Evaluation of the Memory of the World Programme

(Resolution 36C/COM CI/DR.2)

Survey Results

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1. Introduction

1.1. Context and objective of the survey

The questionnaire was prepared in response to the Resolution 36C/COM CI/DR.2, that was adopted by the 36th session of UNESCO's General Conference, after being submitted by Poland and co-sponsored by more than 50 countries. The Resolution requested that the Director-General initiate an overall evaluation, including through surveys among Member States; an in-depth reflection on the modalities of strengthening the Memory of the World Programme (MoW); and assess its potential to meet Member States expectations both at national and international levels. The Resolution indicated UNESCO's Member States' belief that celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Memory of the World Programme provided an excellent opportunity to assess the visibility and effectiveness of the Programme. Strengthening of MoW was also one of the recommendations of the Warsaw Declaration, issued by the 4th International Conference on the Memory of the World.

The questionnaire took other recent surveys into account but was extended to all levels of the Programme and explored the themes identified by Member States in the Resolution. The results of the questionnaire in combination with the recommendations of previous surveys and reflections form part of the discussion and review of a 3-day experts' meeting, taking place from 8 to 10 May 2012 in Warsaw, Poland. The final recommendations issued from this meeting will be submitted for approval to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 190th session in October 2012.

1.2. Distribution and results of the questionnaire

The survey was carried out by the Communication and Information Sector (CI), Division of Knowledge Societies (KSD). The questionnaire was prepared and was distributed during the CI Information meeting with UNESCO Member states on 8 February 2012. It was subsequently sent to the MoW Committees worldwide and announced and distributed via a news item on CI's website.

CI Sector received a total of 25 replies, from which 2 from Africa, 1 from the Arab states, 5 from Asia and the Pacific, 7 from Europe and North America and 9 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 1 from the Memory of the World Technical Sub-Committee (SCoT).

The information presented in this report does not show the responses of all questions as some of these were intended purely for use by the secretariat.
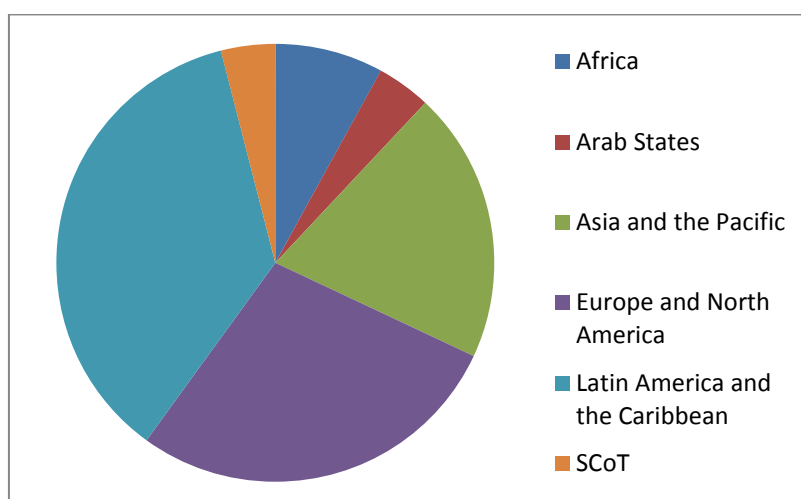
2. **Challenges and solutions related to the impact of the technological advances for documentary heritage**

> *The impact of technology on documentary heritage is not always addressed at national level. How can the MoW Programme help raise awareness about this impact on preserving, making accessible and promoting documentary heritage?*

- MoW Studies and use of technologies for educational purposes

Many of the respondents underlined the importance of raising awareness about the MoW Programme and the impact of technologies on youth through the creation of heritage educational programmes for schools using the web and technologies such as m-learning, social networks and mass media communications. Colombia proposed the creation of a Virtual Museum of African Historical Memory and its diaspora worldwide. A number of respondents highlighted the importance of international studies, publishing researches and studies, creating a scientific journal in the area and mentioned the proposal of developing the MoW Studies.

The issue of improving the MoW website in order to enhance raising awareness was raised by some respondents. For example, some suggested that the website become more interactive thus attracting greater numbers of young people, others suggested that the site provide links to authoritative materials, studies, success stories etc.

- Raising awareness about the impact of technology

Many remarked on the need to raise awareness about the impact of technology and the importance of digitization in the public sphere, among decision makers and relevant institutions. Some proposed planning and conducting media and online strategic campaigns. Others proposed assisting public and private decision makers by disseminating advice and expertise, elaborating guidelines, updating the 2003 Charter guidelines, creating documents and recommendations for long-term policies and encouraging them to look into the challenges and provide advice and solutions. One respondent proposed to raise awareness at the level of UNESCO National Commissions.

For many respondents, activities such as the organization of events, workshops, the training of trainers and staff were crucial. Many also suggested the possibility of facilitating communications, increasing the number of press releases publicizing exhibitions and new inscriptions at the national, regional and international registers, producing short documentary films.

One respondent stated that their country possessed good awareness of the impact of technology, however the level of activity depended on financial and human resources, which were not adequate.

> *How can the MoW Programme contribute to: (a) raising awareness of technological challenges; (b) improving the level of preservation of documentary heritage? (fostering policy development at country level, specific preservation projects…)?*

- Policy development

A large majority underlined the importance of fostering policy development at country level by through recommendations, advice and expertise in order to design state policies and strategies in the area of preservation; organizing workshops with the participation of international experts in order to assist the country's specialized institutions; encouraging the use of appropriate technology and promoting open access technologies. Some proposed the demonstration of the positive results emanating from the use of technologies in more advanced countries and the sharing of good practices. One respondent proposed the establishment of a separate category of inscriptions for countries that have overcome the technological challenges in the preservation of their documentary heritage.

- Raising awareness through training and educational information

Suggestions included making greater use of interactive online training programmes, provision of useful information on the UNESCO website, publishing information in schools and university texts thus

introducing the important themes for the preservation of documentary heritage. In this context, supporting local projects and ensuring larger access to the public would reduce the digital divide.

- Raising awareness through publicity and partnership

Creating public-private partnerships, publicity campaigns, advocacy programmes, sending through popularization messages through media, organizing events and publishing information in public places such as restaurant bills, commercial centres, recreation centres or during the beginning of films are some proposals suggested.

> *Which of the key issues/challenges identified in the conference's concept paper do you consider most pressing for your country's documentary heritage preservation and accessibility (technological, legal and ethical, economic, political, cultural and professional challenges) and why?*

The technological, economic and legal challenges were identified by many respondents as prioritized key issues to be discussed during the Conference. Many mentioned the fast changes of technical standards by the industries that make long-term digitization plans more difficult to implement. In that context one respondent noted the importance of using open source formats and technologies.

Economic challenges were linked to the political challenges by the respondents. Funding in a tight economic environment, where preserving documentary heritage may not be a political priority, was mentioned as one of the main challenges in the area of preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage. Delays in projects and financial cutbacks were usually experienced in that context.

Legal and ethical challenges were also identified as major issues which should be discussed in the Conference. In particular, legal challenges were identified as the most pressing, especially regarding archiving digital born heritage and accessing digital heritage. Intellectual Property rights for digital heritage were extremely complicated, therefore moving to digital preservation involved actions which were likely to infringe the rights reserved to right-holders. There was a great need to develop legal frameworks which would facilitate long term digital preservation, develop and promote standards, develop and disseminate open source tools for digital assets accessibility and preservation.

Some of the respondents identified cultural and professional challenges as some of the most pressing and specifically highlighted the lack of cooperation among institutions for private records areas and IT specialists. Under this category some proposed continuing or reinforcing educational programmes, creating online learning courses, and developing methodologies for the management of digital collections so that the general public could witness the importance of these archives for their lives, protecting democracy and maintaining individual and societal identity.

3. **Challenges and solutions related to the preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage**

> *What are the major challenges your country faces in preserving its documentary heritage?*

The lack of funding was highlighted as perhaps the major challenge most countries were facing. As a result, this prohibited the preservation and accessibility of the national documentary heritage as a whole.

Other challenges also stressed the lack of IT infrastructure, as well as of qualified personnel and access to suitable training for the creators and managers of digital information in order to develop their technical skills.

In the area of public strategies and policies, developing a sustainable environment where decision makers would support preservation, developing a national digitization concept and designing public policies and strategies for preservation of documentary heritage was stated as important by respondents. Many specified that particular challenges existed in their countries regarding the preservation of archives of the private sector.

Legal and institutional concerns linked to copyright issues were also expressed as was the lack of an adequate legal framework for preservation and accessibility of digital heritage.

> *Are there adequate measures for capacity-building in place? If so, please describe. If not, please indicate what is needed*

Very few respondents answered positively to the question that adequate measures for capacity-building were in place in their countries.

Many advised that there existed a limited number of institutions, usually national institutions which provided storage, physical access – sometimes with restrictions, occasionally remote access and some of them would also preserve their collections. In many cases, and with few exceptions, however, these efforts remained insufficient. Smaller and/or private institutions were in a more difficult position as they struggled financially in order to preserve their collections and at times to ensure their own survival.

In Europe, EU funds were in place for large infrastructure projects and for long-term preservation. Some European countries had already started benefitting from such projects.

The importance of educational and training programmes in digital preservation was highlighted, along with the organization of major conferences, workshops and trainings and of tertiary educational programmes in order to reinforce capacity building.

Finally, mention was made of the need for an adequate legal framework and for the creation of national strategies and of precise action plans in digitization, preservation and accessibility of digital heritage in order to coordinate activities on a national level.

> *How is documentary heritage made accessible to the public? What are the major constraints to providing access? (e.g. structural, organisational, legal, programmatic, budgetary, etc.)*

The overwhelming majority indicated that physical access was often easy and available without restrictions, even though some stressed that a lack of well-equipped and modernized rooms limited physical access.

Many respondents indicated that in addition to physical access, digital/remote/online access was also assured via portals, websites, CD-ROMs etc. In some countries access to documentary heritage and digitization programmes carried out in the largest (usually national) institutions and their work was generally good. However, in other cases problems were noted in the coordination of digital activities on a national level, the lack of IT specialists and of adequate infrastructure and legal frameworks that would enable access via digital copies. This could be particularly problematic in the area of private collections and could create differences in the accessibility of collections and documents.

Some respondents mentioned particular problems with audiovisual collections where adapting to new technological evolutions posed economic, technological, ethical and professional challenges.

4. International cooperation, advocacy and promotion of the MoW Programme

> *Which MoW committees have you worked with and what was the goal of your common work? (e.g. organizing a seminar, workshop, exhibition etc.)*

Almost half of the respondents to this question demonstrated different levels of cooperation and involvement in the MoW Programme. This ranged from participating at the 4th International Conference in Warsaw, the International Advisory Council (IAC) and different MoW Sub-Committees meetings to the exchange of information, experiences and best practices between National Committees of the same region. Newly established National Committees demonstrated the commencement of various forms of cooperation with other neighbouring committees. Three respondents informed of problems experienced in communicating with the regional structures of the Programme, and that their national committees had been inactive or not had established links with other committees and structures.

Have you submitted any joint nominations?

Of the 19 replies to this question the majority (13) had not submitted any joint nominations. The reasons vary:

-many of the respondents who answered 'No' stated that their Committees were focusing on establishing a national register and some of them would like to look into that in the future.

-one stated that he/she lacked adequate knowledge in order to do so.

-others stated that the lack of uniformity in the nomination criteria complicated the process and stressed the need for the establishment of a special working group.

Of the respondents who answered 'Yes', some stated that preparing a joint nomination was more time-consuming than a national nomination as issues such as: communication problems, the lack of economic resources and limited staff could arise.

What should be the role of the MoW Programme in relation to other initiatives, as well as to the activities of the specialist NGOs in documentary heritage issues?

The replies of the respondents can be divided into two major categories: the role of the MoW Programme in relation to other initiatives and NGOs on the international level and on the regional, national and local levels.

- International level

On the international level MoW cooperates with NGOs including IFLA, ICA, ICOM, CCAAA, Blue Shield and projects such as WDL. Some respondents stressed the importance of MoW maintaining a more active role with the relevant NGOs by participating in conferences and workshops held by the NGOs, forming partnerships with various cultural initiatives and supporting policy development in the areas of culture and heritage. Others expressed the opinion that MoW should link with projects such as the European Library, Europeana, WDL and Google and with other actors in the field such as the Blue Shield Committee and the Archivist without Borders. The inclusion of MoW register items in portals such as Europeana and WDL and the transmission of NGO recommendations at governmental and intergovernmental levels were also proposed. One respondent noted that duplications between works of different NGOs and the MoW Programme should be avoided.

- Regional, national, local levels

Many of the respondents stressed the importance of addressing the national and regional levels. This was where the interest of the general public would be attracted thus creating greater interest for one's country's heritage. In turn, this could also increase the interest of decision-makers and encourage them to further develop and improve heritage issues.

Some respondents expressed the opinion that MoW should contribute to more specific projects aimed at the preservation and safeguarding of the documentary heritage. This could be done by providing concrete tools to advance the protection of documentary heritage, promoting the use of open-access software, promoting specialized publications and actively seeking extra-budgetary funds in order to develop specific projects. The lack of publications in different languages, especially Spanish, was cited as a drawback in promoting greater awareness of the work of the Programme and engaging national and regional support.

What other form(s) of international cooperation would you be keen to develop? Give examples and reasons for your suggestions

The majority of the respondents expressed the wish that MoW would develop more regional and to some extent national capacities and cooperation. More specifically, many of the respondents requested support in the organization of regional workshops and seminars in identifying items of common heritage, sharing experiences and best practices. Some respondents proposed the idea of

creating 'mentor committees'. Committees that already possessed a degree of expertise and experience could assist in the establishment of new committees.

Many respondents also stressed the necessity to create and support common projects between countries, organize and encourage participation in seminars, trainings, internships or online training and courses. Others proposed the organization of regional meetings of committees in order to share experiences and create synergies which would lead to greater regional cooperation.

Finally, some respondents stressed the idea of developing communication and publicity products such as CD-ROMs, websites, albums, postcards. One respondent suggested creating a blog in order to create an online environment for technical engagement for both newcomers and longstanding professionals.

5. Strengthening the MoW Programme

What should be changed (if anything) in the functioning of the MoW Programme, in its structure and/or priorities?

- On the international level

Some respondents noted that given the current resources available, the Programme operated efficiently and with remarkable success. However, additional and adequate resources were needed in order to organize proper monitoring, follow-up and support to the institutions with documentary heritage inscribed to the International Register. A clear national commitment recognizing inscription as a protection mechanism and gaining support of the national authorities was also proposed as being one of the priorities that the MoW Programme should develop.

Others noted that as the nomination process was quite complicated to understand and to follow, they expressed the wish that support, guidance and the organization of workshops should be given to countries worldwide in order to boost participation of the nomination process of different regions. It was also noted that the presentation of registered documentary heritage should be done in a clear way as to facilitate understanding of its value by people coming from different cultures, thus advancing intercultural dialogue and facilitating access of documentary heritage of various cultures and regions.

Some respondents stressed that closer links needed to be established between the UNESCO cultural heritage programmes and their registers and whilst ensuring that the Porgramme remained associated with other unique initiatives in order to add to its value. One respondent proposed the idea of creating a Memory of the World Community as a national initiative and suggested that the concept be taken up regionally and internationally.

Finally, a few respondents noted an urgent need to restructure or create a separate MoW website which would be more user-friendly and accessible to various publics. Furthermore, the need for additional informative materials which would be easy to understand and would enable raising awareness and capturing the interest of government officials and of decision makers was also stressed.

- On the regional and national levels

Many of the respondents highlighted certain needs in order to provide assistance regarding the MoW registers on national and regional levels. More specifically, these include: the provision of technical support for establishing national registers, supporting and implementing measures to protect documentary heritage on a national level, organizing training workshops in various sub-regions thus creating synergies and enhancing communication under the international umbrella of the Programme.

Should the status of MoW be altered? What would be the benefits? What would be the losses?

Of the 21 respondents to this question, 5 answered that they were unaware of the situation and could not reply whilst 6 replied 'no' or 'not now' to altering the status of MoW as no perceived benefits would be gained. Rather they thought that expert opinion would be ignored in favour of political decisions,

with emphasis being solely on the international register instead of other objectives such as preservation.

Of the remaining respondents who answered 'yes', some stressed the need to improve the MoW status on a regional and national level by reinforcing regional and national committees and providing sufficient resources to allow them to operate and raise visibility of the Programme in their respective regions and countries and to establish closer links with their respective governments.

Finally, a core category of respondents very involved in the Programme's works in its various Committees and Conferences touched upon the issue of whether the MoW Programme status should be altered resulting in a Convention. All respondents in this category stated that careful and profound reflection and analysis about the benefits and the risks should be undertaken prior to opting for either proposal.

Possible benefits from upgrading the status of the MoW Programme by a convention could include:
- Increased promotion and legal protection of the documentary heritage inscribed on the MoW Register. This presented the most important argument in favor of a convention;
- Possible increase of resources and governmental support available for the Programme.

Possible disadvantages to be avoided in a binding instrument:
- Politicization of the registers, especially of the International Register and management of the Programme;
- Decrease of the Programme's impact in the non-signatory states of the convention.
- Unlike the other cultural programmes – the World Heritage Programme and the Intangible Heritage Programme – the Memory of the World Programme possessed a large, and growing, technological content which was constantly evolving. By making the Programme governed by a convention, it risked becoming bound up in rules leading to a great restriction in the ability of the programme to respond to changing events.
- There are clear signs of "Convention Fatigue" among many of the UNESCO Members states.

An international declaration or recommendation was also mentioned as a possibility that could strengthen the Programme and the status of documentary heritage.

> *Do you think that cooperation between MoW and UNESCO's other heritage programmes, as well as other programmes/activities of UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector would strengthen MoW? How?*

The largest majority of respondents replied positively to strengthening cooperation between MoW and other UNESCO programmes.

The 3 main UNESCO heritage programmes should cooperate further and combine forces especially in the running of publicity that would be more economically affordable and efficient and in establishing common links to related listed materials in all programmes. This cooperation would aid in linking information about physical cultural heritage with information on primary sources. It was also stated that MoW should develop synergies with the World Heritage and the Intangible Cultural heritage Programmes.

A few respondents also mentioned possible advantages from working closer with IFAP, especially in policy advice concerning access and digitization of documentary heritage and with WDL in the promotion of items inscribed on the MoW registers.

6. MoW resources

> *What are your expectations from the MoW Programme in terms of financial support?*

Three major categories for financial support emerged of the respondents' replies. These include:
- capacity-building measures for professionals by assisting them in attending conferences, planning training programmes, seminars and workshops;
- supporting specific small projects on regional and national levels such as update spaces, access copies, digitization;

- supporting the functioning and at times the purchase of equipment for certain national committees or institutions in need.

Some respondents replied that given the difficult financial situation the MoW Programme was in, they had no financial expectations. However, some added that they would expect limited financial support from their countries' UNESCO National Commissions.

Do you think MoW has adequate human resources at the international level?

Of the 24 respondents, eleven replied negatively, seven positively and six that they did not know.

In addition, some of the respondents noted that the Programme was in need of human and financial resources within the secretariat. This was the case even though eminent experts were involved in the International Advisory Council (IAC) of the MoW and the Secretariat ensured successful participation of the Programme in international cooperation in the area of documentary heritage and in fostering policy development.

Are there adequate human resources in your country working on MoW issues?

Of the 25 respondents, nine replied negatively, eight positively, four replied that their countries had human resources but needed reinforcement and three did not reply.

What can the MoW Programme do to support the work of your committee?

A large number of respondents reiterated the need for financial support for the committees in order to fund project activities and support the mobility and the training of experts. Other respondents expressed the wish that the MoW Programme should assist in raising awareness in governmental levels. Some highlighted the need to reinforce the links between the international and the national parts of the Programme, thereby reinforcing the status of regional and national committees and sharing of information and good practices. Other suggestions included improving the branding of the Programme, sending newsletters, identifying a high profile ambassador for the Programme and producing publicity materials in large quantities.

How can your committee/institution help other committees or the MoW Programme in general?

The overwhelming majority of respondents expressed their readiness to share information, experiences and advice with other Committees. They also highlighted the need to organize regional or sub regional meetings, workshops and trainings within their geographic areas in order to improve communication between them and encourage the submission of nominations to national, regional and international levels.

One respondent reiterated the idea of creating a Paris-based blog that would facilitate ongoing interaction between the members of national committees. This would also contribute to the idea of building a broader base for an international memory of the world community. Other respondents proposed the creation of CD-Roms, regional digital portals, albums or postcards.

How can the MoW Programme increase its funding and marketing products?

The replies to this question varied, they include:
- Developing cooperation with the media which would help raise visibility and awareness;
- Creating an attractive website which would present the Programme and items inscribed on its registers. This would improve MoW's visibility and have a positive impact on its ability to mobilize extra-budgetary resources from UNESCO Member States and the private sector. However, one of the respondents noted that according to observations regarding other programmes, it was obvious that successful mobilization of extra-budgetary funds required carefully designed, continuous efforts, which was extremely difficult, if not impossible, without an adequate number of staff in charge;
- At a European level cooperating further with Europeana and The European Library, for example, by making accessible the European inscribed heritage through a permanent exhibition portal;

- Creating historical and scientific documentaries, publications, exhibitions, communication materials for sale to TV channels, cultural and educational services, cultural centres, universities, embassies;
- Establishing an annual membership fee for each country member of the Programme.

Please feel free to provide any other comments or expand on any points if any.

Many of the respondents reiterated the extreme importance of the MoW Programme and the need for it to gain greater visibility in UNESCO, internationally but also at a regional and national (governmental) level.

One respondent expressed the wish to further promote the World Digital Library project as best practice for regional and national digital libraries. Another respondent reiterated the need for the UNESCO website to become more user-friendly especially as far as the consultation of the nominations was concerned.

Some respondents thanked the Secretariat for its efforts in preparing the survey and the questions that met their current preoccupations.

Other respondents commented on the large extent of the survey and on the formulation of some of the questions which were judged difficult to determine, especially whether their comments should be directed to national or international actors.

7. Conclusion

The survey provided an opportunity to gather information on the challenges to be addressed to ensure preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage worldwide, as well as to examine issues relating to the functioning, strengthening and current resources of the Memory of the World Programme.

An analysis of the results of the survey revealed unanimous agreement on the importance of the MoW Programme and its role at international, regional and national levels. The need for its strengthening and promotion as the flagship global programme for documentary heritage preservation was also stressed. However no agreement was reached on precisely how this was to be done.

The need to raise awareness on different levels of the Programme in the public and private spheres and in the general public and its outreach was stressed in numerous replies throughout the survey and its different thematic areas. This, of course, was intrinsically linked both to the level of financial support of the Programme and to the need of greater publicity communications that were also highlighted throughout the survey.

The idea of establishing educational programmes and training workshops, as well as promoting the establishment of 'MoW Studies' was a common theme throughout the survey.

Another issue which was clearly identified was the need for a continued and enhanced cooperation and solid links between the international, regional and national levels of the Programme and other UNESCO heritage programs.

Finally, some respondents were unaware of the extent of the work of MoW and its activities such as cooperation with WDL and the fact that WDL was used to provide access to MoW register items.

Overall evaluation of the Memory of the World (MoW) Programme

Questionnaire

Please return the questionnaire no later than 15 March 2012

to Joie Springer, email: j.springer@unesco.org

and Maria Liouliou, email: m.liouliou@unesco.org

I.   <u>Information on your Committee/Institution</u>

1. Country

2. Name of the Committee/Institution

3. Name, Surname of person completing the form

4. Position

5. Contact information

II.   <u>Information on the MoW Programme</u>

<u>Theme: Impact of technologies on MoW and the challenges for documentary heritage, analogue[1] or digital</u>

6. The impact of technology on documentary heritage is not always addressed at national level. How can the MoW Programme help to raise awareness about this impact on preserving, making accessible and promoting documentary heritage?

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[1] Audiovisual heritage in particular

7. How can the MoW Programme contribute to: (a) raising awareness of technological challenges; (b) improving the level of preservation of documentary heritage? (fostering policy development at country level, specific preservation projects…) (c) improving access to documentary heritage?

8. Are you aware of the planned Conference on the "Memory of the World in the Digital Age: Digitization and Preservation"? Will you/your country be present?

9. Which of the key issues/challenges identified in the conference's concept paper do you consider most pressing for your country's documentary heritage preservation and accessibility (technological, legal and ethical, economic, political, cultural and professional challenges) and why?

   (see concept paper and call for papers on:

   http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/memory-of-the-world/homepage/)

Theme: Challenges and solutions connected with the preservation, capacity-building and accessibility of documentary heritage

10. What are the major challenges your country faces in preserving its documentary heritage?

11. Are there adequate measures for capacity-building in place? If so, please describe. If not, please indicate what is needed.

12. How documentary heritage is made accessible to the public in your country? What are the major constraints to providing access? (e.g. structural, organisational, legal, programmatic, budgetary, etc.). Are there any differences between the accessibility of the MoW registered issues and other documentary heritage? If yes, what are they due to?

Theme: International cooperation within the framework of the Programme

13. Which MoW committees have you worked with and what was the goal of your common work? (e.g. organising a seminar, workshop, exhibition etc.)

14. Have you submitted any joint nominations?

a. If so, what obstacles, if any, did you encounter when preparing the nomination? What benefits were derived if listed?

b. If not, please explain (no heritage in common; prefer to focus on national items only, too complicated, etc)?

15. What should be the role of the MoW Programme in relation to other initiatives, as well as to the activities of the specialist NGOs in documentary heritage issues?

16. What other form(s) of international cooperation would you be keen to develop? Give examples and reasons for your suggestions.

<u>Theme: Prospects for further development and strengthening of the MoW Programme</u>

17. What should be changed (if anything) in the functioning of the MoW Programme, in its structure and/or priorities?

18. Should the status of MoW be altered? What would be the benefits? What would be the losses?

19. Do you think that cooperation between MoW and UNESCO's other heritage programmes, as well as other programmes/activities of UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector would strengthen MoW? How?

20. Are you planning to organize any event or celebration to promote the 20th anniversary of the MoW Programme?

Theme: Financial and human resources attributed to the Programme

21. What are your expectations from the MoW Programme in terms of financial support?

22. Do you think MoW has adequate human resources at the international level?

23. Are there adequate human resources in your country working on MoW issues?

24. What can the MoW Programme do to support the work of your committee?

25. How can your committee/institution help other committees or the MoW Programme in general? Give concrete examples and ideas.

26. How can the MoW Programme increase its funding and marketing products? Give your recommendations, concrete examples and ideas.

27. Please feel free to provide any other comments or expand on any points if any.

Thank you for your time devoted to responding to this questionnaire!

UNESCO Knowledge Societies Division

8.2.   General Conference Resolution 'UNESCO and the Documentary Heritage'

Extracts from the Records of the General Conference

36th session Paris, 25 October – 10 November 2011

Volume 1
Resolutions

Extract from the Report of the CI Commission (Communication and information)[2]

Item 5.14 UNESCO and documentary heritage

30. During its fourth and fifth meetings, the Commission examined Item 5.14 – UNESCO and documentary heritage.

31. The representatives of 10 Member States took the floor.

32. The Commission recommended to the General Conference that it take note of document 36 C/COM. CI/DR.2 entitled "UNESCO and Documentary Heritage".

33. The Commission recommended to the General Conference that it adopt, for the records of the General Conference, the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/COM.X/CI/DR.2) submitted by Poland and co-sponsored by Algeria, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Israel, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, as amended orally by Member States. (36 C/Resolution 59)

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[2] The General Conference took note of this report at its 16th plenary meeting, on 10 November 2011, and approved the decisions recommended by the Commission therein. The oral report of the Chairperson of the Commission in plenary is published in document 36 C/INF.25.

UNESCO and documentary heritage[3]

The General Conference,

Referring to the Programme and Budget (36 C/5 Add.), Major Programme V, main line of action 3, expected result (8),

Recalling the Organization's mandate to "Maintain, increase and diffuse knowledge: by assuring the conservation and protection of the world's inheritance of books, works of art and monuments of history and science …",

Convinced that documentary heritage, including the oral tradition, repository of information, sources of history and traditions, is a precious but vulnerable heritage of humankind and therefore requires special attention,

Aware of the need for the sustainable preservation of, and improved access to, recorded heritage regardless of the carrier,

Recalling that the Memory of the World Programme (MWP) was created in order to facilitate preservation of and universal access to documentary heritage, and to increase the awareness of its existence and significance,

Recognizing the contribution of the Memory of the World Programme to sharing knowledge and enhancing access thereto, and consequently fostering dialogue and mutual understanding between peoples and cultures, and by integrating documentary heritage in education,

Noting with appreciation the Memory of the World Register as the visible expression of the shared and accessible memory of humankind,

Emphasizing the growing interest of most countries in preserving their documentary heritage, reflected by the increasing number of inscriptions on the Memory of the World Register, developing of national registers and participation in the international conferences of the Memory of the World Programme,

Stressing the proactive role of the National Commissions for UNESCO in promoting and fostering the implementation of the Memory of the World Programme at the national level,

Appreciating the efforts of the UNESCO Secretariat to provide, despite the limited financial and human resources, the administration and monitoring of the Memory of the World Programme, to support the implementation of the recommendations stemming from its international conferences and to assist Member States to successfully submit items to the Register,

Referring to the international conference of the Memory of the World Programme that took place in Warsaw in May 2011 and to its declaration and recommendations,

Building on the results of the previous three international conferences that took place in Oslo, Colima and Canberra, and in particular the results of the third international conference,

Further recalling that there is neither a long-term strategy for preserving the precious documentary heritage nor a legal framework for the functioning of the Memory of the World Programme,

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[3] Resolution adopted on the report of the CI Commission at the 16th plenary meeting, on 10 November 2011.

Also convinced that the 20th anniversary of the Memory of the World Programme in 2012 provides an opportunity to assess the achievements of UNESCO in the field of documentary heritage, with particular focus on the visibility and effectiveness of the programme,

1. Requests the Director-General to initiate, within the regular budget, an in-depth reflection on modalities for strengthening the Memory of the World Programme and its development perspective through an overall evaluation of the Programme, including surveys among Member States, taking into account the following:

   (a) the capacity of the Memory of the World Programme to meet today's challenges in light of the constant technological advances and their consequences for documentary heritage, digital or traditional;
   (b) challenges and solutions connected with the preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage and related capacity-building;
   (c) international cooperation within the framework of the Programme;
   (d) prospects for the further development and strengthening of the Memory of the World Programme;
   (e) financial and human resources attributed to the Programme;

2. Further requests the Director-General to convene a meeting of experts financed from extrabudgetary resources to analyse the results of the above-mentioned evaluation and formulate proposals, and to subsequently submit the report of the meeting with recommendations to the Executive Board at its 190th session;

3. Takes note of the readiness of the Government of Poland to host and finance the above-mentioned meeting;

4. Invites the Director-General to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Memory of the World Programme with adequate media coverage to highlight the importance of the programme in an effort to obtain widespread visibility and public impact;

5. Invites Member States to fully support the conference on digital preservation planned for September 2012.