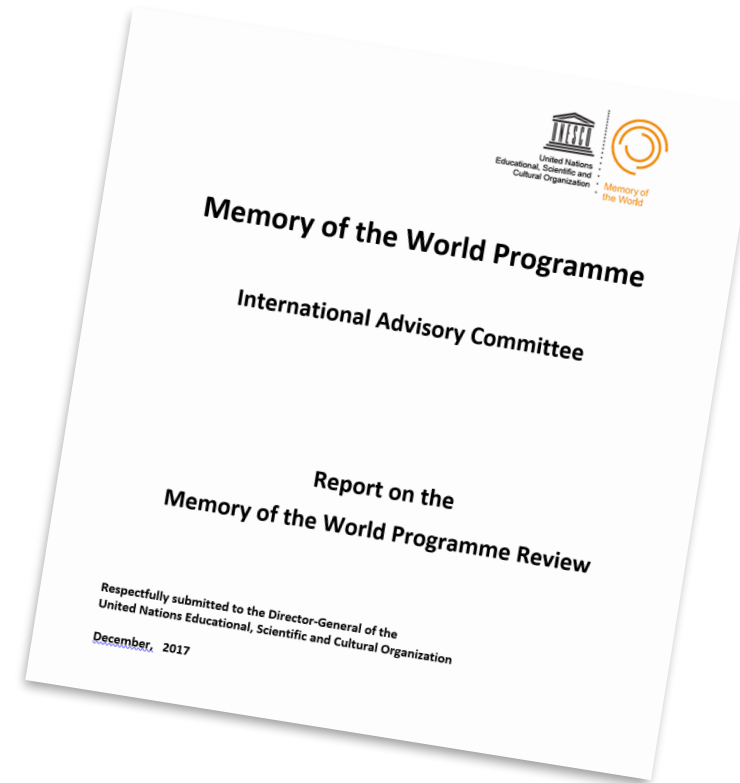


Memory of the World Programme IAC Perspective and Recommended Directions

Presented by the International Advisory
Committee
UNESCO Memory of the World Programme

Overview

- ❖ IAC Review Process
- ❖ Survey Results
- ❖ Recommendations
- ❖ Governance Models



IAC Review Process

- Initiated by IAC at its 12th Meeting, October 2015 Abu Dhabi;
- Welcomed by UNESCO Executive Board April 2016; encouraged April 2017
- 2 working groups formed: Statutes & Rules, Guidelines and Ethics
- 2 Discussion papers prepared, reflecting issues raised by IAC
- Posted online with invitation to participate: June through October 2016
- 45 submissions received:
 - 27 from UNESCO national commissions and MOW national committees.
- Consensus meeting for IAC and Working Groups, Berlin March 2017
- Report submitted to DG UNESCO, June 2017 (202 EX/15)
 - 15 Recommendations

Key Findings from 2017 IAC Survey

1.

- Many submissions paid tribute to the Secretariat and work of IAC expert volunteers over 25 years:
 - 4 international conferences,
 - pioneering work on use of emerging digital technologies for preservation and access to fragile or dispersed documentary heritage;
 - key policy instruments including UNESCO Universal Declaration on Archives (2011) and Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of and Access to Documentary Heritage, including in digital form (2015),
 - 3 regional and 24 national MOW committees and registers, the International MOW register and publications.
- Substantial increase in Nominations for the International Register
 - from 88 (2015) to 132 (2017)

Key Findings from 2017 IAC Survey

2.

- 78% of respondents felt that MOW was not meeting its potential and had lost sight of its intent, echoing previous evaluations and reports (1997, 2005, 2012)
- Some comments that MOW is not known amongst the institutions it is meant to assist
- MOW “unsustainable” at current resource levels as noted in 2012 (190 EX/15) and becoming high risk to UNESCO
- Considerable concern/interest in preserving digital documentary heritage
- Popularity of Register has overwhelmed the other aspects of the MOW programme: documentary materials at risk, public awareness, education, research on new technologies, partnerships.

Key IAC Recommendations 2017

1.

- That an appropriate balance between documents at risk and globally significant documents (International Register) be restored.
- That the MOW IAC represent all regions and advise UNESCO on all aspects of a renewed MOW program.
- That UNESCO encourage and advance awareness, research and standards to highlight and respond to the many threats to our documentary heritage, especially in the myriad of digital forms.
- That UNESCO examine the synergies across all its world heritage programs
- That the MOW program work in harmony and close collaboration with other UNESCO world heritage programs and engage with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors.
- That to facilitate use, the MOW web site as the public face of the program, be considerably expanded, to include training programs on preservation as well as a modern search engine linked to MOW regional sites and centers of digitized documents

Key IAC Recommendations 2017 2.

- nominations process for inscription on the International Register
 - allow the Secretariat to review the legal, technical and other pertinent aspects of the nomination,
 - publication online for comment by UNESCO delegations,
 - referral to the MOW Register Sub-Committee, for a preliminary recommendation
 - consideration by the IAC
 - a recommendation to the UNESCO DG for decision.
- ‘Questioned Nominations’
 - given more time for dialogue,
 - leading to a joint nomination; or
 - an agreement on an inscription without the controversial aspects

Key IAC Recommendations 2017

3.

- MOW Statutes, Rules of Procedure and Guidelines be amended to reflect and implement the UNESCO Executive Board's decisions on these recommendations
- The proposed MOW Code of Ethics be adopted.

Issues 2019

Governance models: Evaluation Criteria

Will the proposed governance structure accomplish the following:

- 1) Provide the missing legal basis for the MOW Program?
- 2) Ensure sustainable funding and staff support ?
- 3) Raise awareness within UNESCO and amongst all Member States of the vital importance of our documentary heritage ?
- 4) Ensure meaningful engagement with the expert Advisory Committee, other UNESCO world heritage programs, partners, relevant NGOs and private sector ?
- 5) Restore program balance between documents at risk and globally significant documents

Perspectives on Governance

- Documentary Heritage has proven to be important to Member States and the functioning of UNESCO
- IAC is open to greater participation by Member States
 - Shared responsibility of Member States
 - MOW exists to serve the purposes of UNESCO
 - Registrations should be celebrated by all Member States
- MOW is much more than the Register
 - Controversial nominations overshadow the greater work of the programme
 - should be resolved or excluded

Reflections on Legal Basis

- MOW requires something additional to 2015 Recommendation
- Established alongside other Heritage programmes
- Must be situated to work in harmony and close collaboration with other heritage programmes, the Information for All Programme and engage with appropriate partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to advance its mandate.

Chairman's Reflections 2019

- Need to engage the UNESCO Delegations in a renewed MOW program
 - balancing professional judgment and national perspectives,
 - while advancing all aspects of the program
- The MOW is *not a tribunal* to solve long-standing international disputes about a shared past.
- The archival record is first and foremost *evidence* of actions and decisions with considerable continuing legal authority.
- IAC statutes should exclude from consideration
 - any documents which are central to significant continuing disagreement between and amongst national governments, or
 - which are now or may at some point be introduced as evidence in the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court OR other court or tribunal recognized by the UN.