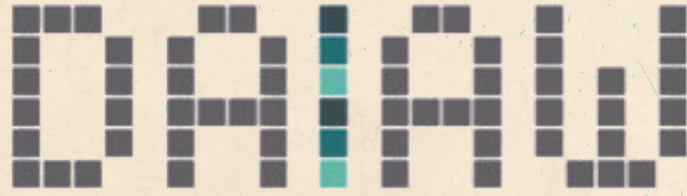




CEDEJ



DIGITAL ARCHIVING CONFERENCE IN THE ARAB WORLD

29-31 OCTOBER 2024

"He who does not know his past cannot make the best of his present and future, for it is from the past that we learn."

– *the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan*

The first-ever International Conference on Digital Archiving in the Arab World (DA|AW), held in Abu Dhabi in 2019, organized to spark off a series of conferences on the subject. Four years later, and following a global epidemic, it is time to reassemble for exploring and move ahead with the practises, experiences, and challenges of digital archiving in the Arab World. The inaugural colloquium/conference examined the issues of data preservation in the Arab world and eventually resulted in a publication release that continues to serve as a reference for researching the subject today (Bayoumi & Oliveau, 2020). At DAAW|2024, we aspire to address it through the more focused standpoint of the digital management and preservation of data and documents, without foregoing a broader reflection, concerning both historical and future documents and data in danger whether physical or natively digital.

Hereby, CEDEJ (centre d'études et de documentation économiques juridiques et sociales) has joined forces with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the UAE National Archives, and the University of Sorbonne Abu Dhabi to organize a second conference in Abu Dhabi from 29th till 31st October, 2024.

The conference aims to showcase the richness of Arab content and the significance of digital archiving. At a time when global digitalization is transcending all barriers, the sources of scholarships and culture cannot be bound to books, while much historical and fresh knowledge is undeniably lost. It also restricts the ability to generate new information and synthesize new pedagogies. Similarly, digital archiving contributes to the preservation of the region's identity, knowledge, and heritage by prolonging their lifespan. Besides conservation, digital archives enable broader access to their content by utilizing the power of digital technology.

The principal objective of DAAW|2024 is to bring together scholars and practitioners for discussions about archiving challenges in the Arab world, hence no discipline or approach is proposed. The questions are broad, and all possible responses are appreciated. Yet, for the purpose of orient submissions, a number of preferred themes are detailed below:



TOPICS TO CONSIDER

Preserving The Past | Heritage at risk

"Preserving heritage ensures that future generations have knowledge of their history, identity, and connections to the past."

– Iraqi poet and writer, Ahmed Rami

Historic preservation is a dialogue with the past concerning our future. This enables us to question "What is important in our history?" and "What parts of our past can we preserve for the future?" We look at history from fresh perspectives, ask further inquiries of the past, and gain new insights about ourselves. Historic preservation is an essential means of passing on our knowledge of the past to empower future generations.

On the other hand, The value of historical knowledge, whether in the form of documents, books, or buildings in the Arab world is challenged. Not only by the effects of time, but also by neglect, poor storage conditions, and armed conflicts, which cause the deterioration of media and devastation of documents and buildings. Therefore, digital archiving represents an urgent solution to preserve history for future generations. Several initiatives have been launched in the region to preserve, document, digitize archives, and even virtualize tours for historical buildings. The stakes are high, as seen by the most recent disappearance, as was the case in Palmyra. This call aspires to investigate the constraints, challenges, and status quo of manuscripts, rare books, buildings or any man-made structure that has some historical value or significance under threat of demolition in the Arab world.



Methods, technologies, standards and tools

"Preserving digital heritage requires the use of the latest technologies and modern tools, as well as the adoption of effective standards and methods for preserving and safeguarding electronic documents and materials for future generations."

- Jordanian historian and archivist,
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khasawneh

Preservation and dissemination are inextricably intertwined. It is critical to provide digital preservation procedures that allow digital materials to be replicable, findable, and mobilizable. In recent times, the need for shared archiving and open standards has been asserted. The relevance of archiving and cataloging systems has been highlighted by digital archiving, which has dramatically enhanced the speed and volume of preserved objects. All technological components and tools created or developed for digital archiving will be given special attention since they represent dimensions that tend to be neglected.



Preservation and access| the role of institutions

"Institutions responsible for preserving cultural heritage play a vital role in safeguarding our cultural and historical legacy and making it accessible to all members of society."

- Syrian archaeologist and historian,
Dr. Michel Al-Maqdissi

Even though technology is critical in digital archiving, the role of institutions is paramount. First of all, they are the ones who ensure the permanence of infrastructures enabling digital preservation and who often organize the collection of documents and organize access to the document. The archivists are in charge of archiving, but there are also other institutions working on preservation and digital dissemination, including libraries and research centers. We expect communications that present archival achievements, detailed functioning of their work, with an emphasis on the issues raised and the problems they encounter. Finally, communications questioning the role and functioning of these institutions are welcomed.

4

Big Data

"Big data represents a new opportunity for preserving and documenting digital heritage, and provides opportunities for extracting valuable information in multiple fields."

- Palestinian-American scholar, Nabeel Abraham

Compression and expansion of multidimensional data requires analysis and sorting strategies, especially with complex Arabic language support (translated or in Arabic). The growing plurality of sources complicates the management of traditional data processing mechanisms. The Arab world faces universal and specific challenges in the management and analysis of "Big Data" given the uniqueness of the content and all its characteristics. These issues are in fact similar to those of safeguarding statistical data, and in particular surveys produced by public statistics or researchers. It would be enriching to present, in the next conference, the role of "Big Data" techniques and advancements in making digital archives more efficient and encapsulating.

5

Archiving the present| Natively digital objects

"Preserving original digital objects requires adopting different methods and tools to preserve them permanently."

-Lebanese historian and archivist, Abbas Beydoun

Along with Big Data, issues concerning emerging data types must be investigated. The immense range of objects that are now natively digital with no physical medium replicates their digital origin raising the question of "digital preservation". The examples are countless, and the most evident ones include daily objects, such as sounds and images. How should they be archived, particularly when dealing with private-sector objects? How reliant are we upon third-party actors (private online service providers)? From another perspective, the «Wayback Machine» project (Nesbeitt; 2002) is archiving the web. How is the Arabic-speaking sphere represented?



Blockchain

"Blockchain is a modern concept that offers great opportunities for preserving digital heritage and establishing the necessary foundations for securely and effectively preserving information."

**- Emirati entrepreneur and author,
Omar Bin Sultan Al Olama**

Media trends around cryptocurrency and cryptomining have made quite the publicity for a sufficiently advanced and complex technology. In fact, blockchain technology has a revolutionary impact, utilizing mathematically advanced cryptography techniques, in dissolving the need for a compromise between privacy of information and auditability. It, additionally, provides inherently-decentralized methods for establishing credibility of data, rendering it nearly impossible to alter, without compromising access. This comes at a heavy computational and environmental price nevertheless. All ideas and insights on how to capitalize on such a technology are encouraged to apply. Protecting the privacy of personal information, security and credibility of data against destruction or tampering, and awareness about the significant carbon footprint are mere examples of the plethora of topics that affect digital archives. Get creative and the sky's the limit!



Personal Digital Archives (PDA) into context.

"Personal digital archives represent a cultural legacy for future generations, as they help us preserve the digital heritage that we create ourselves and reflects our history and identity."

**- Jordanian librarian and archivist,
Dr. Sawsan Jayousi**

It ends with some observations about how PDA, which has grown out of the aforementioned areas of focus, may be signaling changes in the information professions, with particular emphasis on archival outreach, interdisciplinary collaboration, and conceptions of objectivity in the archives.

- Privacy of personal information.
- Data archival & processing resource optimization.
- The importance of each and every individual and their story
- Individual data archiving for personal use rather than broader application
- Differences in practices and methods between professional and personal archival



Archives and Arts Digitization

"Digital archives are a modern way of preserving artistic and cultural heritage, facilitating its rediscovery, documentation, and dissemination."

— Egyptian writer and historian, Gamal Al-Ghitani

Arts are also a cultural engine in society's cultural development. It might be a reflection of a country's historical progress. As a result, art activities play an essential role in historical evolution. The issue is that there are few people who specialize in art history research. There are also few people that recognize the significance of arts archiving. Art institutions, artists, scholars, and art enthusiasts hold a large amount of picture and video data. However, the majority of them have not been adequately stored or digitized. Indeed, arts preservation and digitization have become a significant possibility for art history study. When art is properly archived and digitized, it becomes an accurate source of literacy to help art history study. The rapid advancement of technology and the rise of artificial intelligence provide a chance to improve creative literacy. In light of this, we encourage exploring the realm of art, especially in the Arab world while linking best practices, tools, technologies of digitizing a variety of historical art objects.

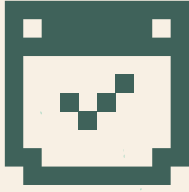


Archiving & sustainability

"Sustainability means preserving everything that can be relied upon to preserve our cultural and historical legacy."

— Algerian writer and environmentalist, Malek Alloula

As we strive towards sustainable digital preservation, it is important to explore innovative solutions and establish best practices in the field. We invite researchers, practitioners, and experts from all backgrounds to submit abstracts on their latest research and practical advancements in sustainable digital preservation. This is an opportunity to share insights, gain new perspectives, and contribute to the growth of our collective knowledge in this critical area. With your contributions, we can create a more sustainable future for digital preservation while ensuring long-term access and use of valuable cultural heritage and research materials. Let us work together towards a more sustainable future for digital preservation by submitting your abstracts today.



DATES TO REMEMBER

18 FEBRUARY 2024



- Deadline for ABSTRACT & APPLICATION FORM SUBMISSIONS

31 MARCH 2024



- Expected Response from Committee.

30 SEPTEMBER 2024



- Paper Submissions.

29–31 OCTOBER 2024



- DAAW CONFERENCE

THE SECOND QUARTER 2025



- Publication Release - Best Proposals will be selected for the Special issue of ESMA magazine on digital archives worldwide.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINE

TEMPLATE

Kindly, **DOWNLOAD** TEMPLATE FOR GUIDANCE & USE

FILL PPLICATION FORM

Fill & Upload your Abstract using Application Form

ABSTRACT SHOULD BE

LANGUAGE

- Should be written in English

NUMBER OF WORDS

- 10-15 Lines

FONT FORMAT AND SIZE

- Times New Roman, 12pt

KEYWORDS

- Include 5 to 7 keywords.

AUTHOR FORMAT

- Title, Author(s) and affiliation(s), Internet address of the author(s) and emails