Hosted by the National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with the National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS), the Trinidad and Tobago Memory of the World Committee and support by the Communication and Information advisor from UNESCO’s Regional Office for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean, the 13th Meeting of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Memory of the World Program (MOWLAC) was held in Port of Spain, 24 - 26 October 2011. Participants were Vítor Manoel Marques da Fonseca (Brazil), President; Sergio López-Ruelas (Mexico), Second Vice President; José Bernal Rivas-Fernández (Costa Rica), Rapporteur; Guilherme Canela Godoi, (UNESCO), Secretary; Alicia Casas de Barrán (Uruguay), Myriam Mejía-Echeverri (Colombia), María Victoria O’Flaherty (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Joan Osborne (Trinidad and Tobago), Josef Dager-Alba (Peru); special guests and former members Lourdes Blanco de Arroyo (Venezuela) and Rosa María Fernández de Zamora (Mexico). In the Inauguration by the Secretariat of the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO, Kris Rampersad; Executive Director of NALIS, Lucia Phillip; MOWLAC President, Vítor Manoel Marques da Fonseca; UNESCO Regional Adviser, Guilherme Canela Godoi; and Dr. Tim Gopeesingh, Minister of Education and President of the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO, speakers discussed the importance of the Memory of the World Program for the region.

Work Agenda

1. Agenda Approval
2. Review of agreements from the previous meeting (Montevideo)
4. Presentation and discussion of new nominations.
   a) Colombia: Mariano Ospina-Rodríguez Fond by José Bernal and María Victoria.
   b) Colombia: Documentary Collection by Radio Sutatenza and Acción Cultural Popular (ACPO) by Josef and Joan.
   c) Brazil: Atlas and map by cartographer Miguel Antônio Ciera, by Sergio and Winsome.
   e) Brazil: Committee to Defend Human Rights in Southern Cone Countries Fond (CLAMOR) by Alicia and María Victoria.
   f) Dominican Republic: In Apostolatus Culmine Bull by Myriam and Winsome.
   g) Dominican Republic: Speech by the Director of the Santo Domingo Normal School, E. M. De Hostos, at the graduation of the Republic's first normal-school teachers (his students) in 1884, by Sergio and Maria Victoria.
h) Trinidad & Tobago: Sam Selvon Collection by Josef and Winsome.

i) Bolivia: Miniature Press from Alacita, City of La Paz, by Joan and Sergio.

j) France and Brazil: Ferdinand Denis Collection (1558-1890) by Myriam and Joan.

k) Colombia: Sound Memory of Colombia: politics and playwriting by public radio, by Vítor and Winsome.

l) Colombia: Memory in Images: Medellín Photographic Archive for Latin America and the Caribbean, by Alicia and Joan.

m) Mexico: Ernesto García-Cabral Archive by José Bernal and Maria Victoria.

5. Report on the International Memory of the World Committee Meeting of Experts.

6. UNESCO Commitment to MOWLAC and possibilities for support.

7. Role of UNESCO National Commissions in MOWLAC and mechanisms to expand their participation.

8. Human Rights in MOWLAC and strategies to reinforce their importance.

9. The Memory of the World Program in academic studies (the Lothar Jordan working group).

10. Seminar: "20 years of the Memory of the World Program: Human Rights Archives, Memory and Truth in the Southern Cone". Montevideo Charter.

11. Loriente Collection.

12. Progress with the Memory of the World Program. Peru, Brazil, Chile.

13. International Memory of the World Program – new Consultative Committee members.

14. Updating data on national committees.

15. New members for 2013 and host country.


17. Project to raise funding for MOWLAC.

1. Agenda Approval

*Resolution 1: The agenda is approved.*
Vítor welcomed participants and explained that Winsome will be unable to attend because of weather problems in Jamaica, but will send her comments on the applications she analyzed.

2. Guilherme is sure that the MOW Program’s role, led only by UNESCO, must be used strategically, backed by Member States. The idea is not just to approve applications but to reinforce the Program, especially financial, because there are positive, unique characteristics to take advantage of. He wishes an excellent meeting and, as Secretary, is ready and willing to reinforce the Program and has his own budget to reinforce national committees, publicize nominations and highlight MOWLAC as an example. Vítor mentioned the efforts to make the meeting possible despite problems, supported by Joie Springer and our colleagues in Trinidad and Tobago.

3. Review of agreements from the previous meeting (Uruguay)

Vítor recalls that the minutes were approved, and put them to vote, as they have already been sent. The minutes of this meeting will be sent by the Rapporteur for review by all, then translated and published. Myriam discusses a message for Ricardo Elizondo, mentioning his health status, stressing his optimism and his message of solidarity with MOWLAC’s work.

**RESOLUTION 2.** Ratify approval of the last minutes and approve the minutes procedure for this meeting.

**RESOLUTION 3.** Commission Myriam to draft a message on behalf of MOWLAC to send to Ricardo Elizondo, with a photograph.


a. Joan reports that Trinidad and Tobago has prepared a strategic plan establishing: mission, vision, values, strategic objectives, identifying collections of national, regional or international importance; adding that there are Finance and Communication subcommittees, a roving exposition has been done, and certificates delivered. Finally, she discusses preparation for this meeting and that the National Committee is appointed by the Government for four-year terms but that turnover in authorities poses challenges to continuity. Vítor requests a report on the status of committees in the region and Lourdes asks about marketing and promoting certain ideas, such as the conservation laboratory, Web access, etc. Joan mentions the digital library, the personnel training program and plans to digitize physical expositions, which is progressing, as with the Constantine Collection. Guilherme underscores the importance of recording good practices and exploring with Paris the possibility of publishing how to form national committees, how they should work, and locating and identifying documents to apply for the Register. Vítor stresses the importance of holding Memory of the World workshops and preparing dossiers, as Brazil has done.

b. Myriam reports on her countries: Venezuela, Peru and Ecuador, though Vítor told about Venezuela and Josef will tell about Peru. Ecuador sent the Invitation to all cultural institutions but got no replies, and the UNESCO Cooperation Commission elicited no results. In Colombia, she hoped interested persons would join in but they did not. She adds that the diplomas were delivered, and she made a list of possible candidates and sent them the Invitation. Since she is
currently on the National Culture Council, she urged them to encourage creation of the National Committee. Vítor reports that he wrote to all National Commissions but got few replies. Next year the Iberian Tradition Archives Seminar will be in Colombia, and has proposed a workshop on MOW; this is still being programmed. Myriam will visit Quito for personal reasons and will take advantage of her visit to make contacts but requires collaboration by UNESCO and MOW/LAC. Vítor discusses problems with updating the page on national committees.

c. Rosa María presents her report, along with Sergio, stressing that the Mexican Committee has been formed since 1996, has registered many collections, receives support from the UNESCO commission in Mexico, redesigned its Website, has given lectures and participated in book fairs. The Committee is made up of institutions that have collections. Sergio stresses the experience of workshops, contact with youth, and urges us to market MOW. As for Cuba, it has not been possible to establish contacts. Alicia mentions the nomination of Carlos Gardel records that has mistakenly been granted to the General Archives of Uruguay, though it is not held there, and has written Joan to fix this, but has not received any answer. Lourdes will check on this in Paris and Guilherme will do the same. Joan asks what the Register looks like – a physical book or digital? Lourdes feels that it is an obligation of MOWLAC to keep a physical register but that the lettering font is a secondary consideration. Vítor says the problem is to keep it up to date.

d. Josef reports on Peru, where the Committee has existed since 2010, with two applicants received on the Regional Register. A ceremony to deliver certificates was attended by authorities and media. This activity was tapped to announce criteria for the National and Regional Registers. A press conference was also held to announce applications, taking advantage of Vítor’s visit to the National General Archives for a lecture on MOW. When he resigned as Director of the National General Archives, and another person was appointed. UNESCO was queried about the Committee’s status, but it broke down for lack of official support, and he has no further information about how it now stands. Guilherme adds that, on an official visit to Peru, he met with the Committee, and UNESCO feels there is an official committee. Vítor says that MOW/LAC cannot make decisions about national committees. Myriam says she way suspicious about the situation, but that the regular channels must be followed, without influencing decisions in each country. Josef adds that he did not report the MOW/LAC situation only to the National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO but it clearly does not follow the guidelines, which should be re-read.

e. Maria Victoria reports that there is no committee in her country. She suggested for the History Committee to work with documentary heritage, has spoken with elementary and secondary schoolteachers about possible registrations, the history of the capital city, and buildings in Santa Catalina. She has tried to find ways to increase interest in what there is. There are limits in the region for language reasons, with many very small semi-independent island communities where she is trying to publicize MOW.

f. Alicia reports that her country’s Committee was created in 2008 but then there was dissatisfaction with the decisions made and proposals endorsed. She discussed the visit by the Director-General of UNESCO. A national commission was officially mandated, delivering certificates, incorporating other institutions to the Committee, and one document was included in the International Register the following year. Other national applicants are being worked on, such as the human rights case. As for Argentina and Paraguay, there has been no success.

g. Vítor reports that the Brazilian Committee was created in 2004, with 45 registrations concentrated in one area. The Ministry of Culture has supported workshops in five cities, which increased applications and led to 10 nominations. There was a lecture on MOW and a traveling exposition is planned. Regarding Suriname and Venezuela there have been no formal contacts.
Coordination with Lourdes has not yet led to concrete actions. He has supported international applications by Brazil and Bolivia, has been invited, along with Rosa María, to a workshop in Chile in November, and he shows the MOW/LAC Website. Lourdes comments that in Venezuela the Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO belongs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and she attempted to contact them to publicize the Invitation.

José Bernal reports that the Committee in Costa Rica has been inactive, due to a change in the Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO and it has not been possible to contact the new Executive Secretary. There has been a change in Committee membership, so it has been difficult to meet. The last activity was in 2011, a workshop on digital heritage, when a certificate was delivered to the nomination registered in MOW/LAC. He expects to resume work next year. In Central America, only the committees of Guatemala and El Salvador are active. The former was going to submit an application to the Regional Register but ran out of time, and the latter has a Website. In Honduras and Nicaragua the committees are not operating, although in the latter Margarita Vanini has been active, but for political reasons it has not been possible to activate the Committee.

Guilherme feels it is important to create committees, taking advantage of regional happenings to organize them in order to disseminate the Program. Joan mentions the problem of how to address the English- and French-speaking Caribbean. Vítor proposes for the Caribbean representatives to divide up this work and take advantage of activities that occur in order to promote the Program. Guilherme calls to mind that the UNESCO participation program funds projects.

4. Presentation and discussion of new nominations.

a) Mariano Ospina-Rodríguez Fond. José Bernal approves the application because of the value of its sources, but the coffee dimension and regional dimension are not clear. Vítor says relevance beyond Colombia is not clear. Myriam comments that it is important because of Ospina’s role in expanding coffee, which impacted the region, as did his personal and family relations with their surroundings. Maria Victoria says the regional relevance is not explicit, but it is deposited in a major university. Sergio feels its strength is digitization by Harvard. Lourdes stresses Bolivarian issues and coffee, but the application reflects the lack of a National Committee. Myriam acknowledges the lack of any paragraph justifying the regional importance. Joan agrees with Myriam. Rosa María stresses the importance of making the regional relevance evident. The vote is five in favor and three against.

Resolution 4: Registration is approved for the “Mariano Ospina-Rodríguez Fond” presented by Colombia, on the Regional Register.

b) Documentary Collection by Radio Sutatenza and Acción Cultural Popular (ACPO). Josef emphasizes the historical phenomenon of the non-formal education campaign, the form meets the criteria, but he is concerned about the regional significance. It is an example for Latin America, although it lacks support for its impact beyond Colombia. Joan says the collection is important and the introduction speaks of relating it with similar initiatives, such as in the Caribbean. The information exists but it needs to be related with experiences in the region; they need to make more explicit the relations with other radio stations to establish linkages. It is important to relate it with other recognitions by UNESCO. Vítor feels the regional impact is evident, citing the case of Brazil’s literacy work in the 1950s. Myriam stresses that it set a model
for Latin America and Africa and the importance given by UNESCO. Rosa María reiterates the importance of supporting claims.

**Resolution 5: Registration of the** “Documentary Collection by Radio Sutatenza and Acción Cultural Popular (ACPO)” **on the Regional Register is not approved, because its regional importance is not evident.**

c) Committee to Defend Human Rights of the Southern Cone Countries Fond (CLAMOR). Alicia and Maria Victoria emphasize solidarity, important for Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina. It meets the requirements, so it has regional interest, and should also be recognized internationally. Sergio stresses the impact, and the fact that the correspondence involves relations with Europe and Asia.

**Resolution 6: Registration is approved unanimously for the** “Committee to Defend Human Rights of the Southern Cone Countries Fond (CLAMOR)” **on the Regional Register and proposes for them to submit it for international registration.**

d) Speech by the Director of the Santo Domingo Normal School, E. M. De Hostos, at the graduation of the Republic’s first normal-school teachers (his students) in 1884. Sergio and Maria Victoria say that the significance is clear, but not the regional impact, only at the national level. Further, the printed version and not the original is proposed.

**Resolution 7: Registration is not approved for the** Speech by the Director of the Santo Domingo Normal School, E. M. De Hostos, at the graduation of the Republic’s first normal-school teachers (his students) in 1884 **on the Regional Register, since they must give evidence for regional importance regional and not register copies when the originals exist.**

e) Miniature Press from Alacita, City of La Paz. Joan reports that the summary does not make its uniqueness clear, or these documents’ contribution. The significance for Bolivia is clear, but not for the region. The bibliography is only local, and the translation into English is not clear. Sergio says the Spanish version is more complete, some newspapers are unique for Latin America, were catalogued as rare books, and he feels that they have local context but value because of their rarity. He recommends making the impact for the region more explicit. Myriam adds the regional importance for the history of journalism. Vítor reiterates that the presentation has problems in English and emphasizes the importance that it is a shared nomination.

**Resolution 7: Registration is approved for the** Miniature Press from Alacita, City of La Paz, **in the Regional Register.**

f) Ferdinand Denis Collection (1558-1890). Joan and Myriam discuss the collection’s significance, important for Latin American studies, preserved in France, with clear significance, given the influence it had, the issues and breadth, so they recommend it, adding that the collection is in both France and Brazil.

**Resolution 8: Registration is approved for the** “Ferdinand Denis Collection (1558-1890)” **on the Regional Register.**
g) Memory in Images: Medellín Photographic Archive for Latin America and the Caribbean. Joan and Alicia say the size, scope, and regional dimension are clear, reflecting a long period, gathering economic and social history of the region and the English is clear.

**Resolution 9: Registration is approved for** “Memory in images: Medellín Photographic Archive for Latin America and the Caribbean” **on the Regional Register.**

h) Ernesto García-Cabral Archives. José Bernal and María Victoria say that, despite the fond's importance because of its variety and his dealings with other artists, the regional dimension is not clear. Rosa María says it was recognized on the National Register, but gives no examples of the projection beyond Mexico, although they exist.

**Resolution 10: Registration is not approved for the** Ernesto García-Cabral Archives **on the Regional Register is not approved, because no evidence is given of its regional importance.**

i) Atlas and map by cartographer Miguel Antônio Ciera. Sergio says these are two documents with different dates, showing geographical delimitations. They are original, historical referents with different representations. This is very transcendent. The map has been restored. He feels the proposal is very good for the Americas and a primary source in the cartographic age of Latin America. Winsome has also approved this submission.

**Resolution 11: Registration is approved for the** “Atlas and map by cartographer Miguel Antônio Ciera” **on the Regional Register.**

j) 50 Indigenous Music and Dance Gatherings. Vítor analyzes the photos, recordings of indigenous groups, evidencing culture, with regional significance although it is not explicit, but Winsome favors approval. Josef feels that the submission should argue for the importance of the regional dimension.

**Resolution 12: Registration is unanimously approved for** 50 Indigenous Music and Dance Gatherings **on the Regional Register.**

k) In Apostolatus Culmine Bull. Myriam comments that the original document creating the first University in the Americas has disappeared and only copies exist; it does not contain explicit historical referents, and its originality has been questioned. Vítor feels that the document submitted is outside Latin America and since there is a copy in Santo Domingo they should have at least been submitted jointly. Winsome also does not approve of this submission.

**Resolution 13: Registration is not approved for the Regional Register is not approved, because no evidence is given of its regional importance.**

l) Sam Selvon Collection. Winsome has approved this submission. Josef says he does not know the author or his regional role. The proposal is very well presented. He is concerned that the manuscripts of his works are not specified, or the geographical extension or regional support. Its importance lies in going beyond the national context and that of uprooting. Vítor finds that the form in Spanish does not show the regional significance. Joan stresses that the writer is a pillar of literature; adding that Selvon has spread through the Caribbean and in the United States, related with Cuba and the French-speaking islands.

**Resolution 14: Registration is approved for the** Sam Selvon Collection **on the Regional Register but point 5.2 must be added in the Spanish version.**
Sound Memory of Colombia: politics and playwriting by public radio. Winsome does not support this submission. Vitor comments that this is a large collection of radio plays, presidential speeches, etc. He feels it is of national interest but has no regional dimension, and some dates are contradictory. Myriam says that importance for the region is not explained, but is clear as a means of social communication as a public culture-disseminating entity.

Resolution 15: Registration is not approved for the Regional Register is not approved, because no evidence is given of its regional importance.

Vitor reports that the presence of applicant countries’ representatives will be used to deliver certificates for approved submissions.

5. Loriente Collection. Alicia reports that the collection was never in the National General Archives, there is no public access, it is not in good condition, it is used by its owners for marketing and she is concerned that the Archives appear in the International Register as its caretaker. Therefore, it should be clarified that, although submitted by the director of the National General Archives at the time, the collection is not held by the Archives. Guilherme feels it is important to provide access, so this situation should be clarified to the Secretariat of the Program. Lourdes proposes to take action, so Guilherme will send Alicia’s report to Paris, to the Uruguayan Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, with a copy to MOW/LAC.

6. Report on the Meeting of Experts of the International Memory of the World Committee (8-10 May 2012, Warsaw, Poland) on the Program’s 20th anniversary, where it was proposed to change from a program to a recommendation. There was worldwide representation, with Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Chile and Brazil from Latin America. There were discussions about the role of national committees (regional committees were not the issue). Vitor discusses the role played by Ray Edmonson, helping inclusion of a paragraph in the declaration on regional committees. He says UNESCO has no idea of the role of regional committees in the Program. Guilherme says that this is grounded in a comparison with other mechanisms that have no regional committees, so it is necessary to defend the role of MOW/LAC for the Director-General, explaining the reason for its existence, given current budgetary problems. José Bernal says that he was invited as a result of a questionnaire sent to the national committees. Vitor stresses the strengthening of relations with other countries, and the outlook became clearer by meeting Joie Springer. Rosa Maria says that the problem is the status of the Program, which is un-funded. Joan favors participation by MOWLAC because there are not only national committees. Lourdes proposes to strengthen the guidelines, clarifying the role of MOW/LAC. There is agreement on making a document jointly with Edmonson and his Regional Committee. José Bernal proposes to involve persons who have been working with MOWLAC since its origin. Guilherme advocates doing this now, to be ready for the 2013 UNESCO Assembly. Rosa María says it is necessary to distinguish between a Convention and a Resolution, the difference lying in sanctions and the entity responsible.

Resolution 16: Commission Lourdes and Joan to prepare the document to send to the Secretariat-General of UNESCO, with a copy for Joie Springer, for Guilherme Godoi, for the President of GRULAC and for the coordinator of the English-speaking group, about the importance and role of MOWLAC.

7. UNESCO Commitment to MOWLAC and possibilities for support. Myriam and José Bernal worked on this proposal, and the following actions were approved:
a- Regarding UNESCO Internationally:

- Greater visibility for the MOW Program, in UNESCO’s Area of Communication.
- Send a report on meetings to the Assistant Director General of UNESCO with a copy for Joie.
- Request logistical support.
- Update information on national committees.
- Recognize National Commissions for Cooperation as MOW promoters.

b- Regarding UNESCO Regionally:

- Support from the MOWLAC Secretariat for fund raising. Send members’ Curriculums Vitaes.
- Backstop National Commissions for Cooperation, in their function as promoters for formation and consolidation of national MOW committees.
- Supply information about issues of interest to MOWLAC.
- Disseminate, through the UNESCO Press Office in Uruguay, a journalistic article in Spanish, English and Portuguese about MOW.

c- Regarding MOWLAC:

- Support by the UNESCO Secretariat for MOWLAC.
- Review of the Invitation for submissions for the Regional Register. Vítor will do this.
- Formation of the Register Sub-Committee to assess applications. Maria Victoria and Sergio will do this.
- Take advantage of regional activities to publicize the Program.
- Identify, compile and disseminate successful experiences by national committees.
- Update information on national committees.

d - Regarding National Commissions for Cooperation with Unesco

- Recognition of their role in forming and consolidating national committees and liaising between them and the Program.
- Publicize the work of national committees and the Regional Committee in the media.

e - Regarding national MOW committees

- Raise funds from the UNESCO Participation Program.
- Hold workshops and give lectures about the Program.
- Publicize the documents, documentary fonds and collections on the Regional and International Register.
- Supply information about changes in MOWLAC.

8. Human Rights in MOWLAC and strategies to reinforce their importance. Myriam says this is a sensitive issue, so the importance of protecting human rights must be emphasized. All agree.
9. The Memory of the World Program in academic studies (the Lothar Jordan working group). Lourdes gave a presentation on how to bring the issue of the Memory of the World before the academic world, how to bring together the literature and where it is located, which has been done with a Mexican archivist. The idea is to set up a university chair. Rosa María adds her experience about creating awareness of the MOW’s importance among children.

10. Seminar: “20 years of the Memory of the World Program: Human Rights Archives, Memory and Truth in the Southern Cone” and the Montevideo charter. Guilherme reports on the declaration of Uruguay, involving the Director-General, whose speech is valuable because of its regional dimension. He adds that this issue of the right to memory is increasingly close to the agenda of different agencies and various countries of the region, particularly progress in policies for access to public information. Accordingly, it could be worthwhile to work more closely with the Inter-American (OAS) Human Rights System.

13. Progress with the Memory of the World Program. Peru, Brazil, Chile. Vítor reports on a lecture given in Peru last February and workshops on the Program in Brazil. Rosa María recalls that in December she and Vítor will take part in a workshop held by the Chilean Committee.

15. New members of the international and regional Consultative Committee. Vítor reports that his name was proposed for MOW International and that next year five members of MOWLAC will end their terms. The process will be to identify persons, from countries different than the current ones, adding that Joie complained that not all countries are represented, but there are budget constraints. Joan says it is important to consider responsibilities for backstopping activities. Further, Joie and Guilherme have lent their support for this meeting, with support from different entities in Trinidad and Tobago, so they should all be thanked. Finally, the change must be made through consultation on the basis of a profile, and national committees can nominate candidates, as well as regional representation bodies. Vítor mentions that the members of MOWLAC can also make suggestions and a replacement must be found for Winsome, who has stated that she will be unable to remain on the Consultative Committee, so Joan and María Victoria were consulted on this situation and the latter agreed to accept this position.

Resolution 17: Appoint María Victoria, as First Vice President, in succession to Winsome.

15. Host country. Vítor says there is an offer from Peru to host the meeting next year. The proposal was approved.

Resolution 18: Commission Guilherme and Vítor to write to the Peruvian Committee to confirm the invitation and convey MOW acceptance.

16. 2013 Invitation for submissions – process and data for application. Vítor brings up the proposal to change the Register Sub-Committee and the need for a timetable for Vice Presidents to review the presentations, but problems must be overcome regarding communications and defining each person’s role. Sergio mentions that he and Winsome had worked on a format to analyze proposals, to later send around the necessary clarifications for all.

17. Project to raise funding for MOWLAC. Guilherme sees a promising future for the Regional Committee but resources are lacking, so he has prepared a draft project he will send all members. The tangible, concrete outputs such as training, distance education (workshops),
digitization of recognized documents by themes (such as human rights, slave routes, etc.). Vítor feels that the proposal should provide resources to organize meetings, funding travel, etc. Joan mentions the need to think about budget requirements for several activities.

At 1:00 p.m. on Friday, 26 October 2013, the meeting is adjourned.