What is Memory Of the World (MOW)?

MOW is UNESCO's programme for safeguarding, protecting and facilitating access to and the use of documentary heritage, especially heritage that is rare and endangered.

UNESCO launched the Programme in 1992 to guard against collective amnesia by calling upon the preservation of invaluable archive holdings and library collections all over the world and ensuring their wide dissemination.

MOW Programme recognizes documentary heritage of international, regional and national significance. It facilitates preservation, and access without discrimination. It campaigns to raise awareness of the documentary heritage, to alert governments, the general public, business and commerce to preservation needs, and to raise funds.

WHY IS MOW IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

What does documentary heritage mean? More than a paper...

The past is all around us. We live our lives surrounded by a rich backdrop formed by historic buildings, documents, landscapes and other physical survivals of our past. But the historic heritage is more than just a matter of material remains. It is central to how we see ourselves and to our identity as individuals, communities and as a culture. It is a physical record of what our country is and how it came to be. Building materials and styles can define region's localities and communities. Documentary heritages can become a focus of community identity and pride. At a more local level a historic church or park can help define a neighborhood and create a sense of local cohesion.

The importance that we attach to our ‘heritage’ is growing each year, and that is why we must involve you—the young generation—in reducing the gap and bring you closer to access your local, regional and national heritage.

All these conditions can be the perfect inspiration for you. A better understanding gives you the knowledge to face up the imminent process of life and learning from the past is an enthralling and amusing process.

UNESCO’s MOW takes care about the documents which have a universal value and report something by deliberate intellectual intent (attempts to transmit knowledge or ideas in a deliberate manner).

You can find different types of documentary heritage:

- Manifestos
- Journals
- File records
- Music recordings: reels and cassettes
- Diaries
- Charting
- Manuscripts
- Films
- Archives
- Music sound archives
- Audiovisual documents
- Inscribed stones
- Correspondence
- Folk tales
- Woodblocks
- Suffrage petition
- Photographs
- Negatives

Why a young ambassador is needed?

- Because young people need to be represented in every social field.
- Because you can make your voices heard and your proposals at any level.
- Because young people is the innovation of the future, the fresh ideas and new perspectives.
- Because the heritage belongs to all of us and we must take care for the subsequent generations also can enjoy.
- Because learning from the past can be an enthralling and amusing process.