

Documentary Heritage Work at the National Archives of Thailand in Digital Age

Puthita Khambunlue
Archivist, National Archives of Thailand

ABSTRACT

The National Archives of Thailand (NAT) has been a member of Thai National Committee on the Memory of the World Programme of UNESCO under Thai National Commission for UNESCO since 2002. As a member and secretary of Thai MOW Committee, NAT's responsibilities include survey, select and nominate selected documentary heritage as Memory of the World, organize activities for raising awareness about the significance of documentary heritage, the need for preservation, and to facilitate extensive accessibility of documentary heritage. Moreover, NAT maintains close contact with the owners of documentary heritage to ensure a continuous update on the status of our esteemed Memory of the World register.

In digital age, information technology has become an invaluable asset for documentary heritage work at NAT. This significance was apparent during the extensive period of COVID-19 when physical activities were severely limited, and virtual activity took a significant leap forward. We initiate network with documentary heritage's owners in local areas via LINE OpenChat, which is free and highly used social media among Thais. Also, web portal is our newest channel created in 2021 for facilitating accessibility of documentary heritage. Thai MOW database, system for nominated documentary heritage and bilingual video (Thai-English) for Thai MOW are included in the portal which is available here: www.nat.go.th/mow. Although on-site activities have been resumed, NAT will keep our MOW web portal up-to-date and more engage in virtual environment in order to involve with the younger generation of documentary heritage's owners.

Keyword: Web Portal, Documentary Heritage, Memory of the World, MOW