SAFEGUARDING THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE OF HUMANITY
While stone, papyrus, parchment and paper formerly contained the evidence of our past, radio, film, television and the Internet are the canvas of modern life.

In a world where emphasis is placed on speed and where life is becoming increasingly hurried, we must take time to conserve the records of what defines our roots, our past and our existence.

To this end, in 1992, UNESCO created the Memory of the World Programme.
Documentary heritage in archives, libraries and museums constitutes a major part of the memory of the peoples of the world and reflects the diversity of peoples, language and cultures. However, this memory is fragile. Only collective action can save our documentary heritage!
In 1992, UNESCO launched the Memory of the World Programme (MOW) to protect and promote the world's documentary heritage through preservation and access. These two tasks complement each other, for access encourages protection, and preservation ensures access.
## The Memory of the World Register

The Memory of the World Register, created in 1997, lists documentary heritage which has been identified by the International Advisory Committee as meeting the criteria of world significance. It now holds 193 items from 76 countries, 3 international organizations and one private foundation.

### The Memory of the World Register

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<td>Manifesto of the Queensland Labour Party</td>
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<td>Vienna Dioscurides</td>
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<td>Final Document of the Congress of Vienna</td>
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<td>Medieval manuscripts on medicine and pharmacy (2005)</td>
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<td>Nita Barrow Collection</td>
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<td>Colonial archives (1997)</td>
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<td>American Colonial Music: a sample of its documentary richness (2007)*</td>
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<td>Original Negative of the Noticiero ICAIC Latinoamericano (2009)</td>
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**Safeguarding the Documentary Heritage of Humanity**

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**THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER**
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German Records of the National Archives (1997)
Collection of Arabic Manuscripts and Books (2003)

King Ram Khamhaeng Inscription (2003)
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Universalis cosmographia secundum Ptolomaei traditionem et Americi Vespucii aliorumque Lustrationes (2005)*


Holy Koran Mushaf of Othman (1997)

Escritos del liberator (1997)
Collection of Latin American photographs of the 19th Century (1997)
Colombeia: Generalissimo Francisco de Miranda’s Archives (2007)

Woodblocks of Nguyen Dynasty (2009)

* Joint Inscriptions between 2 or more countries.
CUBA (1)
BARBADOS (1)
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (3)
VENEZUELA (3)
BRAZIL (1)
URUGUAY (1)
ARGENTINA (2)
CHILE (2)
COLOMBIA (2)
MEXICO (7)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (2)

The number of national collections on the Memory of the World Register is indicated in brackets for each country listed.

MAP OF THE MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

The number of national collections on the Memory of the World Register is indicated in brackets for each country listed.
The Memory of the World programme is also about protecting heritage. Funding may come from UNESCO or other sources and concern conservation or digitization projects, awareness raising or training activities. In this context, several pilot projects have been carried out since the start of the Programme.

National Projects:

Czech Republic – Prague Manuscripts

Armenia – Virtual Matenadaran

Yemen – The Sana’a Manuscripts
Turkey – The Kandilli Observatory Manuscripts

Timbuktu Manuscripts

Lithuania – Manuscripts of the University of Vilnius

Poland – Memory of Poland
Egypt – Treasures of Dar Al-Kutub

Czech Republic – Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts

South Africa – Preserving the Mandela Documentary Memory
Regional Projects:

Within the Memory of the World Programme, a number of regional and inter-regional projects with a flagship character were implemented for demonstration and promotional purposes. Some of these include:

West African Postcards

The Archives of the Dutch East Indies Company
International Projects:

Slave Trade Archives Project

The Slave Trade Archives Project was launched in 1999 with the aim of improving access to, and safeguarding of, original documents related to the transatlantic slave trade and slavery throughout the world. It focused on enhancing access to knowledge and exploitation of slave trade records. The first phase of the project funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), is now completed but is awaiting funding for a second phase.
Open Source Repository and Preservation System

This project is designed to facilitate the creation and preservation of digital repositories for open-source projects. It aims to provide a robust platform for managing, storing, and accessing these repositories. The system is built using open-source technologies and adheres to standards that ensure durability and accessibility.

CD-ROMs

UNESCO/JIKJI MEMORY OF THE WORLD PRIZE

This initiative recognizes and promotes the preservation of cultural heritage sites and valuable works of art and literature. It aims to safeguard the world's cultural heritage for future generations. The UNESCO/JIKJI MEMORY OF THE WORLD PRIZE is awarded to projects that have made significant contributions to the preservation of cultural heritage.
PUBLICATIONS

General guidelines to safeguard documentary heritage

Mitigating Disaster: A Strategic Guide to Risk Management in Heritage Collections

Risks associated with the use of recordable CDs and DVDs as reliable storage media in archival collections: strategies and alternatives
MEMORY OF THE WORLD COMMITTEES

**M**OW stimulates projects and activities at all levels – international and regional and national. The Memory of the World Committees are the key to this strategy.

So far, Memory of the World Committees have been set up in 64 countries.
Memory of the World

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization