

UNESCO Memory of the World Programme

International Advisory Committee

Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR)

SCEaR Newsletter 2024/1 (September)

Contents

Editorial	2
<i>Memory of the World Knowledge Centres/Report</i> SCEaR Working Group of Memory of the World Knowledge Centres Brief Report (2022-2024) <i>by Helen H.K. Leong</i>	3
<i>Report</i> Macau Memories, 27 June - 1 July 2024 <i>by Roslyn Russell</i>	10
<i>Report</i> Memory of the World: A Visit to China 1-5 July 2024 <i>by Jan Bos</i>	17
<i>Schools/Special Issue</i> The Memory of the World School Kit. A Teachers' Guide was Published this Year as SCEaR Newsletter 2021, Special Issue 2021 <i>by Lothar Jordan</i>	27
On SCEaR (Members, Working Groups, Partners, Tasks etc.; SCEaR Newsletter)	30

Editorial

by Lothar Jordan

The opening of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre–Macau in 2016 (see *SCEaR Newsletter* 2017/1) with a conference, visits to archives, libraries, other heritage sites, and to Tong Nam School where the MoW representatives learned about an astonishing wide and intense care of teachers and students for the programme, had a sustainable impact on new developments in MoW, in Macau and internationally. More MoW Knowledge Centres opened, and a SCEaR Working Group Memory of the World Knowledge Centres was created. This issue of the *SCEaR Newsletter* is opened by a report of Helen Jeong, the Coordinator of that working group, on its work from 2022-2024.

The meeting of the working group in Macau was a part of MoW activities that Helen Jeong organized end of June, including an “International Conference on Macau Documentary Heritage and Memory of the World – Inheritance and Contemporary Significance”, the celebration of the inscription of Archives and Manuscripts of Macau Kong Tac Lam Temple” on the MoW Register, and a visit to Tong Nam School that has continued its work for MoW education very successfully since 2016. SCEaR Rapporteur Roslyn Russell who reported already on the beginning of the MoW Knowledge Centre–Macau in 2016, gives a resumé of this year’s Macau activities for MoW.

The events in Macau were followed a series of events in Mainland China to which the National Archives Administration of China (NAAC) had invited some representatives of the Memory of the World Programme, including an International Conference on the Promotion of MoW in Zhengzhou. Jan Bos, the new Chair of the MoW International Advisory Committee (IAC) – and Corresponding Member of the SCEaR – reports on visits and meetings. We wish him and the new IAC a successful work, and are looking forward to a good cooperation between the IAC and its SCEaR.

The format of “Special Issue” of the *SCEaR Newsletter* was introduced successfully in 2020 (see the list on p. 31 of this issue). The Special Issue 2021 – *Memory of the World School Kit. A Teachers’ Guide* – was published three years late only in March 2024. A report (see pp. 27-29) introduces the project and its history.

The latest is Special Issue 2024 *Artificial Intelligence and Documentary Heritage*, edited by SCEaR Member Luciana Duranti and her colleague Corinne Rogers <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389844?posInSet=2&queryId=495a9716-f272-43cb-9624-10240f27b88d>. The issue gives valuable insights into research on the application of AI in and for archives.

**SCEaR Working Group of Memory of the World Knowledge Centres
Brief Report (2022-2024)¹**

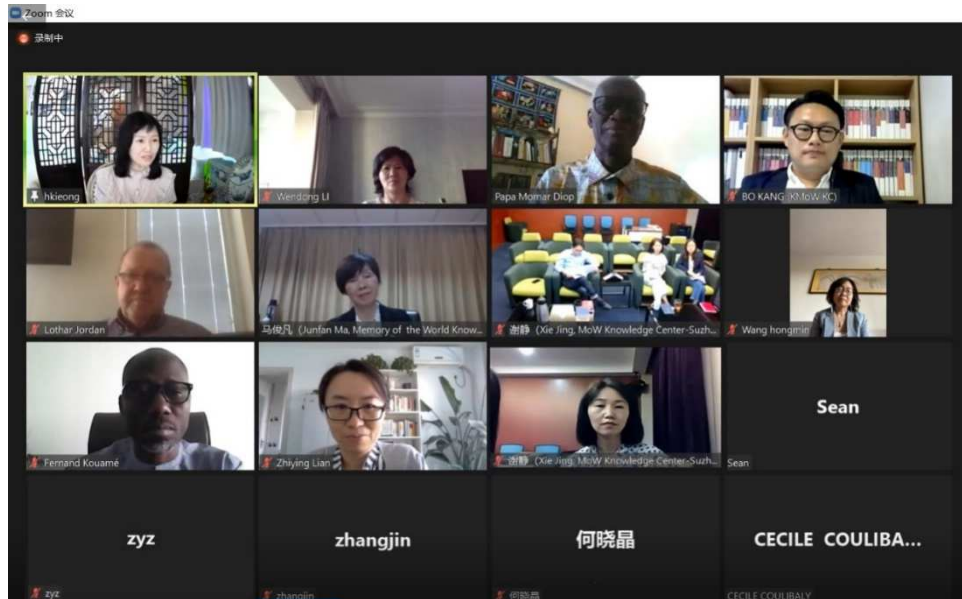
by Helen H.K. Jeong

1. Introduction

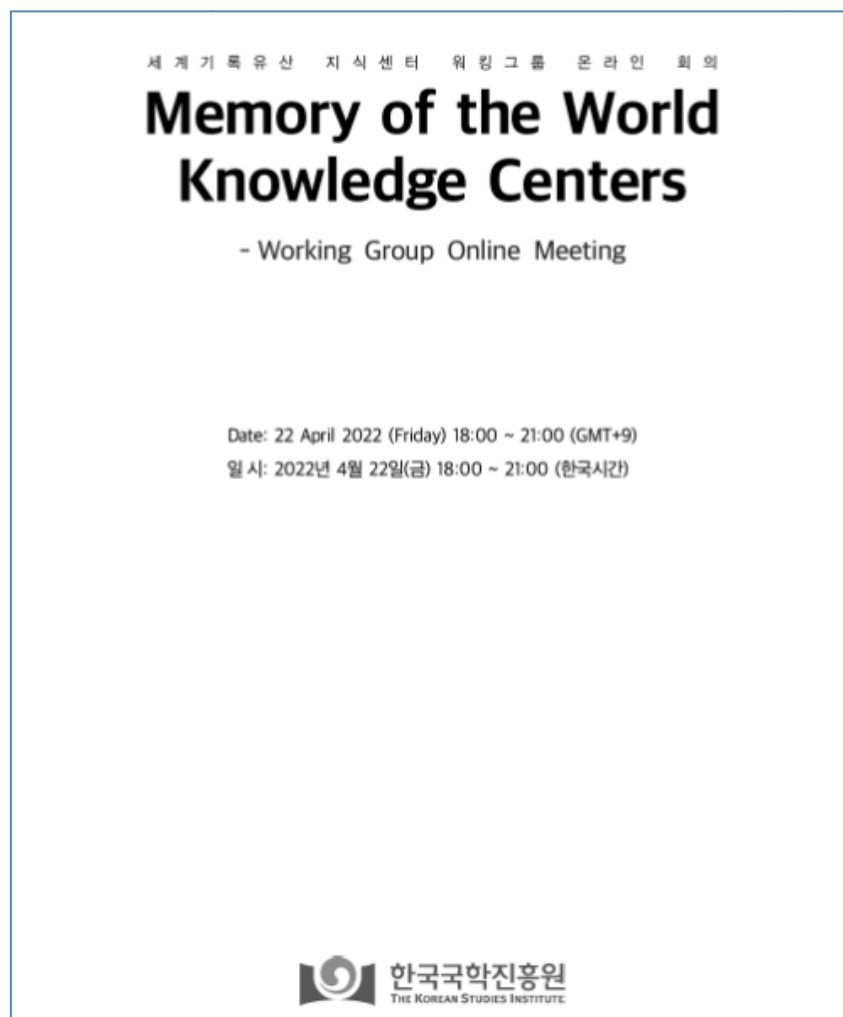
Since 2016, the system of Memory of the World Knowledge Centres (MoWKC) has been effectively formed, and the first one was in the City University of Macau, plmented based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the SCEaR and the Centres. Currently, there are eight of these Centres across the globe. According to the chronological order of establishment, they are Macao SAR (China), Beijing (China), Andong (Republic of Korea), Fuzhou (China), Suzhou (China), Ivory Coast, Vizcainas (Mexico), and Kyrgyzstan. . A milestone of the MoW KC system was the setting up of the Working Group. In particular, on June 14, 2021, based on a Memorandum of Understanding, the SCEaR established the Working Group MoWKC with the aims of supporting the development and strengthening the MoWKCs' works, 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 (see L. Jordan, in *SCEaR Newsletter* 2021/1, pp. 13-14). Thus, all Knowledge Centres have assigned as representative a member of the Working Group (WG).

By good cooperation between the Centres, the Coordinator of the Working Group, and the Chair of the MoW IAC SCEaR, the functions of the MoW Knowledge Centres have been well developed. On April 22, 2022, the first WG meeting was held online. All Centres participated, and during the meeting it was agreed that the KCs join hands to improve their communication and cooperation, build up contacts and links to each other, thus strengthening the MoWKCs' influences in promoting MoW locally, nationally, and globally. Here I would like to report on the development during these two years in brief.

¹ This Report was given in the Second Meeting of the SCEaR Working Group Memory of the World Knowledge Centres on June 29, 2024, in the City University of Macau.



The first MoW KC meeting was held on April 22, 2022 (photo: Lemon Zhong).



All meeting speeches compiled by the Korean Centre, Andong.

2. Cooperation and development

The first WG meeting encouraged that the communication between Centres was improved, and more activities organized individually or joint hands by the Centres. The activities include research, education for youth generation, publishing, exhibition, and seminars. Here are some highlights.

(1) Joint hands published Special Issue for the 30th anniversary of MoW

Cooperations between Centres are close. First of all, a Special Issue of the *SCEaR Newsletter* 2022 was published (E version) in 2022, entitled *The Memory of the World Knowledge Centres: An Overview*, with contributions by all Memory of the World Knowledge Centres, like Macau, Beijing, Korean, Fujian, Suzhou, Ivory Coast, and Mexico, edited by Lothar Jordan and Helen H.K. Jeong. The issue has been widely disseminated through different paths, and is dedicated to the 30th anniversary of MoW. The Special Issue was a key element of our cooperation, and helped to promote the MoW Knowledge Centres, and to expand their impact. The Macau Centre uploaded the Special Issue on its website <https://mow.cityu.edu.mo/uploads/ueditor/php/upload/file/20221215/1671069023540228.pdf>.

(2) Cooperation on Promotional Video

Furthermore, the Suzhou Centre produced a short cartoon video with images of Macau students from Tong Nam School's poster design, to mediate the documentary heritage of the MoW Register. It was a great encouragement for young students that their assignment and art works were used by the professional team of the MoW Knowledge Centre-Suzhou.



The posters used in the Suzhou cartoon video to promote the Documentary Heritage.

(3) Documentary Heritage Creative Competition

The Beijing Centre organized an event entitled “Memory of the World – Chinese Documentary Heritage Creative Competition” that joint hands with four MoW Knowledge Centres in China, addressing the young generation.

The purpose of the activity was to promote the Memory of World Programme (MoW), improve social awareness of the excellent Chinese traditional culture, and enhance the young people's understanding and recognition of Chinese civilization. The MoW Knowledge Center-Beijing and the School of Information Resource Management of Renmin University of China (RUC), under the guidance of the MoW Programme

National Committee of China, the SCEaR Working Group of Memory of the World Knowledge Centres, and the Teaching Guidance Committee of Archival Studies in Higher Education Institutions of the Ministry of Education, together with the MoW Knowledge Centre-Macau, the MoW Knowledge Center-Suzhou, and the MoW Knowledge Center-Fujian, as well as the First Historical Archives of China, Fujian Provincial Archives, Suzhou Industrial and Commercial Archives Management Center, Shandong Museum, Confucius Museum, Tibet Autonomous Region Archives, Tibet Autonomous Region Tibetan Hospital, Yunnan Provincial Archives, and Dongba Cultural Institute, launched the “Creative competition on Chinese Documentary Heritage listed on the Memory of the World Register” on October 3, 2022. The competition has drawn great attention in China, and many young students have participated, including from Macau, demonstrating creative ideas on documentary heritage.²



Lothar Jordan highlighted the role of the Creative Competition as a pioneer for Memory of the World education (photo: MoW KC-Beijing).

(4) MoWKC meeting in Mainland China organized by Fujian Centre

The "Collaboration and Development: Propaganda and Promotion of the Memory of the World Project" exchange symposium was hosted by the Fujian Provincial Archives and the Fujian Knowledge Centre of the Memory of the World on June 6, 2023. The Centres from Macau, Beijing, Fujian, and Suzhou joint together to share their work, and conducted in-depth discussions on the activation, utilization, research and promotion of MoW, and the coordinated development of MoW, World Heritage, and Intangible Cultural Heritage. All parties also proposed plans for strengthening cooperation in the future, and expecting further leverage ofr the economic, cultural and academic role of archival heritage in order to expand the influence of MoW.

² For more details see the Report by Zhiying Lian et al. in *SCEaR Newsletter* 2023/1, pp. 5-11.



Sharing each other's experiences. On the micro: Helen H.K. Jeong (photo: MoWKC-Fujian).

(5) Horizontal cooperation

With the continuous development of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centres, they have gradually gained recognition from academic circles in various areas, and have also carried out various exchanges and cooperations. Thus, further to the cooperations between MoW Knowledge Centres, the connection between Centres and other institutes were increased. For example, we learned that some KCs cooperate with archives departments, schools, and research institutions to organize activities.

In the case of Macau, the Centre has built up cooperations with many institutes locally, such as the Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association, Galaxy Entertainment Group, Tong Nam School, Kong Tack Lam Temple, Catholic society, etc. Recently, cooperation has been expanded internationally, e.g. the International Centre for Documentary Heritage (ICDH) under the auspices of UNESCO (Republic Korea) proposed some joint hands projects with Macau Centre, to strengthen communication. A Letter of Intent (LOI) and MoU on cooperation have been proposed actively. Under the approval of the City University of Macau, the MoU was signed in Macau during the Working Group Meeting. It is initially agreed to conduct document exchange and cooperate in promoting projects such as the Memory of the World Storybook. Currently, the ICDH has sent publications to the Macau Centre.

We can see that most of the Centres have performed activities frequently, causing interest of other institutions.

3. Expanding the net of MoW Knowledge Centres

After the first working group meeting in April 2022, a MoU for the creation of a new MoW Knowledge in Kyrgyzstan was signed on September 14, 2023, between the UNESCO MoW IAC SCEaR, the Institute of Language and Literature named after Ch.

Aitmatov of the National Academy of Science of Kyrgyzstan Republic, and the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO, the first MoW KC in Central Asia.³

4. Conclusion and further challenges

Most of the MoW Knowledge Centres are running smoothly and effectively, and their activities are diversified.

Certainly, with the expansion of the net of Centres, the challenges for the Working Group are much bigger. Therefore, strengthening communication between the Centres is necessary, to improve the contacts, share information, and joint hands projects, etc., that need to be discussed, such as to build up a system for updating information, share the Annual Reports, to increase the contacts and support each other.

Furthermore, we learnt that some more institutes are interested in setting up a MoW KC and join our Working Group.

Helen H. K. Jeong is the Coordinator of the SCEaR Working Group Memory of the World Knowledge Centres. PhD of Library Science in Peking University. She published quite a number of monographs on regarding history and culture, documentary heritages, libraries, etc. Participating in UNESCO Memory of the World Programme (MoW) since 2008, e.g. in nominations for the MoW Registers. Teaching of history and culture in institutions of higher education for about 20 years.

³ For more details see the Report by L. Jordan in *SCEaR Newsletter* 2023/1, pp. 12-16.

Report

Macau Memories, 27 June - 1 July 2024

by Roslyn Russell

Members of the Sub-Committee on Education and Research, and others involved in the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, had the great pleasure of returning to Macau SAR in June this year to participate in a series of events held from 27 June to 1 July to celebrate the inscription of the Kong Tac Lam Temple documentary heritage on the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register in 2023, and the Temple's 100th anniversary. The events and visits associated with the celebration were organised by the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre–Macau in the City University of Macau, Galaxy Entertainment Group, Macau Kong Tac Lam Temple, Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association, and Macau Documentation and Information Society (MDIS).

The Macau Kong Tac Lam Temple played a significant role in disseminating Buddhist teaching and ideology, advocating for social change and reforms and improving the social status of women. Its Masters were among the first in the region to provide Buddhist education to women and their activities influenced Hong Kong, Mainland China and neighbouring regions. They called for the abolition of the barbaric custom of foot binding, and encouraged people to fight against social vices such as opium smoking.

The Temple's documentary heritage collection, which dates mainly from the early Qing Dynasty to the mid-twentieth century, with a few items from the late Ming Dynasty, contains over 6000 items, including rare books, Buddhist texts, photographs, letters, Bayeux Sutra, archives and manuscripts created and accumulated by Masters and intellectuals connected with the Kong Tac Lam Temple.

The “International Conference on Macau Documentary Heritage and Memory of the World - Inheritance and Contemporary Significance”, and celebration of "Archives and Manuscripts of Macau Kong Tac Lam Temple” was held at the City University of Macau on 28 June. In the opening ceremony, Wanlei Zhou, Vice Rector of City University of Macau, Zhenyi Lin, Deputy Director of the National Archives Administration of China, Fackson Banda, Head of the Secretariat, UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, and Zhiliang Wu, President of the Administrative Council of Macau Foundation, delivered opening remarks.



Zhenyi Lin, Deputy Director of the National Archives Administration of China, delivering an opening remark. Photo: Macau Documentation and Information Society.



Officiating guests and representatives of the organizers in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Photo: Macau Documentation and Information Society.

Among those presenting papers at the conference, on a range of subjects relating to the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, were Fackson Banda, Jan Bos, Chair of the International Advisory Committee, Helen Ieong, Papa Momar Diop, Vu Minh Huong, Roslyn Russell, and Lothar Jordan.



Jan Bos, Chair of the MoW International Advisory Committee, presenting at the conference.
Photo: Roslyn Russell.

At the conclusion of the conference, participants enjoyed a tour of the Sino-Portugal Belt and Road Conservation Laboratory, and the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre established in 2016, both in the City University of Macau.



Conserved ceramic items and documents in the Sino-Portugal Belt and Road Conservation Laboratory, City University of Macau.
Photos: Roslyn Russell.



Memory of the World Knowledge Centre, City University of Macau.



Visiting the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre, City University of Macau.

Photos: Macau Documentation and Information Society.

A banquet dinner to celebrate the inscription of the “Macau Kong Tac Lam Temple Archives and Manuscripts (1645-1980)” on the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register was held at the Galaxy International Convention Centre at 7 pm on 28 June. Helen Ieong expressed gratitude to the members of the Memory of the World Programme, National Archives Administration of China, Galaxy Entertainment Group, Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association, the Kong Tac Lam Temple, the Macau government, the Liaison Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and all other supporters.

A feature of the event was a ceremony to deliver the certificate of inscription to Monk Shi Jiasheng, abbot of the Kong Tac Lam Temple. Fackson Banda, Head of the UNESCO Memory of the World Secretariat, and Mr Zhenyi Lin, Deputy Director of the National Archives Administration, presented the certificate of inscription.

The Knowledge Centres meeting on 29 June, also held at the City University of Macau, was in two parts: a closed meeting for representatives of MoW Knowledge Centres only

(including online attendees) at which Chairs of MoW Knowledge Centres – Bo Kang, Korean Studies Institute, Andong, Republic of Korea; Zhang Bin, Beijing Centre; Jun Fan Ma, Fujian Centre; and Xie Jing, China National Silk Archives, from Mainland China; Ana Rita Vizcainas, Mexico; and Helen Jeong, Macau SAR - presented reports on the activities of their Knowledge Centres (see also Helen Jeong's Report in this issue). This was followed by an open meeting for all attendees to learn about new developments in the Knowledge Centres network. A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the International Centre for Documentary Heritage under the auspices of UNESCO and the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre—Macau, City University of Macau, was signed by Helen Jeong and Yoonmyoung Cho.

After lunch in Macau Tower – enlivened by the sight of bungee jumpers hurtling downwards – participants visited the Fundação Oriente and Casa Garden and the Protestant Cemetery next door, with its fascinating array of historic nineteenth-century tombstones and grave markers.



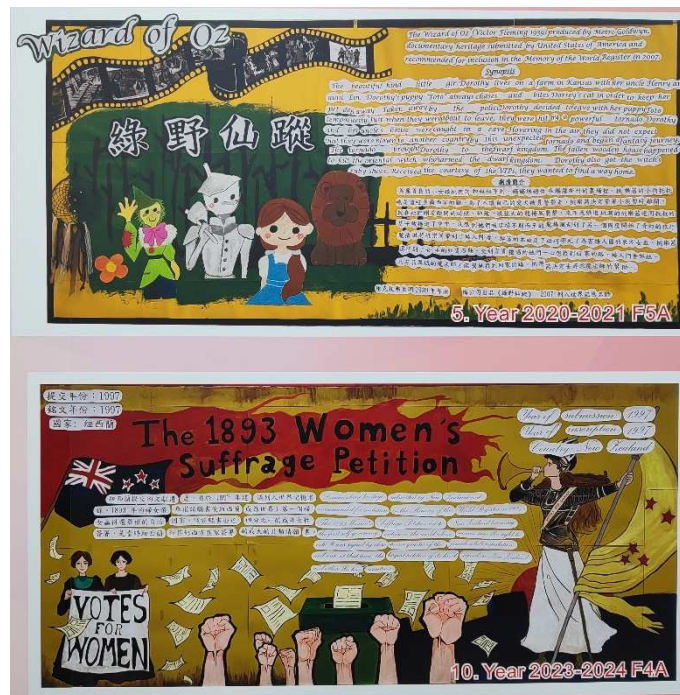
Casa Garden and Fundação Oriente (left); obelisk in the Protestant Cemetery.
These and all following photos: Roslyn Russell.

A return visit on 29 June to Tong Nam School was a highlight of our time in Macau. Our previous visit was in 2016, at the time of the opening of the Memory of the World Knowledge Centre-Macau. It was very pleasing to see that the students have continued their interest in the Memory of the World Programme since that time.

In addition to creating more posters depicting inscriptions on the International Register, the students have also developed dramatic performances: one based on William Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*; and another imagining Confucius being transported into the twenty-first century and meeting two Tong Nam School students, who explain some of the massive changes that have occurred since his lifetime.



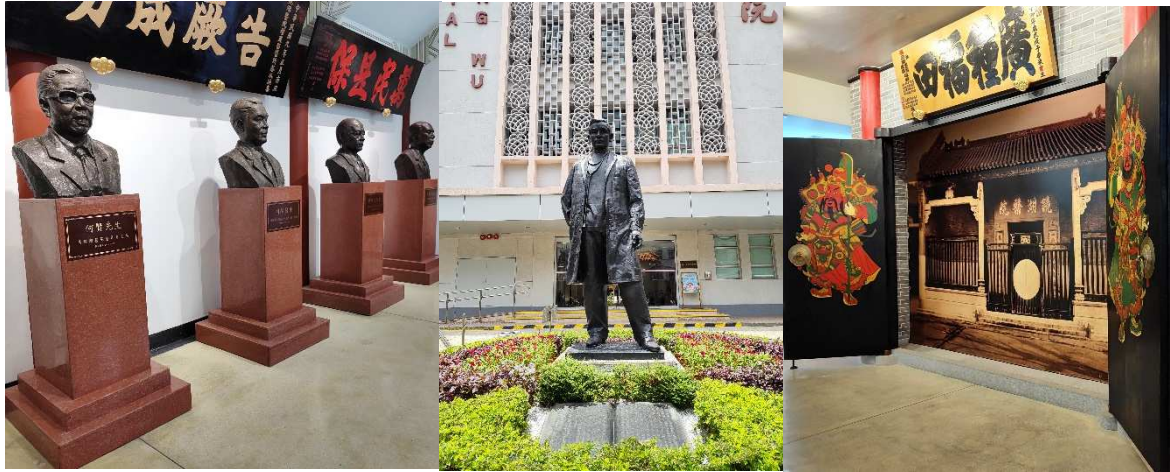
Tong Nam School student actors with Roslyn Russell (left); student explaining the content of some of the posters on display (right).



Posters depicting the *Wizard of Oz* movie from 1939, and the 1893 Women's Suffrage Petition from New Zealand created by Tong Nam School students.

The day concluded with a vegetarian banquet in the Kong Tac Lam Temple.

Visits to other sites over the next two days included Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association and its impressive museum; the Grand Prix Museum; the A-Ma Temple at Coloane (where Master Jake Wong performed Tai Chi moves); and Moments in History – Lai Chi Vun Village, a former shipbuilding site, also at Coloane, which is soon to be developed into a multimedia experience.



Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association, with busts of founding fathers (left); Statue of Sun-Yat Sen (centre) in front of the Hospital; and original Kiang Wu Hospital doors in the museum.



A-Ma Temple at Coloane; and shrine of the Goddess Marzu.



Master Jake Wong at A-Ma Temple, Coloane, performing Tai Chi.



Moments in History – Lai Chi Vun Village, a former shipbuilding site at Coloane.

Our visit to Macau concluded with a tour of the Galaxy Casino complex, including a visit to see the artworks at the exclusive Club Rouge; experiencing the Egg artworks; and a stroll through The Venetian with its recreation of Venice complete with canals, and a gondola and gondolier.



Galaxy light experience (left); Lothar Jordan, Vu Minh Huong and Helen Ieong at the Egg artwork (centre); crowds at The Venetian (right).

Thanks go to all those who supported our visit to Macau, especially Helen Ieong, Emily Chan and Lemon Zhong and their team; the sponsoring institutions, and those who welcomed us to their facilities during our stay in Macau.

Roslyn Russell is the Rapporteur of the MoW Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR). She would like to thank Helen Ieong for her assistance in the preparation of this article.

Report

Memory of the World: A Visit to China, July 1-5, 2024

by Jan Bos

As a follow-up to the Memory of the World events in Macau, June 2024 (see the preceding report by Roslyn Russell in this issue), the National Archives Administration of China invited some representatives of the MoW Programme to an International Conference on MoW Promotion and to other activities that were to strengthen the programme in China and to improve international knowledge on Chinese heritage.

In the evening of Monday July 1st, we were warmly welcomed at the beautiful East Lake Hotel in Wuhan, which is situated in a very nice park. We were told that the place was one of the favorite spots of Chairman Mao Zedong, who stayed there more than forty times.

Tuesday 2 July

Our first destination was the Hubei Provincial Museum. The building is very large with wide halls and corridors, well designed for huge crowds. In 2023 the museum received over 4 million visitors. Even on this Tuesday morning the museum was visited by lots of groups and individuals of all ages. The museum houses over 460,000 items, among which are 1,095 national first-class cultural relics. Our guided tour among the main treasures included many bronze objects and bamboo strips with written texts that have been found in ancient tombs. The texts deal with religious and political subjects, but also with personal matters. One of them was written by a young soldier who asks his mother to send him warm clothes because it is very cold in his winter garrison.



[Picture 1] One of the exhibition rooms in Hubei Provincial Museum.

The main focus of our visit was the Chime Bells, excavated from the tomb of Marquis Yi, one of rulers of the Zeng state in the early fifth century BC. This set of 69 bronze bells, each of which can produce two different tones, is both a musical instrument and a musical document.



[Picture 2] The Chime Bells from the tomb of Marquis Yi.

Characters on each bell describe what tone it is, how it should be played and which bells are in harmony with each other. Demonstrating the mathematical relationships in music, the Chime Bells testify to a profound musical knowledge. They also give evidence of extraordinary technical skills in bronze casting. The instrument is in good condition and can still be played, although a replica is being used for daily performances in the museum auditorium. After an informative meeting with directors, curators and researchers, we enjoyed attending one of these sonorous performances.



[Picture 3] Music performance with Chime Bells in the Hubei Provincial Museum.

After lunch we went to the Yellow Crane Tower, a national landmark located on a hill on the banks of the Yangtze River. The present tower was opened in 1985, but its origin dates back to 223 AD. It has been destroyed at least a dozen times, both by natural disasters and by warfare. But it was always rebuilt and it now stands as a symbol of Chinese resilience.



[Picture 4] Yellow Crane Tower.

The top of the tower (52 meters high) offers a stunning view of Wuhan, the Yangtze River and its many bridges. The city of Wuhan, which has a population of almost 14 million and covers 8,570 square kilometers, reaches in every direction as far as the eye can see.

The interior floors of the Yellow Crane Tower are decorated with paintings, tiles, carvings and calligraphy, inspired by highlights from Chinese legends and history.



[Picture 5] Decorated wall in the Yellow Crane Tower.

After the Yellow Crane Tower we paid a visit to the museum of the Major Bridge Engineering Group (MBEC). Established in 1955, the company has become one of the world's leading bridge construction firms. Pictures and models of bridges built by MBEC show how elegance has become an increasingly important element in bridge design.



[Picture 6] Bridge models in the MBEC Museum.

After an exquisite banquet, offered by leading officials from Wuhan, we still had an evening programme ahead of us. For safety reasons, a planned boat trip on the Yangtze River had to be cancelled because of the high water level. Instead we went to see the abundant light show along the river. On the walls of at least a hundred buildings, changing projections in all colors were shown. This spectacular daily phenomenon may grow into a new form of intangible heritage.



[Picture 7] Light show on the buildings along the Yangtze River in Wuhan.

Wednesday 3 July

It took the high-speed G892 train just 1.5 hours to cover the 536 kilometers that brought us from Wuhan to Zhengzhou. Zhengzhou is the capital of Henan Province, which is located in the heart of China. Henan Province is double the size of Austria and has a population of almost 100 million. After an adjacent 1.5 hours bus ride we arrived in Dengfeng city, south-east of Zhengzhou.

‘Shaolin’ was the keyword for the rest of the day. We stayed in the Shaolin Hotel, enjoyed a delicious vegetarian Shaolin Banquet and watched the Shaolin Zen Music Ritual. But most important was the visit to the Shaolin Temple.

The Shaolin Temple is the birthplace of Chinese Zen Buddhism and one of the most sacred places in China. It was founded in 495 AD. It is in fact a complex of buildings with gates and pagodas, situated in a harmonious, park-like garden. There were many visitors, yet the atmosphere was quiet and peaceful. We were warmly welcomed by Abbot Shi Yongxin, followed by an extensive tour through the temple.



[Picture 8] Warm welcome at Shaolin Temple by Abbot Shi Yongxin; Jan Bos (right); Papa Momar Diop (in the middle).

For documentary heritage specialists, the most interesting element in the Shaolin Temple is its collection of 500 stone stelae, with inscriptions dating back to 1424. They relate to the Buddhist religion, but also to politics, economy, warfare, culture and contacts with other countries and civilizations. Some of the stelae show beautifully carved calligraphy, other inscriptions are very interesting from a historic or linguistic point of view.



[Picture 9] One of the ancient stelae in Shaolin Temple.

Another highlight of our visit to Shaolin Temple was the impressive demonstration of Kong Fu martial arts by the Buddhist monks, showing incredible athletic and artistic skills. After that it was time for practising Zen meditation and Chinese massage.



[Picture 10] Kong Fu demonstration by Shaolin Temple monks.

In the evening we attended the Shaolin Zen Music Ritual, performed on the largest outdoor stage in the world. The area covers nearly 3 square kilometers and almost 500 performers participate in the colorful show, which links natural elements like water, wind and stone with central concepts of Zen Buddhism.

Thursday 4 July

In the morning the 2024 International Conference on the Memory of the World Programme was held. Chinese and foreign experts on documentary heritage exchanged their views and ideas on the future of the programme. The importance of documentary heritage for cultural development, mutual international understanding and inclusiveness of minority groups was mentioned several times. A stronger connection and more cooperation between the three UNESCO Heritage programmes (Memory of the World, World Heritage and Intangible Heritage) was deemed highly desirable. The Marketing Sub-committee needs to be revived and several examples were proposed for innovative promotion activities. The important role of education was also stressed.



[Picture 11] Opening speech by Dr Lin Zhenyi, Deputy Director General of the National Archives Administration of China.

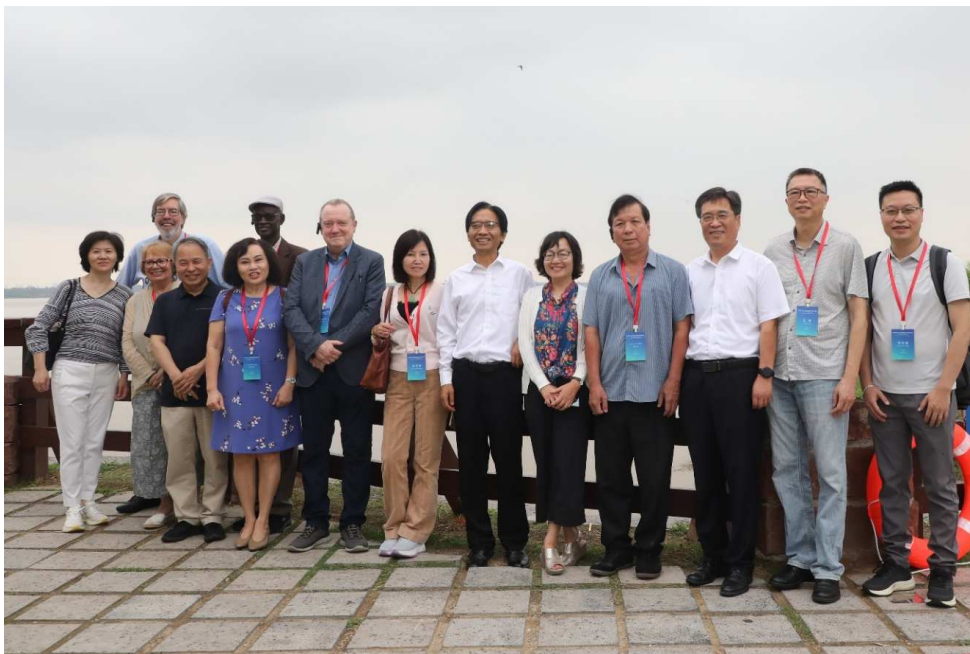
In the afternoon and early evening we visited the Unique Henan: Land of Drama theme park. We admired all kinds of handicraft, practised print rubbing, and watched the atmospheric Fantasy City theater performance.



[Picture 12] Vu Minh Huong signing her rubbed work of art in Unique Henan: Land of Drama theme park.

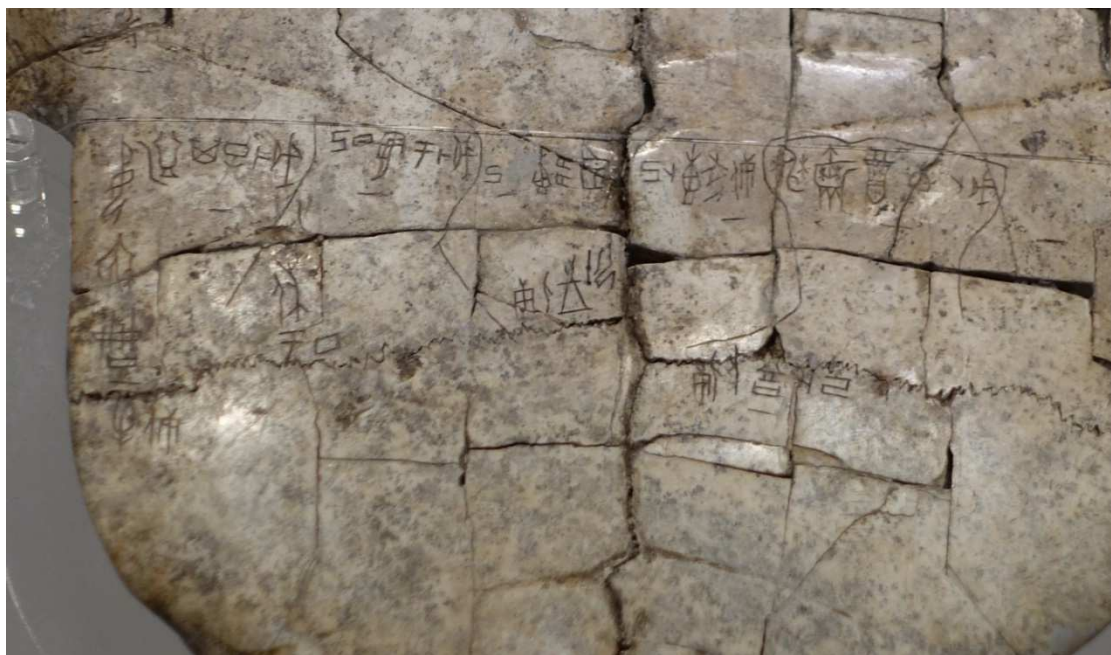
Friday 5 July

A visit to China is not complete without having seen the Yellow River. Before leaving on a high speed train to the city of Anyang, we first visited Nanguotou, a scenic spot in the Yellow River Beach Park where we had a nice view of the wideness of this iconic river.



[Picture 13] All participants at the Yellow River.

The brand new Yinxu Museum in Anyang was the last – but not least – destination of our tour. The museum building is in the shape of a traditional square vessel, used to preserve food. Many of these vessels have been found in ancient tombs and are on display in the museum, with modern audiovisual techniques showing their use and particularities. The museum also presents many chariots and horses, unearthed in the region. However, the most interesting components for us were the oracle bone inscriptions, dating from 1400 to 1100 B.C. They are records of divination and praying. Tortoise shells, cattle skulls and other animal bones were thrown into a fire. The cracks that resulted from the burning were then ‘transliterated’ into characters and interpreted as omens. These early scripts and exceptional carriers constitute a highly interesting documentary heritage. The collection was inscribed on the Memory of the World International Register in 2017.



[Picture 14] Oracle bone with inscriptions (detail).

Then the company had to break up. After having shared so many beautiful experiences, it was hard to say goodbye to our fellow travelers and to our Chinese hosts and organizers, who really have done everything to make this a most useful and pleasant journey.

Jan Bos is the new Chair of the Memory of the World International Advisory Committee (IAC). He previously served as Chair of the Register Subcommittee from 2009 to 2023. In 2018 he retired from the KB, National Library of the Netherlands, after having worked at various positions in this library since 1983. He studied Dutch literature and linguistics and religious anthropology at Leiden University and Book and Library Science at the University of Amsterdam. His publications are mainly in the field of book history and popular culture.

Photos: Pictures 6, 8, 10 and 11 by the NAAC, picture 9: Wikimedia. All others by Jan Bos.

The *Memory of the World School Kit. A Teachers' Guide* was Published this Year as *SCEaR Newsletter 2021, Special Issue 2021*

by Lothar Jordan

A few notes on the history of the *Memory of the World School Kit*

The Memory of the World Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR) created a Working Group Schools⁴ on the 11th of November 2015 at UNESCO HQ, when the Recommendation “Safeguarding the Memory of the World – UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage, including in Digital Form“ was approved during the General Conference by the CI Commission. The SCEaR WGS had four members: Maria Liouliou (MoW Secretariat), Lothar Jordan (SCEaR, Chair), Martin Porter (SCEaR, Member), and Jutta Ströter-Bender (SCEaR, Corresponding Member). Maria Liouliou was chosen Coordinator of the WGS, which should work in close cooperation between the Secretariat and the SCEaR.

Among the objectives of the WGS were to promote raising awareness amongst young people of the importance of documentary heritage and to explore the possibilities of global dialogue and respect through the creation of educational tools. Right from the beginning the creation of a MoW School Kit was one of the main tasks.

Basic for the development of the MoW School Kit were meetings of the WGS at Paderborn University (Germany, 2015) and at UNESCO HQ in 2016. Iskra Panevska, the then-Head of the MoW Unit of the Secretariat took part in that meeting, underlining the wish that items of the International MoW Register should provide examples for the Kit. As result of that meeting we noted: „The kit should be aligned with the goals and objectives of the MoW Programme, including protection of cultural diversity, cultural dialogue and better understanding of others. It was also decided that the kit would make use of the heritage already inscribed in the MoW International Register.” (SCEaR Work Report 2017-2023, p. 3).

In that line the WGS worked on the MoW School Kit until 2019. The Coordinator proposed to publish it by UNESCO Publishing in that year in the form of a book. Texts were ready, when Maria Liouliou left the MoW Secretariat and gave up her function as Coordinator. Some of the material was used in 2021 in the “UNESCO Memory of the World online course” (<https://www.unesco.org/mowcourse/en/>), which with more modern means, like interactivity, is now is the main tool of MoW education for school students. We thought it might be useful to keep the idea of a book publication as an addition to the “MoW online course”, but changed to the concept of an electronic

⁴ Detailed informations on the work of the SCEaR WGS are to be found in the SCEaR Work Reports 2015-2017 (2017) and 2017-2023 (2023).

publication, and chose for it the form of a Special Issue of the *SCEaR Newsletter* – to be published in 2021.

Memory of the World School Kit. A Teachers' Guide

The Kit was finalized in 2021, but when Martin Porter, the then-Coordinator of the WGS and the Final Editor of the Kit, left the Working Group, the edition rested some more time. Finally, Martin Porter, Jutta Ströter Bender and myself adjusted the manuscript early in 2024. As it was more than 400 pages long, we divided it into five parts. So the *Memory of the World School Kit. A Teachers' Guide* was published on March 21, 2024 (World Poetry Day) in five parts as *SCEaR Newsletter* 2021, Special Issue 2021/1-5:

Part 1: Introduction. *By L. Jordan and M. Porter.* 34 pp.

Part 2: Using the International Memory of the World Register for Teaching.

By M. Porter, L. Jordan and J. Ströter-Bender. 89 pp.

Part 3: Case Studies: History. *By M. Porter.* 179 pp.

Part 4: Case Studies: Literature and Language. *By M. Porter.* 81 pp.

Part 5: Case Studies: Arts. *By J. Ströter-Bender and J. Tewes.* 47 pp.

The Kit was made mainly for teachers, but should be readable for older school students, too. All parts have an Attachment with definitions and explanations, information on relevant websites, literature, and abbreviations (with links). The internal organization of the Kit is based on the three school disciplines: History, Language and Literature, and Arts.

Part 1 contains introductions into UNESCO and into the Memory of the World Programme, and basics of learning on it; and a reflection of the Kit, the tasks and problems of MoW education, especially on the International Register.

Part 2 introduces into the educational use of the International MoW Register, by articles on the three mentioned disciplines, so “History for Citizens of the World”, which – among other things – explains the choice of some items, e.g. lessons on women in documentary heritage, according to UNESCO Priority Gender Equality. And it prepares the use of part 3 and 4. – The chapter “Language and Literature” names fields of literature that are well represented in the International MoW Register like: epic poetry; letters; diaries. And it shows literary documents as elements of an intercultural dialogue and as enabling disaster sensitization. Attached are lists of documents that fit to the World Poetry Day, and lists of the items in the International Register that are related to language and literature, according to UNESCO regions. – “Arts” shows the possibilities of education to learn about the documented items: Why they were inscribed; why they are important today; which memory institutions safeguard them; who created them; what was the cultural context of their creation. The chapter furthermore explains the approaches and techniques that were used in part 5, such as: Sketches, Notebooks, Booklets; Mind Maps, Mood Boards and Collages; Little Archives and Museum Coffers. It highlights the

twofold interest in teaching the school students about art history on the one side and on the other using items of the Register as elements of a creative artistic learning project.

Parts 3 to 5 contain Case Studies for the three mentioned school disciplines.

Part 3, History, chooses six items of the International MoW Register (“The Battle of the Somme”, UK; “Treaty of Tordesillas”, Spain and Portugal; “The Appeal of 18 June 1940”, France and UK; “Silver Men; West Indian Labourers at the Panama Canal”, Barbados, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, UK; “Letter Journals of Hendrik Witbooi”, Namibia; “The 1893 Women’s Suffrage Petition”, New Zealand). Each sub-chapter on these items starts with informations about the expected age of the school students, the aim of the lesson, the expected learning outcomes, and a Teachers’ Note with reflections and proposals. Working materials and sheets with tasks for the students follow.

And so Part 4, “Case Studies: Literature and Language”, with lesson plans for three items of the International MoW Register (“Naxi Dongba Manuscripts”, China; “The Phoenician Alphabet”, Lebanon; “Earliest Islamic [Kufic] inscription”, Saudi Arabia).

Part 5 “Case Studies: Arts” provides didactic material for lessons on four inscribed items (“Daina Skapis – Cabinet of Folksongs”, Latvia; “The Nebra Sky Disc”, Germany; “Benz Patent of 1886”, Germany; “Architectural Archive of Oscar Niemeyer”, Brasil). While the first two of them use the creative approach (Jutta Ströter-Bender), the last two (by Johanna Tewes) provide each an Activity Plan, basic information, and a precise ‘Didactic/lesson plan’, with information on the ‘knowledge input’, the main aims, and precise drafts for 45 or 90 min. units. For the Benz patent that are: Intro lesson, Research Station, Painting Station, Comic Station, Free Station, Haptic Station, and Final lesson; furthermore information on the materials, handouts or worksheets that were developed and used.

All in all the *Memory of the World School Kit* contains lesson plans for 13 items of the International MoW Register.

Of course, there are other educational approaches to the Register than by the *Memory of the World School Kit*, e.g. by pioneering efforts of single schools that are active in the cooperational context of the SCEaR, like Tong Nam School in Macau which is highlighted in the Reports by Helen Jeong and by Roslyn Russell in this issue. The diversity of educational systems in the world requires a diversity of educational tools and approaches – while sharing basic goals of Memory of the World.

On SCEaR

UNESCO Memory of the World Programme

International Advisory Committee

Sub-Committee on Education and Research (SCEaR)

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

SCEaR Working Group Africa (WGA).

Coordinator: Papa Momar Diop (Senegal).

dpmomar@yahoo.fr

SCEaR Working Group Memory of the World Knowledge Centres (WG MoWKC).

Coordinator: Helen Ieong (Macau S.A.R., China).

helenhki@yahoo.com.hk, helenhki@fm.org.mo

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

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

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

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

It is steered by an International Advisory Committee (IAC), appointed by the Director General of UNESCO. The SCEaR is one of its Sub-Committees. Its tasks are to develop strategies and concepts for institutionalizing education and research on Memory of the World, its registers and the world documentary heritage in a sustainable manner in all forms of institutions of higher learning as well as in schools, and to help develop innovative curricula and research on Memory of the World and/or on documents, especially in an interdisciplinary and international manner and related to the internet.

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

SCEaR Newsletter

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

A “Style Sheet” is in *SCEaR Newsletter* 2023/2.

Note: In general the *SCEaR Newsletter* – like UNESCO – uses the British English, so: centre and programme. In case our partners use the American English (so center and program) we take these forms if they are parts of the names of institutions. We try to avoid mixed uses of British and American English in one article – but that is not always possible.

If you would like to receive the *SCEaR Newsletter* or to offer an article, send an e-mail to one of its editorial addresses, English: Jordan.MoW@gmx.de or ros@rrmuseumservices.com.au
French: dpmomar@yahoo.fr

The *SCEaR Newsletter* is visible on the website of UNESCO:

<https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/memoryoftheworldsceanewsletter2016.pdf>

https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/memoryoftheworldsceanewsletter2017-1_march_2.pdf

<https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/memoryoftheworldsceanewsletter2017-2june12.pdf>

<https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/memoryoftheworldsceanewsletter2017-3sept29.pdf>

<https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/memoryoftheworldsceanewsletter2017-4dec21.pdf>

[SCEaR Newsletter2018](#)

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

[SCEaR Newsletter 2019/2 \(December\)](#)

[SCEaR Newsletter 2020/1 \(June\)](#)

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

[SCEaR Newsletter 2021/1 \(June\)](#)

[SCEaR Newsletter 2021/2 \(December\)](#)

[SCEaR Newsletter 2022/1 \(June\)](#)

[SCEaR Newsletter 2022/2 \(December\)](#)

[SCEaR Newsletter 2023/1 \(September\)](#)

[SCEaR Newsletter 2023/2 \(December\)](#)

Special Issue 2020/1

First Memory of the World Global Policy Forum: Disaster Risk Reduction and Management for Sustainable Preservation of Documentary Heritage

https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/firstforum_sceanewsletter2020_special_issue1.pdf

Special Issue 2020/2

Second Memory of the World Global Policy Forum: Disaster Risk Reduction ...

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000375170?posInSet=2&queryId=N-EXPLORE-b72ea8bf-dff8-468f-a5da-868230356548>

Special Issue 2021 [published in 2024]

Memory of the World School Kit. A Teachers's Guide

Special Issue 2022

The Memory of the World Knowledge Centres. An Overview

<https://mow.cityu.edu.mo/uploads/ueditor/php/upload/file/20221215/1671069023540228.pdf>

Special Issue 2023

Press Freedom and Documentary Heritage

<https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2597>

Special Issue 2024

Artificial Intelligence and Documentary Heritage

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389844?posInSet=2&queryId=495a9716-f272-43cb-9624-10240f27b88d>