

Participants

Participation will be open to all those interested in heritage preservation: government decision-makers and policy planners, practitioners and professionals, as well as academics, legal specialists, information and digital technicians, representatives of the private sector, graduate students in the heritage disciplines, etc.. Participants from developing countries are strongly encouraged to attend and some financial support may be provided to partially cover their expenses.

Submission procedures

Prospective speakers are invited to submit abstracts of proposed presentations in any areas related to the Challenges listed in this Call for Papers. The presentations should be about original work or research findings/recommendations and take the form of either a traditional paper or an interactive tutorial, seminar, or workshop.

All abstracts will be reviewed by the Conference Programme Committee to ensure that the programme provides significant, timely, and authoritative information. The traditional papers will be allotted 20-minute each and delivered in thematic sessions concluded by a commentary and a discussion. The tutorials, seminars or workshops will be allotted 3 hours each.

The presentations should advance the state of knowledge in the areas and issues described in this flyer. The conference languages are English and French.

The Abstract:

- a 500-word abstract that clearly identifies the content of the presentation.
- a maximum 100-word biographical sketch of the primary author
- mailing address, phone, fax, and e-mail for the primary author
- names and titles of co-author(s)
- format preference: traditional or interactive

The deadline for abstract submission is February 29, 2012.

Upon notice of acceptance, authors will be sent detailed instructions for submitting the full text of the paper for publication in the conference proceedings.

Please note that each author is responsible for obtaining appropriate clearance as necessary. **Full text papers are due July 31, 2012.**

Date and Place

The Conference will take place from 26 to 28 September 2012 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in cooperation with the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies and with the Library of the University of British Columbia, in partnership with IFLA, ICA, ICOM, WIPO, Google, Microsoft and others. An open dedicated space will be established on UNESCO's CI website for this event which will provide a restricted area to share documents.



Conference Steering Committee

UNESCO Secretariat, the University of British Columbia, Google, ICA, IFAP, IFLA, IASA, Memory of the World Programme and Microsoft.

Send abstracts:

Abstracts shall be e-mailed to either of the two Programme Chairs:

Luciana Duranti (Professor, School of Library, Archival and Information Studies of University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada)

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Jonas Palm (Director and Head of Preservation, Swedish National Archives, Stockholm, Sweden)

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Memory of the World
20th Anniversary

The Memory of the World in the Digital Age: Digitization and Preservation

26 to 28 September 2012
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

CALL FOR PAPERS

Digital Heritage

Digital documentary heritage is important for humanity as digital technology has become the primary means of knowledge creation and expression. All areas of life produce digital documents, which need to remain technologically stable and accessible in their authentic manifestation by current and future generations.

Digitized Heritage

Apart from digitally created new documents, digital surrogates of traditional documents, prepared to enable democratic access to hitherto hidden information and knowledge, have also become an ever growing part of the digital heritage. However, guidelines based on research and best practices are needed to ensure the adequate conversion of analogue contents to digital, and long term preservation of the digital heritage.

The Challenges

UNESCO is particularly concerned with the vulnerability of digital and digitized heritage, thus, it is organizing an international conference to explore the main issues affecting digitization and digital continuity, in order to develop a strategy for the protection of all types of documents, and define implementation policies that are sustainable, scalable and globally applicable, especially by developing countries.

The safeguarding of digital documents requires specific measures. Although digital and digitized traditional documents and records are becoming the main source of knowledge today, their permanence, authenticity, identity and integrity are constantly at risk. Few countries have as yet adopted a national policy regarding digital information, and most decision-makers are unaware of the risk of disappearance of commonly used means of transmitting and storing digital information, such as email, databases, and websites; of the implications of engaging in digitization projects and building digital repositories; and of the scale of the resources required to preserve authentic digital information and maintain permanent access to it.

Digital continuity requires meeting technological, legal, economic, political and cultural challenges. The Conference will address these challenges, identifying the key issues that it is essential to overcome. These include:

- **technological challenges:** obsolescence; loss of integrity; variety of file formats, wrappers, encoding, etc.; proprietary nature of technology; technological infrastructure; inconsistency of standards; trusted digital repositories; audio-visual preservation; scale of preservation programmes; dynamic content (streaming, etc.); multi-platform services; metadata;

- **legal and ethical challenges:** data/documents/records accuracy, authenticity, authentication; intellectual and economic rights management; control of material entrusted to cloud services providers; protection of data privacy (non-authorized personal data tracking); right to oblivion and right of access; e-discovery and legal hold; legal deposit; professional/institutional liability and legal certainty; copyright exceptions to enable digital preservation; ownership vs licensing;

- **economic challenges:** costs of technology; cost of expertise and training; cost of digitization, preservation and human processes; outsourcing; sustainability of economic models; roles and responsibilities;

- **political challenges:** instability of political systems; low priority given by governments to technological infrastructure; limited or inexistent national information policies; insufficient awareness among decision-makers; digital self-determination (citizens' rights);

- **cultural and professional challenges:** lack of cooperation among Information Technology, legal, archival, library, museum and other professionals or institutions; organizational and institutional culture; competing interests between creators and preservers and between access and preservation philosophies, evolving skills sets, cultural sensitivity.

The Outcome

This Conference will provide a platform to showcase major initiatives that could lead to synergies both in research and implementation. By initiating an in-depth discussion of the most pressing issues and the existing tested solutions, UNESCO further anticipates that this Conference will contribute to reducing the threats to the digital documentary heritage by catalyzing appropriate action to scale up awareness of issues and result in the adoption of effective mechanisms at the global level.

Digital preservation is intellectually challenging and resource-intensive. Its successful implementation requires the cooperation of all stakeholders, including heritage/ stewardship institutions and organizations, publishers, IT developers, academia, creators and custodians of digital heritage, social networking media and third-party services providers.

To ensure permanent access to digital heritage, including that in private hands, it is vital to share responsibilities. In light of this need, **the Conference expected outcomes will include:**

- compilation of existing practices of digitization and draft guidelines;

- identification of the legal frameworks that would facilitate long-term digital preservation;
- identification of best practices for scalability of solutions, including the elaboration of economic models for sustainability;
- clear definition of the respective roles of professions, academics, industry and governments in addressing various issues and of a model for their cooperation.
- launch of specific initiatives related to digital preservation and to the fostering of access to documentary heritage through digitization;
- elaboration of a "standard on standards" for better management and understanding of existing, and occasionally conflicting, standards;
- closer cooperation among different stakeholders for the promotion or development of exchange standards;
- identification of individual country needs in terms of digital preservation and access to digital heritage.

The Memory of the World Programme

The vision of the Memory of the World Programme is that the world's documentary heritage belongs to all, should be fully preserved and protected for all and, with due recognition of cultural mores and practicalities, should be permanently accessible to all without hindrance.

The mission of the Memory of the World Programme is: To facilitate preservation, by the most appropriate techniques, of the world's documentary heritage. This may be done by direct practical assistance, by the dissemination of advice and information and the encouragement of training, or by linking sponsors with timely and appropriate projects.

The Secretariat of the Memory of the World Programme is provided by the Knowledge Societies Division (CI/KSD) of UNESCO.

The functions of the Secretariat include provision of support services to the IAC and its subsidiary bodies, and the general administration and monitoring of the Programme. This includes the maintenance of the Memory of the World Register (including documentation relating to standards, nominations and registrations), and other tasks as directed by the IAC. **The Secretariat is the default, front line contact point for all matters concerning Memory of the World.**