



INMAGIC Presto

Web 2.0 Power
for your Library



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FUTURE TECH WILL PROTECT CULTURAL PAST

For those who are concerned about the somewhat disorganised and ephemeral nature of some virtual resources, UNESCO's *Memory of the World* is both a vital scholarly resource and a joy. Launched in 1992, the program aims to "guard against collective amnesia", calling on and disseminating archive and library holdings from across the globe in an effort to ensure the diversity of our history in terms of our language, peoples and cultures is protected.

Even before the internet and Wikipedia became the resource *du jour*, UNESCO recognised that war, funding pressures and illegal trading were having a significant and detrimental effect on the collected documentary heritage of the world. Both the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the International Council of Archives (ICA) were involved in the preparation of lists of vulnerable collections and with their help, UNESCO developed a list of endangered collections in libraries, archives and cinematic collections.

Technological innovation has allowed UNESCO to gather and record original documents for preservation and dissemination. Pilot projects have included a CD of the *Radzivil Chronicle*, a 13th century document recording the origins of European peoples, and an ambitious project collecting the newspaper archives of seven Latin American nations, the *Memoria de Iberoamerica*.

There are now over 60 *Memory of the World* programs worldwide, including our own here in Australia established in 2000 (www.amw.org.au) and a regional Asia Pacific program. Amongst the documents on the Australian Register are *The Story of the Kelly Gang*, held by the National Film and Sound Archive, the Mabo Case manuscripts, Captain Cook's journal and the Sorry Books.

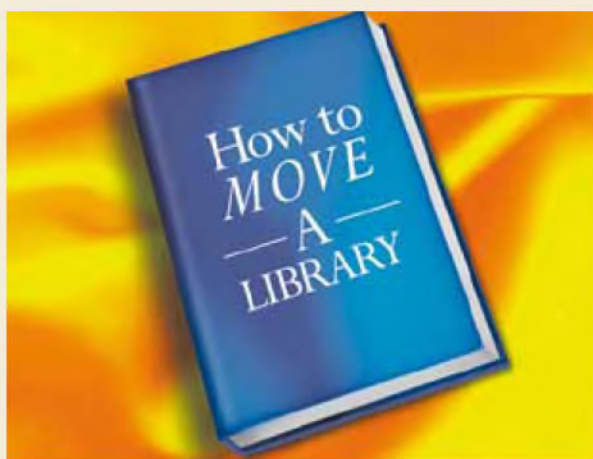
These nominations accept nominations of material for inclusion in the *Memory of the World* Register on a biennial basis, with the Australian program accepting nominations in the alternate year from the national and regional programs. Priority is given to heritage institutions and what the Program Committee understands to be "heritage under threat". Collaboration for nomination amongst co-custodians of collections such as governments or cultural institutions is encouraged and the Committee in each country can also initiate the nomination process itself.

Inclusion on the Register gives these custodians evidence to strengthen applications for preservation funding through grant programs and sponsorship and ensures they are recognised as contributing to the worldwide effort to raise awareness of the importance of our documentary heritage.

The cost-effective ability to reach far beyond the local is one of the great benefits of the electronic/digital environment, both in the capturing, and the sharing of moments in time.

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