

UNESCO Memory of the World Programme

Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR)

SCEaR Newsletter 2020/1 (June)

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Editorial

by Lothar Jordan

The Pandemia reinforces the urgency of the question: What can we do to provide activities and knowledge for a better world? In a more pessimistic and at this time probably more realistic variant of this question: How can we help to reduce or to avoid the negative impact of man-made and natural disasters? In this newsletter these questions are put into context of our work for Memory of the World. That is especially true for the first two articles of this issue.

Since its beginnings in 2013 the Memory of the World Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR), according to its Mission, keeps an eye on *innovation in* “education and research on Memory of the World and/or on documents, especially in an interdisciplinary and international manner”, and that relates to the programme, its registers, and the world documentary heritage beyond the registers. According to these tasks we worked and work on two tracks.

The first is the MoW registers of outstanding documents, especially the International Register, as this was seen by all parties as the ‘flagship’ of the programme. It was and is an important task to help develop tools for a better understanding and mediation of the registered items, on all levels of education, for national and international use, in the spirit of UNESCO.

But there are a rich documentary heritage and vast fields of education and research beyond the registers. So it was and is our second track to help exploring new ways for the understanding and use of documentary heritage and documents: We underline the *pro-active* potential of Memory of the World, concerning the understanding, the use, and the development of documentary heritage.

In our first issue, *SCEaR Newsletter 2016*, Jonas Palm and Claudio Pescatore proposed to consider that MoW might become one of the umbrellas under which research could be carried out how to create long-term, sustainable information on radioactive waste. In this newsletter both authors take that question of ‘negative heritage’ up, broadening the view to “Chemically- and biologically-hazardous waste as well as radioactive waste” (p. 4) and reflecting different mechanisms for different periods of time, up to very long periods, with their specific requirements for constructing documents and documentary heritage. For them it an urgent task to assist future generations with decision-making.

We find the idea of help for decision-making in the following article, too, and are very pleased with Fackson Banda’s (Chief of the Documentary Heritage/Memory of the World Unit of UNESCO) readiness to provide information on strategies and activities of UNESCO and of the unit he leads to react on COVID-19. That includes his reflections of the role of documentary heritage and the memory institutions in helping political decisions to react on the pandemia, and implementing that help into a frame of disaster (disasters of different kinds) prevention and management.

This has become a focal point of Memory of the World since the *First Memory of the World Global Policy Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management For Sustainable Preservation of Documentary Heritage* (11 December 2018, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris). A second Forum on these matters was planned for May 2020, but – due to the pandemia – had to be postponed until October. To strengthen MoW’s work on these matters, especially in education and research, we invited organizers of the First Forum to act as Editors of a *SCEaR Newsletter* -Special Issue on this event. This Special Issue is planned to come out in the following weeks. A Special Issue on the Second Forum is planned, too.

Now to the third and fourth article of this Newsletter: While the first two articles are on the second track I spoke about above, these ones are more on the first.

Shahla Karimi analyses and reflects criteria for the nomination of Iranian documents to the Memory of the World Register, and makes proposals that could be discussed on the international and national level. It is obvious that there are structural tensions between the international perspective of the MoW Register and the national aspects of nominations and inscriptions, and as Karimi proposes to reflect e.g. the role of ‘language’ in these matters, a discussion could follow this proposal. Our colleague Roslyn Russell starts with this discussion right away (editorial response, p. 26).

An important part of the innovations the SCEaR generated for MoW, is the creation of the network of Memory of the World Knowledge Centres that started 2016 in Macau. We reported on that continuously since the *SCEaR Newsletter* 2017/1, with a Special Part in 2018. In the *SCEaR Newsletter* 2019/1 we reported on the first meeting of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centres. One of its tasks was to look for ways of further work and especially of cooperation, if possible to win partners in different regions of the world. The Fujian-Macau Symposium and Exhibition on “Memory of the World and Maritime Silk Road” in Macau November 2019 (*SCEaR Newsletter* 2019/2) applied that idea. Among other international guests there were two from Mexico, Catherine Bloch Gerschel (MoW IAC member and President of the Mexican MoW Committee), and Yolia Tortolero (Mexican MoW Committee). We are very pleased that both could help to achieve a Memorandum of Understanding to create a Mexican Memory Knowledge Centre – which will be the first outside Asia. Yolia Tortolero reports on the Mexican plans (p. 30-32).

Preserving Memory and Information on Heritage and on Unwanted Legacies - New Tools for Identifying Sustainable Strategies to Prepare and Support Decision Making by Future Generations

by Claudio Pescatore and Jonas Palm

Introduction

Memory and information go together. They are the essence of life. At the biological level, our DNA has been storing and sorting information for billions of years making us, and every other living organism, what we are today, with our possibilities to grow and evolve. History is a combination of memory and information. The same goes for science, education and all that allows us to live social lives. As human beings, we construct ourselves through the memories and information that we receive and those we create. We need to prepare memory and information for those who will come after us. Past and current activities sometimes result in a negative sustainable heritage which may pose problems to us and future generations (Palm and Jordan, 2020).¹

The sustainable development literature in general, and Agenda 2030, in particular, do not seem to give enough attention to sustainable memory and information, that is memory and information that can help future generations make knowledgeable decisions, especially concerning unwanted legacies that may last centuries and millennia. Chemically- and biologically-hazardous waste as well as radioactive waste deposits come quickly to mind. The list of unwanted, long-term legacies is long, however, and goes from debris in space to mine-fields on Earth. At one-point, for some of those legacies, future societies will need to know what was stored, where, how, why, etc².

Preserving **Records, Knowledge & Memory (RK&M)** over centuries and millennia requires preparing to face major challenges. Changes will happen politically and geographically as well as in language, imagery, and climate. Technological and cultural changes will also take place. Values and priorities will evolve in unknown ways. The overall RK&M preservation strategy must be to transfer the desired message in different forms and formats and by different mechanisms so as to ensure durability throughout. The intervention of future, intermediate generations will be important. There may be periods, however, where such intervention will be suspended or abandoned or lost. The strategy is then also to maximize the chances that RK&M can be recovered at a later stage.

A workshop on “Information and memory for future decision making – radioactive waste and beyond” raised and started addressing the above issues in the context of sustainable development (Kärnavfallsrådet, 2019a). The workshop was inspired by

¹ This article is in a line with two articles (Palm and Pescatore 2016; Palm and Jordan 2020) that propose to put this matter into the context of UNESCO and Memory of the World.

² As an example of future concerns, a Reuters report in the *New York Times* of May 21, 2020, describes the failure of two dams, in Michigan, whose floodwaters have swept a toxic cleanup site.

previous work in the field of RK&M preservation for radioactive waste under the aegis of the OECD/NEA (OECD/NEA 2019). The workshop also discussed a chart of guiding principles and practical goals (Kärnavfallsrådet, 2019b). The final, three guiding principles are as follows:

1. Enabling future members of society to make knowledgeable decisions is part of responsible, ethically sound management of environmental and other impacts of the legacies we leave behind.
2. The relevant institutions should plan for continuing oversight. This is also in line with a prudent approach for protecting health and safety.
3. Any strategy for the preservation of RK&M should integrate the possibility of a future disruption of the foreseen methods of transmission. The intention should be to regain oversight, in case oversight was lost.

In this paper we address the third principle. We take oversight as a synonym for “watchful care”. It refers to society “keeping an eye” on the technical system used for the legacy and on its past implementation of plans and decisions. This concept provides a useful framework to view institutional activities and societal engagement as parts of a unified whole (Pescatore et al., 2013).

A methodology has been described for “strategizing” (Pescatore, 2018; OECD/NEA, 2019) on RK&M preservation over century and millennia, albeit it needs testing, refinement and practice. We summarize its main points and develop original, new tools for helping implement it. Our tools – in the form of tables and influence diagrams – should prove useful for identifying strategies that are sustainable and robust under Principle No. 3 over the different time scales of interest. The Memory of the World Programme is one of the International Mechanisms to support long term memory and information both of heritage and unwanted legacies.

Creating an inventory of RK&M preservation mechanisms

For the legacies we leave behind, we have to collect and structure what we decide is essential information and create the premises for its preservation - along with proper explications of why we thought so. One example is the Key Information File proposed for radioactive waste.³ The goal is to keep the message available and to facilitate taking appropriate measures so that the information will remain intelligible through the ages, e.g., ideally, through periodic revisiting and updating, but also by providing bases for knowledge reconstruction when updating did not take place. The preservation strategy to transfer this information across generation must be adaptable enough to match the inevitable changes that will take place in society.

In order to maximize the chance of survival over the various timescales that are involved we need to formulate a multi-faceted approach that incorporates different

³ Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory (RK&M) Across Generations: Developing a Key Information File for a Radioactive Waste Repository © OECD 2019 NEA No. 7377, p. 14.

mechanisms ranging from technical to administrative to societal provisions (Pescatore, 2018; OECD/NEA, 2019). This multi-faceted approach should be constructed based on two modes of memory transmission: one that is based on the presence of direct intermediaries between generations, and one that would survive in the absence of any such intermediaries. The two modes are described as “mediated” and “non-mediated” transmission.

Creating an inventory of available mechanisms is a first step. Table 1 reports 7 general mechanisms. Namely:

- Archives
- Libraries
- Time capsules
- Markers
- Active (cultural) heritage
- International mechanisms
- Oversight provisions

Each one of those general mechanisms may be divided into other more specific ones. For instance, **archives** are of several types (national, regional, local, etc.). Archives are a basic institution found all over the world. The oldest archives that have been discovered were created in Syria around 2500 BC and contain clay tablets with book-keeping information. Archives constitute a basic, important mechanism for preserving information necessary for a functioning society. The survival of archival information over time, however, means relying on the transfer of knowledge across languages and traditions to make it possible to decipher old content. Concerning **international mechanisms**, they can be governmental (for example the agencies of the United Nations, or formal conventions between nations), or nongovernmental (for example private initiatives). Amongst the few promising international governmental mechanisms are the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme and the International Atomic Energy Agency’s International Nuclear Information System (INIS) database. Concerning **oversight**, it may take many forms and be a combination of several other mechanisms. It could combine regulatory supervision, independent monitoring of environmental impacts, active preservation of archival information, societal awareness through, e.g., lore and local history societies. The latter mechanisms belong to the realm of **active heritage**. We use this term because “cultural heritage” is too encompassing a term and it could be taken to include archives, libraries, monuments and markers, which are useful to be categorized as separate mechanisms. Examples of active heritage is heritage that is likely to evolve over time, such as traditions, local lore, enactment societies of past historical events or past practices, etc. See also Box 1 on memorialization and the concept of Heritage Value. This is also close to UNESCO’s Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, including oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural

heritage, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and traditional craftsmanship⁴.

Box 1: Memorializing by creating heritage value

One way to keep memory alive is not to hide the various legacy sites, but make them part of the cultural heritage of the region, so that a durable relationship is built between these projects and the host community or region. Creating heritage value is about creating a durable relationship through projects that are “owned” by the community across generations.

Heritage Value comes from injecting elements that favor memorialization of a project or legacy such as, amenity, multi-functionality, re-use, etc. in tune with the vision that the community or region holds of itself and of its aspiration. Heritage is also created when the societal structures that were formed to accompany the project create a dynamic that can be relied upon for later projects.

The Eiffel Tower provides one example of what "heritage value" may mean. Namely, across generations, the Eiffel Tower symbolizes the achievements of the human intellect; lends itself to multiple uses, e.g., telecommunications and tourism; it has aesthetic value; it brings permanent luster - besides jobs and revenues to its region; it has national and international appeal. Classical benefit packages and infrastructure typically associated with technical projects do not include the Heritage Value component.

Heritage Value should be recognized as important from the start of a project, and it is best built in with the help of the host community or region. Which are then the elements that could be identified as bringing heritage value? Are these elements expensive components of a project? How to create interactive structures around a project and deal with Heritage Value? Which are examples of existing projects where Heritage Value has been brought in? Which could be counterindications to creating Heritage Value? Can the introduction of Heritage Value help meet some of the Targets of UN Agenda 2030?

The aspect of fostering a durable relationship through Heritage Value (Added Value in NEA terminology) was introduced and developed by the NEA/OECD Forum on Stakeholder Confidence in the area of radioactive waste management (OECD/NEA, 2015). For example, time capsules, mentioned earlier in this text, could also be conceived to create Heritage Value (Pescatore and van Luik, 2016).

Just as we subdivide the past into epochs, subdividing the future in time periods should prove useful for starting to address the problem of RK&M preservation. Table 1 (adapted from Pescatore, 2018) includes timescales for best expected efficacy of each of the above mechanisms, namely if they may work reliably in the short term (**ST**), meaning a few decades to a century, in the medium term (**MT**), meaning a few centuries, or the long term (**LT**), meaning several centuries up to one thousand years. Longer periods may also be defined, e.g., a very long term, past one thousand years. Table 1 also indicates whether each mechanism is best suited for

- **Record, Knowledge, or Memory** preservation, or for
- Arousing **Curiosity Upon Discovery**.

⁴ <https://ich.unesco.org/en/what-is-intangible-heritage-00003>

As for the last indent, indeed, if memory were lost or information forgotten or not kept up with, we could still rely on man's innate curiosity of wanting to know more and provide mechanisms to (re)discover what was lost.

Finally, Table 1 also indicates whether each mechanism is more relevant to transmission that is mediated by the action of intervening generations (**M**) and/or to transmission that does not rely on intermediate generations (non-mediated transmission, **NM**). For instance, small markers at depth do not need the presence of society to survive; time capsules could be conceived to be stashed away and survive on their own until discovered, or else they could be part of regular opening events that serve a ceremony for social remembrance and that constitute the occasion for revisiting the information before starting the next cycle (Pescatore and van Luik, 2016).

Table 1 RK&M preservation mechanisms categorized according to several criteria

GENERAL MECHANISMS	SPECIFIC MECHANISMS	Mediated (M) or Non-mediated (NM) Transmission	Records (R), Knowledge (K), Memory (M), Curiosity upon discovery (CuD)	Short (ST), Medium (MT), Long (LT) Term
Archives	National archives	M	R	ST, MT, LT
	Regional/local archives	M	R	ST,MT
	Land registries	M	R	ST,MT
	Specialized archives	M	R	ST,MT
Libraries	National library	M	R	ST,MT
	regional	M	R	ST,MT
	academic	M	R	ST,MT
	others	M	R	LT
Time Capsules	Large size, visible	NM, M	R,K,M	MT, LT
	large size, non visible	NM, M	R,K,M,CuD	MT, LT
	Small size	NM	R, CuD	MT, LT
Markers	Surface traces	NM	CuD	MT, LT
	Surface markers	NM	M	MT, LT
	Sub-surface markers	NM	CuD	MT, LT
	Monuments	NM	M	ST, MT, LT
Active heritage	Local cultural heritage	M	M	MT, LT
	Regional Industrial heritage	M	M	ST, MT, LT
	International Heritage	M	M	ST, MT, LT
	Traditions and rituals	M	M	ST, MT, LT
	Local history and enactment societies	M	M	ST, MT, LT
	Endowed Univ.. Chair	M	R,K,M	ST, MT
International mechanisms	For controlling legacy materials circulation	M	R,K,M	ST, MT
	For sharing technical knowledge	M	R,K,M	ST, MT
	Related to environmental protection	M	R,K,M	ST, MT
	Related to cultural heritage preservation	M	R, M	ST, MT
Oversight provisions	Monitoring	M	R,K,M	ST,MT
	intermittent safety reviews	M	R,K,M	ST
	Regular transfer of responsibilities	M	R,K,M	ST
	Updating key legacy documents	M	R,K,M	ST
	Training of personnel	M	R,K,M	ST
	Land use restrictions	M	R,M	ST
	Placing signs on maps	M	M,CuD	ST

Relationships between RK&M mechanisms

To help identify a strategy that maximizes the effectiveness of RK&M preservation, it is important to understand how the RK&M mechanisms relate to one another. Namely, they could

1. Contain the same kind of records, at least in part; they would thus **R**einforce one another (**R**)
2. Carry similar information but not exactly the same records; they could thus **C**omplement one another (**C**)
3. Point to one another thus providing support to one another (**S**)
4. Be **I**ndependent of one another (**I**)

The relationships that exist between the RK&M mechanisms identified earlier (Table 1), are summarized in Table 2 for time scales extending up to a few centuries (the **Medium Term**, as defined earlier) and in Table 3 for time scales extending beyond a few centuries (the **Long Term**, as defined earlier) and up to a millennium, say. Table 3 has fewer rows and columns than Table 2, because the number of RK&M mechanisms that can be relied upon decreases as time increases.

Table 2 Two-way relationships table amongst RK&M mechanisms up to a few centuries

RK&M MECHANISM		Archives			Libraries			Time Capsules			Markers				Active heritage					International mechanisms				
		National archives	Regional/local archives	Land registries	National library	regional	academic	Large size, visible	large size, non visible	Small size	Surface traces	Surface markers	Sub-surface markers	Monuments	Local cultural heritage	Regional Industrial heritage	International Cultural Heritage	Traditions and rituals	Local history and enactment	Endowed Univ. Chair	For controlling materials circulation	For sharing technical knowledge	Related to environmental protection	Related to heritage preserv'n
Archives	National archives	R	C	C	C	C	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	C	C	S	C	S	R	
	Regional/local archives	R	C	C	C	C	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	C	S	S	C	C	C	C	C	R
	Land registries	C	C	I	C	I	C	C	S	S	S	S	S	I	I	I	I	C	I	C	C	C	C	C
Libraries	National library	R	C	S	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	C	C	S	S	S	C	C	C	C	C
	regional	C	R	C	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	C	C	S	C	S	C	S	S	S	C
Time Capsules	academic	C	C	S	C	C	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	C	S	S	S	C	C	I	C	S	C	
	Large size, visible	R	C	C	I	I	I	R	R	S	S	S	S	I	I	I	I	I	I	C	C	C	I	
	large size, non visible	R	C	C	I	I	I	R	S	S	S	S	S	I	I	I	I	I	I	C	C	C	I	
Markers	Small size	C	C	I	I	I	S	S	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	Surface traces	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	Surface markers	I	I	I	I	I	I	S	S	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	Sub-surface markers	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Active heritage	Monuments	S	S	I	I	I	S	S	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	Local cultural heritage	I	S	S	I	I	S	S	I	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	I	I	I	S	
	Regional Industrial heritage	I	S	S	I	S	I	S	I	S	S	I	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	I	I	I	S	
	International Cultural Heritage	C	C	S	C	C	I	C	C	I	S	S	I	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	C	
	Traditions and rituals	I	I	I	I	I	I	S	I	I	S	I	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	I	I	I	I
	Local history and enactment	C	C	C	C	C	C	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	I	I	I	C
International mechanisms	Endowed Univ. Chair	S	S	S	S	S	C	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
	For controlling materials circulation	I	C	I	I	I	I	S	S	S	I	S	S	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	C	C	I	
	For sharing technical knowledge	I	C	I	I	I	I	I	I	S	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	C	C	I	
	Related to environmental protection	I	C	I	I	I	I	S	S	I	I	S	S	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	C	R	I	
Related to cultural heritage preservation	R	R	S	R	R	R	S	S	I	I	S	S	S	S	S	R	S	R	R	I	I	I	I	

The two-way relationships amongst mechanisms are not necessarily reciprocal. For instance, in Table 2, Land Registries are seen as independent of Academic Libraries (**I**), but Academic Libraries can have information pointing to the existence of Land Registries and therefore support Land Registries (**S**) in their task of preserving the RK&M of a legacy.

Land Registries and Academic Libraries are not even mentioned in Table 3, because of the larger time scales that are involved. On the other hand, we can see that Surface

Markers are independent of National Archives (I). The latter, however, may point to, and therefore support, Surface Markers (S).

Table 3 Two-way relationships table amongst RK&M mechanisms from a few centuries up to, e.g., a millennium

General Mechanism		Archives		Time Capsules			Markers				Active heritage				
		National archives	Long term (religious, ...)	Large size, visible	Sub-surface, large size	Small size at depth	Surface traces	Surface markers	Sub-surface markers	Monuments	Local cultural heritage	Regional Industrial heritage	International Heritage	Traditions and rituals	Local history and enactment societies
Archives	National archives		C	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	C
Libraries	Long term (religious, ...)	C		S	S	S	S	S	S	C	C	S	S	R	S
Time Capsules	Large size, visible	R	I		R	S	S	S	S	S	I	I	I	I	I
	Sub-surface, large size	R	I	R		S	S	S	S	S	I	I	I	I	I
	Small size at depth	C	I	S	S	Markers	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Markers	Surface traces	I	I	I	I	I		I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	Surface markers	I	I	S	S	I	I		S	S	I	I	I	I	I
	Sub-surface markers	I	I	I	I	I	I		I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	Monuments	S	C	S	S	I	I	I		I	I	I	I	I	I
Active heritage	Local cultural heritage	I	C	S	S	I	S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S
	Regional Industrial heritage	I	S	S	S	I	S	S	I	S	S		S	S	S
	International Heritage	C	S	C	C	I	S	S	I	S	S	S		S	S
	Traditions and rituals	I	R	S	S	I	I	S	I	S	S	S	S		S
	Local history and enactment societies	C	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	

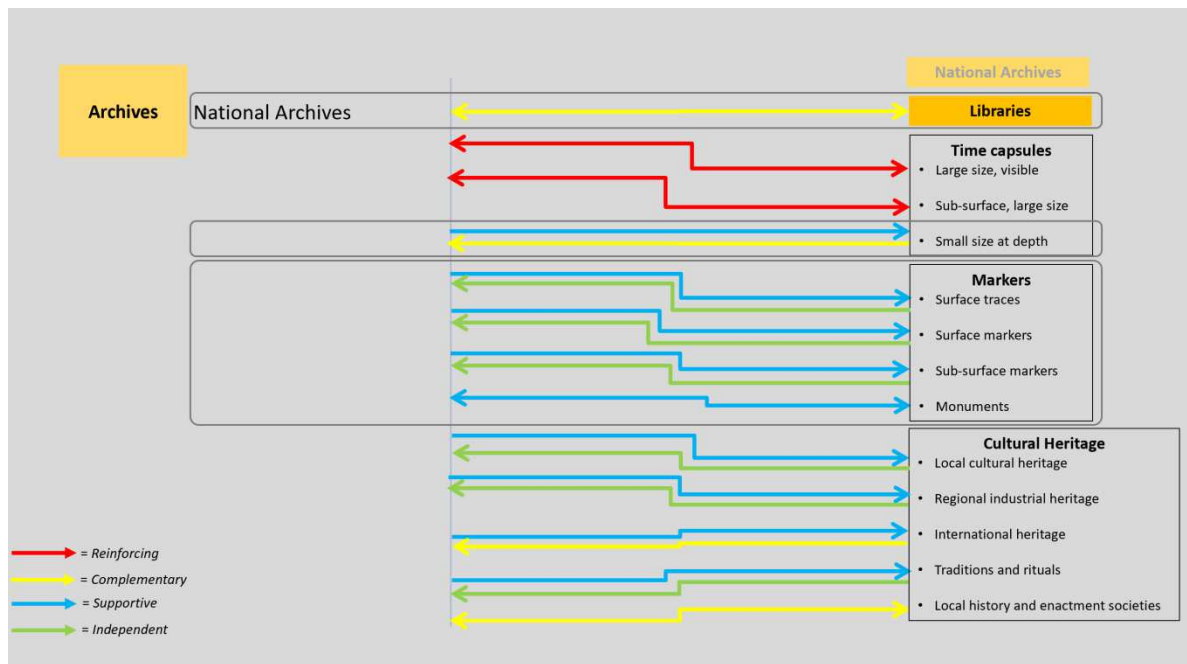
Influence diagrams

Table 2 and 3 are compact ways to present RK&M mechanisms and their two-way relationships. These types of tables are, perhaps, better suited to electronic manipulation. A more user-friendly working tool to exchange and discuss mechanisms amongst both specialists and non-specialists is to develop influence diagrams that relate one specific mechanism to all the remaining ones.

Based on Table 3, we provide hereafter examples of influence diagrams around archives, sub-surface large-size time capsules, traditions and rituals, and international heritage for periods of times extending beyond a few centuries up to a millennium.

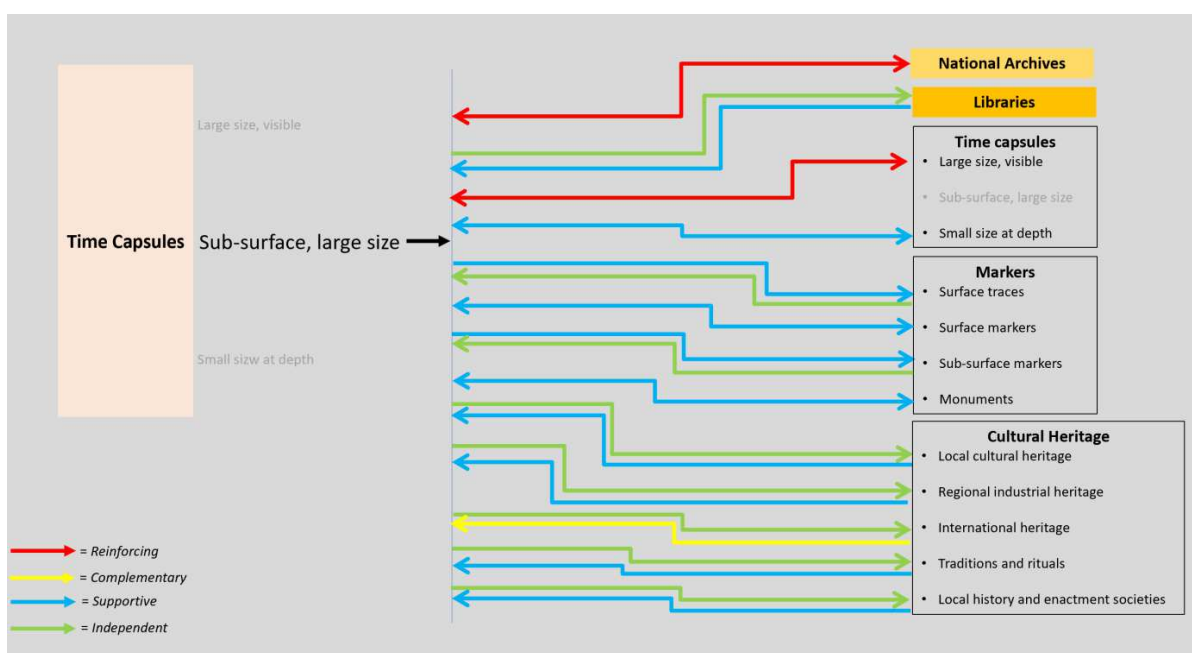
Influence diagram 1: National Archives

This diagram shows that libraries and archives are *complementary* to one another (yellow two-way arrow); archives can point to small-size time capsules at depth (blue one-way arrow), and the latter may have *complementary* information to archives (a yellow one-way arrow); archives may point out to markers (blue, one-way arrows), while markers are *independent* of archives (green one-way arrows). In the case of monuments, (blue, two-way arrow), archives and monuments may have information pointing to one another.



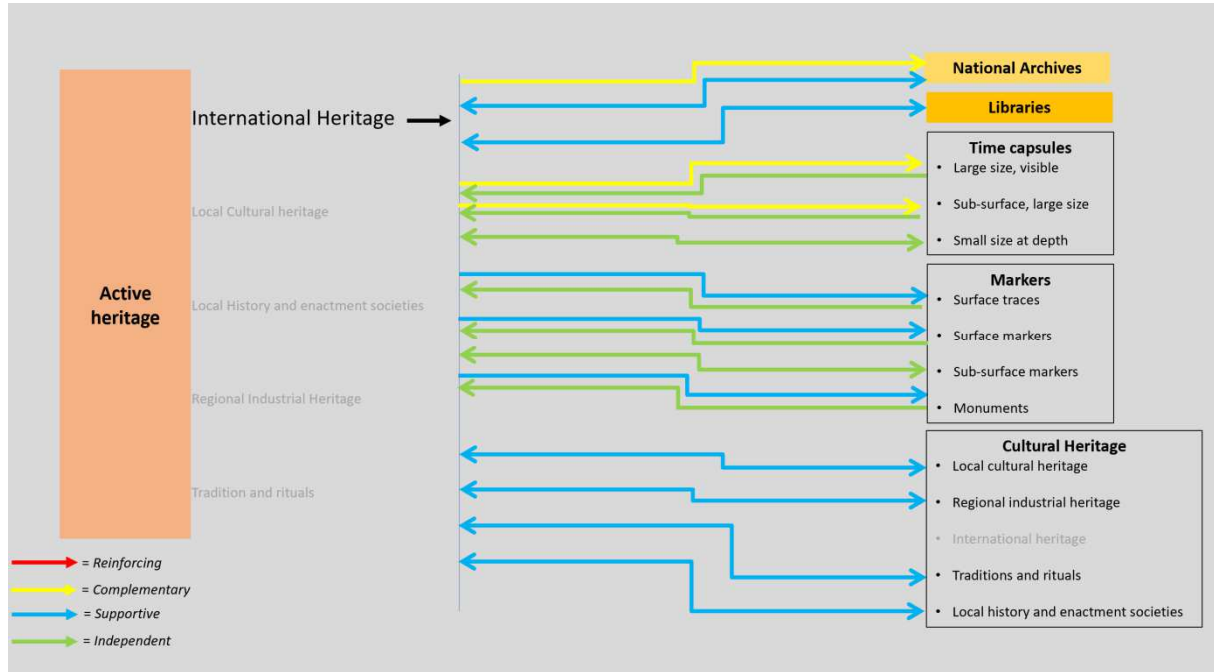
Influence diagram 2: Time capsules

This diagram shows, for instance, that large-size time capsules, visible or underground, and National Archives *reinforce* one another by containing the same kind of records (red two-way arrows). Sub-surface large size time capsules may point to – and thus *support* – small size time capsules at depth and vice versa (blue two-way arrow). Mutual reinforcement by holding at least partially the same records is not possible because of their different sizes. They constitute different concepts. A yellow one-way arrow shows that international heritage may have *complementary* information to large size time capsules whereas the latter are independent (green one-way arrow) the other way around.



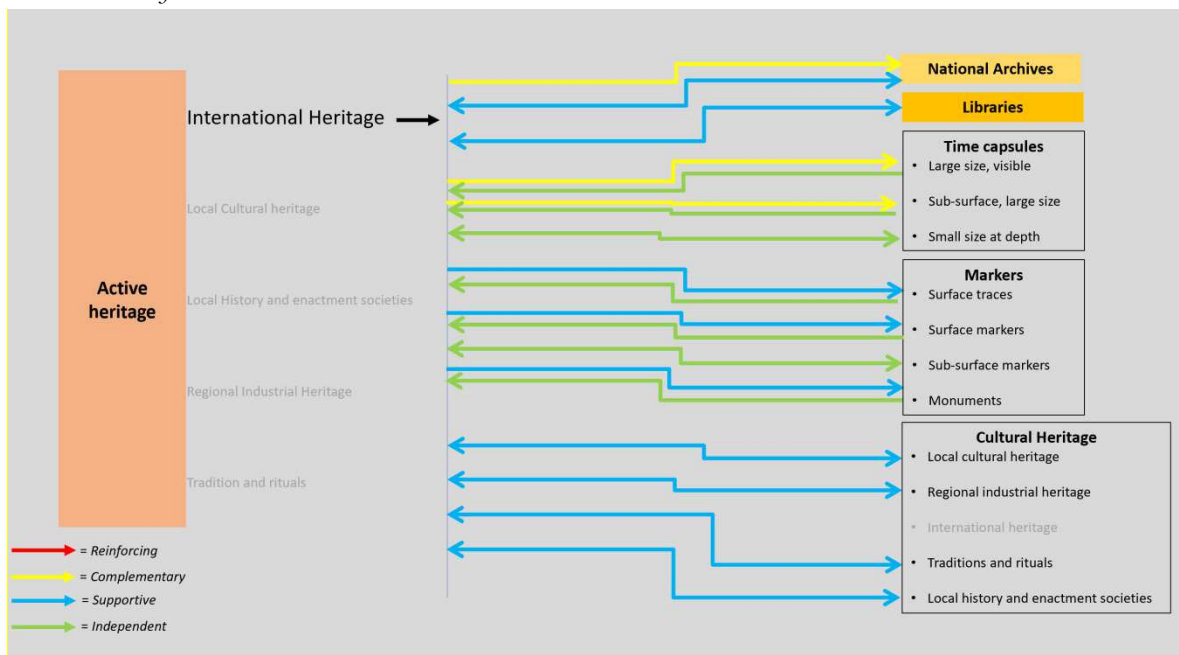
Influence diagram 3: International Heritage

National Archives, libraries and International heritage thrive on *supporting* and *complementary* interactivities. Time capsules are *independent* of international heritage while international heritage is complementary to time capsules. Markers are also *independent* of international heritage, while the International heritage has a *supporting* role.



Influence diagram 4: Traditions and rituals

This diagram shows the *independency* of National Archives, Time Capsules and Markers from Tradition and Rituals while the latter may support large time capsules, both sub-surface and visible, as well as surface markers and monuments. The interactivity with libraries *reinforces* information.



Conclusions

While the future is uncertain, it is quite certain that, in the future, at one time or another, values will be other than today's, that funds will either be unavailable or will be apportioned differently, that institutional systems will be different, that major societal disruptions will take place, and that information and memory are more likely to be lost than kept. We cannot prevent those changes from happening, we can, however, seek to develop and implement strategies that maximize future societies' chances to make their own decisions based on exploitable information especially in connection with legacies that we leave behind and that they will own for centuries and millennia to come.

In the past 10 years progress has been accomplished in understanding how a durable, long-term RK&M preservation strategy could be built. Guiding principles and practical action items have been also formulated in the context of sustainable development. In this paper we have developed a set of tools that professionals can use and develop further themselves to create a catalogue of RK&M mechanisms and identify how they could be combined best with one another over the time scales of interest in order to maximize the chances that the needed information can be passed on durably.

At present, the field of long-term information and memory keeping relies on the assumption that the information will be made available and that will also be sufficient and as intelligible to people in the future as it was to those who left it originally or to those who re-worked it in the intervening time. For a variety of causes – natural and/or human – archives may disappear or be insufficient, records enabling the memory of why certain decisions were taken may be lost, the information still existing may not be intelligible, and funds may no longer be available for performing whatever action may be needed.

“Future”, in fact, is *not yet* systematically developed and linked to management practices in the heritage professions (Högberg et al., 2018). The methodology we have described and the tools we have developed could help present-day professionals think and deal with the “future” in a more assured and reliable way.

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COVID-19: A Strategic Response in Support of Documentary Heritage

by Fackson Banda

Introduction

All over the world, the COVID-19 pandemic presented unique challenges for the preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage held in memory institutions. These challenges can be better appreciated against a historical contextualization of UNESCO's Memory of the World (MoW) Programme. Set up in 1992, the Programme is aimed at:

- 1) *Identifying* documentary heritage of historical and global significance,
- 2) *Preserving* it, and
- 3) Enhancing *access* to it.

The utility value of documentary heritage is diverse. Individuals, communities and governments may consume documentary heritage for scientific, educational, aesthetic and cultural reasons.

The three objectives of the MoW Programme, as described above, receive an even clearer articulation in the UNESCO 2015 [Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form](#), which provides a *normative* justification and *programmatic* framework for the Programme. More importantly, in highlighting five areas of intervention, the Recommendation places the three objectives of the Programme within a larger context involving an enabling *policy* environment as well as national and international *cooperation* for the *identification, preservation and accessibility* of documentary heritage.

The above sketchy historical perspective provides the larger context within which COVID-19 played itself out *vis-à-vis* UNESCO's response in furtherance of documentary heritage.

COVID-19 and the challenges it presents to documentary heritage

What, then, were the challenges posed by COVID-19 against the background of the brief programmatic analysis above? Viewed against the lockdowns that were announced by governments across the globe, it became apparent that *information* would be a hugely significant currency for individuals, communities and governments. That information would include understanding how past pandemics were addressed and how people, under confinement, would find solace in such information not only for its scientific value but also for its educational, aesthetic and cultural upliftment. Given that such information is contained in documents held by archives, libraries, museums and other holding places as 'heritage', the advent of COVID-19 posed major challenges, including:

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- Hindering physical access to documentary heritage, as such holding institutions were forced to close.
 - Rendering the tasks of preservation of documentary heritage physically impossible.
 - Exposing policy weaknesses, especially in terms of emergency preparedness plans for memory institutions.
 - Putting a strain on already secured budgetary resources, which meant further limitations on online access provision, where this was deemed necessary.

UNESCO's strategic response

Against this background, UNESCO embarked upon an organization-wide response to COVID-19. In the field of communication and information, actions focused on (i) advocating for freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, and reinforcing the capacities of media to cover the crisis; (ii) developing and disseminating resources to tackle disinformation about COVID-19; (iii) harnessing innovation and digital technologies to counter COVID-19; and (iv) promoting open and universal access to information in response to COVID-19. Within this last area of action, the Documentary Heritage Unit, which manages UNESCO's MoW Programme, implemented the following activities:

- In a show of international solidarity with Member States, memory institutions and citizens, UNESCO co-signed and co-issued a Statement on '[turning the threat of COVID-19 into an opportunity for greater support to documentary heritage](#)'. Key points of the Statement included: (i) greater national and international cooperation in the preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage; (ii) greater investment in the preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage as a matter of disaster risk reduction; (iii) greater access to researchers, policymakers, media professionals, scientists and the community at large; and (iv) greater appreciation of the utility value of memory institutions as holders of the 'memories' of the world, including past pandemics.
- Beyond the statement, UNESCO created a dedicated [webpage on resources for the documentary heritage community](#). The webpage features:
 - (i) Memory institutions and their responses to COVID-19 worldwide.
 - (ii) Effective preservation practices and resources.
 - (iii) Financial relief and other resources.
 - (iv) Leveraging technology.
 - (v) Learning from past pandemics (e.g. preserved media coverage, including audiovisual archives).
- Creation of a blog, as part of the dedicated webpage: *In Living Memory: Making the Most of Documentary Heritage for COVID-19 Decision-making* with an introductory blogpost on [documentary heritage as a unique knowledge asset for Covid-19](#)

[decision-making](#). In summary, this blogspace aims to receive pithy and incisive contributions from experts on various aspects relating to how documentary heritage is being enlisted for COVID-19 decisions by individuals, memory institutions themselves, scientists, policymakers, governments and other stakeholders.

Implications for the future

Going forward, activities being implemented by the MoW Programme are likely to focus on the long-term impacts of COVID-19. For example, the 2nd Global Policy Forum (Paris, France) and the 3rd Inter-regional Conference of the MoW Programme (Baku, Azerbaijan) have had their themes re-oriented to reflect the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on memory institutions.

More importantly, given the suddenness with which the pandemic struck, disaster risk reduction/emergency preparedness seems likely to define our work, particularly given its predictive potential to enable policymakers to think about the preservation of documentary heritage as contributory to the information that is so essential to public health risk reduction and management.

Related to national documentary heritage preservation policy, there is now an increasing focus on the need for increased investment in documentary heritage as a record of the *impact* of global pandemics on societies and how governments, memory institutions and citizens *experience* that impact with *resilience*. Accordingly, emphasis will have to be placed on the accuracy and reliability of public records for decision-making at the individual or collective levels. Preservation, including through digitization, is also becoming an absolute necessity, particularly if it can be linked to easier manipulation of such records in the digital environment. If nothing else, the lockdowns have taught us the need to be prepared to use and re-use documentary heritage in different formats to transcend any physical barriers.

Another important issue worth of consideration is the extent to which the public is aware of the services that memory institutions can offer in conditions of lockdown. The pandemic threw this utility value of documentary heritage into sharp relief, as people and policymakers sought to acquaint themselves with records of past pandemics and the extent to which these records could reinforce decision-making around COVID-19. This is something that I discuss in some detail in my introductory [blogpost](#).

Raising public awareness requires two further ingredients. The first is education as a means through which the public could become acquainted with the utility value of documentary heritage as described above. The second is research which could unlock – both conceptually and empirically – the ways in which documentary heritage – along with the memory institutions that hold it – can be enlisted for public policy-making in relation to a range of social, environmental and economic issues – all of which make up what we call [sustainable development](#).

Conclusion

In this article, I have attempted to place UNESCO's response to the challenges posed by COVID-19 within a larger historical context that frames the MoW Programme's focus on documentary heritage as a scientific, educational, aesthetic and cultural resource that can be leveraged to address the various informational aspects of any societal response to COVID-19. At the same time, as a function of this pandemic, the future of documentary heritage – along with the memory institutions that incubate it – needs to be rethought in terms of emergency preparedness as well as greater investment and public awareness.

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Investigating Evaluation Criteria of Documentary Heritage in the UNESCO World Memory Programme to Identify Related Components to Register in Iranian Documentaries: A Suggested Instruction

by Shabla Karimi

UNESCO, as an international organization and pioneer in preserving cultural identities, has launched a programme called "the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme" for preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage in all countries.

The Programme maintains an International Register of "documentary heritage of world significance". Every two years, UNESCO Member States can suggest two items or collections of documentary heritage to UNESCO, based on given criteria for registration in the Memory of the World (MoW) International Register.

The Iranian National Memory of the World Committee was assembled as a specialized subcommittee affiliated with the UNESCO National Commission (UNC). Finally, after consulting with members and UNC, it formulated an executive directive in six articles and four clauses on 6 September 2006. The committee's directive consists of 17 responsibilities contained in article 3. However, no reference instruction has yet been proposed on how to recognize the qualities of the national documents for the sake of registration, while the committee regards formulating such an instruction as a major task of its own.

As a nation with a rich historical and cultural background, immensely influential in the development of human culture, Iran can undoubtedly be one of the valuable candidates for nominating documents (in various forms) to the Memory of the World register. Up to now more than 90 nations, including Iran, have world-registered a variety of documentary heritage items and collections.

On the other hand, notwithstanding such an influence and background as well as myriad of documents, Iran is falling behind countries with younger histories. Among the major reasons for this are lack of planning and formulated instructions; lack of seasoned experts; and thus submitting insufficient and, at times, flawed reports by the National Committee to the Memory of the World Committee. Therefore, formulating instructions for proper selection and better publicity for the Iranian documentary heritage in Iran's name and in keeping with the distinctive features of Iranian documents has proved even more necessary. This can even set a higher pace for taking heed of this programme in the national milieu, constituting a strategic leap in consciousness raising just as it remains a principal inspiring text for both the heritage owners and caretakers; and more registration of Iranian works.

Subsequently out of a variety of heritage, two groups of manuscripts and historical photographs (MHP) of Qajar era were investigated.

As regards choosing these groups, it suffices to say that due to possessing valuable treasures of manuscripts – despite smuggling of numerous Iranian manuscripts at various historical junctures – Iran has respect and credit in the world. Moreover, a majority of scientific and artistic documents and, in fact, a huge portion of Iran’s documentary heritage has remained in the form of manuscripts. However, based on recent examinations, it amounts to 500,000 manuscripts in Iran alone.⁵

In the second group: it was construed that more than a century has passed since the advent of photography in Iran. In addition, one can venture to say that since the early days of the art history to this day the archive of the Iranian photos, particularly from the documentary point of view, is potentially among the largest and richest archives around the world.⁶

The aim of the research was to identify components of eight criteria introduced by the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the MoW Programme for two kinds of Iranian documentaries, including MHP, and measuring importance of each component given experts and professionals’ views.

This research was performed via documentary method, Delphi technique and interview. The tool of data collection is a researcher-made checklist. The statistical population consisted of components of criteria for evaluating two groups of selected documentaries. Representatives of 20 professions answered questions related to them.

The results of this research are presented in two parts of absolute (primary) criteria: authenticity, world significance; unique and irreplaceable criteria and individual criteria. This research revealed that the greatest number and most important components belong to the authenticity criterion; in fact, 32 components for manuscripts and 18 components for historical photographs were obtained and verified.

Finally, 75 and 50 components for selecting manuscripts, and historical photographs of Qajar era respectively, were suggested to be included in selection criteria Instruction of documentary heritage.

The presented table below indicates the authenticity components of two groups.

1	The manuscript or orthographe ⁷
2	Date of copying
3	Proximity to the time of compilation (transcription circa)
4	Contents of the manuscript and its impact on later manuscripts
5	Edition (audition, lection, rhetoric, transmission certificate) and collation
6	Sign and seal
7	Font/handwriting (recognition of font type or handwriting recognition)
8	Colophon
9	Marginalia/annotation note (ta'ligh), glosses, subjoined notes, miscellaneous

⁵Habibollah Azimi, "In Speculation of Manuscripts in Future," *Mirror of Heritage*, vol 2, no 3, (autumn 2004): pp 28-31.

⁶ The photo archive in Golestan Palace Collection is the world is second biggest, with 42,500 historical photos.

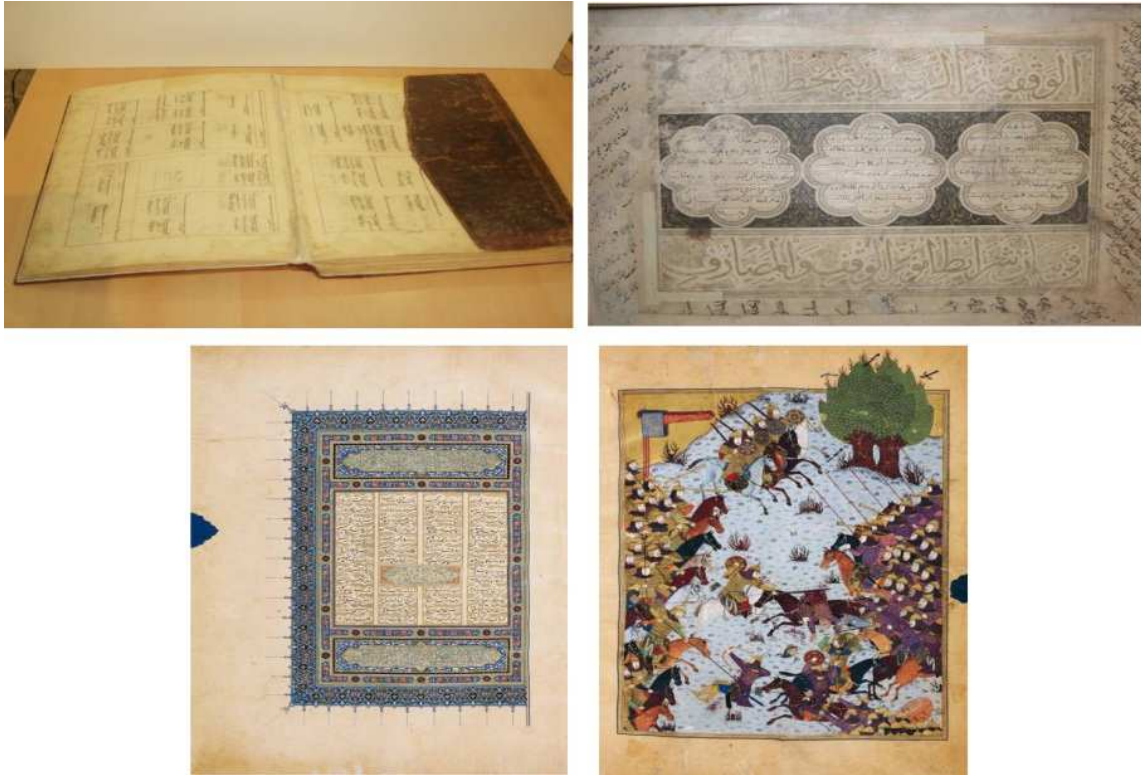
⁷ Means photograph or original – not in English or French

	notes, adverse comments and other valuable information written by other scribes etc.
10	Artistic decorations: including type of illumination such as historiated border-painting, arabesque, circular medallion, merlon, corner and etc.; calligraphy; painting; embellishments of paper and binding and so on.
11	“Compiled for” (calepin, miscellaneous); “Author” (book)
12	Scribe
13	Compiler
14	Translator
15	Features as linguistic and componential in the text (style of writing, structural and semantic disparities in the text and so on)
16	Paper: types, antiquity, material and paper size
17	Illustration and miniature in manuscripts
18	“Feiri fecit... ”/“ordered by...”
19	Use of scientific and laboratory methods to recognize the authenticity of manuscripts
20	Parchment manuscripts
21	Binding: Cover, type and material
22	Ex-libris
23	Coat
24	Inventory number
25	Marginal note writer (annotator)
26	Scribal copy
27	Editor
28	Preamble/prologue
29	Illuminator
30	Table of contents, sources and citations
31	Explicit
32	Type of ink

The main definition of the authenticity criterion lies in the fact that the document reflects what it appears to be; has its identity and provenance been reliably established?

According to the expert view, a good manuscript must possess the main features, meaning the first four components, for authenticity.

Although experts have presented various classifications, this table is based on importance of manuscripts parts, such as cataloguing of manuscripts has been developed. Hence, we avoid using factors beside each other based on former classifications. Overall, the genuineness components for a manuscript can be subdivided into five subgroups: 1. Manuscript’s physical profile; 2. Contents of the manuscript; 3. Linguistic and compositional features of the manuscript; 4. Artistic features of the manuscript; and 5. Secondary features.



Above photos: *The Deed for Endowment: Rab' I-Rashidi (Rab I-Rashidi Endowment)* 13th Century manuscript by Khajeh Rashid al-Din Fazlollah Hamadani (7th-8th century)/ Central Library in Tabriz, Iran.

Below photos: *Bayasanghori Shâbnâmeh* manuscript by Abolghassem Mansour-ibn-Hassan Firdausi Tousi (Firdausi- 941- 1020 AD)/ Golestan Museum Palace.

Table 2. The components of authenticity criteria of historical photos of Qajar

1	Antiquity (date of photo and paper, place of storage)
2	Photographer's name
3	The information and explanations on the plate and photo
4	Identifying the ownership of photo
5	Subject and place
6	Technology and method of producing photos (Daguerrotype, Talbotype, etc.)
7	Type of gelatin layer in the plate
8	Description and titles of photos
9	Signs: a badge, a flag, a collar or a tie, the clothes of people, the status of the building, the existence of a situation like the military force and so on
10	Record of a seal and cardboard for photographers; Royal or republics of countries designs and stamp
11	Alphabetology (notes written on the sidelines and back of the photo)
12	Type of paper in published photographs
13	Diagnosis of printing type with laboratory tests
14	Determine the time period through laboratory tests

15	Plate size
16	Paper size
17	Decorating around photos and frames
18	Photo not corrupted (scrawl, fragmentation, blur, scratch with blade)



Carriage (Qajar Period)

کالسکه (دوران قاجار)



مکس اداکن در راهی دولت آذربایجان در راه تبریز در فروردین ۱۲۸۰

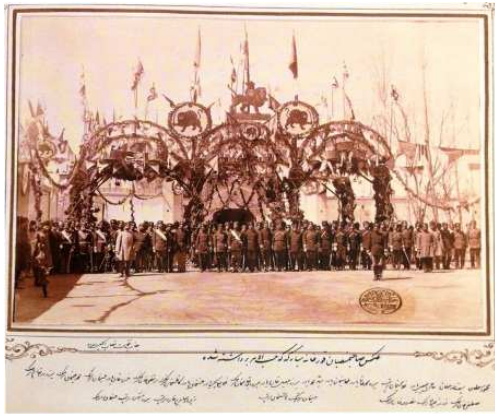
۱۱۲ مجلس جان و کشته ایرانی زلفعلی از یزد - بعد ۱۳۱۱ م. ق. ۱۳۱۱/۱۲۸۲ شمسی

Photos Left, above: *Steam engine factory* -Qajar photo/ Golestan Palace Photo Archives.

below : *Locomotive*- 3 November 1892- Qajar photo/ Golestan Palace Photo Archives.

Right, above: *Carriage* (Qajar period)

below: *Ceremony and Reading Avesta by Zoroastrians* in Yazd (1892)



7

The present study can thus serve as a preliminary model to identify types of documents.

Issues in Question Concerning the Research Process

Why do we encounter component repetition when preparing a checklist and why were so many of these components excluded?

In the Memory of the World Register nomination form, to begin with, there is an abstract where all the information relevant to the document should be enumerated in summary (within 200 words), and any ensuing explanation is in fact a further elaboration on what was previously mentioned. In fact, all the questions that strike one have already been answered in their own place; therefore, a permissible amount of explanation is included in the summary for registration.

While it is likely that the explanations meet various criteria, there is an effort in place to elaborate on all the components derived from a document under the same criteria. For instance, when speaking of a figure, it is better to categorize him/her under the People criterion and present any relevant details necessary there – on condition that such elaboration not be too pronounced in the case of other criteria. However, reiterating in document registration form is not a fault with the document itself, because without doubt these criteria overlap vividly.

Another issue to be addressed here as being absolutely tangible during the study is emphasis of the Programme on *influence* and *impact*. In a way, it could be construed that the Programme revolves around both the above terms.

When it talks about ‘individual criteria’, in fact, it is pointing out the extent to which the document affects people, time, place, subject, etc. all the way. Likewise, it is significant to what extent it has managed to affect the national, global, significance of place in document production, the impact of style on other documents, and what its impact is on the coming generations.

‘Relativity’ of criteria constitutes one more issue of concern here together with evaluating any document on its own merits. Keeping this in mind, one can conclude that the derived components have to be considered by and large just as any document has to be described and presented with respect to its features. One document may accommodate either one or several components; sometimes it may only have one strong criterion to represent for registration and at times all those criteria which of course cannot pose any restriction on presentation.

While conducting this study, the issue of ‘specialism’ in a work would catch one’s eyes. Showing that document selection requires teamwork, we also witnessed that every individual is an expert in one aspect of manuscript. One may have expertise in manuscript cataloging, in recognition of language and [style of] writing used, in content and topic, and in the arts involved (mandating a variety of experts per se) as well as expertise in recognizing types and variations of manuscripts.

Furthermore, variation in expertise led to much disparity in understanding the criteria and adding or dropping the components. During correspondence, the difference was conspicuous between the views of Committee members and experts on whether or not a component is significant. The result that can be drawn is that it takes a throng of experts in various documentary aspects. Just as proposed earlier in significance of study, among the major reasons why Iran’s status has not improved is being attributed to absence of experts in the National Memory of the World Committee, and incomplete understanding of the Programme.

Conclusion

The present study indicates that necessary elements for the announced criteria could be obtained by relying upon them to identify, present, and register the documentary heritage. This was made possible in the present study for two selected groups – Iranian manuscripts and historical photographs (MHP) – in keeping with the qualities of these documents. Consequently, the following suggestions can be taken into consideration:

- 1) The Iranian National Committee has provided a guideline specifying Iran’s cultural boundaries with all of its scientific and linguistic features present within its geographical expanse (past and present), and a history of foreign presence within Iran’s borders and its cultural and historical dominance intended to inform the Memory of the World Programme. As such, the guideline facilitates better decision making by the Memory of the World Committee to register Iranian documents. Though some other nation might present documents of its own – owing to presence of Iranian scholars, culture, and

language – it will be registered in both countries' names (i.e. the current country with its modern borders and the country of origin).

2) The Iranian National Committee may suggest to the Memory of the World Programme Committee to add the *language criterion* into the collection of already proposed ones. It is self-evident that a nation home to a diversity of dialects and accents tends to boast its geographical expanse. Such criteria, if taken into account, can immensely enable nations with a rich background to register their documents in their own names.

3) Last but not least, it is suggested that further research be conducted to assort national documented heritage, identify Iranian glories and thinkers, and prepare a comprehensive list to help advance the Memory of the World Programme with a particular focus on national registration of documents. As a consequence, no document goes unnoticed, since there exist documents in private possession whose owners are unaware of such a programme and its significance for public learning.

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Editorial response to Shahla Karimi's article

It is correct to say that the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme invites nominations of documentary heritage from institutions and individuals, rather than from countries.⁸

However, the way in which nominations are inscribed/registered does in fact place a major emphasis on countries, in two ways:

- Individual nominations of documentary heritage are limited to two per country (unless they are joint nominations). Increasingly national commissions for UNESCO are being co-opted to sign off on nominations from their countries;
- Once a nomination is successful, it is inscribed/registered under the name of the originating country. The UNESCO Memory of the World Register can be searched in four ways, with 'Access by Region and Country' as the first in the list, followed by 'List by Year', 'Access by Organization', and 'Access by International Day'.

It is easy to see how this hierarchy affects how people interpret the registration/inscription of documentary heritage on Memory of the World registers. It is also understandable that national pride can engender contestation, as countries are, quite naturally, apt to highlight and celebrate 'their' inscriptions/registrations on the international and regional registers. So, while statements such as 'nations nominate documentary heritage' are incorrect, it is understandable that this impression persists when the names of individual countries are the first point of access to the registers.

The corollary to this is that some countries take exception to what they regard as 'their' heritage being registered under another country's name, as is the case adumbrated by Shahla Karimi's article. Joint nominations are advocated as the best means of resolving this dilemma. Perhaps adding 'Language' as a search term for the registers (rather than a selection criterion in its own right, as Karimi has suggested) could assist in mitigating this problem?

R.R.

⁸ The term 'country' can also be rendered as 'nation' or 'nation state'. 'Country' has been chosen in this instance as this is the term used by UNESCO on the Memory of the World website.

Report

Mexico is on its Way to a Memory of the World Knowledge Centre

by Yolia Tortolero

In February 2019, members of the Memory of the World Mexican Committee began consulting Lothar Jordan, Chair of the MoW Sub-Committee on Education and Research, to ask him for advice in order to create a MoW Knowledge Centre in Mexico.



The Historical Archive of Vizcainas School

Photo: <https://colegiovizcainas.edu.mx/archivo>



Building of Vizcainas School in 1905

Photo: Mediateca Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, México.

<http://mediateca.inah.gob.mx/repositorio/islandora/object/fotografia:140252>

The Historical Archive of Vizcainas School, located in a 18th century building in Mexico City, seemed to be the perfect place to open the Centre given that it holds the archive produced by the MoW National Committee since it was founded and taking into consideration that Vizcainas holds valuable records and collections already inscribed in the three levels of the International, Regional and National MoW Registers.

After providing background information related to the Knowledge Centres created in Macao, Fujian, Beijing (China) and Andong (South Korea), Lothar Jordan recommended a review of the Memorandums of Understanding signed in those Countries, to define the scope of the initiative and confirm if it was feasible.

Many meetings took place with Ana Rita Valero, Chair of the Historical Archive of Vizcainas School, to define the terms and content in which the Memorandum should be written and approved.

Few months later, in October 2019, Catherine Bloch, Chair of the MoW Mexican Committee, and Yolia Tortolero, former Vice Chair of the Regional MoW Committee on Latin America and the Caribbean (MOWLAC), were invited to assist to the Fujian-Macau Symposium and Exhibition on Memory of the World and Maritime Silk Road, organized by the Fujian Provincial Archives, the City University of Macau Library and the Macau Documentation and Information Society. This event brought the opportunity to share experiences with Chinese colleagues as well as with international participants such as Papa

Momar Diop, Vice Chair of the MoW IAC and of the MoW African Regional Committee (ARCMoW), and representative of the MoW SCEaR.⁹ The agenda included meetings to explain the activities promoted by Knowledge Centres founded in Fujian, Beijing and Macao. The programme also included a visit to the Macao MoW Knowledge Centre, located inside the Library of the City University of Macau, where books, acquisitions and published items are available and accessible to readers.

Once the initiative of creating a MoW Knowledge Centre in Mexico was clear and a final draft of the Memorandum of Understanding was approved, on the 4th of March, 2020, during the annual public ceremony organized by the Mexican Committee of Memory of the World to inform about the activities carried out by the Committee members, the organizers announced the creation of the *Mexican Memory of the World Knowledge Centre Vizcainas*.

A digitized version of the Memorandum of Understanding was formalized in May, 2020, after gathering the signatures of Vizcainas authorities represented by Oscar Lewis Mertz, General Director of the San Ignacio de Loyola Vizcainas School; Ana Rita Valero de García Lascurain, Director of the Historical Archive “José María Basagoiti Noriega” of Vizcainas School; Lothar Jordan, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR), UNESCO Memory of the World Programme; Catherine Bloch Gerschel, Chair of the Mexican Committee of Memory of the World Program; Yolia Tortolero Cervantes, Member of the Mexican Committee of Memory of the World Program, and César Guerrero Arellano, Member of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (MOWLAC).

Yolia Tortolero is a historian, archivist, researcher, teacher and independent consultant in records management; preservation of documentary heritage; archival standards, legislation, transparency and access to public information. In 2020 she worked as Vice Director of the General Archive of the State of Oaxaca, Mexico, and was consultant in UNESCO’s Memory of the World programme/Japan Fund in Trust initiative.

⁹ See his report on this event in Macau in the *SCEaR Newsletter* 2019/2, pp. 4-6.

On SCEaR; Impressum

UNESCO Memory of the World Programme

Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR)

SCEaR Members: Lothar Jordan (Germany), chair; Roslyn Russell (Australia), rapporteur; Papa Momar Diop (Senegal), Luciana Duranti (Canada), Martin Porter (UK)

SCEaR Working Group Schools, Acting Coordinators: Lothar Jordan and Martin Porter

Network of SCEaR Partners: 1. Cooperating Institutions 2. Corresponding Members

https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/mow_scear_network_institutions.pdf

https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/mow_scear_network_members.pdf

The UNESCO Memory of the World Programme (MoW) was created in 1992 in order to foster the documentary heritage by facilitating its preservation, assisting universal access, and raising awareness worldwide of its significance and value. It keeps an International and other Registers of significant documents and collections, and carries out or participates in digitization projects, internet projects, workshops/conferences, publications etc.

It is steered by an International Advisory Committee (IAC), appointed by the Director General of UNESCO. The SCEaR is one of its Sub-Committees. Its tasks are to develop strategies and concepts for institutionalizing education and research on Memory of the World, its registers and the world documentary heritage in a sustainable manner in all forms of institutions of higher learning as well as in schools, and to help develop innovative curricula and research on Memory of the World and/or on documents, especially in an interdisciplinary and international manner and related to the internet. It is a specific characteristic of the SCEaR that it develops and fosters a network of partners (“Cooperating Institutions” and “Corresponding Members”) that are ready and in the position to work for the tasks of the SCEaR, coming from different disciplines and regions and representing different forms of academic and of memory institutions.

Website: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/memory-of-the-world/about-the-programme/international-advisory-committee-iac/sub-committee-on-education-and-research/>

SCEaR Newsletter

Editors: Lothar Jordan (editor-in-chief), Roslyn Russell, Papa Momar Diop (French texts)

Note: According to the general use in MoW, academic titles and degrees (Prof, PhD, Dr, MA, etc.) are mentioned only in author’s bios, or if they have a special function in a text.

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