UNESCO set up the Memory of the World Programme in 1992.

Key objectives:
1) Identifying documentary heritage
2) Preserving it
3) Enhancing universal access to it

These objectives found coherent expression in the 2015 Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form.
The 2015 Recommendation:

- Was adopted on 17 November 2015 by UNESCO’s General Conference.
- Sets out the safeguarding of documentary heritage across five key areas.
• **C/5 Output 8.CI4** - Member States are enabled to foster *universal access to information* and *knowledge*, including through the Information for All Programme (IFAP), as well as through Open Solutions, *and through the identification, preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage*

• **Output PI** : Number of Member States supported in the implementation of the 2015 Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form, including in their identification of documentary heritage for the Memory of the World International Register
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<th>Strategic Direction</th>
<th>Status &amp; Actions</th>
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| 1. **Continued support** for Member States’ implementation of the 2015 Recommendation. | • 95 national & 3 regional MoW committees as implementation vehicles.  
• Strengthened the African Regional Committee for MoW (ARCMoW).                                                                                          |
| 2. **Strengthening inter-regional cooperation** for preservation & accessibility of documentary heritage. | • Inter-regional conferences (2018 in Panama City and 2019 in the Republic of Korea); upcoming in 2024 – shared vision among national/regional committees.                                      |
| 3. Supporting **upstream preservation policies** among Member States and **downstream capacity-building** for memory institutions. | • MoW Global Policy Forums in 2018, 2021, and 2022  
• MoW Jikji Prize, national projects in developing & least developed countries.  
• Publications on managing low-cost digitization projects, etc.                                                                                         |
| 4. Enhancing **issue-based strategic partnerships** within the broad conceptual framework of documentary heritage as sustainable development. | • Google Arts & Culture to showcase documentary heritage; INRIA on software source code as digital heritage; Digital Preservation Coalition; Swisspeace – Safe Havens; UNESCO Chairs – on AI in preservation and accessibility. |
| 5. **Increasing the number of inscriptions on the MoW International Register** from under-represented regions, & **enhancing educational value.** | • Africa (5%); Arab States (2%), ASPAC (22%), Europe and NA (52%), LAC (18%), Others (1%) (*as of Feb 2023).  
• Studio Noord, Google Arts & Culture, national/regional memory institutions, UNESCO Associated Schools Network. |
Selected tools and resources

- **Google x MoW platform**
- **UNESCO Memory of the World Course for Teachers:** [Intro video](#) & [Website](#)
- **Short video:** [Why Documentary Heritage Matters](#)
- **Let’s explore the Memory of the World with Tia, Jik and PokPok:** [Intro video](#) & [Book](#)
- **The Memory of the World Interactive Calendar for children:** [Intro video](#) & [Website](#)
- **Managing low-cost digitization projects in least developed countries and small island developing states:** [a manual](#)
- **Towards sustainable preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage:** [Publication](#)
- **The software Heritage acquisition process** and [Software Source Code as Heritage for Sustainable Development](#)
- Lists documentary heritage recommended by the International Advisory Committee, and endorsed by UNESCO’s Executive Board, as corresponding to the selection criteria “world significance” and “outstanding universal value”.

- Started in 1997. Every 2 years.

- 2017: suspended for a review.

- 2021: Relaunched for 2022-2023 cycle.

- As of August 2023: 495 inscriptions (64 new).

- 2024-2025 cycle: 1 Jul 2023 - 30 Nov 2023
Why nominate?

1. **Affirms world significance**: Prestige conferred on organizations and collections as a result of UNESCO’s recognition.

2. **Brings strategic values**: Strategic opportunities arising from the right to use the UNESCO Memory of the World logo. Strengthening arguments for sponsorship, grants, and funding for preservation.

3. **Attracts publicity**: Opportunities for increased public awareness. Being part of the global effort to enhance awareness and support for the preservation of documentary heritage.

4. **Encourages accessibility**: Allows for greater access to it, thereby facilitating research, education, entertainment, and Memory of the World International Register.
Who can nominate?

• Any person or organization, with the prior written consent of the owners or custodians.

• Nominations are submitted through the National Commission for UNESCO or, in the absence of a National Commission, the relevant government body in charge of relations with UNESCO. Involvement of Memory of the World National Committees is strongly encouraged where possible.

• One country: 2 nominations max. Joint nominations: no limitation.

• International organizations meeting the criteria set out in the General Guidelines may also submit.
What to nominate?

• Documentary heritage that meets the criteria set out in the General Guidelines, among which world significance is the primary criterion.

• Materials from a variety of fields and forms, including visual, audio, paper and digital.

• Must be finite and precisely defined; broad, general or open-ended nominations will not be accepted. The Register does not include all the records in public and private archives, no matter how important those bodies or individuals may be.

• If exists in several locations, or several owners or custodians, full details of each component, owner or custodian must be provided.
**Note on contestation**

- Consider potential for contested nominations. Need for wider consultations, including with a potential contesting party (a Member State).

- In case of Member States, contestations may be resolved in two ways:
  1) Bilateral dialogue, exclusive of the UNESCO Secretariat;
  2) Mediated/facilitated dialogue, with the mediator/facilitator appointed by the UNESCO DG in consultation with and agreement by the nominating and contesting parties.

- In both cases:
  i. Prior consultation may preempt the contestation.
  ii. Clarity as to the grounds of contestation may help resolve the contestation.
How to submit?

Must be submitted in English or French before 30 November 2023, in one of three ways:

1. via the online platform

2. by filling out the International Register nomination form and sending it to the Memory of the World Secretariat by email at: mowsecretariat@unesco.org

3. by filling out the nomination form and sending it to the mailing address:

   Fackson Banda
   Head, Documentary Heritage Unit (Memory of the World Programme)
   Communication and Information Sector
   UNESCO
   7 Place de Fontenoy
   75352 Paris 07 SP, France
Online submission platform

Nominations, including joint nominations, may be submitted to the MoW Secretariat, electronically and in hard copy, only by Member States through their National Commission for the Memory of the World International Register. In the absence of a National Commission, the relevant government body in charge of relations with UNESCO, involving, if one exists, the relevant national MoW committee.

The following international organizations may submit nominations through the MoW Secretariat:

Les propositions d’inscription, y compris les propositions d’inscription conjointes, peuvent être soumises au Secrétariat, par voie électronique ou en version papier, uniquement par les États membres, par l’intermédiaire de leur commission nationale pour l’UNESCO, à défaut de commission nationale, de l’organisme gouvernemental chargé des relations avec l’UNESCO, en association, lorsqu’il existe, le comité national Membre du monde.

Néanmoins les dispositions ci-dessus sont applicables à toute personne physique ou morale, avec l’autorisation des titulaires des biens documentaires ou des dépositaires de l’élément du patrimoine culturel, pour présenter une proposition d’inscription par l’intermédiaire de la commission nationale pour l’UNESCO ou, à défaut de commission nationale, de l’organisme gouvernemental chargé des relations avec l’UNESCO ou de l’État membre concerné par la proposition, en association, lorsqu’il existe, le comité national Membre du monde.
Online submission platform
Gender equality is one of two Global Priorities of UNESCO. The nomination should include a gender analysis and if there are any specific aspects of the nomination that relate to gender equality and contribute to record the significant roles that women have played in the world’s history. Explain what the nomination tells us about the lives of women and girls, and any impacts on women and girls and/or on gender equality. If according to the gender analysis the nomination does not contribute to gender equality, the ‘Do Not Harm’ principle should be applied.
Provide details of consultation with relevant stakeholders ensuring a **gender-balanced representation** about this nomination. Relevant stakeholders include:

- Owners/custodians of the documentary heritage
- Communities with involvement in the documentary heritage
- Scholars who research the documentary heritage.
Other note: Visual documentation

6.4 Visual documentation (if available and appropriate) / Documentation visuelle le cas échéant (si disponible et approprié) [1]

Agreement granting non-exclusive rights / Accord sur les droits non exclusifs
Please download this document, sign it and then upload under 6.4.1 below / Merci de télécharger ce document, de le signer et de charger sous le point 6.4.1 ci-dessous.

6.4.1 Agreement granting non-exclusive rights / Accord sur les droits non exclusifs [2]
Name *
Select a file to upload
General Guidelines vs Companion

- **General Guidelines**: the formal basis of the MoW Programme.
- **Register Companion**: less formal, more practical, more focus on nomination process.

✓ The Companion provides the basic information that you need to complete a nomination form.

✓ Other possible ‘companions’: local experts, successful nominations of similar documents that have been inscribed on the International Register.
The structure of the Companion

1. Introduction on MoW programme, objectives, definitions, Registers and nomination process. Important to understand this framework and the way of operating.

2. Constructing a nomination.

3. The outcome: what happens after inscription? E.g.: if unsuccessful: You can submit a revised version in the next cycle.

4. FAQ: Everything you wanted to know, but were afraid to ask...
Use this version of the General Guidelines:

Use this version of the Companion:

The Companion may be updated over time.

Make sure you use the latest version!
How to make an effective nomination?

Stay tune for the afternoon session for a lecture video!
Thank you

Secretariat of Memory of the World Programme,
Documentary Heritage Unit,
Division for Digital Inclusion, Policies and Transformation
UNESCO
mowsecretariat@unesco.org