UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

"Memory of the World Programme"

International Advisory Committee
Register Sub-Committee

First Meeting of the Register Sub-Committee

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 18-19 March 2003

FINAL REPORT

Information Society Division

Those Present:
(See Annex A for full details)

Members of the Sub-Committee	**UNESCO Officers**
Wojciech Falkowski (Chairman)	Abdelaziz Abid (March 19th only)
George Boston (Rapporteur)	Philippe Quéau (part-time)
Joan van Albada	Joie Springer
Ray Edmondson	
Marie-Thèrése Varlamoff	

Wojciech Falkowski welcomed the members of the Register Sub-Committee (SC) to Paris and thanked Joie Springer and her colleagues for making it possible to hold the meeting at the UNESCO Headquarters.

The members of the SC agreed the draft agenda and discussed the administrative procedures to be followed when considering the nominations. To assist the SC, copies of a compilation of interpretations of the criteria for the International Register agreed by the IAC and the Bureau during previous rounds of nominations were distributed (see Annex B). Ray Edmondson said that many of the points had been incorporated into the new edition of the *General Guidelines to Safeguard Documentary Heritage*.

Ray Edmondson referred members of the SC to Section 4.7 on page 27 of the Guidelines which set out the procedures to be followed when considering the nominations. The proposers of each nomination would be notified by the Programme Officer of the SC's recommendation to the IAC. They would be told whether the SC recommended that the nomination be placed on the International Register or not; whether the SC recommends that the nomination be considered for entering on a National and/or Regional Register; or whether additional information was required before the SC could make a final decision about the nomination. It was always open to proposers of nominations to submit additional information in support of applications that had not been accepted by the SC.

The SC was reminded that they were not deciding on the merits or value of the documents nominated. All are considered to be of *World Significance* (Section 4.1.2 of the Guidelines). The task of the SC was to select documents for the International Register which have had a wide influence on peoples and events (Section 4.2.1 of the Guidelines). A document may appear on more than one Register.

Concerns were expressed about the possibility of undue pressure being applied on the SC and the IAC to accept nominations for the International Register. Although this was unlikely, it was felt that the process of recommending nominations for the International Register had to be seen as free from influence or the International Register may be de-valued. One proposal was that nominations from the country hosting meetings of the SC or the IAC should not be considered at those meetings. It was felt, however, that this was too rigid. The SC decided that they would only pass strong nominations to the IAC for their final approval

For similar reasons of transparency, the SC recommended that members of the SC and the IAC do not take part in the decision making process about nominations from their country.

Consideration of the Nominations

To avoid repeating discussions and to make comparisons easier, it was agreed to consider some nominations that had similarities as a group. It was also agreed that, for convenience in referring to the sets of papers, a reference number would be allocated to each nomination.

Nom 2003-16 - Storyteller Kenje-Kara (Kyrgystan) and Nom 2003-35 - Collection of Horacio Loriente (Uruguay) were considered together as both contained audio recordings. Similarly, Nom 2003-04 - The Emperor's Collection (Brazil), Nom 2003-18 - The Family of Man (Luxembourg) and Nom 2003 19 - Hugo Brehme Collection (Mexico) were considered together as they were all collections of photographic images.

The remaining nominations were considered in sequence.

The recommendations of the Sub-Committee for the International Register to the International Advisory Committee are given in Annex D (not yet available online).

Presentation of the Recommendations to the IAC

The recommendations of the SC will be circulated to the IAC members prior to the meeting to be held in Gdansk, Poland later this year. The formal presentation of the SC Report to the meeting will be by the Chairman of the SC although other members of the SC may attend.

If a presentation of a nomination is made, the presentation should be by a person other than the author of the nomination. A time limit of five minutes should be applied to each presentation.

The IAC was advised to hold any detailed discussions of nominations in private session. Members of the SC may be invited to join them to provide additional information if required.

At the request of the Officers, advice on the timetable for the Gdansk meeting was offered.

Other Matters

The method for obtaining opinions from the specialist NGOs was discussed. In this instance, it had worked well but there were some concerns about advice being provided by a national of the country of the nomination. It was agreed that this should be avoided whenever possible to avoid any possibility of accusations of undue influence being applied in support of nominations.

Because of the amount of work that was required to provide advice about some nominations, it was agreed that an Honorarium be available for people providing the NGO recommendations. The sum of 100 Euros was felt to be appropriate.

The use of the Memory of the World logo was discussed. It was agreed that the "Temple" symbol should form the basis for any National and Regional logos.

Concern was expressed about possible misuse of the logo. Abdelaziz Abid said that the advice from experts in the field was that, because of the length of time that the logo had been in use, it was not necessary to formally register the design. UNESCO had gained *de-facto* rights to the design.

The SC were reminded that their role included the monitoring of the various Registers to ensure that they remained in good order. If necessary, the SC could recommend the removal of an entry on a Register. Reasons for such action include major deterioration of storage conditions, the decay and loss of material and the refusal of access without good reason. The IAC may also request a major review of a Register if there are concerns that it is being de-valued by inappropriate entries.

Closure of the Meeting

The Chairman thanked the UNESCO Officers for their work in easing the deliberations of the Sub-Committee.

List of Participants

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Compilation of Decisions of
the International Advisory Committee and the Bureau of the
Memory of the World Programme

IAC Meeting - Paris 1995

1. It was agreed that documentary heritage accepted for inclusion in the International Register should have the title "Memory of the World".

2. Collections accepted for inclusion on National or Regional Registers will have a title of the form "Memory of Peru" or "Memory of the Pacific".

3. It was agreed that no formal limit should be set to the number of Registrations made.

4. At National and Regional level, all documentary heritage that meets the criteria will be Registered and permitted to use the National or Regional title.

5. Only documentary heritage accepted by the International Advisory Committee as being of universal significance will be included in the International Register and permitted to use the title "Memory of the World".

6. The "Memory of the World" logo can be used in connection with items Registered at any level. The logo may, subject to approval of the IAC, be modified to reflect local requirements.

7. It was also recommended that the design of the "Memory of the World" logo be registered to protect against misuse.

IAC Meeting - Tashkent 1997

8. That groups of institutions wishing to co-operatively nominate a fragmented collection should form a Supervisory Board to oversee the application and act as a point of contact for the proposal. Such applications should include information about the plans for the future joint administration of the fragmented collection.

9. That the expansion of the concept of cultural networks such as the proposed HeritageNet in Central Asia be urgently considered.

10. That UNESCO invite the Member States to:
    _ Enhance accessibility to public domain information.
    _ Develop a strong "public common information domain".
    _ Help formulate national policies for the role of libraries, archives and documentation centres as gateways to the information society.

Regional Consultation for Central Asia - Tashkent 1997

11.   That educational programmes be set up for the training of specialists in the field of conservation and restoration and of specialists capable of reading old manuscripts;

12.   That all forms of documentary heritage be collected, preserved and promoted in all languages of the region, including oral traditions;

13.   That the exchange of databases on documentary heritage be promoted both within the region and abroad.

Bureau Meeting - London 1998

14.   The International Advisory Committee recognises that all archival fonds are generated organically by state administrations, corporate bodies and individuals in the course of their normal activities. The IAC considers, however, that the International Register of the Memory of the World Programme cannot include all the records in state and municipal archives, no matter how important those states and cities may be. A large proportion of the records are concerned with local, national and, sometimes, regional issues.

Repositories should nominate for inclusion on the International Register only those documents that are clearly of world significance. The nomination may consist of complete fonds, a sous-fonds, series or groups of records or even a single document within a collection.

IAC Meeting - Vienna 1999

15.   The three levels of Memory of the World registers - international, regional and national - do not denote levels of "importance" but rather the geographic sphere of the value and importance of the heritage concerned. In a fundamental sense all are equally important, which is why they merit inclusion. Decisions on acceptance or rejection of all nominations should take into account this three-level structure regardless of whether the relevant national or regional register has yet been formally established.

16. The stance on archival fonds (Minutes of the Bureau meeting of September 1998) is of fundamental importance, although it is better to use the formula "public and private" rather than "state and municipal". This change was accepted by the IAC, so the amended text becomes:

The IAC recognizes that all archival fonds are generated organically by state administrations, corporate bodies and individuals in the course of their normal activities. The IAC considers, however, that the International Register of the Memory of the World Programme cannot include all the records in public and private archives, no matter how important those bodies or individuals may be. A large proportion of the records are concerned with local, national and, sometimes, regional issues.

Repositories should nominate for inclusion on the International Register only those documents that are clearly of world significance. The nomination may consist of a complete fonds, a sous-fonds, series or groups of records or even a single document within a collection.

17. There cannot be "open-ended" nominations: all proposals must relate to fixed and finite documents or groups of documents. Once added to the Register, the document group cannot be varied or redefined over time. Having accepted this principle, however, the fugitive nature of some materials - such as audio-visual carriers - has to be recognized: sometimes, what survives over time may be the content rather than the decaying original carrier. There may need to be format change within a group of documents after it is included on the Register.

18. Memory of the World is an open and inclusive programme: it is important to allow individuals, as well as organizations within and outside the UNESCO umbrella, to nominate items for the Register.

19. We should avoid political correctness, which is not a criterion for evaluating a nomination, but rather deal objectively with the merits of each proposal for nomination, in its own right. We receive and respond: we may stimulate, too, but should not distort.

20. There is a need for ongoing dialogue with the UNESCO World Heritage programme to ensure compatibility in our approaches to documentary heritage contained within a designated World Heritage site.

MEMORY OF THE WORLD

INTERNATIONAL REGISTER

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

The General Guidelines to Safeguard Documentary Heritage provide for adoption of operational guidelines for applying the Register Selection Criteria (clause 4.2.7).

The following Guidelines apply to audiovisual media - moving images and/or recorded sound in any format.

Re: 4.2.3 - authenticity

Audiovisual media are copiable and liable to deterioration, and earliest generations may no longer exist. Audiovisual works may exist in variant versions - there may be no "authoritative" version. A judgement may be required in weighing the relative importance of content vs. carrier in deciding authenticity

Re 4.2.4 - irreplaceability

Again, awareness of the importance of content and carrier matter. In some cases the life of the original carrier may be quite transitory - only the content may survive. In others, the maximisation of the carrier's life will be a consideration, for some characteristics, such as the nuances of some film colour processes, cannot be adequately copied.

Re 4.2.5 - significance

4 Subject and theme: the moving image, recorded sound and broadcast media are the new art form and new communication form of the 20th century - in both realms their influence on society has been profound. For instance, the invention and growth of film grammar and techniques of news reporting represent entirely new forms of communication. Wars have been fought by television. Film and radio have been the mass persuaders.

5 Form and style: The AV media have traversed enormous technological and artistic development in little more than a century. Items that represent significant steps in the development of the media, or which have influenced the evolution of the media itself, are significant in terms of this criterion. The advent and disappearance of particular formats is of particular importance - technology interacts with context.

Re 4.2.6 - other factors

Integrity: many important audiovisual works survive only in incomplete form, or in reconstructed versions that assemble the best material known to be available at the time of

reconstruction. Both may be superseded by subsequent discoveries. It would be normally expected that works inscribed on the Register in incomplete or reconstructed form would retain their inscription status if better copies are discovered, but it would always be the best copies which are identified in the inscription.

Threat: AV carriers are physically vulnerable and the problems of preservation are often not popularly understood. Many AV archives operate under extreme resource limitations. The notion of threat may need to tale into account the circumstances of a needy archive, the possibility of a successful nomination increasing public awareness and the chances of permanent preservation.