

SCEaR Newsletter 2022
Special Issue 2022

The Memory of the World Knowledge Centres

An Overview

Edited by Lothar Jordan and Helen H.K. Jeong

In cooperation with

Memory of the World Knowledge Centre-Macau

Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Beijing

Korean Memory of the World Knowledge Center

Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Fujian

Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Suzhou

Centre de Savoir Mémoire du Monde de Côte d'Ivoire

Mexican Memory of the World Knowledge Centre-Vizcainas

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Contents

Introduction <i>by the Editors</i>	4
Idea and History of the Network “Memory of the World Knowledge Centres” <i>by Lothar Jordan</i>	6
The SCEaR Working Group Memory of the World Knowledge Centres <i>by Helen H.K. Leong</i>	14
 The Memory of the World Knowledge Centres	
The Memory of the World Knowledge Centre—Macau: Overview and Perspective <i>by Helen H.K. Leong</i>	17
The Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Beijing. An Overview <i>by Bin Zhang and Zhiying Lian</i>	28
The Korean Memory of the World Knowledge Center: Efforts for Solidarity and Utilization <i>by Sangho LEE</i>	36
The Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Fujian. An Overview <i>by Junfan Ma, Feng Chen, Zongwei Zheng</i>	44
Become Light in Pursuit of Light: Historical Review and Future Prospects of the Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Suzhou <i>by Jing Xie</i>	51
Overview of the Missions of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre of Ivory Coast <i>by Cécile COULIBALY, Tiémoman KONE, Koffi Fernand KOUAME</i>	62
The Mexican Memory of the World Knowledge Centre-Vizcainas. An Overview <i>by Ana Rita Valero</i>	70

Introduction

by the Editors

This Special Issue of the *SCEaR Newsletter* is a joint venture of the SCEaR, the SCEaR Working Group Memory of the World Knowledge Centres and the seven Memory of the World Knowledge Centres that exist so far. We see it as an in-between report, reflection, and prospect of a 'project in progress' with partners, so far, from four continents. We see it furthermore as a commitment to the 30th anniversary of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme which – seen over its thirty years – is in itself a 'work in progress'.

The idea and history of this project, of the Working Group and the single Centres are introduced on the pages following our Introduction. So we can keep our introductory remarks short.

The basic idea of our project is to create a global network of specialised archives or libraries that work on MoW and documentary heritage, especially such that is inscribed into one of the MoW Registers. These Centres would collect materials on these matters and help to use them for education and research. Education and research could include, depending on the local situation, memory institutions or universities or schools – or all three of them. The Centres should be interested in mediating their contents and tasks especially to young people and should be open to address or include a wider general public. While the main part of their work would be dedicated to a national, sub-national, and local audience, they should, on the other hand, look for and create opportunities and means to cooperate internationally, not at least with MoW Knowledge Centres in other countries.

The first step to implement this idea into practice was the opening of the first MoW Knowledge Centre (in Macau 2016; see Helen Jeong's article p. 17ff.). So far six more Centres followed it.

The second step, direction 'international cooperation', was the creation of a SCEaR Working Group Memory of the World Knowledge Centres in 2021 (see Helen Jeong's article pp. 14ff.).

For the work of the Centres and of the Working Group the Internet was and is a most import tool. This fulfils not only the high expectations that UNESCO has for the Internet as a tool for education, information and dialogue in general and especially for MoW. Indeed the single MoW KC Centres make a good and intense use of the Internet as their overviews show. But the Internet was and is not only *useful* for their work. It was *indispensable* for their, for our cooperation, as Covid had prevented personal meetings since early 2020. The expansion of our Network of MoW Knowledge Centres and the institutionalisation of their cooperation in the times of this pandemia was only possible through the Internet. (But, of course, we are looking forward to personal meetings).

While the work to create such Centres started before 2015, the Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage Including in Digital Form that the General Conference of UNESCO adopted in that year, strengthens

– in our eyes – the role of these Centres, as this Recommendation not only underlines “the importance of documentary heritage to promote the sharing of knowledge for greater understanding and dialogue, in order to promote peace and respect for freedom, democracy, human rights and dignity”, but asks UNESCO’s Member States “to improve access to documentary heritage by encouraging the development of new forms and tools of education and research on documentary heritage and their presence in the public domain” (4.4). The MoW Knowledge Centres are such “new forms and tools” to fulfil UNESCO’s expectations expressed here. Their overviews give evidence of this.

While the work of these Centres is a long-term endeavour, it should be noted that it also fits very well to the expectations UNESCO¹ has for the celebration of Memory of the World 30th anniversary in 2022, like – to cite just a few –:

- Identifying documentary heritage, including that inscribed on national, regional and international registers of the MoW Programme, which promotes greater understanding and dialogue across cultures.
- Celebrating national world-significant documents that have a phenomenal impact on a community, a culture, a country, or humanity generally.
- Exploiting the educational value of documentary heritage to enrich existing curricula with under-utilized primary sources.

When the Network of Memory of the World Knowledge Centres works for these and other tasks, it not only helps to improve ‘public access to information’ as the Concept Note (see fn. 1) asks for in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. It does so in many forms of dialogues: With experts and with the general public, with young people and with the media – and with Centres in other countries.

We invite all readers of this Special Issue to send us their remarks and proposals. One of our hopes is that it may inspire one or the other to consider creating a new Memory of the World Knowledge Centre ready to cooperate in our Network for the benefit of the Memory of the World.²

And if this Network grows, we want include the new Centres in the second and further editions of this Special Issue, updated and enlarged.

¹ See its Concept Note for the “Celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Memory of the World Programme”.

² Two technical remarks:

1. In general the *SCEaR Newsletter* and UNESCO use the spelling of the British English, so it would be Centre and Programme. But some Centres preferred the US-American spelling, so Center and Program. In this Special Issue we follow the use of our partners.

2. The structure of names and the order of their components can be different in different languages and cultures. We followed the use of our partners. To make clear what the main component of a name is, some use big letters, like e.g. LEE.

Idea and History of the Network “Memory of the World Knowledge Centres”

by Lothar Jordan

The first impulses to develop Education and Research for Memory of the World systematically go back to 2009, to a meeting of the Marketing Sub-Committee (MSC) in Paris. As a consequence a Working Group Education and Research (since 2013: Sub-Committee on Education and Research [SCEaR]) was installed by the MoW International Advisory Committee (IAC) in Manchester (UK) 2011.

Basic idea for the MoW Knowledge Centres in 2011

Already in its Report for this IAC meeting the Marketing Sub-Committee (SC), preparing the Working Group Education and Research, had strengthened the idea of Memory of the World Studies and provided the basic idea of a Network for MoW:³

“Establishing the MoW Studies, particularly research and teaching programmes in universities and other institutions of higher education as a strategy for establishing long-term relationships with the academe sector.

This is envisioned to be the starting point for establishing linkages between MoW Programme and the academic sector worldwide through a global MoW net of research and teaching which can help in the systematic development of the programme beyond awareness-raising and build new capacities for universal access to information and knowledge.” (MSC Report, 2011).

Beside the idea of ‘MoW Network’ the idea of a ‘MoW Centre’ came up.⁴ At that time the MoW Working Group Education and Research discussed among its members and with the Secretariat the necessity for and the possibility of installing an archival and research centre. The basic idea of a Memory of the World Knowledge Centre was brought to UNESCO Headquarters in 2012. There all material concerning MoW, the MoW International Register etc., would be collected, and would be open to researchers and other users. As the research on MoW and MoW Studies grows, there would be – this was our assumption – a growing need to collect all printed and all e-publications etc. UNESCO HQ, Paris, would be the best place for it. All institutions holding items in one of the MoW registers should be asked to send in relevant materials, e.g. publications that were a consequence of a successful nomination or of other relevance. UNESCO Archives and Library in Paris seemed a good place for such a centre.⁵ The Executive Board of UNESCO fostered that idea.

³ In fact, two networks arose from this idea, the SCEaR Network of Cooperating Institutions and Cooperating Members and the Network of Memory of the World Knowledge Centres.

⁴ This could be seen as a specifying variant of the concept of an Institute for UNESCO Heritage Studies that I had developed in 2010/11; see Jordan (2020).

⁵ I could make some experience in the UNESCO Archives while working for Jordan (2013).

A Plan of 2012/13: Memory of the World Knowledge Centre, UNESCO HQ

The Director General's "Action Plan for Strengthening the MoW Programme" (191 EX [Executive Board]/11, part 1, objective 2) had asked to "give consideration to establishing a 'MoW Knowledge Centre' possibly within the UNESCO Library, to collect all relevant material on MoW as the basis for worldwide research and as a repository of best-practice examples". In its 11th meeting on 18-20 June 2013, Gwangju, Republic of Korea, the (IAC of MoW followed the Executive Board of UNESCO and agreed to explore the possibilities of creating such a Centre. Seen from today, the idea to have just one centre that collects all material on MoW was not realistic. The Programme was growing, the registers (international, regional, and national) were growing – what did not grow was the MoW Secretariat.

So the idea of having one centre in Paris seemed to loose attraction. As a consequence the ideas of 'MoW Network' and of 'MoW Centre' merged, and the idea of a "system of Memory of the World Centres" gained more and more attraction. And that fit perfectly with the digital era. The internet was growing, and so the chances to connect the world and to provide information on the national and local documentary heritage for all people. The internet joins all parts of the world, with a radically decentralized structure. Similarly, the MoW Knowledge Centres would be – and will be – hubs in an international infrastructure for collecting and mediating knowledge on the Memory of the World Programme and the documentary heritage.

The IAC (2013) asked its Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR) – that had proposed to consider the creation of a MoW Knowledge Centre – to explore such a plan. Its mission should be:

- To support the MoW programme, in particular in the field of education and research, by collecting all material (printed, digital, and other) on MoW, its tasks, registers, projects, and history, as far as this material is relevant on the international level;
- to provide and facilitate access, both physically and digitally, to this material, in the long run developing an effective MoW bibliographic database;
- to provide a basis for worldwide research and a repository of best-practice examples of preserving, restoring, digitizing, mediating documents of all kinds;
- to organize events (seminars / conferences / discussions) in the context of MoW's tasks, cooperating with NGOs from the academic world and from the field of memory institutions;
- by its collections and works to provide a solid ground for exploring synergies with World Cultural and Natural Heritage and Intangible Heritage.
- to serve as a flagship in *a system of Memory of the World Centres* [my italics] to be created on the international, regional and national levels, a system that helps utilizing MoW for the development of knowledge and information societies.

Helena Asamoah-Hassan, Chair of the MoW IAC, wrote an e-mail to the UNESCO Archivist, Jens Boel, on 23 January 2014 about „the IAC's desire for the setting up of a

Memory of the World Knowledge Centre at UNESCO Headquarters and soliciting your support for it”. Jens Boel answered her the next day very positively and announced: “I think this is a very timely and relevant proposal and agree entirely with your vision. [...] Since all successful MoW inscriptions are transferred to the UNESCO Archives, a nucleus of documentation is already available.

I’ll be happy to work with your Sub-Committee on Education and Research in developing the plan and exploring the possibilities of creating a Memory of the World Knowledge Centre at the UNESCO Archives and Library.”

Having been invited to give a presentation on “Memory of the World: Education and Research” in the series of events “Ideas in Action” at UNESCO HQ on 21 March 2014 I could among other perspectives of the SCEaR that had been created the year before, speak about our idea of the MoW Knowledge Centre. The Deputy Director General of UNESCO, and the Head of the MoW Secretariat, Joie Springer were present.

The following three pages show facsimiles of our drafts from February 2014 (that resulted from the IAC’s question); the first for the MoW Knowledge Centre in Paris, the second for the Network of Centres, in which the Centre in Paris would have been included.

Memory of the World Knowledge Centre

1. In its 11th meeting, 18-20 June 2013, the International Advisory Committee of the MoW programme, in agreement with the UNESCO Secretariat and following the Director General's Action Plan (191 EX/11, part 1, objective 2), had approved the SCEaR's recommendation to explore the possibilities of creating a "Memory of the World Knowledge Centre" at UNESCO , Paris. The exploration is ongoing.
2. The task of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre will be to collect all material of international importance (printed, digital, and other) on MoW, its tasks, registers, projects, and history to provide a basis for worldwide research and a repository of best-practice examples of preserving, restoring, digitizing, mediating documents of all kinds. As MoW grows successfully, gets more and more attention from different sides, including the scientific and educational community, more and more relevant materials come out. But, as they are spread around the world, these materials are not easy to access to for those who want to use it in a wider, global or comparative perspective, or are looking for best-practice examples of education and training. After the IAC created a sub-committee on Education and Research to observe, inspire, and, as far as possible, guide the process of growing research, education, and training related to MoW and documents, with special regard of modern ICTs, a Memory of the World Knowledge Centre would be a logical next step in utilizing MoW for the development of knowledge and information societies.
3. First considerations include the perspective that the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre should not only collect material and give access to it for purposes of research, education and training, but, together with the Secretariat and the respective bodies of MoW, especially the IAC and the SCEaR, and, if possible, in cooperation with other institutions, like NGOs from the field of heritage and preservation and from the academic world, furthermore with institutions of research and education (universities etc.), should play an active role in promoting its use, attracting users (researchers, but as well students working on a Master or PhD thesis) to come to the MoW Knowledge Centre. Furthermore it could be a place to make visible: achievements and needs, best-practice examples and innovative projects for an interested audience by an annual series of events (lectures, presentations, panels, etc.), organized in cooperation with its partners.
4. The MoW Knowledge Centre could be a good instrument, too, to look for and to promote synergies with WCH and ICH.

February 2014

A System of Memory of the World Knowledge Centres

1. In its 11th meeting, 18-20 June 2013, the International Advisory Committee of the MoW programme, in agreement with the UNESCO Secretariat and following the Director General's Action Plan (191 EX/11, part 1, objective 2), had approved the SCEaR's recommendation to explore the possibilities of creating a "Memory of the World Knowledge Centre" at UNESCO , Paris. The exploration is ongoing.
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MoW Knowledge Centres on all levels

The MoW programme is based on a threefold structure: international, regional , national.

This is true for the registers and for the organizational scheme (International Advisory Committee SCs; Regional Committees, National Committees). All have the same importance for the development of MoW.

As a consequence the plan of a Memory of the World Knowledge Centre should be carried out on all three levels, so we would get:

Level	Registers	Organization	MoW Knowledge Centres
international	International	International Advisory Committee	Memory of the World Knowledge Centre, UNESCO HQ
regional	Regional	Regional Committees	Regional [naming the region] MoW Knowledge Centre
national	National	National Committees	National [naming the state] MoW Knowledge Centre

The creation of MoW Knowledge Centres on all three levels would provide excellent tools to make MoW and its tasks rooted deeply and sustainably in the world of education and research. They would not only collect material, but inspire further and innovative treatment of MoW, its elements and its tasks. Driven by knowledge and creativity of MoW experts on all levels, the system of MoW Knowledge Centres could have a strong multiplying effect for MoW.

Centres on different levels could help each other in collection policy and practice. On such a basis, an effective MoW bibliographic database may be possible in the long run.

The paragraphs 2. to 4. of this paper can be adapted easily to the regional and national level. We may find good preconditions especially on the national level. Some national committees or f.e. national libraries have collected material concerning 'their' items on the International or Regional or National Register, on their projects and activities anyhow. Of course, they should collect as well some international standard works, like the *Guidelines*, the *Vancouver Proceedings*, the *Memory of the World. Treasures...* (UNESCO/HarperCollins), and so on.

On all levels a MoW Knowledge Centre is not only a collection, a name, and a place. Right from the start additional expertise should be joined to each Centre (s. paragraph 3 above).

How to proceed?

If the basic idea of this paper is approved by the SCEaR, the MoW Secretariat, and, in a next step, the Bureau, we should begin immediately to spread this paper to members of MoW bodies on all levels. A preciser wording or description of the Centres does not seem necessary to get considerations, reflections, and initiatives started. All may benefit from the outcomes of the ongoing work on the MoW Knowledge Centre at UNESCO HQ. But we can turn it around as well: The project of a MoW Knowledge Centre at UNESCO could get inspirations from considerations and initiatives for MoW Knowledge Centres all around the world.

Lothar Jordan

26 February 2014

2014: A Global Network of MoW Knowledge Centres

Consequently, in 2014 we followed the second draft (26 February 2014) to create a global network of MoW Knowledge Centres, coordinated by the SCEaR. This endeavour became effective again in cooperation with the MoW Secretariat and was fostered by the MoW IAC. In September 2014 the SCEaR sent a letter to all MoW National Committees asking for help to create such centres.⁶

2016 Macau: First MoW Knowledge Centre

Already before all these activities from 2012-2014, that is: in November 2010, we could discuss matters of developing MoW Education and Research in Macau, in a Conference organized by Helen Ieong for the Macau Documentation and Information Society and the Library Society of China (The Academic Research Committee). Since this conference in 2010, there was a close interaction between Macau and the MoW Working Group Education and Research (and later with the SCEaR), with an important International Forum on these matters in Macau 2012. This cooperation was a good pre-condition to start the network of MoW Knowledge Centres. In the line with the strong Macau activities for MoW the first such centre, the “Memory of the World Knowledge Centre—Macau” opened on 21 November 2016 (see Helen Ieong’s article on it in this Special Issue).

In the following years Chinese institutions continued to play a strong role in these pioneering activities, and the National Archives Administration of China (NAAC ; namely Li Minghua and Wang Hongmin) lend a helping end, among them the convincing proposal and offer that China would like to create more than one Centre.

2016-Today: Seven MoW Knowledge Centres

Up to now, six more MoW KCs followed the Macau Centre:

1. Memory of the World Knowledge Centre-Macau, 2016
2. MoW Knowledge Center-Beijing, 2017
3. Korean MoW Knowledge Center (Andong, Republic of Korea), 2017
4. MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou (China), 2018
5. MoW Knowledge Center-Fujian (Fuzhou, China,) 2018
6. Centre de Savoir MdM de Côte d’Ivoire, 2020
7. Mexican MoW Knowledge Centre-Vizcainas (Mexico City), MoU 2020, opened 2021.

⁶ The name of these institutions, that is “MoW Knowledge Centre (or: Center)”, makes it an international brand and informs about its content. It was the former MoW Senior Programme Officer of UNESCO, Ms Joie Springer, who created the name. I discussed our idea with her in March 2012 in Paris. I came to her and said: “Joie, what do you think of creating a MoW Education and Research Centre?” And she said: “That is a good idea, but why don’t we call it Memory of the World Knowledge Centre?” And I said: “Yes, that’s better.” To join ‘Memory of the World’ and ‘Knowledge’ in this name seems indeed most appropriate. Knowledge is a key word in all scholarship and education. This is true even more for working with documents. UNESCO itself provides more contexts for the MoW Knowledge Centres. One such context is the concept of Knowledge Societies. It is worked on in UNESCO sector CI (Communication and Information), like MoW.

All MoW KCs are based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the institutions that carry and foster the centres, and the SCEaR. These Agreements are similar, but not identical, as we want to respect the specific interests and capacities of our partners. But all share the task to collect materials on their national items in the MoW Register, and to develop materials, events, publications, websites, etc. to foster education and research on these items, and on Memory of the World and Documentary Heritage in general.

2021: Working Group Memory of the World Knowledge Centres

As they cooperate nationally and internationally, the Memory of the World Knowledge Centres help to create a new global network of knowledge on MoW and documentary heritage. For the benefit of their cooperation, the SCEaR created a Working Group Memory of the World Knowledge Centres in 2021 (see Helen Jeong's article in this Special Issue). We could win Helen Jeong, Director of the Macau Centre to act as Coordinator of this Working Group.

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The SCEaR Working Group Memory of the World Knowledge Centres

by Helen H.K. Ieong

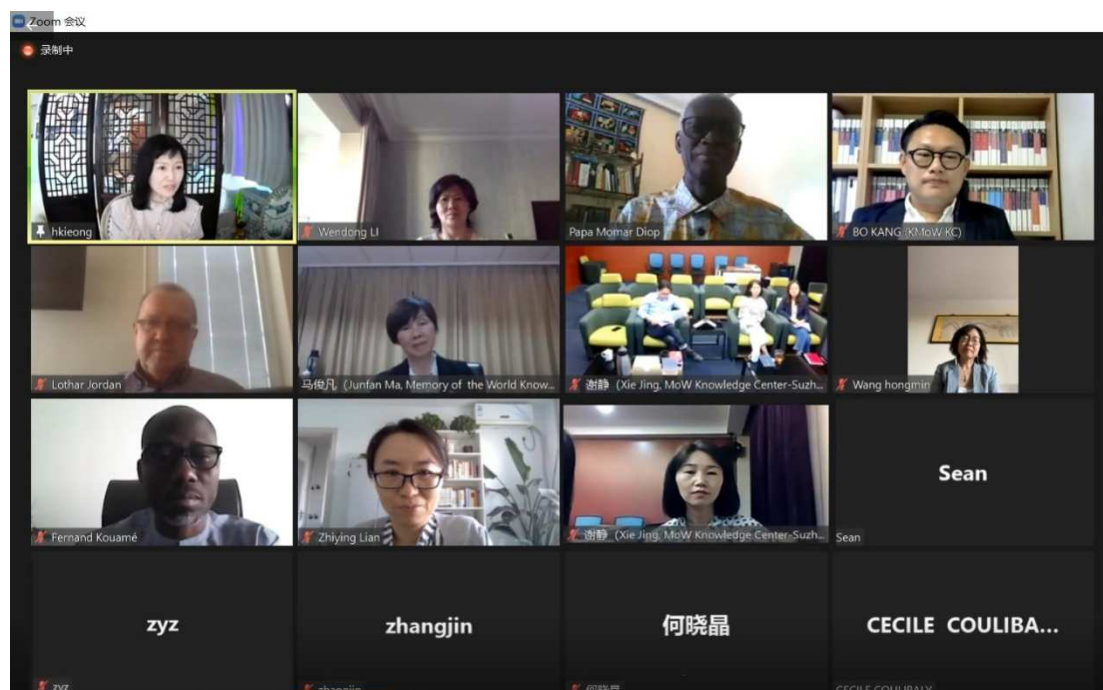
On June 14, 2021, based on a Memorandum, the SCEaR established a Working Group MoWKC with the aim of supporting the development and strengthening of MoWKC work, especially the cooperation, through meetings, websites, publications, or other activities, promoting the expansion of the MoWKC network, with special attention to regional distribution, and exploring new tasks for MoWKC (Jordan, 2021). It was a great encouragement when the Chair of the SCEaR announced that the representative of the Macau Centre (Helen H.K. Ieong) was appointed as the Coordinator of the Working Group. That was in line with the pioneering role and successful work of the MoW KC-Macau, created in 2016 in the City University of Macau. It was the first of now seven Centres across the globe (see table), based on Memoranda between the SCEaR and the institutions that carry the Centres.

The members of the working group are representatives of the Centres and representatives of SCEaR and the National Archives Administration of China (see member list in table below). The establishment of the working group was to strengthen the collaboration between the centres and the impact of MoW Knowledge Centres locally and internationally. In fact, there were positive feedbacks from the MoW IAC, such as from its Chairman Abdullah Al Raisi, and from other of its members. They expressed their greetings and support for the Working Group.

	MoWKC: location and institute	Established on	Working Group Members
1	Macau, China (The City University of Macau)	Nov 21, 2016	Ms. Helen H.K. IEONG, Coordinator
2	Beijing, China (Renmin University of China)	July 11, 2017	Ms. Zhiying LIAN
3	Andong, Republic of Korea (The Korean Studies Institute)	June 1, 2018	Mr. Bo Seung KANG
4	Fuzhou, China (Fujian Provincial Archives)	Nov 6, 2018	Ms. Junfan MA
5	Suzhou, China (Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives)	Nov 10, 2018	Ms. Jing XIE
6	Ivory Coast (Virtual University of Ivory Coast)	Nov 24, 2020 Oct 5, 2021	Mr. Fernand KOUAME
7	Vizcainas, Mexico (The Historical Archive of Vizcainas School)	Feb 26, 2021	Ms. Ana Rita VALERO

8	Further Members: from the SCEaR	Mr. Lothar JORDAN (Germany)
9		Mr. Papa Momar DIOP (Senegal)
10	Further Member: from National Archives Administration of China	Ms. Hongmin WANG (China)

In order to build up a good connection, explore collaboration, and study the work of the working group, a first online meeting was held on April 22, 2022. Most of the Centres have been performing well in organizing various activities, such as conferences, exhibitions, workshops, and they are expanding their cooperation with schools and universities to promote the MoW effectively.



Participants of the online meeting, 22 April 2022 . Photo: Lemon Zhong.

There are some good examples for the cooperation. The Suzhou Centre has produced a short cartoon video with images of Macau Tong Nam School's poster design to promote the documentary heritage of the MoW Register. Beijing Centre is organizing an event entitled “Memory of the World • Chinese Documentary Heritage Creative Competition” that joins hands with – among others – four MoW Knowledge Centres in China and with our Working Group. University students look for interesting ways to mediate MoW and items of its Register to young people.

There is no doubt that the Knowledge Centres and our Working Group will find many more opportunities to enhance their work and cooperation for the benefit of MoW locally and internationally.

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The Memory of the World Knowledge Centre—Macau

Overview and Perspective

by Helen H.K. Leong

1. Background and establishment

Macau, China, was a tiny fishing village in the ancient province of Guangdong called Xiangshan. Through nearly five hundred years of interaction between Eastern and Western cultures, this small historical city has been a unique mix of cultures based on Chinese culture as its mainstay. In 1999 it became a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. This status will last 50 years. From its past and its current “in-between” political and cultural situation, the question of Macau's history and identity plays a special role in the consciousness of the community and for education on all levels and for all forms of heritages. Therefore the issues of properly organizing and managing the various facets of Macau's heritage and educating the public about their value are the uppermost concerns for the Macau community (see Leong 2020). All forms of heritage are deemed important by the public, and the three UNESCO heritage programmes have influenced Macau in many aspects, including World Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritages, as well as Memory of the World and documentary heritage.

1.1. Macau participating in MoW

Since 2008 the Macau Documentation and Information Society (MDIS), supported by Macao Foundation and local academic institutions, has been taking new directions in its efforts to work on Macau documents, inspired by the various activities of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme (MoW). The first main steps were taken in 2008. Delegates from the Macau Foundation (MF) and MDIS participated in the Third International Memory of the World Conference with the theme “Imagine... a world without memories” , and the Third General Meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia Pacific (MOWCAP) in Canberra, Australia. Since then, Macau has been continuously active in MoW by organizing series of events. It was important for its further development that MOWCAP 's fourth General Meeting was held on 8–9 March 2010 in Macau, organized by MOWCAP, the Macao Foundation, and MDIS. Then, Macau has participated in MoW actively and has carried out numbers of cooperative projects on conferences, education and studies, and relative promotions, etc., between Macau and MoW.

One obvious example is that three collections have been inscribed on the MOWCAP Register since 2010. They are: “The Archives and Materials of the Macau Diocese from 1550s to 1800s” and “Archives and Manuscripts of Macau Kong Tac Lam Temple (1645–1980)”, which were nominated by MDIS in 2010 and 2016 respectively. The “Official Records of Macao during the Qing Dynasty (1693–1886)”, which have been also inscribed into MOWCAP and MoW registers. The successful nominations have raised

public awareness of MoW and enable people to realize the significance of the documentary heritage.

1.2. Establishment of the MoW Knowledge Centre--Macau

In 2016, based on a Memorandum of Understanding with the MoW Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR), with support of the MoW International Advisory Committee (IAC) and the National Archive Administration of China (NAAC), the world's first Memory of the World Knowledge Centre (MoWKC) was established in Macau and located in the City University of Macau (CityU) Library. It aims at strengthening the exchanges between Macau and the international community, and it was a significant milestone for Macau. The Macau Centre was established jointly by the SCEaR, CityU and the MDIS. Its key mission is to provide archival resources for the purpose of exchange and academic cooperation activities, to support MoW on the field of education and research, promote MoW Studies in Macau, and further to provide a solid ground for exploring synergies with the UNESCO World (Cultural and Natural) Heritage (WCH) and Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) programmes. It will be a bridge between local and neighbouring areas concerning MoW.



2016, November 21:
Opening Ceremony of the MoW Knowledge Centre—Macau. Photo: MDIS.

2. Activities and achievement

The establishment of the MoWKC—Macau had created a new stage for Macau. Its daily work includes the acquisition of related collections and to provide services for users. The users are university students, scholars, guests, and visitors, because it is open to the general public. In addition, different kinds of activities promoting MoW in Macau are increased. In summary, the core activities include international seminars, symposiums, academic lectures and workshops, documentary exhibitions, collection management, nomination of documentary heritage to the MoW Register, and collecting and calling for public donations, etc. Scholars, academic institutes, societies, MoW committees, as well as other MoW Knowledge Centres from local, regional, and international are among the parties involved or cooperative partners.

2.1. Conference and exhibition

The first event was the opening ceremony of the "Memory of the World Knowledge Centre—Macau" with a Forum "Macau and UNESCO Memory of the World Programme—Access to knowledge via access to archives and documents" held on November 21, 2016, at the CityU campus.

Guests from MoW included Lothar Jordan, Chair of SCEaR, Papa Momar Diop, Vice-Chair of the IAC, IAC members Vitor Fonseca, Helen Jarvis, and Dianne Macaskill; Jonas Palm, Chair of the Sub-Committee of Technology; Jan Bos, Chair of the Register Sub-Committee; Roslyn Russell, Rapporteur of the SCEaR, and member of the Register Sub-Committee, Rujaya Abhakorn. Local guests from the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, Macau Government, academic institutes (scholars and students), and social associations also joined the event. The Forum focused on the Knowledge Centre's development and connection with MoW. It has enhanced public awareness on documentary preservation and inheritance, and connected the information services in Macau with the international community.



Opening of the MoW Knowledge Centre—Macau: Forum. Photo: MDIS.

This successful start strengthened the connection between Macau and MoW. It created more opportunities to carry out academic exchanges and research activities in a wide range of topics, such as documentary heritage and cultural projects. For example, at the first anniversary celebration of the MoWKC-Macau, an international symposium and exhibition (in cooperation with MOWCAP), entitled “Historical Memory of Belt and Road--Series 1: Cooperation in Documentary Heritage of Macau, Goa, Timor-Leste, and Regional Areas” was held. Representatives from the MoW IAC and MOWCAP were invited. The key issue was to look for cooperation on building up historical memory in the Belt and Road regions, as well as for joint nominations to the MoW register. Wendy Li, Member of NAAC, Sun Sen Lin, Director of the First Historical Archives of China, members of MoW: Roslyn Russell, Andrew Henderson, Rahul Goswami, UNESCO's ICH Regional experts in Asia, and archivists from Timor-Leste, Hong Kong and Macau, attended and delivered speeches to contribute suggestions and opinions.



Symposium of “Historical Memory of Belt and Road”. Photo: MDIS.

In the continuous development of the MoWKC—Macau, the topics of conferences or exhibitions have become much broader, and cooperation's room is increasing. In recent years, the Macau Centre has organized quite a lot of such activities on the CityU campus. Here are some examples that are worth to be shared: a Seminar on “American Archives and Macau” on July 16, 2018. The Centre invited US historical scholars to study with the local librarian about the Macau historical archives in the US. Further research projects are being processed. Also the Forum on Cultural Icons and Cultural Prosperity in the Greater Bay Area on August 25, 2019, that joined hands with the Guangdong Social Sciences Association, to explore cooperation on the building up of a cultural image for the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and related research works.

We can review some more examples, e.g. in September 2019 a grant event in cooperation with Fuzhou MoWKC named “Fujian-Macau Symposium and Exhibition on

Memory of the World and Maritime Silk Road” (see Diop 2019), guests from UNESCO IAC, Mexico MoW, NAAC, and scholars from different parts of the world have attended. In addition to the seminar, the exhibition demonstrated the extensive records and archives that cover a range of valuable topics of MoW, such as concerning Fuzhou and Macau. On the same day, a small meeting with regard of setting up MoWKC in Mexico was held. We shared experiences. This event was deemed to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Peoples Republic of China, and the 20th anniversary of Macau’s handing over to the motherland, and the 3rd anniversary of the establishment of the MoWKC--Macau.

Other forums and seminars such as “Tibet and Macau in MoW Documentary Heritages” (Nov 2019) and “Exhibition and Seminar about Macau and Guangzhou Thirteenth Hongs of Qing Dynasty” (April 20, 2021) were held in the MoW Knowledge Centre-Macau. The events were significant and organizing large number of scholars and visitors to share experiences and contribute suggestions. Besides, there are some exhibitions of old photos of Macau’s documentary heritage in the MOWCAP Register, such as the “Exhibition on Temple Kong Tac Lam in History and Today” (Sept 2020), “Exhibition of the Legend of Macau St. Joseph Seminary”(May 2019), “Exhibition of Historical Archives of Macao in Ming and Qing Dynasties”, etc., that have received positive comments, and quite many historical researchers visited and used the materials for research works. Bishop Lee, and Buddhists joined the event.

It is worth to be mentioned that the Macau Centre has also explored the connection with other historical heritage projects. In the past few years, some activities related to the World Heritage have been organized. For example, the Centre acts as a bridge between the Heilongjiang Province and World Heritage. We organize a visit tour of Harbin to explore the potential of Jewish historical buildings and archives. This is an ongoing project and there are many institutes participating. Also the record film “The Memory of the Lighthouse - Macau" premiered, and the Symposium on "Macau Lighthouse Heritage Preservation and Inheritance” was held at CityU. The documentary film “The Memory of the Lighthouse – Macau.” was produced by Hong Kong CityU, and supported by MDIS. The ceremony and the symposium aimed at promoting the concept of preservation and use of historical memory resources. Scholars from Hong Kong and Macau, including experts and students in the fields of history, architecture, lighthouses, and documentary heritage, as well as officers from the Macau government, that jointed together to discuss and explore the value of the Guia Lighthouse.

2.2. Education and Research

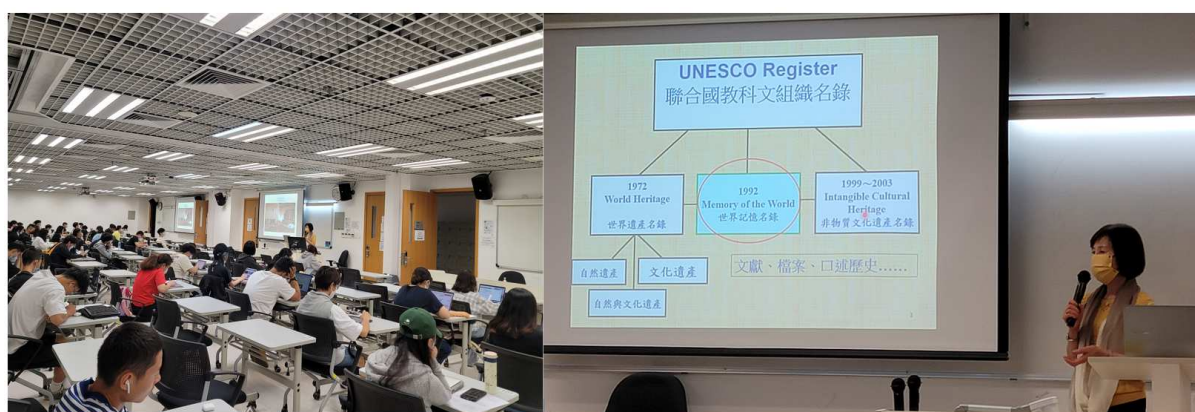
One of the important missions of MoW is to improve and disseminate knowledge of documentary heritage. Therefore, education and research projects have been carried out by the Macau Centre since the very beginning. The activities include implementing of MoW Studies in Master and Bachelor programmes in universities as compulsory study

content. We cooperate also with middle schools to enable teachers and students to participate in the work for MoW and documentary heritage.

Since 2015, Macau Tong Nam School has participated in MoW, introduced by MDIS, and many activities like exhibitions, poster designs and competition, dramas, and class assignments regarding MoW have been held. Macau Pui Ching Middle School's TV station is producing a series of short films about MoW supported by MoWKC, to look at the values of Macau documentary heritage from the perspective of young people. Furthermore, some schools have had some workshops and exhibitions. For example, a workshop with the topic of “Memory of the small town” in Colégio Mateus Ricci (Oct 2017) introduced WHC, ICH, MoW, and Macau Memory. Students presented on Macau history and the memory project. In particular, about 1,200 school students (primary school and high school) have participated, learnt, and worked with projects on MoW in different forms as above mentioned. And there are MoW courses offered in undergraduate (about 650 students since 2020) and master programmes (about 200 students since 2014), that are ongoing programmes in history or cultural courses. Master students study and conduct research on the MoW documentary heritages.



Tong Nam School participating in MoW. Photos: MDIS.



Helen Ieong introduces MoW to students in the University of Macau in Oct. 2022.

Photo: Jerry Zhang.

In terms of education, the Macau Centre keeps on providing lecturers and workshops for the public and especially for the youth. For example, “Historical Stories from Rare Collection—Macau documentary heritage and the Memory of the World” (March 26, 2017), which introduced the Macau historical documentation with its stories and background, to promote the understanding of local history and culture for young people in Macau, and to help schools developing MoW content. School principals, students, and public readers attended. Thus a good connection between schools and the Macau Centre was established.



‘MoW and Macau’ promotional video produced by Pui Ching Middle School.
Photo: Pui Ching School.

As mentioned above, related courses are offered in undergraduate and master programmes. In order to attract more youth groups to join the protection of historical heritage, students’ research on the documentary heritage is included in the class. In particular, the course specifically included Macau History Heritage Studies (master programme), Macau Cultural Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage, and Documentary Heritage that are based on the UNESCO heritage system (UNESCO WCH, ICH, MoW) and to integrate the heritages into memory projects using new information and communication technologies. The courses also implement Memory of the World Studies, and students are requested to work on memory projects.

Furthermore, research works have been processed or recommended by the Centre during the past few years. For example, Research on the “Development and Utilization of Memory World Heritage in China” (Zhong WANG, Cheng Yao WANG 2018), also a survey "Memory of the World Project - Propaganda and Promotion Program"-Questionnaire has been conducted by the MoWKC—Macau.

2.3. Collection Management and other issues

The preservation and management of the collection is an important issue. In order to improve the better understanding of the valuable collections that are inscribed into the MOWCAP Register, the MoWKC has won professional librarians and students to manage the collection, which includes photos, letters, manuscripts, and rare books, through professional classification and cataloguing, allowing better use and access. The digitization of the important documents and photos has also been mostly completed. As a result, the MDIS and the Macau Centre have submitted the nomination of the collection to the MoW International Register.

In addition, the Macau Centre encourages the public to share and donate their personal collections of archives, videos, or any formats of documentary heritage that matches the criteria of the Centre to be included in the MoWKC. Thus, the resources donated to the Centre include videotapes of radio programmes that cover a 10-years period, personal archives of small old shops, and a personal collection of rare books, etc.



Mr. Li Difu presented a high-tech E-screen for the MoWKnowledge Centre--Macau to Pro-Rector Wicky So and Helen Ieong.

Photo: MDIS.

3. Significance and Challenges

3.1. Impact and influence

As previously stated, the Macau Centre acts as the first MoWKC around the world. It has received great support, concerns, and encouragement from the MoW IAC, and from the general public. The City University of Macau provides rigorous systems and flexible policies that help the Centre being well developed. Therefore, it is a reliable environment for the rooting and settlement of the Knowledge Centre, and in fact the university management has provided supporting facilities and resources for the Centre's sustainable development. There is no doubt that overviewing the Centre's role and function had profound impact. First of all, it has played an important role in promoting the education and research of Macau's historical heritage, promoting the knowledge of the value and accessing of documentation resources, and strengthening the exchanges between the local and international community. At the same time, the centre provides exchange and academic cooperation activities for the purpose of archival research and education, and acts as a bridge between neighbouring regions and UNESCO MoW.

Furthermore, it has expanded its functions of supporting MoW, that concerns preserving various documentations in the fields of education and scientific research. In addition, since its establishment the Centre has committed to exploring synergies with UNESCO's World Heritage (WH) and Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) programmes.

Different medias such as Macau Daily News, the biggest and most influential newspaper, and TV and radio media like Television of Macau, have always supported to the Centre's activities, and spread news very often that have built up a very positive image of the centre as an educational and academic institute, and a good partner of MoW.

3.2. New opportunities

The international network of MoW offers new opportunities (see in this Special Issue: Helen Jeong: The SCEaR Working Group Memory of the World Knowledge Centres).

3.3. Further challenges in the Greater Bay Area

Through the recent development of the cultural sphere in the Greater Bay Area, the advantages of Macau can be leveraged and the cooperation in teaching and research in the Greater Bay Area can be promoted through the foundation laid by the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre-Macau, especially the discipline Cultural Industry of the City University of Macau. The course can help young people and the general public to understand and appreciate the profound historical and cultural heritage of Guangdong and Macao by offering students from the Greater Bay Area to visit and conduct research projects in the GBA. On the one hand, we can launch systematic courses in cooperation with colleges and universities, and we can also promote Memory of the World in middle

schools. For example, Macau Tong Nam school and Pui Ching School, have also participated in this programme, allowing middle school students to sort out relevant documents and communicate with experts in the memory of the world, so as to enhance young people's international vision (see images in 2.2.).

As the only MoWKC in GBA, it will be a bridge connecting with UNESCO's MoW. The Centre could play a coordinating role in integrating various historical heritage resources. For example, organize cultural institutions from all over the world to jointly build an overall network platform for cultural resources targeting the GBA. Thus, the information could be stored in an orderly, scientific, and permanent manner for people to consult and use at any time. In particular, the resources include historical archives, celebrity collections, classic songs and movies, special research projects, as well as pictures and videos of urban planning and development, historical and contemporary materials, situations, etc. As a result, it provides a space for the community to gather a sense of belonging and identity.

In addition, since the Macau Centre is open to the public, tourists or academic groups can visit and conduct academic exchanges. In fact, at present, the leaders of CityU also attach great importance to the Centre, which has become a key introduction venue for guests.

As part of the MoW community, we will continue to collaborate with all parties that contribute to preserving and fostering the memory of the world, as well as to share our culture and heritage in a kindred spirit.

4. Conclusion

As the first MoW Knowledge Centre, the Macau Centre finds a certain degree of challenges in order to maintain its reputation. During the past years the Macau Centre has been organizing various activities, and especially the youth is a main target group.

The support from the media and press is encouraging, and the publicity and promotion of the Macau Centre are widely spread. The MoWKC-Macau will coordinate workshops and training programmes of MoW for local and regional communities on historical heritage. In the long run, the Centre should coordinate research projects in the frame of MoW Studies. However, six years are not much, and the Macau Centre is facing challenges and difficulties. We are expecting to build up a strong cooperation network with all Knowledge Centres to expand its positive influence globally.

Last but not least this is a good opportunity to acknowledge all the support of the MoW IAC, SCEaR, MOWCAP, the National Archives Administration of China, Macau government, academic institutes, media, schools, CityU, other MoWKC's, and the general public.

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The Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Beijing An Overview

by Bin Zhang and Zhiying Lian

Background history

The Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Beijing (hereinafter referred to as MoW Beijing Center) was established on July 11, 2017. The Center is located in the School of Information Resource Management (iSchool) at Renmin University of China (RUC). The functions of the MoW Beijing Center include:

- (1) Collecting and preserving the materials related to the Memory of the World Programme.
- (2) Organizing activities related to the research, education, and training about the Memory of the World Programme.
- (3) Providing the policy and best practice for the documentary heritage protection, restoration, and digitization.
- (4) Exploring the collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage projects including cultural heritage, natural heritage, and intangible cultural heritage.

The functions and vision are also reflected by the logo of MoW Beijing Center (see fig. 1). The logo is designed as an infinitely extended square loop, which is based on a traditional Chinese decorative pattern with a history of more than 3,000 years and expresses the auspicious meaning of a long history and endless life. The center of the Logo is the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, which integrates ancient Chinese philosophy, history, mathematics, mechanics, aesthetics and ecology. It is the accumulation of Chinese civilization, and is also a historical landmark building identified as World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. As the logo of MoW Beijing Center this graphic represents the passing of documentary heritage and precious human memory from one generation to the next constantly, demonstrates the inseparable relationship between documentary heritage and other forms of heritage, and also symbolizes the endless research on memory in Chinese academia.



The logo of the Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Beijing.

Management and activities

Over the past five years, the MoW Beijing Center has committed to the performance of its functions.

Firstly, the MoW Beijing Center has been actively promoting the MoW Project and the documentary heritage inscribed on the Memory of the World Register via various channels, including the Center's website, social media, textbooks, courses and lectures.



Professor Huiling Feng gave a Lecture in LuoJia Rostrum of Wuhan University on 23 April 2019. All photos: MoW Beijing Center.

On the website of MoW Beijing Center (<http://mowkcbj.ruc.edu.cn>), there are columns including "Memory of the World Program", "Memory of the World Program in China", "Memory of the World Register" to publicize and promote the MoW Programme and the documentary heritage. Some of the Chinese documentary heritages inscribed into the Memory of the World Register such as Oracle-Bone Inscriptions have been introduced in the textbook *An Introduction to Archival Science*, edited by Huiling Feng of MoW Beijing Center, and the textbook has been widely used by Chinese universities. Information about MoW and the Chinese documentary heritage inscribed into the Memory of the World Register has also been shared in the postgraduate courses such as "Frontiers of Archival Science Research". The Beijing Center uses social media including the Wechat public account "About Archives (Dangan Na Xie Shier)", one of the top Wechat public accounts on archives, and the Wechat public account of the School of Information Resource Management to propagate the updates on MoW and the research on memory and preservation of documentary heritage.

Furthermore, members of the MoW Beijing Center have promoted MoW and the preservation of documentary heritage in many lectures. For example, Huiling Feng gave a Lecture in LuoJia Rostrum of Wuhan University in 23 April 2019 (see photo). The speech

focused on the importance of cultural heritage protection and preservation, and she proposed a new paradigm of digital memory for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage in the digital era.

Secondly, the MoW Beijing Center has been carrying out academic research on archives and memory as well as the preservation of documentary heritage, and been practicing digital memory construction. A series of research projects including Beijing Memory Project (www.bjyy.cn), the digital memory of Gaoqian village (gqjy.bjyy.cn), and the exploration on archives storerooms of ancient China have been launched by members of the MoW Beijing Center, and the "Beijing Memory Digital Resources Platform" as well as "My Beijing Memory" and "Digital Gaoqian village" websites have been built.



Some thematic websites of the Beijing Memory Project.

The aim of the "Beijing Memory Project" is to preserve digital memories of Beijing, represent and disseminate Beijing memories, and promote education and training about digital memory and digital humanities. The project has been committed to the construction of thematic websites, digital exhibition hall, digital reconstruction and database. Till now, 18 thematic websites (see Image) and the Olympic Digital Collection Museum have been established, and eight thematic websites are under construction (see Image next page). The project also used historical maps and materials as well as the technologies including GIS, AR, VR and digital modelling to reconstruct the Beijing City and major events from 1046 B.C. to the present. Now the reconstruction of ancient Beijing City Gates is finished, and the project is working on the representation of the May 4th Movement. There have been 196G digital resources including 10,084 texts, 1,723 photos, and nine audios/videos stored in the database of Beijing Memory Digital Resources Platform. In 2021, three million words of Beijing historical documents have been transcribed and recognized, and the dynamic metadata scheme management

function module, transcription and recognition function module, information extraction function module and memory association network module of the database have been built.

Thematic Websites					
Finished (18)				Under Construction (8)	
Beijing City Gate	Dual Olympic City	Beijing Confucian Temple	Cuandixia Village	Beijing Canal	《New Youth》
Arts of Talking and Singing in Beijing	Shijia Hutong	Yan Nan Yuan	Beijing Nursery Rhymes	Beijing Coupons and Tickets	Shuiyu Village
Beijing Cooking Culture	Jing-Zhang Railway	Beijing Opera Facial Makeup	Royal Press Wuying Dian	Qianshi Hutong	Huang Shi Cheng
Eight Temporary Imperial Palaces in Xi Mountain	Ice Game Ceremony in Qing Dynasty	Beijing Gatepiers	Former site of Qina Army Office	Nei Lian Sheng Shoes Store	Pagoda Tree in Beijing
War of Fighting against Japanese Invasion in Beijing		Lao She			

List of thematic websites.

By conducting all of the research projects, especially the Beijing Memory Project, a series of mature methodologies, tools and technologies for the construction and dissemination of digital memory have been formed and accumulated, and thus can be used as important theoretical support and the best practice guidance for the preservation and digital dissemination of Memory of the World.

Thirdly, the MoW Beijing Center has been active in holding and participating in academic conferences and activities on digital memory and the preservation of documentary heritage. The Center has successively held or co-hosted academic activities like June 9 Conference “Using Social Media to Tell Chinese Stories” which was held on June 9, 2022 to celebrate International Archives Day and to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the MoW programme, the International Symposium on the Digitization of Dunhuang Cultural Heritage and the International Summit Forum on the Authentication, Restoration and Protection of Chinese Ancient Calligraphy and Paintings of 2018. The members of the Center have actively participated in academic conferences and activities such as the International Symposium on Memory of the World Program in China (see fig. 5), 2020 China Digital Humanities Annual Meeting, Open Class of Chinese Museum, and the Congress of East Asian Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives to introduce and promote their research on digital memory and the preservation of documentary heritage. For example, Meifang Zhang gave a lecture on the preservation and restoration of documentary heritage at the 15th Congress of East Asian Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives held on November 22, 2021.



Professor Bin Zhang, Director of the MoW KC Center Beijing chaired the “International Symposium on Memory of the World Program in China” held in Suzhou on November 11, 2018.

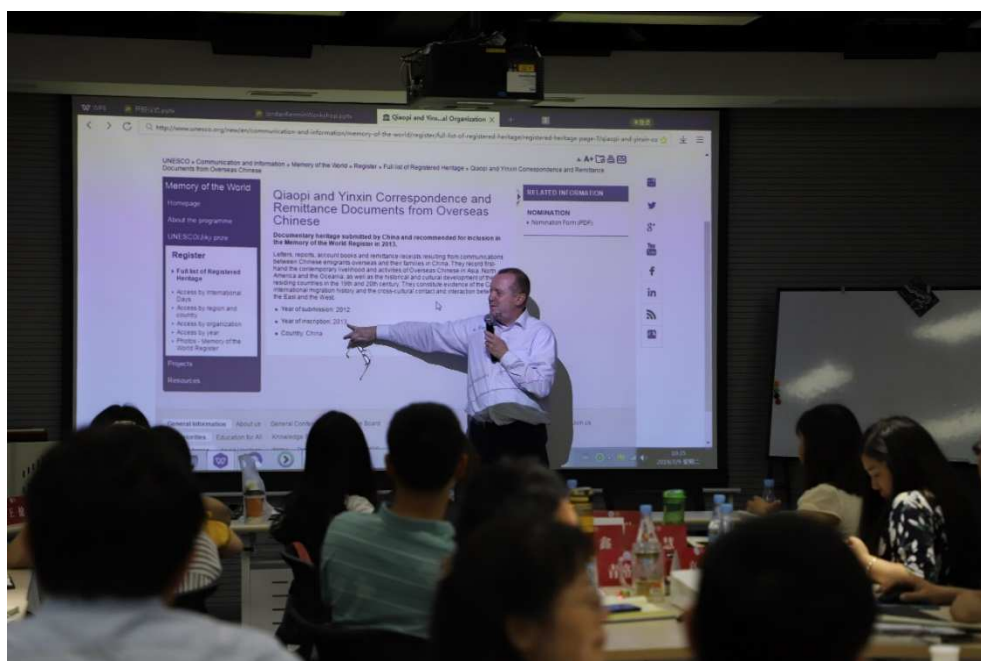
Fourthly, the MoW Beijing Center has been dedicated to the education and talent training of digital memory construction and the preservation of documentary heritage. The Beijing Center has been promoting the Digital Memory Talent Training Program together with the School of Information Resource Management of RUC. There have been 120 undergraduates from different disciplines at RUC participating in the program. More than 40 digital works have won awards, nearly 30 articles have been accepted by international conferences on digital humanities and cultural heritage, and more than 50 students have attended and given presentations at these international conferences (see photos). The Beijing Center has also participated in the construction of the academic discipline Digital Humanities including the establishment of an undergraduate program, master program and Ph. D. program in digital humanities at the School of Information Resource Management of RUC to promote talent cultivation in digital memory construction.



Digital Memory Research Group led by Huiling Feng delivered nine presentations at the Digital Heritage 2018 3rd International Conference & Expo in San Francisco (US).

International, national and local cooperation

The Beijing Center has been striving to conduct international, national and local cooperation in the preservation and transmission of Chinese and world memory and documentary heritage by inviting international scholars to give speeches on MoW and the preservation and transmission of memory and documentary heritage and cooperating with other research centers. For example, Lothar Jordan, Chair of the MoW Sub-Committee on Education and Research, was invited to visit the Center and deliver a speech entitled “Perspectives of Education and Research in the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme (World Documentary Heritage)” to 39 young scholars from 28 Chinese universities on July 9, 2019 (see photo, and Wang and Jia 2019). The Beijing Center has also been cooperating with the Research Center of the Preservation and Authentication of Documentations, Ancient books and Paintings to work on the preservation and restoration of documentary heritage and talent training. The Research Center is also located in the School of Information Resource Management of RUC. Bin Zhang and Meifang Zhang are the director and deputy director of the Research Center. The Research Center employs more than a dozen researchers from Renmin University of China, Princeton University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Yunlin University of science and technology in Taiwan, the National Museum, the National Library, the First Historical Archives of China, the Palace Museum in Taipei, the Capital Museum, the Capital Library, and other institutions. The cooperation between the MoW Beijing Center and the Research Center can be helpful to promote the protection and restoration of documentary heritage by providing best practices.



Lothar Jordan, Chair of the MoW Sub-Committee on Education and Research, delivered a speech at a Workshop in the Beijing Center on July 9, 2019.

Development and future plan

As the only academic center of the Memory of the World Programme in a university in mainland China, the Beijing Center will continue to give full play to its scientific research and educational advantages in the future, and take on the responsibility of preserving and promoting MoW, preserving and transmitting Chinese and world memory and civilization. In the next three years, Beijing Center will:

- (1) Continue to promote the preservation and digital dissemination of MoW via various channels, especially via the website, and the Wechat public account. Beijing Center will continue to construct the center website, and build a digital exhibition hall to exhibit the documentary heritage. The Center will also continue to disseminate the updates on MoW and the achievements of MoW Knowledge Centers via the WeChat public account “What about archives (Dangan Na Xie Shier)”.
- (2) Hold a series of activities to promote MoW, including holding a series of activities for the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the Beijing Center such as holding a creative competition based on the documentary heritage inscribed on the Memory of the World Register, holding a forum and an exhibition; inviting experts of MoW to give lectures; holding or co-hosting activities about MoW.
- (3) Enhance the international, national and local cooperation, including translating some articles of the *SCEaR Newsletter* and submitting to the Newsletter; enhance the cooperation with the organizations that preserve the documentary heritage inscribed into the Memory of the World Register to further promote the preservation, digitization, representation and dissemination of Chinese documentary heritage; enhance the cooperation with other MoW Knowledge Centres on the preservation, representation and dissemination of MoW and sharing digital memory methodology and tools with other centers; enhance cooperation with the Digital Humanities Center and the Research Center of the Preservation and Authentication of Documentations, Ancient Books and Paintings to cultivate talents and further promote the national and international dissemination of MoW as well as the protection and restoration of documentary heritage; provide guidance and assistance to the nomination of Chinese documentary heritage for the Memory of World Register.

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[SCEaR Newsletter 2019/1 \(August\)](#)

The Korean Memory of the World Knowledge Center: Efforts for Solidarity and Utilization

by Sangho LEE

The Korean Studies Institute and the Korean MoW Knowledge Center

The Korean Studies Institute (KSI) in Andong (ROC), to which the Korean Memory of the World Knowledge Center (KMoW KC) belongs, is a Korean public institution established to collect, preserve and pass down civil documentary heritage to future generations. This is the reason why KSI established KMoW KC in 2018. KMoW KC's role of discovering and sharing the value of documentary heritage and increasing accessibility to it coincides with the mission of KSI. KMoW KC aims to elevate awareness among Koreans about Memory of the World (MoW) in Korea and to share its value. The roles of KMoW KC under this purpose are explicitly stipulated as follows.

First, KMoW KC serves to collect basic data related to the mission, inscription, project and history of MoW and also to collect all the relevant data on MoW in Korea, including ancient documents and collections of Korea that are inscribed on MoW registers.

Second, it provides access to collected basic data on Korea's MoW and contributes to develop and manage a database of MoW in the long term. Linking the archives and databases related to MoW is the key mission.

Third, KMoW KC cooperates with NGOs, scholars and related institutions (archives, libraries, museums, etc.) to host or assist various events on MoW.

Fourth, it investigates best practice on preservation, restoration and digitalization of MoW documents and promotes the cases for international research.

Fifth, it develops educational materials for schools on MoW in Korea and encourages students and teachers to use them.

And finally, KMoW KC builds the foundation for collected materials and related projects to produce synergies with UNESCO World Heritage (Cultural and Natural Heritage) and Intangible Cultural Heritage so that the best practices will be known in the world.

The Republic of Korea, being a country with a rich cultural tradition of recording and preserving data, has 16 or the fourth largest number of entries in the MoW International Register. It consequently bears a role that ultimately coincides with KSI's purpose to 'preserve civil documentary heritage' and to 'study and bequeath documentary culture'. This role of spreading MoW among Koreans is taken important. KSI therefore signed an agreement with the Education and Research Sub-Committee (SCEaR) of the MoW IAC in 2016 (see Springer 2017), and after a year of preparation, opened KMoW KC on June 1, 2018 (see Diop 2018).



Opening Ceremony of KMoW KC, June 1, 2018. All photos: The Korean Studies Institute.

Efforts of KMoW KC to enhance the value of documentary heritage and solidarity

Based on the agreement with IAC SCEaR, KMoW KC makes efforts to ‘elevate the value of documentary heritage and solidarity’ on one hand, and to ‘enhance accessibility to documentary heritage and its utilization’ on the other. These are core values of the MoW Programme, and international as well as domestic solidarity for this purpose is the key mission. KMoW KC’s solidarity and cooperation with various countries and institutions is essential in effectively achieving its goals. On this [account](#), KMoW KC is making efforts to achieve this goal through diverse solidarity projects.

The flagship project is participation in the International Association for Print Woodblocks (IAPW). UNESCO inscribed KSI <Confucian Printing Woodblocks in Korea> into the MoW Register in October 2015. Based on this, an international consultative body, centered on organizations on woodblock printing, was formed to efficiently preserve woodblock printing culture, share its value and seek further utilizations. IAPW currently has 11 member organizations and individuals from five countries. Among these are the National Archive Center 4 of Vietnam (<Woodblocks of Nguyen Dynasty>), Hapcheon Haeinsa Temple in Korea (<Tripitaka Koreanana>), KSI (<Confucian Printing Woodblocks>), and the Block Printing Museum in Yangzhou, China, which registered the traditional bookbinding culture from woodblock engraving to printing as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Research institutions that hold woodblocks such as the Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies, the Museum of Ancient Asian Woodblock Prints in Wonju, Korea, as well as other research institutions in Japan, Vietnam and Germany and individual members consist the association. The members share informations on cultural preservation and utilization at a yearly academic conference since 2017, and further joint efforts are being made to promote woodblock printing culture.



2019 International Symposium for Printing Woodblocks.

Since the opening of KMoW KC, KSI has been taking actions not only for MoW held by the institute, but also for MoW in Korea, to share their value and to improve their accessibility. To this end, it is necessary to stand in solidarity with other institutions holding MoW in Korea and produce synergistic effects. In May 2018, 10 such institutions created a consultative body to share and promote the value of MoW in Korea together. This body includes the Cultural Heritage Administration and Korean National Commission for UNESCO as well as 10 institutions holding MoW items, such as the National Archives.



Co-authored books on Korean MoW for the general public.

The working-level officials from each institution hold regular meetings once or twice a year, and create various cooperative models. Co-authored books on MoW for the general

public, collaborative exhibitions and other derived projects are carried out. In particular, these meetings focus on strengthening the human network of working-level officials, so that diverse cooperative projects could be further explored.



Korean Association for Memory of the World.

Efforts to enhance accessibility to MoW and its utilization

To serve the original purpose of its establishment, KMoW KC has been running projects to ‘enhance accessibility to MoW and its utilization’. First of all, it is working on the groundwork to collect basic data on MoW’s mission, inscription, projects and history and to build an archive. This is done by cooperating with other institutions that hold and manage MoW in Korea. By building an archive in 2022, many institutions will be able to easily access to the data and diverse stories about the heritage properties and their MoW inscription will be available in the database.

In addition, database and archive building projects are in progress, centering around MoW items held by KSI. KSI has been establishing a digital archive of more than 7,000 pieces of Confucian Printing Woodblocks every year and all the 62,226 pieces, which are inscribed into the MoW International Register will be available from 2024. More than 40,000 pieces are currently available on <Cyber Jangpangak> (<https://mokpan.ugyo.net/index.do>). 550 pieces of <Korean Pyeon-aek> (<https://pyeonaek.ugyo.net/index.do>) that are inscribed on MOWCAP register are also being archived, planning to be completely uploaded by 2023.

Schools

KMoW KC is putting a lot of efforts especially into promoting MoW education. The touring exhibition of the Confucian Printing Woodblocks is one of the most representative projects. Documentary heritage, especially the Confucian Printing Woodblocks, is sent to various educational institutions to be displayed in indoor gymnasiums at middle and high schools or college library lobbies. Since the five pilot tours in 2019, ten tours in 2020 and another ten in 2021 have been open. In 2022, 15 tours are planned, nine of which are held as of the end of July. MoW on-site expert training is conducted five times a year for teachers and content providers, and three sessions were conducted in 2022 so far.

From 2021, the target audience for this training has been expanded beyond teachers and experts to middle/high school students and university students. The goal in 2022 is to hold ten sessions for middle/high school students and about five sessions for college students. In addition, the MoW promotional video production camp and contest for middle and high school students also drew a lot of attention. These activities serve to promote public awareness of MoW and to produce broadcast content, thereby achieving various publicity effects.



MoW Educational Programme for Middle and High School Students.

Academic work and research

Moreover, KMoW KC holds an academic conference every year to examine the latest changes, trend and values related to MoW. In 2021, the first academic conference to discuss the newly updated MoW inscription process and its future directions was held in Korea. Experts in MoW, including Fackson Banda, the Chief of the UNESCO MoW/ Documentary Heritage Unit, made their presentations and the new Guidelines for MoW will be published in Korean based on this in 2022.



International Symposium for Revised General Guidelines and Relaunching of Inscriptions of the MoW Programme.

Furthermore, KMoW KC is continuously developing projects that can link to UNESCO inscriptions, or World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Programme and bring synergies. As a matter of fact, Korean cultural tradition is based on Confucianism and its documentary heritage MoW is more than often directly related to World Heritage or other cultural heritage. Andong Hahoe Village, one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in Korea, has a variety of documentary heritage and intangible heritage. Also, the Confucian Printing Woodblocks, one of the MoW inscriptions, is directly related to the Intangible Cultural Heritage of traditional book binding. For this reason the woodblocks are inscribed into the MoW International Register, while the traditional book binding in China is registered as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This is a reason for KMoW KC to conduct joint academic research and establish a cooperative relationship with the Block Printing Museum in

Yangzhou, China. We also endeavor to create concrete ways to elevate the value of World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage through MoW (see next page), and to explore value of documentary heritage from World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage at the same time. In particular, we are conducting research to discover the value of cultural heritage by studying documentary heritage inscribed into the MoW registers and to develop the findings into various educational and tourism contents.



Synergies between UNESCO MoW and ICH .

Toward more solidarity and utilization

Considering that the MoW Programme exists to share and preserve documentary heritage and its value, the core value of MoW KCs also lies in solidarity and cooperation.

Solidarity and cooperation are the key to sharing and promoting the value of MoW and enhancing accessibility through various projects. KMoW KC has been building solidarity with domestic institutions holding MoW and also has been promoting the Confucian Printing Woodblocks to capture international solidarity. On this field, KMoW KC plays a leading role in the Asia-Pacific region.

Various projects of KMoW KC are founded on solidarity and cooperation. that enables us to establish databases and digital archives that can be easily accessed and to provide various information. We will continue to run exhibitions, training and research projects along with MoW projects and make Korea's MoW better known – to Koreans first. In addition, we will also do our best to fulfill the international missions for MoW through cooperation with various MoW KCs around the world.

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An Overview of the Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Fujian

by Junfan Ma, Feng Chen, Zongwei Zheng

Background history: establishment and objective

Guided by the National Archives Administration of China (NAAC) and the Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR) of UNESCO, the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre-Fujian was established in November, 2018. Supported by the Fujian Provincial Archives, it is the fourth Memory of the World Knowledge Centre.



On November 10, 2018, the Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Fujian was established in the Fujian Provincial Archives. From right to left: Mr. Zhaoshui ZHUO, Director of Fujian Archives Administration and Fujian Provincial Archives, Mr. Minghua LI, Former Director of the National Archives Administration of China, Mr. Papa Momar Diop, Vice Chair of the International Advisory Committee of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, Mr. Lothar Jordan, Chair of the SCEaR, UNESCO MoW. Photo: Lixia Li.

The Memory of the World Knowledge Centre-Fujian has the following objectives:

1. To support the UNESCO MoW Programme and facilitate the work of the Chinese National Committee for MoW and SCEaR;
2. To promote access to the documentary heritage in the MoW registers and strengthen the protection, research on and promotion of Qiaopi archives;
3. To leverage the role of Qiaopi archives in promoting cultural exchanges between China and other countries and boost the understanding of the importance of documentary heritage of the public;
4. To cooperate with other MoWKC's and preservation and research institutions worldwide to extend the achievements of the MoW programme;
5. To promote synergies between MoW and the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WCH) and Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

Management and activities

1. New progress in the preservation and utilization of Qiaopi archives

First, the Centre has further improved the systems that safeguard the preservation and utilization of Qiaopi archives. More efforts have been made to strengthen the preservation and utilization of Qiaopi archives by improving corresponding systems. *Fujian's Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and Vision 2035* and *Fujian's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for Archival Development* stipulate that “Fujian will pursue satisfactory outcomes in rescuing, preserving, researching, developing, and publicizing Qiaopi archives, speed up efforts to arrange and study Qiaopi archives and documents and bring vitality to and make better use of the Qiaopi culture”, providing sound policy support for the work related to Qiaopi archives. In October 2021, the Fujian provincial government promulgated *Regulations on the Preservation and Utilization of Fujian Qiaopi Archives* (hereinafter referred to as *The Regulations*), which is the first of its kind in Fujian on the preservation and utilization regarding MoW. It specifies the main liable managers of Qiaopi archives and the duties of governments at all levels to preserve and utilize Qiaopi archives and guarantee necessary expenditures. It also makes clear that a protection mechanism for Qiaopi archives and a regional information-sharing platform should be established based on the registration system of records. It determines the legal responsibilities in the cases of causing damage to Qiaopi archives, failing to register in time, using the MoW logo inappropriately, and so on. *The Regulations* also designs special clauses that safeguard the work of the Centre according to laws, providing legal supports to the protection and utilization of Qiaopi archives and the work of the Centre.

Second, the Centre has probed deeper into the research and development of Qiaopi archives. It made a systematic arrangement of Qiaopi archives and documents in all the museums in Fujian, edited *Catalogue of Fujian Qiaopi Archives* and published *A Collection of Fujian Qiaopi Archives and Documents (Volume I)*, on which a special database of Qiaopi archives is built. Consisting of 25 volumes, *A Collection of Fujian Qiaopi Archives and Documents* will be a key achievement of the systematic arrangement, research, and development of Fujian Qiaopi archives and documents that requires sustained dedication in the long run. Currently, *Volume II* is being compiled and edited. The Fujian Centre has also engaged itself in academic exchanges, held symposiums with competent research and collection institutions, discussed and promoted the global significance and cultural values of Qiaopi archives.

Third, the Centre has further energized the utilization of Qiaopi archives. Having explored new approaches to energizing the utilization of Qiaopi archives, it has successfully integrated the value and meaning of Qiaopi archives with lifestyle of overseas Chinese, culture in the hometowns of overseas Chinese and history by creating the scenarios presented by the archives, thus keeping alive the Qiaopi culture. On the one hand, it has boosted themed exhibitions of Fujian Qiaopi, spotlighting the

entrepreneurship of overseas Chinese and the role overseas Chinese played in regional development and construction. The Qiaopi Exhibition Hall of the Fujian Provincial Archives has been approved by the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas as a “Base for the International Cultural Exchanges of Overseas Chinese” and “Cloud-based Platform for Chinese Ties of Kinship”. Therefore, it has become a demonstration centre and recommended destination to gain an insight into the life of overseas Chinese. On the other hand, the Centre has supported the building of public Qiaopi exhibition halls in historic and cultural districts as well as overseas Chinese cultural districts, demonstrating to the public the value of archival documentary heritage and achievements made by relevant departments in terms of the protection and utilization of archival documentary heritage.



To foster greater understanding of Qiaopi archives and overseas Chinese, exhibition halls of Qiaopi were set up, and animation films, documentaries and promotional films shot, and online exhibitions held. Photos: Zongwei Zheng, Lixia Li.

Exhibitions of Qiaopi found their ways into hometowns and farms of overseas Chinese, schools, and communities, like e.g. in the United States, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Cambodia, New Zealand and other countries to promote the Memory of the World program and Qiaopi archives.

2. New achievements in the publicity and promotion of MoW

First, the Centre has strengthened exchanges with other MoWKC. In 2019, it collaborated with MoW Knowledge Centre-Macau to hold an exhibition and symposium on “Memory of the World and Maritime Silk Road: Fujian and Macau”, in which the two Centres exchanged their outcomes in domains including the preservation, utilization, publicity, and promotion of documentary heritage. Ms. Hongmin WANG, Director of NAAC, Mr. Papa Momar Diop, Vice-chair of the International Advisory Committee of MoW, and colleagues from Mexico attended the event, discussing and offering suggestions to the work of MoW. The activities of the event were recorded in the annual report of SCEaR.

Second, the Centre has made multi-channel promotions to enhance the visibility of MoW and the importance of documentary heritage. In recent years, we have extensively promoted MoW and Qiaopi archives as an important part of the “International Archives Day”. In 2020 and 2021, we held live-streamed events that racked up over 5 million views. We participated in the “Women in History” online exhibition hosted by the UNESCO Bangkok Office, at which we introduced the stories of women described in Qiaopi archives. The exhibition was shared to UNESCO’s headquarter and regional offices, and museums and archives that are associated with the Bangkok Office. We have developed promotional products for MoW, including *Centennial Transnational Home Letters: Fujian Qiaopi Archives Illustrated*, a documentary filmed with the support of the NAAC, which has been broadcast on the official website and media of the Chinese National Committee of MoW and won high praises.

Third, the Centre has made progress in bringing out more promotional results and expanding its influence. Supported by the NAAC and Lothar Jordan, Chair of SCEaR, the Centre established Jinjiang Qiaopi Hall in 2021, which, located in an ancient historic and cultural village and hometown of overseas Chinese, has made the most of its geographical advantage and received 123,500 visitors and 6,780 teenagers for research and study sessions in the year, further contributing to the promotion of Qiaopi archives and MoW.



Cultural exchanges were conducted with the Memory of the World KC-Macau, the National Heritage Board of Singapore and the Department of Education of the Philippines.

Photos: Ran Zhuo.



Fujian Qiaopi archives participated in the “Women in History” online exhibition hosted by the UNESCO Bangkok Office. Photo: Zongwei Zheng.

3. New exploration in the coordinated development of documentary heritage and other heritage

Documentary heritage is a staple of the value, interpretation and publicity of world cultural and natural heritage sites. It also represents the foundation on which we preserve, manage, develop, and utilize world heritage properties. As the Extended 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee was held in Fuzhou last year, we made full use of this golden opportunity to explore new approaches to the coordinated development of MoW/documentary heritage and world cultural and natural heritage, assisted the NAAC to organize “Management of World Heritage Archives in a Digital Age”, a topical side event of the World Heritage Committee, and held exhibitions: “Memory Heritage: Exhibition of Memory of the World in Fujian”. We have carried out archival investigations on heritage sites. Quanzhou Municipal Archives helped with the application for the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage of “Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China” project and created files about this heritage site. Quanzhou Jinjiang Qiaopi Hall, a “Qiaopi Archive Demonstration Base” established by the Fujian Provincial Archives, is located in Zhongshan Road Historic and Cultural District, the core area of Quanzhou ancient city, a world cultural heritage site. Since its inception on October 14, 2021, it has received over 200 visiting groups of research, study, and investigation and over 30,000 tourists. It has become an important demonstration site and cultural brand of Zhongshan Road Historic and Cultural District. In addition, we signed a MoU with the National Heritage Board of Singapore and focused on documentary heritage including Qiaopi archives to facilitate the exchanges and cooperation between the two sides on exhibition, training, resource sharing, etc.



During the Extended 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee, the “Memory Heritage: Exhibition of Memory of the World in Fujian” was hosted and widely commended.

Photo: Yufang Weng.



Located at the Overseas Chinese Historic and Cultural District, Jinjiang Qiaopi Hall serves as the base of the Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Fujian. Here, Fujian Qiaopi archives are displayed, and colorful activities are carried out. Photos: Jialing Hong, Yangyu Liu.

Development and future plan

Under the guidance of the NAAC and SCEaR, the Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Fujian will continue to strengthen the protection, utilization, and legitimate management of Qiaopi archives, implement *The Regulations*, boost the research on the protection of Qiaopi archives and the systematic arrangement of Qiaopi archives to promote the shared utilization of them. Efforts to expand the ways and channels of promotion will be made to better cultivate people’s understanding of the significance of MoW, its registers and the protection of this documentary heritage. In addition, we will take further steps to strengthen the cooperation and exchanges with other centres as well as memory institutions so as to jointly advance MoW.

Special project of the Fujian Provincial Archives: arrangement and publication of Qiaopi archives

The Qiaopi archives preserved in Fujian Province are of rich content and great diversity, including incoming letters, outgoing letters, approval letters and bills of exchange by individuals or groups at home and abroad from the second half of the 18th century to the end of the 1990s. There are also correspondences, telegraphic correspondences, reports, business licenses, account books, statistical forms, registration forms, rules and regulations, among other management documents between operators in the Qiaopi industry, such as messengers, postal houses, banks, postal agencies, etc. Images and physical objects are also components of the Qiaopi archives.

In order to fully show the precious value of Qiaopi archives, facilitate the research of experts and scholars and the utilization of the public, the Fujian Provincial Archives have carried out the systematic collation, compilation and publication of Fujian Qiaopi archives based on period, region, and category.

In June 2019, *A Collection of Fujian Qiaopi Archives and Documents* (Volume I) was officially released to the public. The book was compiled by the Fujian Provincial Archives, with a total of 25 volumes. It is primarily concerned with the operation and management files of Qiaopi industry from the late Qing Dynasty to the Republic of China, which are divided into five categories: rules and regulations, registration, business management, investigation and statistics, and inspection and supervision. There are 3,289 files in total, most of which were made public for the first time, providing original vouchers for understanding the operation and development process of the Qiaopi industry and the government's supervision and management of Qiaopi business operations both at home and abroad since the late Qing Dynasty. These archives are of great significance both academically and historically, which is conducive to further tapping and interpreting the value of Qiaopi archives in the regard of historical research and their global significance.

In 2021, the Fujian Provincial Archives launched the compilation of *A Collection of Fujian Qiaopi Archives and Documents* (Volume II), which was listed as a key project for the preservation and development of vital national archives. Its main content is to sort out and compile the Qiaopi archives collected by the Fujian Provincial Archives and other related archives. It is expected that the publication will be completed by 2023.

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Become Light in Pursuit of Light: Historical Review and Future Prospects of the Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Suzhou

by Jing Xie

In the long history of human beings, the memories worth keeping are as bright as stars. The documentary heritage is not only a fragment of historical life, but also a carrier of national spirit, which is extremely precious but fragile, probably lost or damaged at any time. In order to strengthen the protection of the memory of the world, on June 22, 1992, the Memory of the World Programme was approved in the UNESCO Expert Meeting in France. Over the past three decades, the Memory of the World Programme has become the guardian light of human memory.

To promote the regional development of the Memory of the World Programme, the Education and Research Sub-committee (SCEaR) has established Memory of the World Knowledge Centers around the world. Since its establishment on November 10, 2018, the MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou has actively implemented six basic functions and strengthened the protection, research, development and utilization of local documentary heritage. In following the light of the Memory of the World Programme, it has gradually become the guardian light of the documentary heritage of Suzhou area.

The source of light: the origin

1. The establishment

In October 2017, “Archives of Suzhou Silk from Modern and Contemporary Times” was successfully inscribed on the Memory of the World International Register. In order to further raise people’s awareness of the importance and necessity of local documentary heritage protection, we have actively communicated with the National Archives Administration of China and SCEaR on the proposal of the establishment of a MoW Knowledge Center in Suzhou. In February 2018, after receiving the approval from the National Archives, we started to prepare the establishment of the MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou. After nine months of intensive preparations, on November 10 of the same year, the Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Suzhou was officially established, becoming the fifth MoW Knowledge Center in the world.



The Opening Ceremony of the MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou, Nov. 10, 2018.

From left to right: Li Yaping, Mayor of Suzhou Municipal People's Government; Lothar Jordan, Chair of the MoW SCEaR; Fu Hua, Deputy Director General of the National Archives Administration of China; Papa Momar Diop, Vice-Chair of the MoW International Advisory Committee. Photo: MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou.

2. Basic functions

The basic functions of the Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Suzhou mainly include six aspects:

- a. to support the UNESCO MoW programme, facilitating the work of Chinese National Committee for MoW and the SCEaR;
- b. to assist in organizing MoW seminars, lectures, exhibitions, trainings, etc., and cooperate with other centers to promote the MoW Programme;
- c. to strengthen the research on the preservation of documentary heritage of Suzhou archives, promote and provide practical examples for the preservation, development and utilization of archival documentary heritage;
- d. to organize the activities such as Promoting the MoW Programme in campus and develop related courses about the MoW Programme and Suzhou documentary heritage in order to improve students' understanding;
- e. to establish a team of volunteers about the MoW to promote the programme, enhancing the awareness of social archives, and strengthening the development and utilization of archives;
- f. to explore active synergies with the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WCH) and Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) programmes.

The torch of light: practical paths

How to implement the functions of the MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou and further strengthen the protection, research, development and utilization of documentary heritage is the direction that we should think about and strive for. To this end, we actively promote the construction of basic archives infrastructure, help the popularization and utilization of archives, explore the synergy of the three heritages, and pass on the torch of the documentary heritage in the process of chasing the light of the Memory of the World to illuminate more people.

1. Strengthen the protection and supervision of Silk Archives

In 2017, in the nomination form of the Archives of Suzhou Silk from Modern and Contemporary Times, we sincerely promised to construct a professional Silk Archives. Now, the China National Silk Archives in Suzhou has been officially completed and put into use. In order to strive to become national first-class professional archives and build a scientific and safe silk archives management system, we have carried out the relocation of the warehouse of Silk Archives, completed the warehouse sterilization and archives relocation plan, and built a smart archive warehouse in accordance with the smart electronic label management system.



Effect Picture of the China National Silk Archives in Suzhou.

Photo: China National Silk Archives.

The Collection of archives is one of the important means to rescue cultural heritage, enrich archives, inherit regional history and fulfill the functions of the MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou. Since 2019, we have collected 6,109 silk archives, and completed the collection in 32 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities across the country and gradually formed a large pattern of archives collection. At the same time, in order to enrich the form, we have completed the oral archives collection projects in cooperation

with Soochow University, Beijing Union University and the new media platform “Geng Suzhou”, with 121 silk experts and silk enterprise witnesses interviewed and 2494.64 minutes of video shot, which is effective inheritance and protection of living archives.

In order to realize the permanent protection of silk archives, provide convenient conditions for the access and utilization of silk archives, we started the sorting work of silk archives and carried out the archives sorting project of China National Silk Archives, the restoration project of the original craftsmanship of Zhangduan Zuben(Mother Edition of Zhangzhou Velvet Satin), and the rescue deacidification protection project for precious paper archives. We have launched the “Suzhou Silk Archives Data Protection and Inheritance Project” with Renmin University of China, to explore practical examples for the protection and utilization of document heritage.

2. Contribute to the promotion of Memory of the World

In order to carry forward the spirit of Silk Road and strengthen the publicity and exchange of archives in the international level, we make full use of the precious archives collection to hold various exhibitions of silk archives. On December 4, 2018, the Documentary Heritage Exhibition on the Silk Road from the 16th century to the beginning of the 20th century was opened at the UNESCO headquarters, and 19 collections of Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Administration were exhibited. On July 9, 2022, at the Suzhou Silk Exhibition, based on the historical documents of China National Silk Archives, the oral archives of Suzhou silk were displayed panoramically with the combination of multimedia forms, which attracted wide attention from the silk industry. The permanent exhibition of China National Silk Archives was included in the municipal special projects for the construction of “Jiangnan Culture” for 2022. The exhibition combines ingenious design, rich display and high-tech means to realize the functions of publicity, education and tourism.

The popularization of the knowledge of the Memory of the World Programme is an important way to promote the Memory of the World Programme and enhance the awareness of social document heritage protection. We have established the website platform of the MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou in the official website of Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Administration, collecting, organizing and translating various information resources related to the MoW Programme, including nearly 300 nomination forms from more than 30 countries, in order to form the preliminary establishment of the thematic information base. So far, the information base has included 328 Chinese inscriptions in the Memory of the World International Register, MOWCAP Regional Register, National Documentary Heritage Register and Provincial Documentary Heritage Registers of China and other related information, pictures and data.

3. Actively participate in educational research projects

In order to further popularize the MoW Programme and enrich the integration channels of three heritages, we compiled and published a series of 6 volumes of "Being an Archive Enthusiast" in 2020, releasing the cartoon image of Suzhou Silk Archives "Lanlan" and "Taitai", and guiding young generations to approach the precious cultural heritage through their adventure activities. We have launched the activity of developing the Memory of the World Programme on Campus. Since 2019, we have cooperated with Suzhou No. 10 High School to establish the practice base for Memory of the World Programme and a team of Volunteers for Archives and Heritage Protection. At the same time, we have carried out a series of colorful activities, such as volunteer trainings, game book exploration, "Viewing Jiangnan Culture from the Perspective of Three Heritages", etc., and launched a lot of training activities like painting class about the ancient city, lectures on the brick carving gates and so on, jointly with Suzhou Museum and Suzhou Library to help young people understand the memory of Suzhou city, explore and develop the courses related to the Memory of the World Programme.

With the motivation of deep excavation of silk archives resources, we have carried out a lot of academic research, such as the arrangement and research of Chinese Brocade Archives. We actively participated in the Zoom Meeting of the Working Group Memory of the World Knowledge Centres (SCEaR WG MoWKC) to exchange work experiences and discuss the promotion of the cooperation and influences of MoWKC in developing MoW in local region and globally with other Knowledge Centers. The paper *Research on the Path of the "No. Seven Archives" Programme to Realize the Needs of Public Archives Utilization* was accepted to the International Council on Archives Roma 2022 and the first writer Wu Fang from the Knowledge Center-Suzhou was invited to deliver the speech on the conference. We have published a series of books about the Memory of the World Programme, like *Research on the Memory of the World Programme and the Development of Local Archives Undertaking*, *Development of the Memory of the World Programme in China*, among which the book named *Inherit Human Memory – Research on UNESCO Memory of the World Programme*, elaborates from the overview of the Memory of the World Programme, the Memory of the World Register, its development in China, the Memory of the World and the development of China's archives undertaking, in order to give readers a clear and comprehensive understanding of the Memory of the World Programme and its development in China.

4. Explore active synergies with WCH and ICH

In recently years, we have strengthened exchanges with World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (Suzhou), Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Administration Office and Memory of the World Knowledge Centers, with the motivation of promoting the integration and development of three

heritages. In 2020, we cooperated with Suzhou Landscape and Greening Authority to hold the Openness and Prosperity – Exploring Suzhou’s Open Spirit from Silk and Garden Archives Special Exhibition, in order to find the local open gene from Suzhou Silk Archives and Suzhou Classic Gardens. In cooperation with Ruan Yisan City Heritage Protection Workstation, in 2021, we published a picture book named *Suzhou*, which depicted the original traditional features and folk customs of this ancient city, focusing on the old trademarks, silk archive patterns, etc., with the combination of the classical gardens, Suzhou Section of the Grand Canal of China, and the intangible cultural heritage like Kun Opera, Song Brocade, K'o-ssy and so on. We have excavated the Jiangnan cultural resources in the archives and tried to tell the stories of Jiangnan culture through lively and interesting picture book, in order to deepen local people’s memory for Suzhou, publicize and promote Suzhou culture and help the brand building of “Jiangnan Culture”.



Openness and Prosperity – Exploring Suzhou’s Open Spirit from Silk and Garden Archives Special Exhibition. Photo: MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou.



Inside Page of Picture Book *Suzhou*. Photo: MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou.

5. Innovative archives development and utilization mode

In order to innovative archives development mode and create the exclusive brand of archives, we launched the “No. Seven Archives” brand, a new cultural and creative project for archival education. The story is based on real history. We combined popular new concepts such as interactive reasoning and immersive education to deliver the knowledge of the documentary heritage and silk archives and design a series of vivid characters of the brand. At the moment, we have published a reasoning book and launched a large scale real-world reasoning activity. The book *No. Seven Archives* is based on the manuscript notes left in an archive with the original intention and mission of two generations of archivists to guard the archives. Combined with the attached real archive photos and copies and supplemented by the mobile phone H5 technology, it displays three-dimensionally an archive world with sound and light effects. At the 10th China Suzhou Cultural and Creative Design Industry Expo (CCDE), we held a real-world reasoning activity "Countdown to the Truth of No. Seven Archives", which creatively transformed the 20,000 square metre space into a secret chamber. About 2000 visitors joined our game during 3 days' exhibition. The short video made by Xinhua News Agency Platform “Experiencing the reasoning activity of 20,000 square meters in this Expo” gained 1,055,000 views. A lot of news media and influencers reported the activity from a multi-angle coverage. In addition, we also created an immersive archive puzzle-solving interactive project like the Escape Room. Based on the second floor space at the entrance of the China National Silk Archives, the project creates a retro style scene, integrating archive knowledge, silk culture, memory of the world and other content, and mixed with corresponding plots and mechanical mechanisms and puzzles, so as to achieve the purpose of "education through entertainment".



Real-world Reasoning Activity "Countdown to the Truth of No. Seven Archives".

Photo: MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou.



Reasoning Book *No. Seven Archives*. Photo: MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou.

The development of archives cultural creative products is an important part of fostering the sense of archives protection, creating archives cultural atmosphere and expanding archives influence. We use cultural creativity to interpret "archive aesthetics". In the context of new media, we actively excavate the contemporary aesthetic value of the documentary heritage, refine the pattern elements in the silk archives, integrate the humanistic connotation of specific festivals and solar terms, and produce a series of face masks, silk notebooks, coasters and folders, etc. Through the creative transformation and innovative development of traditional elements and classic images, Suzhou Silk Archives has drawn the public attention with a new attitude.



Part of the Collection of Cultural and Creative Products of the Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Suzhou. Photo: MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou.

In order to broaden publicity channels and enrich cooperation forms, we have set the “No. Seven Archives” WeChat Channel. The visual, lightweight and scene-based presentation of short videos makes archival science popularization and cultural education more approachable. In the video channel, we can learn about the past and present life of the No. Seven Archives, look back at the application of silk archives to the Memory of the World International Register and guide the consultation process of archives in the form of animation. We also cooperated with the Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Macau, using the documentary heritage posters creatively designed by the students of Tong Nam School (Macau) to jointly produce a lively and interesting promotional video for the Memory of the World Programme. As soon as the video was released, it immediately attracted wide attention. As of the end of July, it had received 175 reposts, 223 positive comments and a click rate of 32,000 times. Both China.com and Sohu.com made introductions about the content of video.

Prospects of light: a vision for the future

1. Establish core tasks and operating mechanisms

Focusing on the functions and positioning of the MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou, we will establish a system for the supervision, protection, utilization and publicity of silk archives under the management of the MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou, Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Administration and China National Silk Archives in order to set an operating mechanism suitable for the current development and realize the collaboration across regions, industries and departments with the operation mechanism structured with governmental guidance, archives operation, social participation and multi-party cooperation.

2. Establish and improve the legal and normative system

According to relevant laws and regulations about the documentary heritage, world heritage and intangible cultural heritage, we will promote the legislative work of Suzhou Silk Archives protection combining their dual attributes. We will invite representatives of other archives, cultural centers, organizations from the society, and relevant experts to set up documentary heritage supervision and evaluation committee and a joint meeting system for the committee, which will be responsible for the feasibility and necessity assessment of the annual goals and tasks of the supervision. At the same time, we will conduct research on silk archives and other documentary heritage stored in institutions, enterprises and individuals in Suzhou, and invite experts in related fields to participate in the preliminary research, registration and analysis work with a research database gradually established.

3. Expand domestic and foreign cooperation and exchanges

In the future, we will form a development, utilization and protection system for documentary heritage that will cross nations, regions and industries, so as to improve the understanding of documentary heritage, especially the documentary heritage of world significance, in countries around the world. We will explore the synergistic development of three heritages in Suzhou area with the combination of local characteristics. We will actively launch joint cooperation with China Children and Teenagers' Fund of Suzhou and China Post, etc. and cooperate with the Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Fujian to hold the documentary heritage exhibition about Qiaopi and Suzhou Silk Archives. It is possible to rely on the No. Seven Archives Brand to carry out further cooperation. We will take an active participation in the meeting and cooperation, enriching the form of international conferences and exchanges, in order to broaden international horizons through experiences sharing with counterparts from across the world.

4. Popularize the awareness of protection for documentary heritage

We will unite with various social entities and strengthen social education, cooperating with schools through lots of activities and coordinating social volunteer teams, in order to help young generation understand the memory of Suzhou city and enhance the awareness of social archives protection. We plan to establish an international platform for archival heritage training, education, publicity and exchange with the Memory of the World Programme as a bridge, and use the Knowledge Center-Suzhou platform to carry out international cooperation and exchange projects. We will accelerate the digitization of silk archives and documents, and try to realize "cloud sharing" for a better promotion. We plan to focus on deepening the artistic image of "No. Seven Archives". Through artistic design, we will extract distinctive cultural and memory symbols to create an exclusive visual image of archives, which will serve as a link to connect emotions and resonate with the public. At the same time, we will also take the real history of the Modern Revolutionary History of China as the breakthrough point, combining the 100-year process of the Communist Party of China, and the core elements such as the real history and the archives, in order to create a Live Action Role Playing (LARP) game with the combination of archives and reasoning, providing a new boost for immersive archival culture education.

In Genesis, God said, Let there be light: and there was light. Light means warmth, brightness and holiness, driving away cold, darkness and fear. The establishment and development of the Knowledge Center-Suzhou is the story of chasing the light of the Memory of the World Programme. In the future, we will deepen the archive brand, strengthen exchanges and cooperations, enhance the influence of the Memory of the

World Knowledge Centers and further transmit the light and heat of the Memory of the World Programme on a regional and international scale.

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[SCEaR Newsletter 2020/2 \(December\)](#)

Overview of the Missions of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre of Ivory Coast

by Cécile COULIBALY, Tiémoman KONE, Koffi Fernand KOUAME

Introduction

Created in 2020 by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire (UVCI), the Sub-Committee for Education and Research (SCEaR) of the UNESCO Memory of the World IAC, the UNESCO National Commission in Côte d'Ivoire, the National Committee of the Memory of the World Program in Côte d'Ivoire, the Centre de Savoir Mémoire du Monde de Côte d'Ivoire (official name, in English: Memory of the World Knowledge Centre of Ivory Coast) is a Virtual Reference Center which has the functions of a Virtual Library.

In this article we firstly remind you of the objectives and missions of the MoWKC of Côte d'Ivoire. Secondly, we present the activities carried out, the establishment of the action plan (2022-2023) and the need for development of cooperation. Thirdly, we present the prospect of jointly implementing UNESCO's two recommendations on preservation, access to documentary heritage, including digital heritage, and on open science.

1. Memory of the World Knowledge Center of Côte d'Ivoire, objectives and mission

1.1. Mission and objectives of the Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire

Created on 9th December 2015, the Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire is one of the nine public universities of the country. It is under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Its main mission is to develop and popularize digital technology in higher education, to meet the challenge of democratizing access to knowledge, contribute to the national policy of digital transformation, strengthen young digital skills, developing entrepreneurship and employability. Furthermore, in the context of open science we are facing the challenges of research innovation and the requirements of strengthening policies for access to publications, research data and digital knowledge databases. The Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire is working thus to coordinate and guarantee access to the digital library, and other digital knowledge databases necessary for the continuity of academic and research activities. This strategy requires an informational, scientific and technological attentiveness.

In a practical way, providing a wide range of digital documentary resources has been running since 2016 with the creation of virtual platforms including the Digital Library's platform for the Higher Education and scientific research in Côte d'Ivoire. This project,

the deployment of which continues, is at the heart of the policy of pooling and digital archiving and preservation of the documentary heritage to improve its accessibility and use.

1.2. Foundations and missions of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre of Ivory Coast

In the article by Coulibaly et al. (2020) the Centre is described as based on three essential dimensions. The first is related to the numerous losses of collections during the Ivorian socio-political crisis in 2011. To these losses are added the traditional losses of collections linked to poor conservation conditions, bad weather and human factors. The increased inaccessibility to documentary heritage after the socio-political crisis has given rise, in the context of post-crisis reconstruction, to Library services innovation. Since 2016, the creation of the Digital Library of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Côte d'Ivoire aimed at pooling of documentary resources, digital archiving and sustainability of access to information. The Virtual Library has acquired more importance during the health crisis of Covid-19 which continues to strengthen its missions for a better contribution to the knowledge society⁷ building. Thus the Knowledge Center, with its functions of a Virtual Library, aims to open access to scientific knowledge, local and indigenous knowledge and to meet the challenges of digital archiving, preservation and conservation of documentary heritage in Côte d'Ivoire.

2. Memory of the World Knowledge Centre of Ivory Coast, activities and cooperation's development

2.1. Knowledge Centre activities

Since its creation the MoW KC of Côte d'Ivoire already benefited from a platform for the development of collaboration and partnerships in connection with the Virtual Library activities. The Consortium of Higher Education Libraries of Côte d'Ivoire strengthened in 2017 collaboration in the academic and research spheres through some key actions such as the digitization activities of more than 8,000 theses and dissertations in the following universities: Félix Houphouët Boigny, Nangui Abrogoua and Alassane Ouattara. In addition, many electronic resources are also available with the support of partners such as Electronic Information For Libraries (EIFL), Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF⁸) with BNEUF,⁹ Research For Life, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement

⁷ Online conference: The contribution of the Virtual Library of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Côte d'Ivoire to strengthening the knowledge society in Africa-(2020). Abidjan: UVCI.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZYwdvrejbc>

⁸ <https://www.auf.org/>

⁹ <https://bneuf.auf.org/>

(IRD),¹⁰ and many other free open access resources selected for their usefulness for academic and research activities. Open Access Week, established in 2018 to promote open access and open science movements, is a privileged space for awareness-raising, advocacy, exchange of experiences, capacity building and partnership development with stakeholders, education and research partners such as UNESCO, Library Support for Embedded NREN Services and E-infrastructure (LIBSENSE), West and Central Education and Research Network (WACREN), EIFL, Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI), etc.

Strengthening the notion of documentary heritage, openness to non-scientific knowledge, in particular local and indigenous knowledge useful for research, innovation, etc., extends collaboration to other memory institutions of higher education that are not members of the Consortium of Higher Education Libraries of Côte d'Ivoire (COBES-CI). The other memory institutions mainly affiliated to the Ivorian UNESCO National Committees of UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, including the National Archives, the National Library, the National Museum, the Specialized Museums, the specialized libraries, the Institutions for the Promotion of Arts and Culture, etc., joined the movement and participated in the activities carried out in 2020 and 2021. The essential missions remain accessibility, digital archiving and preservation.

2.2. Collaborative development of the Action Plan of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre of Ivory Coast

On April 25, 2021, the Virtual University of Côte d'Ivoire in collaboration with all stakeholders, in particular SCEaR, organized a workshop for the development of the KC Strategic Action Plan (2022-2023). This workshop was structured in two stages. The first part of the workshop was marked by a series of communications from experts and leaders of the Memory of the World Programme on the international level. Lothar Jordan, in his second speech after the first one made during the opening ceremony of OAW2020, presented the Memory of the World Programme, SCEaR, and the Knowledge Centres network. At the end, he insisted on the interest of developing cooperation as highlighted in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2020. Together with Lothar Jordan as Chair of the SCEaR, the President of the African Regional Committee for the Memory of the World (ARCMoW), Papa Momar Diop, also member of SCEaR and Helena Asamoah, Secretary General of ARCMoW and Executive Secretary of African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AFLIA) congratulated the Director General of the UVCI, Prof KONE Tiémoman and welcomed the initiative of the creation of the KC of Côte d'Ivoire which is the first African MoW Knowledge Centre. They hope for the creation of other MoW knowledge centres in Africa to strengthen

¹⁰ <https://www.ird.fr/>

networking and develop cooperation to meet the challenges of digital archiving, preservation and conservation of African documentary heritage.

CSMdM Côte d'Ivoire in the International Network of MoW Knowledge Centres

Memory of the World Knowledge Center-Macau (2016)

MoW Knowledge Center-Beijing (2017)

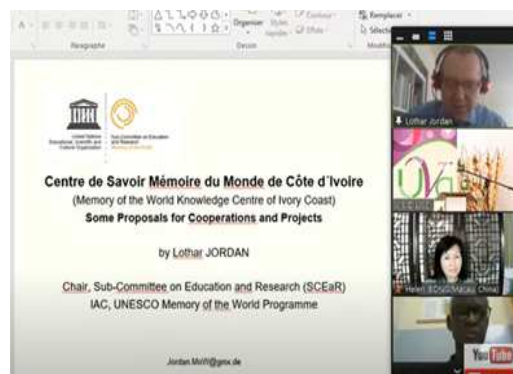
Korean MoW Knowledge Center (Andong, South Korea) 2017

MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou (China) 2018

MoW Knowledge Center-Fujian (Fuzhou, China) 2018

Mexican MoW Knowledge Centre-Vizcainas (Mexico City), MoU 2020, opened 2021

MoW Knowledge Centre of Ivory Coast (2020).



*Lothar Jordan, Helen Jeong,
Papa Momar Diop
QNE¹¹-OAW2021*

All experts also underlined the interest of developing cooperation as an essential key to the success of the MoW Knowledge Centres project.

According to Helen H.K. Jeong, Coordinator of the SCEaR Working Group MoW Knowledge Centres, the commitment to the developing cooperation led to the creation of the first MoW Knowledge Centre in 2016 in Macau that successfully nominated three documentary heritages in the MoWAsia-Pacific register respectively in 2010 and 2016 and one in the UNESCO International Register in 2017. Zhiying Lian, representative of the Knowledge Center of Beijing, established in 2017 within the School of Information Resource Management (iSchool) of Renmin University of China, revealed that her centre is deploying cooperative actions to promote the preservation and electronic dissemination of Beijing's memory, education and training in digital humanities via an information infrastructure including two websites open to citizen participation and a database for the storage, preservation, sharing of electronic data and publications. Xie Jing, representative of Suzhou Knowledge Center showed that the successful registration of Suzhou Modern and Contemporary Silk Archives in the Memory of the World Register, prompted the formal establishment of Suzhou Knowledge Center in 2018. The Knowledge Center's commitment to organizing actions to promote the Memory of the World Programme in universities has led to a synergy of actions that develop collaboration between memory institutions and academic and research institutions that promote the dissemination of scientific publications.

¹¹ Educational Digital Fortnight.

The Director General of UVCI, Prof KONE Tiémoman said that digital development is essential in the context of the implementation of the UNESCO recommendation on open science signed in November 2021. Its implementation was anticipated in 2016 by the launch of the Digital Library of the Higher Education and Scientific Research in Côte d'Ivoire, the Open Access Week Côte d'Ivoire in 2018, the digital fortnight and the KC of Côte d'Ivoire in 2020.

After the speakers the second stage of the workshop was focused on working groups under the supervision of the following experts: Lothar Jordan, Papa Momar Diop and Helena Asamoah. The pooling of the working groups results identified actions to be planned and carried out in 2022 and 2023. These are mainly advocacy activities, awareness raising, infrastructure strengthening, particularly through the creation of a national portal, technical and professional capacity building, developing or strengthening institutional and national policies for access to knowledge, digital archiving and preservation. To begin with, a survey is necessary for evaluating the real needs, elaborating an inventory of the memory institutions, seeking funding to achieve actions to be carried out.

We observed through the actions carried out and planned a consensual tendency towards the joint implementation of the two UNESCO recommendations on Preservation, accessibility to documentary heritage including digital heritage and open science.

3. Convergence of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre of Ivory Coast's activities towards the joint implementation of UNESCO's recommendations on the preservation, accessibility to documentary heritage including digital heritage and open science

The principle of open collaboration directs from the outset the initiatives of all actions which are pooled, collaborative and participatory to improve access to scientific publications, to local or indigenous knowledge, to contribute to the promotion and enhancement of activities and research results and digital archiving and preservation of the documentary heritage in Côte d'Ivoire.

Indeed, the deployment of the Virtual Library, since 2016, has given rise to the development of partnerships at the national and international levels in the field of Education and Research with UNESCO, West African and Central Education and Research Network (WACREN) in 2017 during its annual conference held in Abidjan, Library Support for Embedded NREN Services and E-infrastructure (LIBSENSE) since 2017 and led by WACREN for Open Science in Africa, the Electronic Information For Libraries (EIFL) in 2017 for the membership of the Consortium of Higher Education Libraries (COBES-CI), the Fund for Science, Technology and Innovation (FONSTI), the AUF, IRD, etc.. Stakeholders and partners of open science contributed to the success of

the activities of the National Symposium¹² on Open Science, carried out on 25th April 2022 on the subject “Open Science, an opportunity to boost research”. Among other participants, it brought together leaders of memory institutions within COBES-CI. The recommendations lead to the upcoming finalization of the action plan and the development of institutional and national policies on open science. The general activities of the WACREN 2022 conference, held in Abidjan from 25 to 29 April, focused on “Open Science, Connecting the Knots”, also brought together leaders of memory institutions and other research experts particularly during LIBSENSE¹³ Regional workshop on open access policies and open science in higher education institutions in Africa. These case studies have been published in a compendium.¹⁴

The Knowledge Centre, by opening up to MoW, has broadened this platform of partnerships to international bodies, particularly memory institutions and organizations, in order to strengthen digital preservation and archiving actions. The collaborative and participatory approach, being an excellent working method to achieve the objectives of pooling resources, skills, sharing infrastructures, inspired us to look for convergent points in the two recommendations. Indeed, documentary heritage and its accessibility are at the heart of these two recommendations. Without wishing to be exhaustive, we retain the five following convergent points or actions which can be carried out jointly. These actions are:

- Promoting access to knowledge (local and indigenous knowledge),
- developing policies, legislative or legal frameworks at the institutional, national, regional, continental levels,
- establishing mechanisms or measures for digital archiving and preservation of documents,
- identifying needs and investing in strengthening infrastructure and human resources capacity building to offer innovative and better services in memory institutions,
- developing international and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we noted that the Knowledge Centre activities have been jointly organized and made in the context of promoting open access and open science activities, particularly during the two last OAW Côte d'Ivoire sessions in 2020 and 2021. Participants from Memory of the World bodies and Côte d'Ivoire memory institutions were involved in

¹² https://colloque.uvci.edu.ci/symposium/Main/context_and_objectives

¹³ LIBSENSE Regional Policy Development workshop. <https://libsense.ren.africa/en/open-science/regional/>

¹⁴ LIBSENSE. Koné Tiémoman, Coulibaly Cécile, Kouamé Fernand. Case study 10. In: A compendium on Open Access/Open Science policy case study from African Higher Education Institutions. LIBSENSE, 18 April 2022. p.54-57. <https://zenodo.org/record/6467301#.Y0khnG5KhPY>

both activities for the Memory of the World and for Open Science. Regarding some convergent actions able to be made jointly, we are confident that UNESCO's Recommendation Concerning the Preservation of, and Access to Documentary Heritage Including in Digital Form and the Recommendation on Open Science, can be implemented focused on some common goals. These common goals should be (i) promoting access to knowledge (local and indigenous), (ii) developing policies, legislative or legal frameworks at the institutional, national, regional, continental levels, (iii) establishing mechanisms or measures for digital archiving and preservation of documents, (iv) identifying needs and investing in strengthening infrastructure and human resources capacity building to offer innovative and better services in memory institutions, (v) developing international and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

This approach will strengthen stakeholders (universities, research institutions, memory institutions) in working on common goals, networking and developing partnership for better results and more impact for the implementation of these two Recommendations of UNESCO. Then, jointly implementing the two Recommendations should produce strong results to be shared as best practice. For that, national and international workshops, conferences and several meetings should be organized. This prospect will require technical and financial support for the common goals' achievement.

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The Mexican Memory of the World Knowledge Centre-Vizcainas An Overview

by Ana Rita Valero

Background, history, and objectives of the Mexican Memory of the World Knowledge Centre

The International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Memory of the World Programme (MoW), in agreement with the UNESCO Secretariat, approved in June 2013, the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR) to create MoW Knowledge Centres around the world. The latest one opened in Mexico (Mexican MoW KC).



Logo Mexican MoW KC.

The objective of said centre would be among others, to be closely connected to the Mexican documentary heritage, printed, digital and others, as well as to provide a repository with information about good practices of conservation, restoration, and digitization of documents of all types, and to give access to researchers, professors, university students and even schoolchildren, to information about those documents registered by UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme.

The MoW Knowledge Centres are also excellent instruments for promoting synergies with the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WCH) and the Intangible Heritage (ICH) programmes.

Within this circumstance, Catherine Bloch, President of the Mexican Committee of MoW, and Yolia Tortolero, also member of this Committee, received an invitation from Helen Jeong to attend the Fujian–Macao Symposium and Exhibition on Memory of the World and the Maritime Silk Road, organized by the Fujian Provincial Governments Archives, the Macao University Library and the Macao Information and Documentation Society from October 14 to 17. As a result, experiences were shared that would be the basis for the creation of a MoW Knowledge Centre in Mexico.



October 2019: Catherine Bloch, Yolia Tortolero, Papa Momar Diop visiting Helen Ieong (together with Wang Hongmin) and Macau's MoW Knowledge Centre (from right to left).
Photo: Catherine Bloch.

Then the Mexican MoW Committee consulted with Lothar Jordan, Chair of SCEaR, about the feasibility of creating a MoW Knowledge Centre in Mexico. Following its approval, several meetings were held between Catherine Bloch, Yolia Tortolero, and Ana Rita Valero, director of the Historical Archives of the Colegio de San Ignacio de Loyola Vizcaínas (and a member of the Mexican MoW Committee).

As a result of these meetings, the idea arose of formally installing the Knowledge Centre within the frame of the Historical Archive of the Colegio de San Ignacio de Loyola Vizcaínas, located in Mexico City.

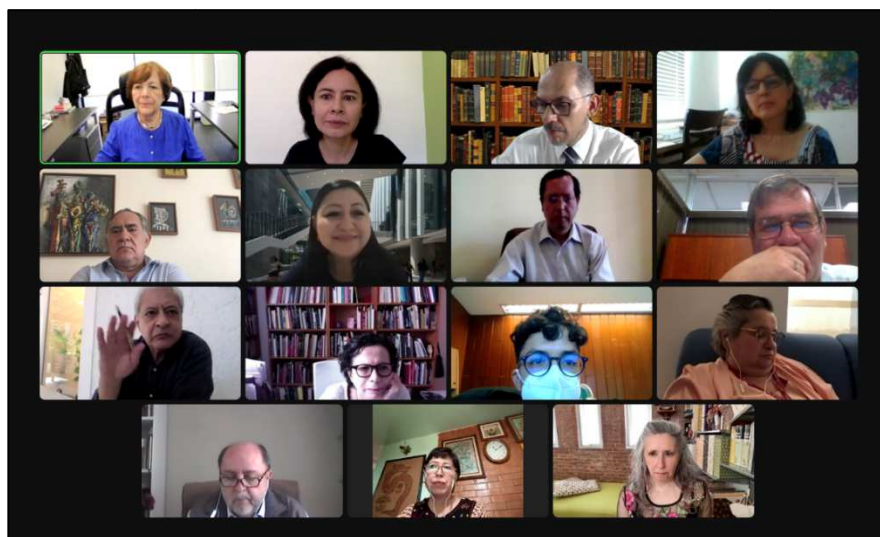
It was also important to consider that, Vizcaínas being also a school, it met one of the objectives of MoW, such as promoting interaction between schools and Memory of the World documents, including not only those records that Mexico has registered in the Programme, but also documents that speak about MoW and its objectives.



Vizcaína's School students at the Knowledge Centre. Photo: Mexican MoW KC.

After several meetings, the terms and content of the Memorandum of Understanding were defined, signed in October 2019 and formalized in May 2020, with the approval of Oscar Mertz, director of the Colegio de Vizcaínas, and Ana Rita Valero, director of its Historical Archive. The document was also signed by Lothar Jordan for the Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR), by César Guerrero Arellano of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (MoWLAC) and by Yolia Tortolero Cervantes, former Vice President of MoWLAC and member of the Mexican Committee.

On March 4, 2020, at the public event held annually by the Mexican Committee of MoW, the proposal to create the Mexican MoW Knowledge Centre was announced; however, due to the contingency period caused by the SARS-CoV2 virus, all the planned activities had to be suspended, following the instructions issued by the federal authorities of the Mexican Ministry of Health. All subsequent agreements between the institutions were carried out virtually. Hence, during 2020, all communications with the members of the Mexican Committee were carried out virtually.



Virtual meeting with the Mexican Committee. Photo: Mexican MoW KC.

As the year progressed, it was decided that the Centre would have to be inaugurated virtually due to the social context of that moment. For this reason, on February 26, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. (CDMX), the opening ceremony of the Mexican MoW Knowledge Centre in Mexico City, was held and transmitted on the @unescomxcolegiovizcainas profile on the Facebook platform.



Poster of the inaugural event of the Mexican MoW KC.

Participants of this event were Fackson Banda, Head of the Documentary Heritage/Memory of the World Unit of UNESCO; Frederic Vacheron, representative of the UNESCO Office in Mexico; Sandra Moresco, President of the Regional Committee for Latin America of MOWLAC; Oscar Mertz, Director of the Colegio de San Ignacio de Loyola Vizcaínas; Catherine Bloch, President of the Mexican Committee of MoW; Ana Rita Valero, director of the Mexican MoW KC; Lothar Jordan, Chair of the MoW Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR); Helen Jeong, MoW Knowledge Centre-Macau, Macau City University; Papa Momar Diop, Vice-Chair of the IAC and member of its SCEaR, all of whom mentioned the importance of having this Centre in Mexico, being the first one in America and specifically having as one of its main objects the dissemination of MoW and making public Mexico's documentary heritage.

It should be noted that the Knowledge Centre safeguards the archive and library of the Mexican MoW Committee, the latter having been formed with the donations from members and custodians of heritage registered as Memory of Mexico. It is available to students, interested audiences and researchers. The Mexican MoW KC has been publicized in the various social medias the Mexican MoW Committee takes part in, such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Administrative management and activities, including educational and tourist potential

Two important symposiums were organized: "Ecclesiastical archives in the construction of the Memory of the World" was held on June 23, 2022, and "Family archives in the construction of the Memory of the World", was held a month later, on August 25th, both organized by the Mexican MoW KC. The events took place at the Carlos Slim Foundation Centre for Mexican History Studies. The Ministry of Health allowed only forty people to attend this Symposium in situ. However, virtually one hundred people followed both symposiums on-line.



Poster “Ecclesiastical Archives in the construction of the Memory of the World.” Symposium.
Photo: Mexican MoW KC.

The objective of both symposiums was to promote the appreciation, dissemination and preservation of documents kept in different locations, thus honoring the founding ideal of the Memory of the World Programme. To achieve this, we summoned both the academic community, university students, churches, opinion leaders, families, and all those who in some way could contribute to our project.

The first symposium focused on Ecclesiastical archives, revealed to us the importance they have had throughout the history of Mexico, starting with great institutions such as the Primate Cathedral of Mexico, the guiding centre of the spiritual life of this country, a powerful instance that in over 400 years has influenced the political, social and family life of Mexico. Along with these, we also discovered the simple, quiet and discreet work of small parishes or conventual orders.

The second symposium turned its eyes to family archives, those documents that for generations and even through centuries, have been kept, for various reasons, and treasured.

The different presentations revealed to us the daily life and family relationships, the happiness of births and the sadness of losses, the suffering in the face of wars and having to leave the homeland, in short, the endless range of human emotions. such as “The history of a family. The Ricalde’s from Yucatán, 16th to 20th centuries”.

Thus, both symposiums presented us a wide thematic, temporal, and geographic history of mankind withing the purest humanist ideal of UNESCO’s Memory of the World.



Symposium “Ecclesiastical archives in the construction of the Memory of the World”,
June 23, 2022.

Left to Right: Salvador Hernández Pech, Archivo del Cabildo Metropolitano de la Catedral de México. Nuria Salazar, National Coordination of Historical Monuments. Cesar Manrique Figueroa, Research Institute of National University. María Concepcion Amerlinck, National Coordination of Historical Monuments. Manuel Ramos Medina, Center for the Study of Mexican History, Carlos Slim Foundation. Photo: Mexican MoW KC.

National and international cooperation

Considering the strategies proposed in 2021, focused on carrying out national and international cooperation not only in archives and libraries, but also in museums, our Knowledge Centre has initiated a relationship with Mexico City’s Chocolate Museum, MUCHO.

It is worth highlighting the richness and heterogeneity of the collections of said museum, all related to cocoa and chocolate. Within this framework, its philatelic collection has been chosen as an exemplary means of what it protects and what it shows to national and international visitors. There are 160 postage stamps (see photo next page) from 37 different countries, including Austria, Belgium, Brazil, British Solomon Islands, Cameroon, among other places.



Example of postage stamps held by the Chocolate Museum, Mexico City.
Photo: MUCHO Museum.

Conclusion

All the foregoing describes in a general way what the Mexican MoW Knowledge Centre has carried out from the moment of its creation to the present day, as well as some of the events that are already scheduled to make Mexico's and World documentary heritage better known and understood. It should be noted that the Centre's objective is to continue collaborating with the Mexican Memory of the World Committee and with the other Memory of the World Knowledge Centres.

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