Digitizing our shared UNESCO history
Project of UNESCO Archives

In its on-site laboratory, UNESCO Archives is now digitizing:

770,000 pages of archives of the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation (1925-1946), the precursor of UNESCO. The Institute's archives constitute a precious source of knowledge on international cooperation by major intellectual figures between the two world wars, including Albert Einstein, Marie Curie, Masaharu Anesaki, Gabriella Mistral, Taha Hussein, Rabindranath Tagore, and Thomas Mann among others. The Institute’s archives were inscribed into the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2017.

560,000 pages of UNESCO General Conference and Executive Board documents from the late 1940s and 1950s that currently exist only on paper, creating for the first time a complete set of online governing bodies documents about UNESCO’s work since its creation, consultable by everyone.

8000 hours of sound recordings, including UNESCO Radio reports, a hidden treasure, and other unique programmes, interviews and recordings from the late 1940s to 1980s. Covering the major fields of UNESCO’s activities, the recordings were translated into many languages and broadcast to the World: “Peoples speaking to Peoples”.
5000 photos demonstrating the wealth and breadth of UNESCO’s activities from 1945 to the present. Exceptional photos documenting watershed UNESCO moments like the Campaign to Safeguard the City of Venice and the Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia will be available online for the first time. Browse by themes like fundamental education, youth, journalism, space exploration, oceanography and others reflecting UNESCO’s institutional memory.

45 hours of 16mm film soon to be rediscovered, covering a wide range of UNESCO activities, including such titles as That All May Learn (1949), You and Human Rights (1950), The Treasures of Nubia (1960) and The Sun of the Earth (1971).

30 hours of video programmes from the 1980s which, currently only on obsolete video carriers, would soon become impossible to consult unless digitized. Titles soon to be online include Violins of Peace, Only One Earth, People of the Desert, and UNESCO World Public News.

If you wish to know more or to contribute to this project, please contact: archives@unesco.org