

Samoa's Country Report for the 6th General Meeting and Symposium

Quangzhou, China

13th -15th MY, 2014

Background

The Ministry of Education Sports and Culture has established the National Archives of Samoa for government records. Archives legislation, a general records retention schedule and a Code of Best Practice for public recordkeeping have been drafted. The project is already the custodian for records from the German and New Zealand Administration of Samoa. At present, government bodies are still responsible for archiving their own records. Some private and church organizations have also established their own local archives, e.g. EFKS and the Catholic Church, sometimes in connection with regional or central archives situated in another country (Marist Archives in Fiji, LMS Archives in London).

Samoa through the Ministry of Education Sports and Culture developed the Memory of the World programme under its Culture Division.

The development of the Archives was a long and hard journey, and was finally achieved a milestone.

Progress/Achievement

In 2011 Parliament endorsed the Public Records Act 2011 and was followed by the establishment of the National Archives of Samoa in 2013. The Passing of the Act and the establishment of the board is a milestone achieved which enhances and an opportunity to strengthen the development and preservation of heritage document throughout Samoa. A digitization project between the Government of Samoa and the Government of Germany was launched in 2008.

SAMOA DIGITIZATION PROJECT



However, in November 2013 the Government of Korea, UNESCO and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO invited Samoa to participate in one of their regional Memory of the world training was held in Cambodia. The participants were from member states in Asia Pacific and Africa.

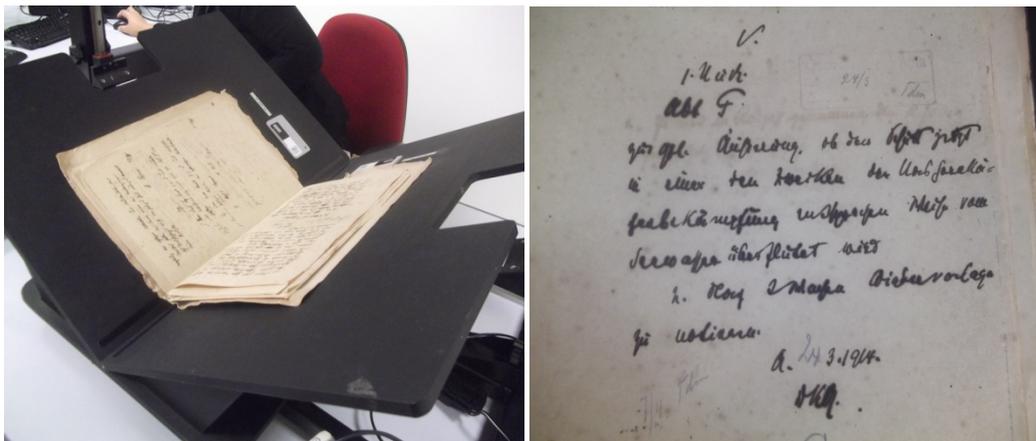
These jointly organized workshops is to help fellow member states to identify their documentary heritage and nominate it to be recognized. The workshop provide rare opportunity for participants to receive direct technical assistance from members of the MOW International Advisory Committee, allowing them to dramatically enhance their nominations for the Memory of the World International Register.

In May 2014 another invitation was received from MOWCAP for Samoa to attend their 6th General meeting in Guangzhou China. The meeting covers a general review of the latest group of inscriptions on the Asia Pacific MOW register and a symposium on the Memory of the World Registers of the world nominations.

Samoa's Nomination To the Memory of the World Programme

Samoa submitted a nomination on the Archives of German-Samoa Colonial Administration at the Workshop in Cambodia in November, 2013.

The nomination was submitted to the MOW International Advisory Committee for assessment and approval. The decision of the committee is yet to reveal.



Heritage Coordinating Committee

The Samoa's Heritage Coordinating Committee was established by the Ministry to coordinate the developments of Samoa's heritage. This committee on its next meeting on the 22th of May, 2014 will endorse a Task force for the Memory of the World programme, to implement the workplan in place for the MOW programme with the kind assistance from UNESCO and the Government of Samoa. This Task Force will report to the Heritage Coordinating Committee every month.

Wayforward

22 May 2014: Samoa Heritage Coordinating Committee Meeting (Seek endorsement of the establishment of Memory of the World Task Force)

April 2014: Decision on the inscription of the nomination file submitted by Samoa.

May-July 2014: Research for establishment on a national list

July 2014: Samoa Heritage Coordinating Committee Meeting (Progress report by the Memory of the World Task Force)

August 2014: Press Conference

Sep-Nov 2014: Development of a new nomination file.

Dec 2014: Preparation of final report and financials

