



IFLA Strategic Programme
Preservation and
Conservation (PAC)



مكتبة قطر الوطنية
Qatar National Library

يوليو ٢٠٢١ – يونيو ٢٠٢٢

مركز الإفلا الإقليمي لصيانة مواد المكتبات والمحافظة عليها

للبلدان العربية ومنطقة الشرق
الأوسط بمكتبة قطر الوطنية



July 2021 - June 2022

THE IFLA PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION CENTER

FOR ARAB COUNTRIES
AND THE MIDDLE EAST
AT QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY



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International Cooperation and PROGRAMS

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(Highlight activities and work the PAC Centre)

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As the Corona pandemic continued, we continued to hold activities and courses remotely, which gave amazing results through the large numbers that attended, the discussions that were taking place, and the questions being asked.

1 ONLINE PROJECT

1 ONLINE TRAINING COURSE IN ARCHIVE MANAGEMENT AT CULTURAL INSTITUTION

A four-day training course in the archives management in cultural institutions. The course included the theoretical framework for managing inactive and permanent archival collections (public and private), with examples and practical applications (the course did not deal with active records).

Date : 29 November – 2 December 2021

Language : Arabic

Trainer : Rawad Bou Malhab, Archivist and Information Management Specialist

Links to recordings on QNL website:

Day - 1 [www.https://bit.ly/3Qumoip](https://bit.ly/3Qumoip)

Day - 2 <https://bit.ly/3RSOR2d>

Day - 3 <https://bit.ly/3Dck6kV>

Day - 4 <https://bit.ly/3qqWcuq>



2

WEBINAR: THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN PRESERVING ISLAMIC CULTURAL HERITAGE

Libraries are one of the most prominent features of educational prosperity among Arabs and Muslims. Personal and public libraries have spread throughout the Islamic world. Islamic history has seen eras in which scholarship and authorship thrived in all arts and fields, and large libraries were visited by travelers from all over the world due to their fame and collections of rare books.

In celebration of Capital of Culture in the Islamic World in 2021, the library, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Islamic World Organization for Education, Science and Culture (ISESCO), hosted this webinar to highlight the importance and means of preserving Islamic cultural heritage and the role of libraries in this important endeavor.

Date : 6 September 2021

Language : Arabic and English

Keynote Speaker : His Excellency Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari, Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library

Panelists:

His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Zain Al-Abidin

(Director of the Culture and Communication Sector, ICESCO)

Mrs. Susan Leavy

Head of the Library of the Museum of Islamic Art

Abeer Al-Kuwari

Director of Research and Learning Services, Qatar National Library

Maxim Nasra

Book Conservation Specialist, Qatar National Library

Mahmoud Zaki

Manuscripts Specialist, Qatar National Library

Moderator:

Maryam Al-Mutawa

Head of Collections Access at the Heritage Library, Qatar National Library

▶ Links to recordings on QNL website:

In Arabic : <https://watch.videodelivery.net/23cbbcdb162206d31201f9ac8a1983fc>

In English: <https://watch.videodelivery.net/63d7f664bff28f5ebdde99dbe26fec06>

3 WEBINAR: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR ART CULTURE AND HERITAGE

In recent years, Artificial Intelligence is integrating more and more into our daily lives, creating exciting changes and bringing up new challenges in the field of arts and humanities. In this panel discussion, the participants shared some recent AI works from around the world and discussed the different cultural and societal implications of the latter, while focusing on legal and ethical aspects.

Date : 11 November 2021
Language : Arabic and English

Panelists:

Dr. James She

Associate Professor, the Division of Information and Computing Technology, College of Science and Engineering, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar

Dr. Ahmed Elgammal

professor at the Department of Computer Science at Rutgers University.

Sydney Chiche-Attali

an intellectual property and art lawyer in Paris.

Moderator:

Wassilena Sekulova

Head of Manuscripts & Archives, Distinctive Collections, Qatar National Library.

This event was organized in partnership with Qatar College of Science and Engineering, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU).



 **Links to recordings on QNL website:**

In Arabic : <https://watch.videodelivery.net/14e788d90da9300f6a29f8bf63872ac1>

In English: <https://watch.videodelivery.net/b5b5f61aaebbea18c1a119e532aa9ff6>

4 SERIES OF FOUR WEBINARS

Qatar National Library, as the IFLA/PAC Regional Center for Arab Countries and the Middle East, in cooperation with the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) in Lebanon, presented a series of four webinars on the different aspects of collection care.

The webinars highlighted on the collection care procedures, conservation practices and preservation activities adopted and applied by the USEK Library.

Speaker : Mrs. Essine El Gemayel

Head of the Conservation and Restoration Center at USEK Library.

Language : Arabic

A INTRODUCTION TO HERITAGE COLLECTION CARE

This session covered two introductions: the first one presents basic care principles and practices of paper and leather-based collections; the second presents the USEK Library.

Date: 23 May 2022

B PAPERMAKING, DETERIORATION FACTORS AND CAUSES

This session introduced the history and technique of papermaking, and the different factors and causes of deterioration from environment to handling.

Date: 24 May 2022

C COLLECTION CARE BASICS: USEK LIBRARY PRESERVATION STRATEGY, PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES

This session was designed as a case study of the care basics applied at the USEK Library: daily care routine, preservation strategy, procedures and practices.

Date: 25 May 2022

D GUIDING FOR BEST CONSERVATION MATERIALS AND EXPLORING THE NOS AND DOS OF PRESERVATION

This session provided a practical guidance to choose the best conservation materials for different treatments depending on the type of documents. It shows the bad practices in preservation.

Date: 26 May 2022

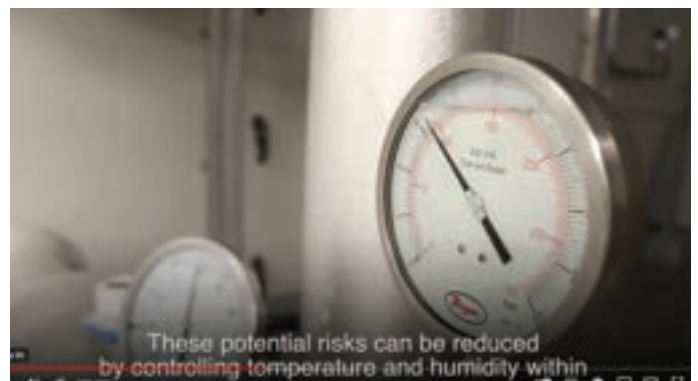


2 EDUCATIONAL PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION VIDEOS SERIES (IN ARABIC AND ENGLISH)

▶ Preventive Conservation of Heritage Materials
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V4ZtA3DyyY>

▶ The Difference Between Preservation and Conservation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zsewh2E-scA>

▶ What are IFLA PAC centers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjN8fiLTcdU>



3 ONSITE PROJECTS

In the framework of QNL-UNESCO project to support documentary heritage in the Arab region, we support the Sudan House of Heritage with (24,470.00 USD) and support the Sudan National Archives with (15,000.00 USD)

1 SUDAN HOUSE OF HERITAGE

The project is divided into 4 main activities as below.

A Organizing a meeting of an advisory group for planning and policy formulation. (Ongoing)

The Sudan House of Heritage will organize a two-day meeting involving the National Council for Cultural Heritage and Local Languages Development (NCCH), Khartoum University, the Music Archive of the Afro-Asian Institute, the Traditional Music Center, the Sudan Library and Manuscripts Association, the Copyright and Intellectual Property Council, the Radio and TV Corporation, the Sudan National Commission for UNESCO, to formulate policy around documentary heritage preservation in Sudan. This meeting, involving community members, will result on the formulation of Memorandum of Understanding within the main stakeholders to ensure preservation of documentary heritage in the country.

B Organizing a training workshop on archiving and digitization of documentary heritage (Ongoing)

The Sudan House of Heritage will organize a three days training workshop on archiving and digitization of documentary heritage for 12 to 15 people from the NCCH, the University of Khartoum, the Nubian Institute for Linguistic, as well as NGOs working on the field. The Sudan House of Heritage will ensure a gender balanced representation with at least 50 % of the participants being women.

C Classifying, protecting and digitizing selected documentary heritage at risks from the National Council for Cultural Heritage and Promotion of National Languages archives.

The Sudan House of Heritage will purchase the necessary equipment and tools to proceed to the digitization of documentary heritage present in the NCCH archives. After identifying the most threatened documentary heritage, the Sudan House of Heritage will proceed with the digitization of the material. At least 4,000 audio and video tapes, as well as 10,000 pages of manuscripts will be digitized.

D Raising awareness about documentary heritage in Sudan and identifying potential submissions to the UNESCO Memory of the World registry.

The Sudan House of Heritage will organize a communication campaign to raise awareness about documentary heritage and the importance to preserve it through the production of flyers and communication material that will be disseminated in Sudan National Museum and other museums, archives and libraries. It will also be disseminated in the cultural centers in the capital city and the regions as well as in the national and private universities.

During the project, the Sudan House of Heritage will also identify at least one documentary heritage that could be potentially submitted to the UNESCO Memory of the World international registry.

2 SUDAN NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The project is divided into 3 main activities as below.

A Organizing a series of 6 trainings for the National Record Office staff and professionals from Sudan national institutions. (Ongoing)

The National Record office will organize a series of six training on digitization and manuscript preservation, of 7 days each targeting at least 20 documentary heritage professionals in Sudan.

The National Record office will ensure a gender balanced representation with at least 50 % of the participants being women.

B Performing maintenance, restoration and digitization of pre-identified manuscripts. (Ongoing)

After purchasing the necessary equipment for digitization, the NRO will proceed to the digitization of at least 600 manuscripts that will be preserved in the electronic archiving system of the NRO. The trained documentary heritage professionals will be involved in the digitization of the manuscripts.

C Raising awareness in Sudan about documentary heritage preservation.

To raise awareness about documentary heritage preservation in Sudan, the NRO will organize workshops with families holding manuscripts to sensitize them to the importance of properly preserving their precious heritage and encouraging them to deposit their old manuscripts at the NRO.

During the project, the NRO will also identify at least one documentary heritage that could be potentially submitted to the UNESCO Memory of the World international registry.



OBSERVING DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE AT RISK AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

Observatory of the documentary heritage situation in MENASA region

We launched this observatory as a new strategic project at IFLA PAC regional center at QNL, which should become a dynamic place to follow the situations and projects in each country of MEANSA region. It will become a strong decision-making tool for the IFLA PAC center actions.

FOR EACH COUNTRY THE OBSERVATORY WILL COVER THE FOLLOWING

- *Political context*
- *Libraries and archives*
- *Collection's preservation*
- *Key people*
- *Legal situation (protection laws for heritage/libraries/archives)*
- *Strategic/Interesting information collected*
- *Meetings with stakeholders*
- *Heritage projects related to the country (inside and outside)*
- *Specific bibliography*
- *Catalogues of documentary heritage collections*
- *Other useful references*

As a start we signed an agreement with Heritage for Peace organization to prepare the observatory for Syria and the report will be ready at the end of 2022.

1 AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A Onsite meeting: Afghan heritage protection

On the International Day of Europe, we organized in collaboration with the European Ambassador for Afghanistan, a meeting about Afghan heritage protection. Most of the European ambassadors and special representatives for Afghanistan attended the meeting in QNL and the Minister of Foreign Affairs from Qatar had also a delegate. All participants had the possibility to discuss and exchange with the heads and experts from some important organizations working on the ground in Afghanistan, for the preservation of the tangible and intangible heritage.



2 SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH ALLIANCE FOR THE RESTORATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE (ARCH)

The project is divided in 3 sections:

- A** Conduct pre-recorded e-course about combatting illicit trafficking of cultural property. Looting and the illegal antiquities trade are significant problems for Afghanistan, the e-course will provide the knowledge of the international laws and resources available for Afghanistan concerned institutions in their effort to secure their country's cultural treasures and possessions. The e-course will be carefully curated to maximally benefit the people of Afghanistan and the region. The training will be at the last quarter of 2022
- B** Prepare a report: Trafficking and the Circulation of Stolen Antiquities and Documentary Heritage in Afghanistan and its neighboring countries: How to better understand new challenges and opportunities for interdiction and cooperation. (Report will be ready at end of 2022)
- C** Exhibition in Afghanistan with outreach component on heritage and combating trafficking

HIMAYA PROJECT (حماية) COUNTERING THE TRAFFICKING AND ILLEGAL CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE.

In 2020 QNL launched the Himaya project to counter the trafficking and illegal circulation of the documentary heritage in the MENA region and neighboring countries.

Qatar National Library as IFLA Preservation and Conservation (PAC) Center for Arab Countries and the Middle East cooperate and partner with various organizations such as IFLA, World Customs Organization (WCO), INTERPOL, UNIDROIT, UNESCO and others to counter the trafficking of manuscripts, books and archives in the MENA region. To read the project document

In Arabic : <https://bit.ly/2E8F2gd>
In English: <https://bit.ly/32DDXqW>

1 ONLINE PROJECT

A Webinar: International Day Against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property

To mark the occasion of the International Day Against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property, the Library hosted a high-level panel discussion about the efforts to counter the trafficking and illegal circulation of antiquities and documentary heritage.

Date : 15 November 2021
Language : Arabic and English
Keynote Speaker : His Excellency Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari, Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library

Panelists:

Barbara Lison

President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

Dr. Mohamed Zinelabidine

Director of Culture Department at the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)

Closing Speech : Tan Huism, Executive Director, Qatar National Library.

Moderator:

Stephane J. Ipert

Director of Distinctive Collections, Qatar National Library

▶ Links to recordings on QNL website:

In Arabic : <https://watch.videodelivery.net/87c16560f81e4a0744702a90632891c3>
In English: <https://watch.videodelivery.net/83d6aa8723fad5b3fea2f39c0b53b373>

B**Online conference: Heritage in danger & fight against the illicit traffic of cultural goods**

We organized this online conference in collaboration with the University of Poitiers, HeRMA laboratory and Terre d'Orient.

It is a question of reflecting on the production (France, Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Syria ...), the circulation and the sale of false archaeological cultural goods and of crossing the actions of the main actors engaged in this fight, within the framework of a concerted and interdisciplinary dialogue, from the identification of objects to the judicialization of cases.

This conference brought together archaeologists (DRAC, departments of antiquities of Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and Syria), members of heritage and research institutions (INHA, University of Poitiers, University Institute of France, C2RMF), investigators (customs, police), representatives of the various ministries involved in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property as well as legal experts.

Date : 16 December 2021

Language : Arabic and English and French

Stéphane Ipert

Director of Distinctive Collections at Qatar National Library presented a lecture in this online conference "Peregrination of oriental manuscripts in the MENA region: from imitations to trafficking in forgery"

C**E-course on Combating Art Trafficking A special focus on manuscripts****The training included the following content:**

1. An introduction to the international and regional legal frameworks regarding the circulation of art and cultural goods, and the various legal ways to determine documentary heritage.
2. An overview of the due diligence needed to be observed by actors in the art and heritage world in order to limit the risks related to looted works of art.
3. Regionally focused case studies of art restitution to illustrate the issues related to art trafficking and the necessity of carrying out reliable due diligence.
4. A special focus on licit and illicit circulation of items between the EU and the UK and the Gulf region.

Date : 21 - 23 February 2022

Language : The course was in English with translation into Arabic, Persian and Turkish

Trainer : Sydney Chiche-Attali,

lawyer at the Paris Bar specializing in art law and copyright law

An agreement was signed with (Qatar Computing Research Institute) to use their product Fehris Fehris is smart content management system. It enables users increase your productivity by adding content from many diverse sources such as web-sites, social media platforms like twitter and Facebook, communication platform such as WhatsApp and teams. Fehris allows users to organize the content they added using labels called tags. Higher level collections can be formed by grouping tags into so called categories. Eventually the user will have a single central place to search and retrieve the data added and organized in Fehris thus acting as a universal personalized search engine over all information or content the user encountered.

QNL would like to use Fehris with an extension that allows automated collection of web postings related to sale of ancient manuscripts and artifacts.

Design and implement a software extension to Fehris that will help in automated collection, curation and organization of eb postings related to sale of ancient manuscripts and artifacts.

The project will be implemented during 2022- 2023



1 ONSITE PROJECTS SUDAN INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN AND ASIAN STUDIES

In the framework of QNL-UNESCO project to support documentary heritage in the Arab region, we support the Sudan Institute of African and Asian Studies with 12,500.00 USD

The project "Traditional music digitization" aims to create and maintain a digital archive for the Folklore Traditional Music Archives of the Institute of African and Asian Studies of the University of Khartoum.

These archives contain the most important collection of Sudanese documentary heritage, in the form of audio recordings, video tapes, photo collection and field notes. This important audiovisual collection is threatened as its access depends on playback equipment becoming obsolete.

During this project the audiovisual heritage of the Institute of African and Asian Studies will be digitized for long term preservation and the previous digitization process will be revised to respect international standards. The digitized copies will include descriptive metadata that identifies and explains customs and traditions that are dying, or that have already disappeared.

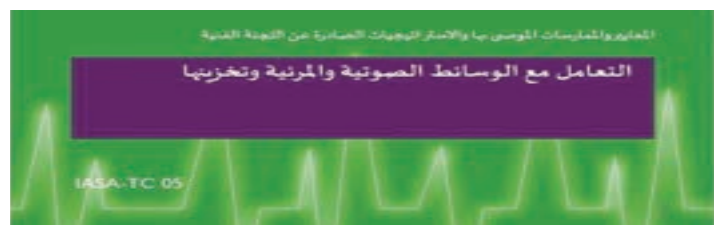
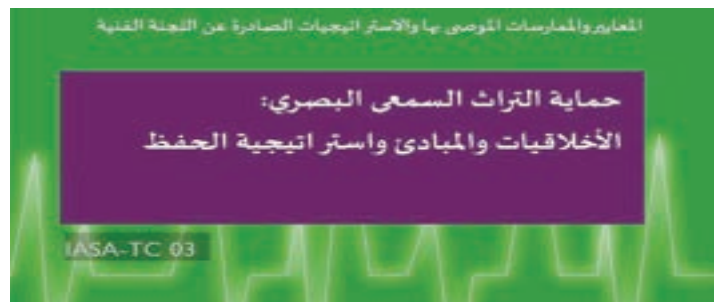
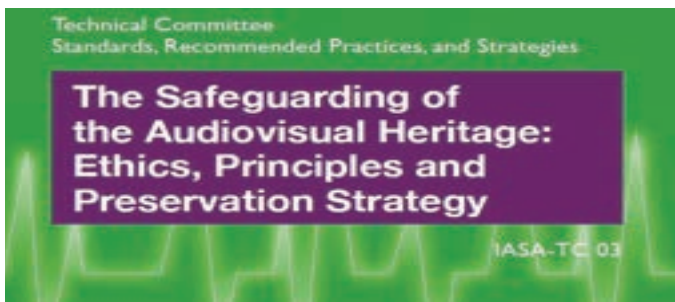
The IAAS archive equipment will also be renovated to ensure better conditions for documentary heritage preservation.

2 IASA TRANSLATION PROJECT

Continue the translation project with The International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) to translate the IASA Technical documents (from English to Arabic), two standards were completed and ready now for publishing:

IASA-TC 03 "The safeguarding of the Audiovisual Heritage: Ethics Principles and Preservation Strategy".

IASA - TC 05 "Handling and Storage of Audio and Video Carriers"



1 ONLINE PROJECTS

A Online conference: Advances in Paper Deacidification: Presenting Eastern Perspectives

Before the use of digital documents, human knowledge and history was written or printed on paper, which, unfortunately, is a weak material, especially the paper manufactured after the mid-19th century. Paper-based materials need extreme care through preservation practices and procedures to prevent or slow down the deterioration processes, one of which is the chemical degradation caused by acidification. Paper deacidification treatment has proven to be an important method to stop the decay caused by acidification and for prolonging the life of paper materials.



This webinar built awareness around the importance of paper deacidification in the preservation of documentary heritage and its different techniques, in addition to sharing experiences about the advances and challenges in the deacidification research and methods.

**Speakers:****Jeanne Drewes**

Cultural Heritage Consultant

Tian Zhouling

Head of Documents Preservation and Conservation Section, Ancient Books Library at the National Library of China

Dr. Sinong Wang

Associate Research Professor at the Institute of Preservation of Chinese Ancient Books, Fudan University, Shanghai, China

Dr. Khaled Saoud

Professor of Physics in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Program at Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar (VCU-Q)

Dr. Maryam Afsharpour

Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Research Center of Iran

Moderator:

Fareed AlShishani

Conservation Technologist, Qatar National Library

Date : 7 March 2022

Language : Arabic and English

▶ **Links to recordings on QNL website:**

In Arabic : <https://bit.ly/3Bz1tGM>

In English: <https://bit.ly/3REfpok>

2 EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS (IN ARABIC AND ENGLISH)

Produce a learning video about Deacidification at the Qatar National Library

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNAtu8jtcnl>



3 VIDEOS ABOUTH THE SCIENCE OF PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeIKt9jDUgQ>

