

Call for nominations for the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register and Regional Register

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), as the designated Nodal Agency for UNESCO Memory of the World Programme in India is inviting new nominations for the UNESCO Memory of World (MoW) International Register for the 2026-2027 cycle, which lists Documentary Heritage items of world and historical significance and Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP) Regional Register for the 2026 cycle, which lists Documentary Heritage items of regional (Asia Pacific region) significance. The deadline for submitting these nominations to IGNCA is **30th June, 2025**.

Any individual or organization (i.e. library, archives, museum, repository, or collections) with the prior written consent of the owners or custodians, may submit nominations to the Nodal Agency i.e., IGNCA. As each country can submit only two (2) nominations to the International Register and only three (3) nominations to the MOWCAP Regional Register, all submissions will undergo a structured evaluation process before forwarding it to UNESCO through the Ministry of Culture and the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU).

We also encourage individuals or organizations (i.e. library, archives, museum, repository, or collections) of India to jointly nominate shared Documentary Heritage with International Organizations or other Member States of UNESCO. Multiple countries can jointly nominate items for the UNESCO Memory of the World (MoW) International Register and Regional Register. There is no limit to the number of countries that can jointly nominate a Documentary Heritage, and there is no limit to such nominations.

Any international organization or any other country/Member State that wishes to jointly nominate any Documentary Heritage with India may also submit their nomination to IGNCA by **30th June, 2025** for further processing of the Joint Nomination.

We believe that your library, archives, museum, repository, or collection may contain Documentary Heritage of world and regional significance, which could be nominated for inclusion in the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register and MOWCAP Regional Register. We encourage you to submit a complete and well-structured nomination form following the official Guidelines and Format of UNESCO MoW (links provided below). Kindly email your submission to the undersigned by **30th June, 2025**, to allow sufficient time for evaluation alongside other nominations from various institutions/individuals before the final submission to UNESCO.

What is UNESCO Memory of World (MoW) Programme?

The UNESCO Memory of World (MoW) Programme was established in the 1992. The vision of the Memory of the World Programme is that the world's Documentary Heritage belongs to all, should be fully preserved, and protected for all and, with due recognition of cultural mores and practicalities, should be permanently accessible to all without hindrance. It has three Registers, namely, International Register, Regional Register and National Register. Register. Furthermore, every country can nominate only two (2) submissions for the International Register and three (3) submissions for the Regional Register. However, there is no restriction on joint nominations on shared heritage with other countries. There is also no restriction on the number of Submissions to National Register.

Why nominate an item or collection for the Memory of the World International Register and Regional Register?

- Strategic opportunities arising from the right to use the UNESCO Memory of the World logo.
- Prestige conferred on organizations and collections as a result of UNESCO's recognition.
- Opportunities for increased public awareness.
- Strengthening arguments for sponsorship, grants, and funding for preservation.
- Being part of the global effort to enhance awareness and support for the preservation of Documentary Heritage.

What to nominate?

Documentary Heritage includes a diverse range of materials with cultural, historical, or scientific significance. This encompasses manuscripts, books, maps, photographs, inscriptions and epigraphs, as well as archival documents like official records, correspondence, diaries, and legal documents. It also includes audiovisual materials such as films, videos, sound recordings, and oral histories that capture cultural practices and historical events. Additionally, the growing importance of digital heritage is recognized through born-digital materials like websites, databases, digital archives, and multimedia content.

Documentary Heritage that specifically meets UNESCO's criteria is recognized, the International Register includes items of international significance, while the Regional Register (MOWCAP) recognises Documentary Heritage of regional significance, focusing on the Asia-Pacific region.

The nominated items of Documentary Heritage must also be finite and precisely defined; broad, general, or open-ended nominations will not be accepted. In the case of Documentary Heritage which exists in several locations, or has several owners or custodians, full details of each component, owner or custodian are to be provided.

Contact details for sending nominations:

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Important Links:

International Register:

The link to the General Guidelines of the Memory of the World International Register is:

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

Link to the Nomination Form:

https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2023/06/mow_register_nomination_form_eng_2.pdf

For more information please visit:

<https://www.unesco.org/en/memory-world>

MOWCAP Regional Register:

Link to the detailed guidelines:

<https://www.mowcapunesco.org/wp-content/uploads/MOWCAP-Register-Guidelines-2025.pdf>

Link to Nomination Form:

<http://www.mowcapunesco.org/wp-content/uploads/Nomination-Form-MOWCAP-Regional-Register-2026.docx>

For more information please visit:

<https://www.mowcapunesco.org/call-for-nominations-for-the-mowcap-regional-register-2026-cycle-now-open/>