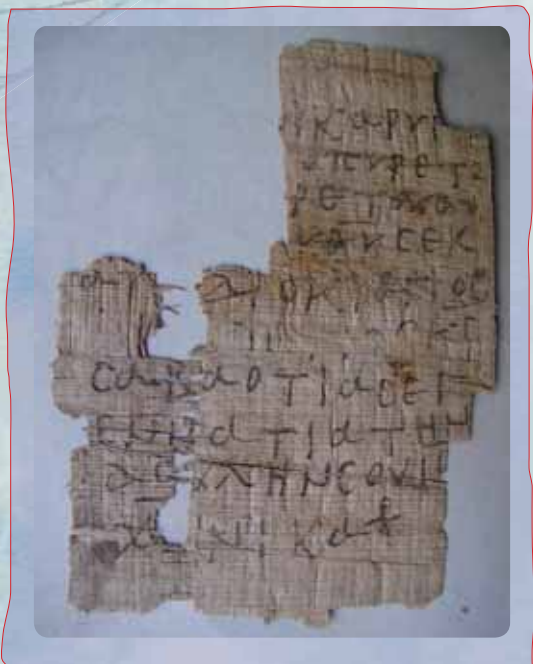


Vienna Dioscurides, MS: cod. med. Graec.1
Photo: Austrian National Library

...at vel
quatumq; an d'ipm sc'missi
erostio n'equam



The smallest Armenian manuscript weighs 19 grams. It is a Church Calendar.
Photo: S. Mashtotz Institute of Ancient Manuscripts



Christian Amulet Egyptian papyrus
Photo: National Library of the Czech Republic



al-Qur an
Date: 1211 A. H. (1796 C. E.)
Photo : National Library of the Czech Republic



Dante: la Divina commedia
Photo: National Széchényi Library Hungary

THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME

In 1992, UNESCO launched the Memory of the World Programme (MOW) to protect and promote the world's documentary heritage through preservation and access. These two tasks complement each other, for access encourages protection, and preservation ensures access.

The Memory of the World Programme has three main objectives:

- to facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage through all appropriate means. The making of access copies, to relieve pressure on the use of original materials, is encouraged.
- to assist universal access to documentary heritage, including making digitized copies and catalogues widely available while respecting legislative and other limitations.
- to raise awareness worldwide of the significance of documentary heritage through such means as the Memory of the World registers, the media, and promotional and informational publications.

LOGO

In 2009, the IAC adopted a new logo to brand the MOW Programme and to ensure a more visual connection to UNESCO. Committees and institutions holding documentary heritage items listed on a Register can request the use of the UNESCO Memory of the World logo. The conditions for the use of the logo are determined by UNESCO and cannot be changed without its consent.

To obtain the logo each institution or committee is required to complete and send a very simple Logo Request Form to the UNESCO Programme Officer in charge of the Memory of the World Programme. A specific logo in accordance with UNESCO's graphical guidelines will then be created. Institutions and Committees must annually complete a questionnaire describing events and activities that they have organized to promote the registered documentary item or the MOW Programme. This will enable UNESCO to evaluate the outreach and impact that MOW Programme has had.

The UNESCO Memory of the World logo cannot be used for any commercial purposes, either by a Committee or an institution, or on general publicity materials or merchandise produced by an institution except under a specific contractual arrangement, expressly authorized by the Director-General of UNESCO. The sale of goods or services bearing the name, acronym, logo or internet domain names of UNESCO for profit is regarded as commercial use. The same applies to licensing and partnerships with commercial entities. Should the occasion arise in which the UNESCO Memory of the World logo may need to be used in the context of commercial use or for fundraising purposes, the institution or Committee must contact UNESCO to seek authorization.

Further information and copies of the request form can be found on the Memory of the World website: <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/en/mow-guidelines-logouse>

THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

The Memory of the World Register, created in 1997, lists documentary heritage which has been identified by the International Advisory Committee as meeting the criteria of world significance. It now holds 193 items from 76 countries, 3 international organizations and one private foundation.

Albania

Codex Purpureus Beratinus (2005)

Argentina

Documents of the Viceroyalty of Rio de Plata (1997)

Human Rights Documentary Heritage 1976 – 1983: Archives for Truth, Justice and Memory in the struggle against State Terrorism (2007)

Armenia

Mashtots Matenadaran Ancient Manuscripts (1997)

Australia

Endeavour Journal of James Cook (2001)

Mabo Case Manuscripts (2001)

Story of the Kelly Gang (1906) (2007)

Convict Records of Australia (2007)

Manifesto of the Queensland Labour Party (2009)

Austria

Vienna Dioscurides (1997)

Final Document of the Congress of Vienna (1997)

Historical Collections of the Vienna Phonogrammarchiv (1899-1950) (1999)

Papyrus Erzherzog Rainer (2001)

Vienna City Library's Schubert Collection (2001)

Atlas Blaeu-Van der Hem of the Austrian National Library (2003)

Brahms Collection (2005)

Collection of Gothic Architectural Drawings (2005)

*The Bibliotheca Corviniana Collection (2005)**

Tabula Peutingeriana (2007)

Tabula Hungaria (2007)

Azerbaijan

Medieval manuscripts on medicine and pharmacy (2005)

Bahamas

Farquharson's Journal (2009)

*Registry of Slaves of the British Caribbean 1817-1834 (2009)**

Barbados

Documentary Heritage of Enslaved Peoples of the Caribbean (2003)

Federal Archives Fonds (2009)

Nita Barrow Collection (2009)

Belarus

*Radziwill's Archives and Niasvizh Library Collection (2009)**

Belgium

Business Archives of the Officina Plantiniana (2001)

*The Bibliotheca Corviniana Collection (2005)**

Archives Insolvente Boedelskamer, Antwerpen (2009)

Belize

*Registry of Slaves of the British Caribbean 1817-1834 (2009)**

Benin

Colonial archives (1997)

Bolivia

*American Colonial Music: a sample of its documentary richness (2007)**

Brazil

Emperor's collection: foreign and Brazilian photography in the 19th century (2003)

Cambodia

Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archive (2009)

Canada

Hudson's Bay Company Archival records (2007)

Quebec Seminary Fonds, 1623-1800 (17th-19th centuries) (2007)

Neighbours, animated, directed and produced by Norman McLaren in 1952 (2009)

Chile

Human Rights Archive (2003)

Jesuits of America Fonds (2003)

China

Traditional Music Sound Archives (1997)

Records of the Qing's Grand Secretariat (1999)

Ancient Naxi Dongba Literature Manuscripts (2003)

Golden Lists of the Qing Dynasty Imperial Examination (2005)

Qing Dynasty Yangshi Lei Archives (2007)

Colombia

Negros y Esclavos Archives (2005)

*American Colonial Music: a sample of its documentary richness (2007)**

Croatia

*Tabula Hungaria (2007)**

Cuba

"José Martí Pérez" Fonds (2005)

Original Negative of the Noticiero ICAIC Lationamericano (2009)

Czech Republic

Collection of medieval manuscripts of the Czech Reformation (2007)

Collection of Russian, Ukrainian and Belorussian émigré periodicals 1918-1945 (2007)

Denmark

Archives of the Danish overseas trading companies (1997)
Linné Collection (1997)
Manuscripts and correspondence of Hans Christian Andersen (1997)
Søren Kierkegaard Archives (1997)
El Primer Nueva Coronica y Buen Gobierno (2007)
Sound Toll Registers (2007)
The Arnamagnaeen Manuscript Collection (2009)*

Dominica

Registry of Slaves of the British Caribbean 1817-1834 (2009)*

Dominican Republic

Book for the Baptism of Slaves 1636-1670 (2009)
Documentary Heritage on the Resistance and Struggle for Human Rights in the Dominican Republic, 1930-1961 (2009)

Egypt

Memory of the Suez Canal (1997)
Deeds of Sultans and Princes (2005)
Persian Illustrated and Illuminated Manuscripts (2007)

Estonia

The Baltic Way - Human Chain Linking Three States in Their Drive for Freedom (2009)*

Ethiopia

Treasures from National Archives and Library Organizations (1997)

Finland

A.E. Nordenskiöld Collection (1997)
Radziwill's Archives and Niasvizh Library Collection (2009)*

France

Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen (1789-1791) (2003)
The Appeal of 18 June 1940 (2005)*
Lumière Films (2005)
Introduction of the decimal metric system, 1790-1837 (2005)
The Bibliotheca Corviniana Collection (2005)*
Bayeux Tapestry (2007)
The Library of the Cistercian Abbey of Clairvaux at the time of Pierre de Virey 1472 (2009)

Germany

Early cylinder recordings of the world's musical traditions (1893-1952) (1999)
Ludwig van Beethoven - Symphony n°9, d-minor, op.125 (2001)
Literary estate of Goethe (2001)
42-line Gutenberg Bible (2001)
Metropolis (2001)
Illuminated manuscripts from the Ottonian period produced in the monastery of Reichenau (Lake Constance) (2003)
Kinder-und Hausmärchen (Children's and Household Tales) (2005)
Universalis cosmographia secundum Ptholomaei traditionem et Americi Vespucii aliorumque Lustrationes (2005)*
The Bibliotheca Corviniana Collection (2005)*
Letters from and to Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz included in the collection of manuscript papers of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (2007)
The song of the Nibelungs, a heroic poem from medieval Europe (2009)

Hungary

Kalman Tihanyi's 1926 Patent Application "Radioskop" (2001)
The Bibliotheca Corviniana Collection (2005)*
Tabula Hungariae (2007)*
Janos Bolyai: Appendix, scientiam spatii absolute veram exhibens. Maros-Vásárhelyini, 1832 (2009)
The Csoma Archive of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (2009)

Iceland

The Arnamagnaeen Manuscript Collection (2009)*

India

I.A.S. Tamil Medical Manuscript Collection (1997)
Saiva Manuscripts in Pondicherry (2005)
Archives of the Dutch East India Company (2003)*
Rigveda (2007)

Indonesia

Archives of the Dutch East India Company (2003)*

Iran

"Bayasanghori Shâhmâmeh" (Prince Bayasanghor's Book of the Kings) (2007)
Rab' I-Rashidi (Rab I-Rashidi Endowment) 13th Century manuscript (2007)
Administrative Documents of Astan-e Quds Razavi in the Safavid Era (2009)

Italy

Malatesta Novello Library (2005)
The Bibliotheca Corviniana Collection (2005)*

Jamaica

Registry of Slaves of the British Caribbean 1817-1834 (2009)*

Kazakhstan

Collection of manuscripts of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (2003)
Audiovisual documents of the International antinuclear movement "Nevada-Semipalatinsk" (2005)

Korea (Republic of)

Hunmin Chongum manuscript (1997)
Annals of the Choson Dynasty (1997)
Seungeongwon Ilgi, the Diaries of the Royal Secretariat (2001)
Buljo jikji simche yojeol (vol. II), the second volume of "Anthology of Great Buddhist Priests' Zen Teachings" (2001)
Printing woodblocks of the Tripitaka Koreana and miscellaneous Buddhist scriptures (2007)
Uigwe: The Royal Protocols of the Joseon Dynasty (2007)
Donguibogam: Principles and Practice of Eastern Medicine (2009)

Latvia

Dainu skapis - Cabinet of Folksongs (2001)
The Baltic Way - Human Chain Linking Three States in Their Drive for Freedom (2009)*

Lebanon

Commemorative stele of Nahr el-Kalb, Mount Lebanon (2005)
The Phoenician Alphabet (2005)

Lithuania

Radziwill's Archives and Niasvizh Library Collection (2009)*
The Baltic Way - Human Chain Linking Three States in Their Drive for Freedom (2009)*

Luxembourg

Family of Man (2003)

Madagascar

The Royal Archives 1824-1897 (2009)

Malaysia

Correspondence of the late Sultan of Kedah (1882-1943) (2001)
Hikayat Hang Tuah (2001)
Sejarah Melayu (the Malay Annals) (2001)
Batu Bersurat, Terengganu (Inscribed Stone of Terengganu) (2009)

Mauritius

Records of French Occupation of Mauritius (1997)

Mexico

Collection of Mexican Codices (1997)
Codices from the Oaxaca Valley (1997)
Codex Techaloyan from Cuajimalpaz (1997)
Los olvidados (2003)
Biblioteca Palafoxiana (2005)
Colección de Lenguas Indígenas (2007)
American Colonial Music: a sample of its documentary richness (2007)*
Collection of the Center of Documentation and Investigation of the Ashkenazi Community in Mexico (16th to 20th Century) (2009)

Namibia

Letter Journals of Hendrik Witbooi (2005)

Netherlands

Library Ets Haim - Livoraria Montezinos (2003)
Archives of the Dutch East India Company (2003)*
Diaries of Anne Frank (2009)

Netherlands Antilles

Catecismo Corticu (2009)

New Zealand

The Treaty of Waitangi (1997)
The 1893 Women's Suffrage Petition (1997)

Nicaragua

National Literacy Crusade (2007)

Norway

The Leprosy Archives of Bergen (2001)
Henrick Ibsen: A Doll's House (2001)
Roald Amundsen's South Pole Expedition (1910-1912) (2005)

Pakistan

Jinnah Papers (Quaid-I-Azam) (1999)

Paraguay

Archives of Terror

Peru

American Colonial Music: a sample of its documentary richness (2007)*
Philippines
Philippine Paleographs (Hanunoo, Buid, Tagbanua and Pala'wan) (1999)
Radio Broadcast of the Philippine People Power Revolution (2003)
José Maceda Collection (2007)

Poland

Nicolaus Copernicus' masterpiece "De revolutionibus libri sex" (1999)
Warsaw Ghetto Archives (Emanuel Ringelblum Archives) (1999)
The Masterpieces of Fryderyk Chopin (1999)
The General Confederation of Warsaw (2003)
Twenty-One Demands, Gdańsk, August 1980. The birth of the SOLIDARITY trades union - a massive social movement. (2003)
National Education Commission Archives (2007)
Codex Suprasliensis - Mineia četia, Mart (The Supraśl Codex - Menology, March) (2007)*
Archives of the Literary Institute in Paris (1946-2000) (2009)
Radziwill's Archives and Niasvizh Library Collection (2009)*

Portugal

Letter from Pêro Vaz de Caminha (2005)
Corpo Cronológico (Collection of Manuscripts on the Portuguese Discoveries) (2007)
Treaty of Tordesillas (2007)*

Russian Federation

Archangel Gospel of 1092 (1997)
Khitrovo Gospel (1997)
Slavonic publications in Cyrillic script of the 15th century (1997)
Newspaper collections (1997)
Maps of the Russian empire and its collection of the 18th century (1997)
Russian posters of the end of the 19th and early 20th centuries (1997)
Historical Collections (1889-1955) of St. Petersburg Phonogram Archives (2001)
Codex Suprasliensis - Mineia četia, Mart (The Supraśl Codex - Menology, March) (2007)*
Radziwill's Archives and Niasvizh Library Collection (2009)*

Saint Lucia

The Sir William Arthur Lewis Papers (2009)

Saudi Arabia

Earliest Islamic (Kufic) inscription (2003)

Senegal

Fonds of the "Afrique occidentale française" (AOF, 1895-1959) (1997)

Serbia

Nikola Tesla's Archive (2003)
Miroslav Gospel - Manuscript from 1180 (2005)

Slovakia

Illuminated Codices from the Library of the Bratislava Chapter House (1997)
Basagic Collection of Islamic Manuscripts (1997)
Mining maps and plans of the Main Chamber - Count Office in Banská Štiavnica (2007)

Slovenia

Codex Suprasliensis - Mineia četia, Mart (The Supraśl Codex - Menology, March) (2007)*

South Africa

The Bleek collection (1997)
Archives of the Dutch East India Company (2003)*
Criminal Court Case No. 253/1963 (State Versus N Mandela and Others) (2007)
Liberation Struggle Living Archive Collection (2007)

Spain

Treaty of Tordesillas (2007)*
Santa Fe capitulations (2009)

Sweden

Astrid Lindgren Archives (2005)
Emanuel Swedenborg Collection (2005)
Ingmar Bergman Archives (2007)
Alfred Nobel Family Archives (2007)

Sri Lanka

Archives of the Dutch East India Company (2003)*

St Kitts

Registry of Slaves of the British Caribbean 1817-1834 (2009)*

Tajikistan

Manuscript of Ubayd Zakoni's "Kulliyat" and Hafez Sherozi's "Gazalliyat" (XIV century) (2003)

Tanzania

German Records of the National Archives (1997)
Collection of Arabic Manuscripts and Books (2003)

Thailand

King Ram Khamhaeng Inscription (2003)
Archival Documents of King Chulalongkorn's Transformation of Siam 1868-1910 (2009)

Trinidad and Tobago

The Derek Walcott Collection (1997)
The Eric Williams Collection (1999)
C.L.R. James Collection (2005)
Registry of Slaves of the British Caribbean 1817-1834 (2009)*

Turkey

The Hittite cuneiform tablets from Bogazköy (2001)

Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute Manuscripts (2001)

The works of Ibn Sina in the Süleymaniye Manuscript Library (2003)

Ukraine

Collection of Jewish Musical Folklore (1912-1947) (2005)
Radziwill's Archives and Niasvizh Library Collection (2009)*

United Kingdom

The Battle of the Somme (2005)
Hereford Mappa Mundi (2007)
Magna Carta, issued in 1215 (2009)
Registry of Slaves of the British Caribbean 1817-1834 (2009)*

United States of America

Universalis cosmographia secundum Ptholomaei traditionem et Americi Vespucii aliorumque Lustrationes (2005)*
The Wizard of Oz (Victor Fleming 1939) (2007)
John Marshall Ju/'hoan Bushman Film and Video Collection, 1950-2000 (2009)

Uruguay

Original records of Carlos Gardel - Horacio Loriente Collection (1913-1935) (2003)

Uzbekistan

Holy Koran Mushaf of Othman (1997)
Collection of the Al-Biruni Institute of Oriental Studies (1997)

Venezuela

Escritos del liberator (1997)
Collection of Latin American photographs of the 19th Century (1997)
Colombia: Generalissimo Francisco de Miranda's Archives (2007)

Vietnam

Woodblocks of Nguyen Dynasty (2009)

OTHER

Christopher Okigbo Foundation (Africa)

Christopher Okigbo Collection (2007)

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Archives of the International Prisoners of War Agency, 1914-1923 (2007)

United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)

League of Nations Archives, 1919-1946 (2009)

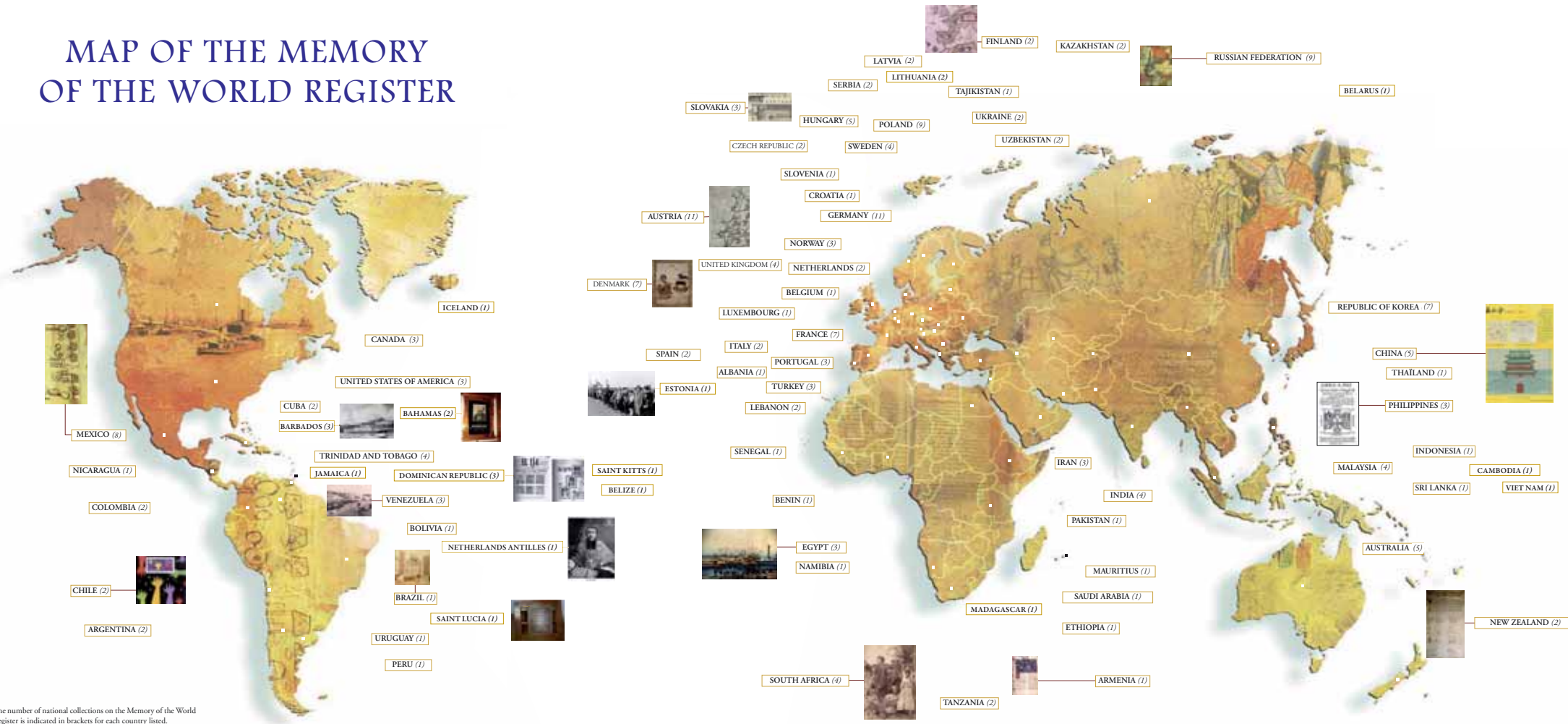
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)

UNRWA Photo and Film Archives of Palestinian Refugees (2009)

* Joint Inscriptions between 2 or more countries.



MAP OF THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER



The number of national collections on the Memory of the World Register is indicated in brackets for each country listed.

PROJECTS

The Memory of the World programme is also about protecting heritage. Funding may come from UNESCO or other sources and concern conservation or digitization projects, awareness raising or training activities. In this context, several pilot projects have been carried out since the start of the Programme.

National Projects:

Czech Republic - Prague Manuscripts

A digitization programme launched by the National Library in Prague in co-operation with a private firm, Albertina Ltd, resulted in the publication of a number of CD-ROMs entitled Memoriae Mundi Series Bohemica. Digitizing the most beautiful manuscripts and old prints of the National Library has facilitated access to these treasures without exposing the original to heavy use, thus contributing to their preservation.

Liber pontificalis Renaudi de Bar
Manuscript dates from the beginning of the 14th century.
Photo: National Library of the Czech Republic



Armenia - Virtual Matenadaran

The Matenadaran is one of the oldest and richest book depositories in the world whose history dates back to the creation of the Armenian alphabet in 405. Its collection of about 17,000 manuscripts includes almost all the areas of ancient and medieval Armenian culture and sciences. In this centre of cultural heritage many originals, lost in their mother languages and known only by their Armenian translations, have been saved from loss.

Photo: © S. Mashtotz Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, Matenadaran



All Qur'anic Fragments
3rd/4th Centuries
Photo : Organisation Nationale
de l'Archéologie, des Musées
et des Manuscrits, Yemen



Yemen - The Sana'a Manuscripts

In 1972, after heavy rain, a section of the wall of the Great Mosque of Sana'a collapsed. The work on the roof brought to light manuscripts which had been concealed in the ceiling for centuries. The parchment and paper fragments contain mostly extracts from the Qumran, and they are of considerable interest for the linguistic, religious, and palaeographic study of the literature of the early centuries of the Hegira.

Turkey - The Kandilli Observatory Manuscripts

This project contributed to the preservation of a collection of about 1300 works on astronomy in Turkish, Arabic and Persian languages, held in the Library of Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute at Bogaziçi University in Istanbul.

Cedavilu'l-irtifaat (contains irtifa tables of the year 1235/1819-20)

Photo: Bogaziçi University, Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute



Timbuktu Manuscripts

This project, financed by Luxembourg, aims at ensuring the safeguarding of, and wider access to, the priceless handwritten cultural heritage existing both in public and private collections in the region of Timbuktu. Through training and upgraded facilities, the project will increase the capacity of the national Ahmed Baba Institute (IHERI-AB) to perform its essential missions of restoration and conservation, and scientific exploitation and dissemination of the content of the manuscripts currently in its possession as well as collections held in other libraries in Timbuktu.



Vilnius Academy
Master's Diploma, 1728
Photo: Vilnius University Library



Lithuania - Manuscripts of the University of Vilnius

The historical collections of the Vilnius University Library, including manuscripts, incunabula, and old atlases, were made available on the Internet and through a series of CD-ROMs. They are one of the best illustrations of European contributions to scientific advancement between the 15th and the 18th century.

Poland - Memory of Poland

Documentary heritage concerning Poland included in the Memory of the World International Register in 1999 in French, English and Polish.

Collection of wax tablets of the town of Torun
Photo: Archiwum Panstwowe Torun and Witold Szczuczko, Marzena Kaminska



Egypt - Treasures of Dar Al-Kutub

A selection of precious manuscripts of the National Library in Cairo, Dar Al-Kutub, reproduced on CD-ROM, offers a guided tour among the splendours of Arab culture and its contribution to their enhancement of knowledge in numerous in numerous scientific fields.

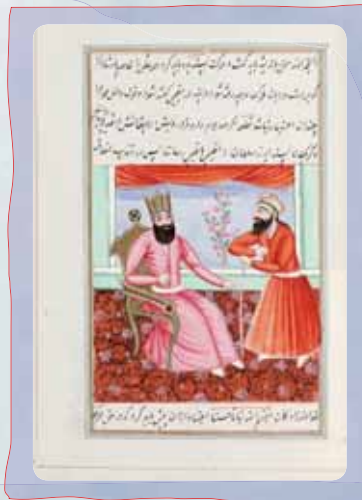
Curing Diseases, They describe body diseases, their prevention and treatment

Photo: The National Library and Archives of Egypt



Czech Republic - Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts

The collection of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books of the National Library of the Czech Republic has 150 volumes of Persian manuscripts dating from the end of the 14th century to the beginning of the 20th century. They include texts of important Persian poets and authors such as Sa'di, Háfiz, Nizámi, Rúmi. They also contain beautiful miniatures on various themes.



Gulistán-e Sa'di

(1271 A.H. = 1854/5 A.D.)

Photo: National Library of the Czech Republic, Prague



South Africa - Preserving the Mandela Documentary Memory

With funds provided by the government of Flanders, the Nelson Mandela Foundation is documenting and preserving the legacy of Mr Mandela who has been a source of inspiration to people around the world. The data collected will be accessible online and will contribute to a better understanding of the life and times of one of the iconic figures of the 20th century.

Regional Projects:

Within the Memory of the World Programme, a number of regional and inter-regional projects with a flagship character were implemented for demonstration and promotional purposes. Some of these include:

West African Postcards

The postcards chosen for this project are a pictorial treasure. Their rarity is due to their being dispersed in many countries, mostly in Europe. Only their presentation on a CD-ROM or a Website could bring them together, at least partially, under one theme or in an historical and geographical framework. The CD-ROM, prepared in collaboration with the Association Images, Mémoires and ICG-Mémoire Directe, features 3,000 postcards, which represent only a small part of the 50,000 which exist for the 1890-1930 period in the sixteen countries concerned.

"Veteran" female warriors of Behanzin (1908-1915)

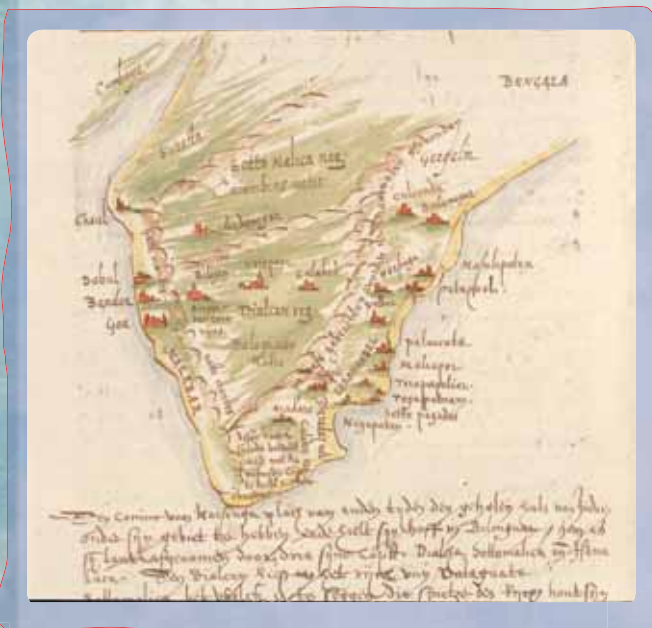


The Archives of the Dutch East Indies Company

The aim of the project is to safeguard the extensive heritage documentary material that this trading company left behind in the Netherlands, Asia, South Africa in the 17th and 18th centuries and to make this heritage accessible for future use.

Sketch map of the Indian subcontinent, first half 17th century.

Photo: Nationaal Archief, The Hague



Hungary - Bibliotheca Corviniana

The Bibliotheca Corviniana of Hungary was the library of King Matthias in the second half of the 15th century. After the king's death and during the Turkish occupation the collection was dispersed. Today the remaining pieces of the collection are to be found in 50 libraries.

The National Széchényi Library started the Bibliotheca Corviniana Digitalis programme in 2001 with the aim of reconstructing King Matthias' library with the help of modern technology.

Thomas Aquinas: *Commentarium in librum.*

De coelo et mundo Aristotelis

Photo : National Széchényi Library Hungary



Palm-leaf Manuscripts

This regional project helped to safeguard and digitize more than 100,000 palm-leaf manuscripts, which were for centuries the preferred medium for archiving traditional knowledge across most of Southeast Asia, including Myanmar, Malaysia, Cambodia, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand.

Memory of Iberoamerica

The national libraries of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Peru, Portugal and Venezuela united to draw up a computerized inventory of some 6000 newspaper titles and other means of information from the last century. The inventory was the first stage in a long-term project to safeguard and promote these collections through microfilming and digitization.

International Projects:

Slave Trade Archives Project

The Slave Trade Archives Project was launched in 1999 with the aim of improving access to, and safeguarding of, original documents related to the transatlantic slave trade and slavery throughout the world. It focused on enhancing access to knowledge and exploitation of slave trade records. The first phase of the project funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), is now completed but and is awaiting funding for a second phase.

The Slave Trade Archives project was an attempt to improve the conservation and accessibility of slave trade records. It dealt with original documentary sources bearing witness to the trade, mainly in the form of written documents. Digitization of these sources, particularly those at risk from deterioration, will help to establish a collective memory of this part of history. The project was based on a desire to guarantee the protection and accessibility of documents with universal value through digitization. It did not aim to restore or reconstitute the original collections themselves.

An access strategy was prepared with a view to establishing on-line access through the UNESCO website and other sites devoted to the slave trade, as well as publishing multimedia CD-ROMs on the slave trade, acts of resistance to slavery, etc. The website dedicated to slave trade archives has been created with this in mind.

The project operated in eleven countries: Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana and Senegal in Africa, plus Argentina, Brazil, Barbados, Colombia, Cuba and Haiti. The final report recommended continuing the project incorporating some of the almost 40 candidate countries, in order to include holdings in a wider geographical and linguistic area.



Open Source Repository and Preservation System

After an investigation of the costs of preservation in the digital era, the Sub-Committee on Technology (SCoT) of MoW argued the case for affordable tools, technology and training as the solution for digital preservation of simple digital objects. As none of the repository systems that were analyzed seemed to have proper storage strategies, SCoT proposed to construct a practical open-source archival system for digital preservation that builds on existing open-source programmes. A pilot project is currently being implemented to test the recommendations of the study, and develop a system that is appropriate to, and replicable in, less developed countries.

Partners to develop and test the project will be identified and its results will be transferred to institutions in developing countries. Any new software created by the project will be released under GPL v2 license and all system documentation will be released under Creative Commons licence.

CD-ROMs

Preserving Documentary Heritage

A Tutorial - Tutorial on preservation for libraries, archives and cultural institutions

Project and Human Info NGO Library Preservation and Conservation Tutorial

A tutorial prepared by CLIR in association with Cornell University Library with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation

Document Preservation Collection containing most of the UNESCO RAMP Studies (Records and Archives Management Programme)

The Greenstone Digital Library Software

Software suite for building digital libraries developed by UNESCO in association with New Zealand Digital Library Project and Human Info NGO.

UNESCO / JIKJI MEMORY OF THE WORLD PRIZE

The Prize promotes the objectives of the MOW Programme commemorating the inscription of the Buljo jikji simche yojeol, the oldest existing book of movable metal print in the world, on the Memory of the World Register.

The Jikji contains the essentials of Zen Buddhism compiled by priest Baegun in late Goryeo period. The book was printed in two volumes: the first volume has yet to be found and the second volume is kept in the National Library of France.

The Prize, consisting of an award of US\$30 000, is given every two years to individuals or institutions that have made significant contributions to the preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage. The Prize, the operating costs as well as all costs related to the award ceremony are funded by the Republic of Korea at the City of Cheong-ju. The Prize was awarded in 2005 to the National Library of the Czech Republic; in 2007 to the Austrian Academy of Sciences and in 2009 to the National Archives of Malaysia.

PUBLICATIONS

General guidelines to safeguard documentary heritage

The original General Guidelines to the Memory of the World Programme were prepared, under the auspices of IFLA in 1995. This revised version took the work of the original team as a departure point. A MOW companion is scheduled to be released in 2010 which will provide better guidance in completing nomination forms.

Mitigating Disaster: A Strategic Guide to Risk Management in Heritage Collections

This book and accompanying CD-ROM, published by the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean, provides working guidelines for the protection of irreplaceable documentary, audio, and audiovisual heritage materials in times of disaster.

The text advocates that institutions, in line with their own security plan, create a written and realistic disaster action plan to preserve all forms of documentary heritage. This action plan should actively involve staff members who should be rapidly able to implement routines and procedures of the plan when disaster occurs.

Risks associated with the use of recordable CDs and DVDs as reliable storage media in archival collections: strategies and alternatives

The purpose of this document, prepared by the Memory of the World Programme's Sub-Committee on Technology, is to provide detailed guidance on managing the risks associated with storing archival data on recordable CD and DVD. It recommends a strategy to reduce these risks through error measurement and appropriate management.

The background of the page is a light blue gradient with a faint, historical-style map of the world. The map shows continents and oceans in a classic cartographic style, with some text and symbols. The map is positioned behind a semi-transparent light blue rectangular area that contains the main text.

MEMORY OF THE WORLD COMMITTEES

MOW stimulates projects and activities at all levels - international and regional and national. The Memory of the World Committees are the key to this strategy.

The International Advisory Committee (IAC) for the Memory of the World Programme is appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO to guide the planning and implementation of the Programme as a whole.

Regional committees have been set up in Africa, Asia and Pacific to promote, facilitate and monitor the implementation of the MOW programme within their respective regions, and to represent the regions perspectives at the international level. MOWCAP was created in 1998 covering the Asia and Pacific region, whereas MOWLAC (formerly CRALC) was established in 2000 to meet the needs of Latin America and the Caribbean. The most recent ARCMOW (Africa) was formed in 2008.

They identify regional projects, taking into account features common to a group of countries.

National Memory of the World committees are autonomous entities with their own terms of reference and their own rules of membership and succession. To be entitled to use the Memory of the World name and logo, they must be accredited by their UNESCO National Commission.

Each Committee should include experts capable of making an active contribution to the projects and users representative. Persons submitting projects must ensure that the rights of the owners of the holding or collections are protected. In addition, each project will set up its own scientific committee of specialists to determine the general thrust of the project and to supervise its organisation.

Detailed aspects of the role of national and regional Memory of the World Committees include:

- Identification and nomination of documentary heritage for the Memory of the World Programme.
- Development of Memory of the World Registers at the national and regional levels in close cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- General management and monitoring of regional and national projects and activities undertaken as part of the Programme.

So far, Memory of the World Committees have been set up in 64 countries.



Restored Metal Type of Jikji
Photo related to the Nomination Republic of Korea



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Memory of
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