

# **Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UNESCO “Memory of the World” Program (MOWLAC)**

## **MEMORY 2020**

## **CONTENTS**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **2.- COVID 19**

2.1 "Turning the threat of COVID-19 into an opportunity for greater support to documentary heritage".

#### **3.- Observatory on the implementation of UNESCO's Recommendation on Documentary Heritage (2015).**

3.1 Meeting. Survey on the documentary and digital heritage incorporated into the MoWLAC -UNESCO Registry. September 17, 2020.

3.2 Survey on the current situation of Documentary Heritage incorporated into the MOWLAC-UNESCO Registry.

#### **4.- PARTICIPATION IN VIRTUAL SEMINARS**

4.1 Online meeting "Documentary heritage, memory and digital access in crisis contexts" (June 12, 2020).

4.2 II Seminar on Archives, Human Rights, Historical Memory and Transparency (July 27 to 31, 2020).

4.3 Virtual meeting: "Applications to the Memory of the World" (August 24, 2020).

4.4 "Access to information and protection of documentary heritage in times of crisis" (September 30, 2020).

4.5 International Forum "Heritage collections: preservation and digital services" (November 5 and 6, 2020)

#### **5.- WEBSITE and SOCIAL NETWORKS**

#### **6.- DECLARATIONS**

6.1 Situation of the Brazilian Cinematheque

## **7.- PUBLICATIONS**

7.1 Book on the Regional Register of Latin America and the Caribbean of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program.

7.2 Opinion articles on the UNESCO Montevideo website

7.2.1 “What comes first: access or conservation?”, By Lygia Guimaraes.

7.2.2 “Information and documentary heritage in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic”, by César Guerrero Arellano.

## **8.- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

At the beginning of 2020 we analyzed the objectives arising from the debates, proposals and conclusions set out in the [Letter of the City of La Paz, signed](#) on September 13, 2019, by the Vice President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, representatives of the National Committees of Memory of the World and National Commissions in Latin America and the Caribbean, and members of MOWLAC and MOWCAP at the end of the Regional Meeting on the Memory of the World Program for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in the City of La Paz, Bolivia.

In that sense, this report outlines our response to the commitments made during our meeting in La Paz within the framework of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Without a doubt, COVID-19 has placed serious barriers to our work schedule, established for 2020 but we have developed a range of activities, committed to always contributing to strengthening the memory of the world programme in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **2. COVID 19**

### **2.1 "Turning the threat of COVID-19 into an opportunity for greater support to documentary heritage"**

From MOWLAC we endorsed the statement issued by the UNESCO Paris Secretariat "Turning the threat of COVID-19 into an opportunity for greater support to documentary heritage"

This rapid response to the pandemic made possible to build bridges of dialogue with the institutions of the region and to implement actions in accordance with the MOW proposal, making it possible to move forward with proactive and purposeful proposals for memory institutions.

Impact of the UNESCO declaration on COVID on public policies. In the case of Argentina, some Memory Institutions implemented its proposals, as it can be read at a press note of the Argentinian newspaper “Página 12”:



## **OBSERVATORY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNESCO'S RECOMMENDATION ON DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE (2015)**

MoWLAC has proposed the development of an Observatory on documentary and digital heritage. The observatory will include an App and it will be a space that will allow for efficient organization and administration of information; training and debate spaces; an alert button that will allow us to know the situation of the heritage in the face of a disaster.

We are waiting for financing for the project.

The MoWLAC Observatory on Documentary and Digital Heritage will contribute to realizing the 2015 Recommendation.

### 3.1 MEETING

*Topic: Survey on documentary and digital heritage incorporated into the MoWLAC-UNESCO registry*

September 17, 2020.

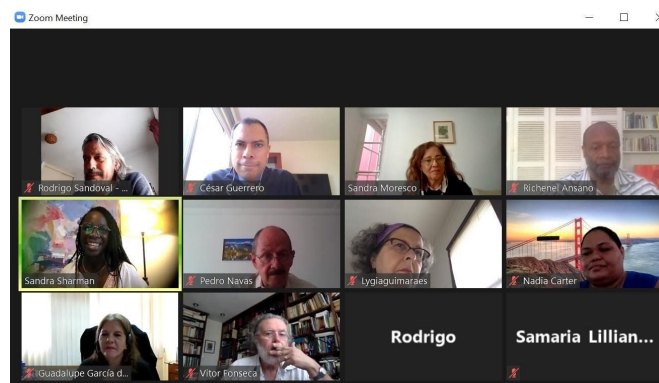
With welcome remarks by Lidia Brito, Director and the presence of Sandra Sharman representing the UNESCO Regional Office for Sciences for Latin America and the Caribbean in Montevideo, the MOWLAC held a virtual meeting with the presence of all its members and advisers in order to promote “a new strategy”, according to the following program:

#### Resolution issues:

1. Presentation of the survey and approval of its content.
2. Strategy and organization for the implementation of the Survey on the current situation of documentary heritage incorporated into the MOWLAC-UNESCO Registry

#### Informational issues:

1. Website: <http://mowlac.org>
2. MOWLAC book



Based on this meeting, MOWLAC approved the content of the Survey on the current situation of documentary heritage incorporated into the MOWLAC-UNESCO Registry and the strategy to collect the responses to it.

Later, meetings were held with smaller groups in order to meet the needs of each country.

### **3.2 SURVEY ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE INCORPORATED TO THE MOWLAC-UNESCO REGISTER**

Twenty-years following the first meeting of UNESCO's Memory of the World Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, MoWLAC developed and approved a [bilingual online form](#) to collect the responses to the Survey on the status of Documentary Heritage incorporated into the MoWLAC Registry - UNESCO.

The objective of the survey is to understand the current situation of the heritage incorporated into the Latin American and Caribbean Registry from 2000 to the present. The main items are about the current legal situation; preservation and access; risk situation and pertinent general information to know in detail the evolution of the assets included in the registry.

We believe that this will allow us to approach the responsible institutions; exchange ideas and proposals, build bridges that inspire greater commitment and solidarity. It is noteworthy, that this initiative is directly related to the commitment assumed by MoWLAC in the last meeting in the City of La Paz Bolivia, including in its objectives to meet the goals that emerged from the aforementioned meeting.

Responsible institutions can answer the survey through the following link: <http://mowlac.org/encuesta-mowlac-2020/>. To this end, up to date letters have been sent to 16 institutions in 9 countries (1. Brazil, 2. Colombia, 3. Costa Rica, 4. Ecuador, 5. El Salvador, 6. Guatemala, 7. Mexico, 8. Nicaragua and 9. Panama).

#### 4. PARTICIPATION IN VIRTUAL SEMINARS

The president of MOWLAC, Sandra Moresco, has participated in the following virtual seminars:

##### 4.1 Online meeting “Documentary heritage, memory and digital access in crisis contexts” (June 12, 2020, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Santiago, Chile time).

Convened by the Chilean National Committee for Memory of the World, within the framework of the International Archives Week. The purpose was to generate a conversation about the background, the situation and the projections of digital documentary heritage in the national and regional context.

**Patrimonio Documental, memoria y acceso digital en contextos de crisis**

**ENCUENTRO EN LÍNEA  
SEMANA INTERNACIONAL  
DE LOS ARCHIVOS**

**Viernes 12 de junio**  
10 a 12 horas

vía Facebook Live Comité MOW Chile  
#IAW2020 #PatrimonioDocumental

Comité Nacional de Chile  
Memoria del Mundo  
[www.mowchile.cl](http://www.mowchile.cl)

**Invitados:**

- Sandra Moresco, Presidenta del Comité Regional para Latinoamérica y el Caribe del Programa Memoria del Mundo UNESCO (MOWLAC)
- Roberto Aguirre, Jefe de colecciones especiales y digitales de la Biblioteca Nacional de Chile.
- Amira Arratia, Jefa del Archivo de Televisión Nacional de Chile
- Samuel Salgado, Director del Centro Nacional del Patrimonio Fotográfico de la Universidad Diego Portales.

Modera: Gabriela Andaur, Académica de la Universidad Alberto Hurtado

#IAW2020 #PatrimonioDocumental



#### 4.2 II Seminar on Archives, Human Rights, Historical Memory and Transparency (July 27 to 31, 2020).

Organized by the Directorate of Human Rights Archives of the National Center for Historical Memory (CNMH) of Colombia, the Seminar was aimed primarily at Victims, Victims' Organizations, Civil Society and Public and Private Entities that have public functions and under their credit. Files referring serious violations of Human Rights and infractions of International Humanitarian Law on the occasion of the internal armed conflict.



Professor Sandra Moresco's lecture titled "Documentary heritage on human rights incorporated into the Memory of the World Register", took place on July 30, 2020 and is available on the YouTube site of the National Center for Historical Memory (CNMH), through the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyFhnGDc7zM&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyFhnGDc7zM&feature=emb_logo)

#### 4.3 Virtual meeting: "Applications to the Memory of the World" (August 24, 2020).

Organized by the UNESCO Office in Peru with an outreach to 26,150 people (see letter at the bottom). From MoWLAC, the UNESCO Memory of the World Program was widely disseminated. In addition to the participation of Professor Sandra Moresco, president of UNESCO's Memory of the World program for Latin America and the Caribbean, the webinar included the participation of Gerardo Trillo, Director of Protection of Collections at BNP, and Rubén Robles, Historian of the UNMSM.



**bnp** biblioteca nacional del Perú

**Ciclo**

**BIBLIOTECAS DE HOY: PATRIMONIO Y COMUNIDAD**

**Postulación a Memorias del Mundo**

Lunes 24 de agosto

11:00 A.M. en vivo **LIVE**

**Participan:**

**Sandra Moresco**  
Presidenta del programa Memoria del Mundo para América Latina y el Caribe de UNESCO.

**Gerardo Trillo**  
Director de Protección de las Colecciones de la BNP.

**Ruben Robles**  
Historiador de la UNMSM.

**Modera:**

**Belén Quintana**  
Sector Comunicación e Información de UNESCO en Perú.

 **Oficina de Lima**  
Representación en Perú

 **bnp** biblioteca nacional del Perú

Nº 400/2020 Lima, 26 agosto del 2020

Señora Sandra Moresco  
Presidenta  
Programa Memoria del Mundo para América Latina y el Caribe  
Argentina

Asunto: **Agradecimiento por participación en la sesión virtual Postulación a Memoria del Mundo**  
Lima, 24 de agosto del 2020

Estimada señora Presidenta:

Tenemos el agrado de dirigirnos a usted para saludarla y, en nombre de la Representación de la UNESCO en Perú y la Biblioteca Nacional del Perú, agradecer su participación en calidad de comentarista en la sesión virtual *Postulación a Memoria del Mundo*, llevada a cabo el 24 de agosto pasado, la cual alcanzó a 26,150 personas.

Su presencia y participación resultaron significativas para este encuentro, dada la importancia de dar a conocer el programa Memoria del Mundo de la UNESCO y sus aportes para la preservación y el acceso del patrimonio documental mundial.

Deseamos aprovechar la oportunidad para hacerle llegar una mascarilla confeccionada por las y los artistas tradicionales que conforman el proyecto "Ruta del Arte Sarhuino en Chorrillos", apoyado por UNESCO Perú y la Embajada de Australia en Perú. Las mascarillas adquiridas por UNESCO Perú, contienen diseños basados en el patrimonio inmaterial de la comunidad, son reutilizables y cumplen con las recomendaciones y normativas señaladas por el Gobierno de Perú, a través del Ministerio de Salud para la protección ante la pandemia del COVID-19.

Sin otro particular, hago propicia la oportunidad para expresar a usted el testimonio de mi especial consideración.

Atentamente,

   
Ernesto Fernández Polcuch  
Representante de la  
UNESCO en el Perú

   
Eizo Neyra Magaña  
Jefe Institucional  
Biblioteca Nacional del Perú

The virtual meeting was moderated by Belén Quintana, from the UNESCO Communication and Information Sector in Peru and is available on the YouTube

site of said Office, through the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diy3Ugq17Wg&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diy3Ugq17Wg&feature=emb_logo)

4.4 "Access to information and protection of documentary heritage in times of crisis" (September 30, 2020).

Within the framework of the week of the International Day for Universal Access to Information, UNESCO Montevideo together with MoWLAC convened a space for reflection on the role that archives play in the veracity of information. A panel of experts discussed this under the moderation of Richenel Ansano, 1st Vice-President of MoWLAC-UNESCO.

The speakers were as follows:

- Sandra Moresco, President of MoWLAC-UNESCO.
- Jaime Antunez da Silva, Director of the Institute of Philosophy and Human Sciences IFCH-CCS-UERJ- Brazil.
- Lizbeth Barrientos, UNESCO Archives Expert, member MOW-UNESCO Guatemala.
- Martha Ferriol, Director of Document Management and Archives of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba.
- Gerardo Zavala Sánchez, B.A. in Librarianship and Information Sciences UANL and member of MOW-UNESCO Mexico.
- Carlos Andújar, General Director of Museums of the Ministry of Culture- Dominican Republic.



The panel is available on UNESCO Montevideo's YouTube site, through the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hO6jboQrBTs>

#### 4.5 International Forum "Heritage collections: preservation and digital services" (November 5 and 6, 2020)

Organized jointly by the National Library of Mexico and the Association of Ibero-American States for the Development of National Libraries of Ibero-America (ABINIA).

The President of MoWLAC gave the Inaugural Conference, with the title "New challenges for the preservation and digitization of heritage collections in the context of COVID-19"

The Forum consisted of four conference sessions and a discussion entitled "Preservation and digital access to heritage collections". The speakers belong to the National Libraries of Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Brazil and Spain, of the University of Guadalajara (Mexico), of the Civil Association Support for the Development of Archives and Libraries of Mexico (ADABI) and the Libraries and Archives of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico.

The conference is available on the YouTube site of the National Library of Mexico, through the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SACbie76bFQ>

## 5. WEBSITE and SOCIAL NETWORKS

As of August 17, MOWLAC has a new website: <http://mowlac.org/> This has allowed us to show our objectives, our history, disseminate activities and achieve a greater presence on the networks, with the support of the UNESCO Regional Office of Sciences for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Montevideo we were able to design a much more professional website, its structure allows the information to be better identified.



This year we have opened the Twitter account (@MOWLAC\_unesco) and the [YouTube channel](#), as part of our objectives set in Bolivia 2019.

## 6.- DECLARATIONS

### 6.1 Situation of the Brazilian Cinematheque

On October 5, 2020, MOWLAC published an Alert statement on the situation of the Cinemateca Brasileira on its website:

<http://mowlac.org/alerta-por-la-cinemateca-brasileira/>

MOWLAC made a statement its concern about the damage that could be incurred by the extraordinary heritage of a unique and historical nature that this institution

preserves, which includes the film «Límite» by Mario Peixoto deposited in the Brazilian Cinematheque, registered in 2007 in the registry of the MOWLAC.

It also made reference to the recognition that the member states made of their responsibility for the preservation of documentary heritage in the text of the "Recommendation on the preservation of documentary heritage, including digital heritage, and access to it", adopted in 2015, to the MoWLAC Registry.

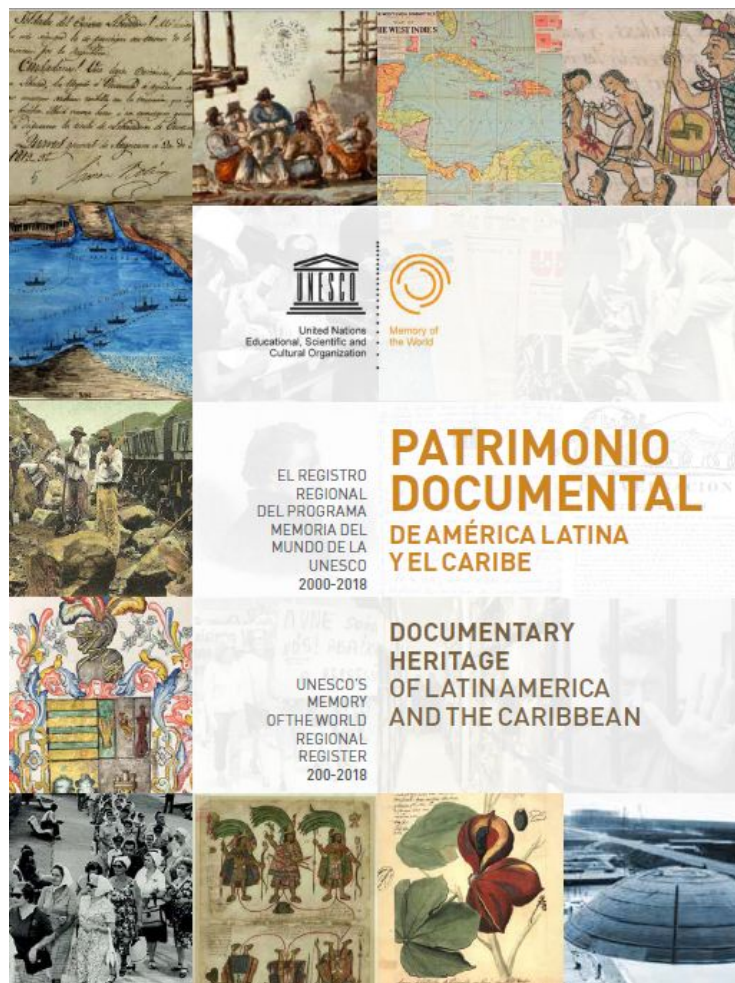
Finally, the MoWLAC requested that the Cinematheque return to the conditions that this institution, its magnificent heritage and the Brazilian, Latin American and Caribbean culture deserve.

The President of MOWLAC sent the text of the Alert to the UNESCO Secretariat. Likewise, the public expression of MOWLAC fostered the support of the UNESCO Mexico office through its networks; Also, on November 25, 2020, the Mexican Committee for Memory of the World published a similar alert statement on its Twitter account (@mexico\_memoria), alluding to what was said by MOWLAC:

## 7. PUBLICATIONS

### 7.1 Book on the Regional Register of Latin America and the Caribbean of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program.

Information on all registries was completed since 2000. The book includes forewords by UNESCO Regional Director, Lidia Brito; the 1980 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel and the President of MOWLAC, Professor Sandra Moresco. The ISBN registration stage has begun, and we are in conversation with the United Arab Emirates for its print and digital publication.





## 7.2 Opinion articles on the UNESCO Montevideo website

In the framework of the Universal Access to Information week, two members of MoWLAC contributed the following opinion articles to the content of the UNESCO Office in Montevideo website:

7.2.1 [“What comes first: access or conservation?”](#), By Lygia Guimaraes. October 1, 2020.

7.2.2 [“Information and documentary heritage in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic”](#), by César Guerrero Arellano. September 30, 2020.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

On March 1, 2020, Rosa María Fernández de Zamora received a Certificate of Honor in appreciation for her valuable work as an advisor to the UNESCO MOWLAC Committee for five years.



From Left to Right: César Guerrero Arellano, Yolia Tortolero, Rosa María Fernández de Zamora, Gerardo Zavala and Abdel Aziz Abid. Assembly Hall of the Palacio de Minería, Mexico City, March 1, 2020.



The document, which was signed during the XX Meeting of said Committee in September 2019 in La Paz, Bolivia, was delivered on behalf of MOWLAC to Dr. Fernández de Zamora by Yolia Tortolero (1st Vice President of MOWLAC from 2017 to 2019) and by César Guerrero Arellano (current MOWLAC Rapporteur, from 2019 to 2021). The above, during the tribute that the Mexican Committee for Memory of the World paid to Dr. Fernández de Zamora in the 41st Edition of the International Mining Palace Fair.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **MOWLAC President:**

Sandra Moresco (Argentina)

### **1st Vicepresident:**

Richenel Ansano (Curaçao)

### **2nd Vicepresident:**

Rodrigo Sandoval (Chile)

### **Rapporteurship:**

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Nadia Gamel-Carter (Guyana)

Lygia Guimaraes (Brazil)

Lilian Sylvester (Grenada)

### **Secretary:**

Sandra Sharman (UNESCO)

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