

Safeguarding documentary heritage - the Polish Memory of the World

**IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC)
2017, Wrocław, Poland.
Safeguarding Our Heritage for the Future – UNESCO Open
Session
Monday, 21st of August 2017**

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- **Communicaton, global processes**
- **Global awareness**
- **Global memory: „memory of the world”**
- **History as evidence and methodology based reflection**

→ **Documentary heritage**

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Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage including in digital form

37th session of UNESCO General Conference

Paris, 17 November 2015

For the purposes of this Recommendation, a **document** is an object comprising analogue or digital informational content and the carrier on which it resides. It is preservable and usually moveable. The content may comprise signs or codes (such as text), images (still or moving) and sounds, which can be copied or migrated. The carrier may have important aesthetic, cultural or technical qualities. The relationship between content and carrier may range from incidental to integral.

Documentary heritage comprises those single documents – or groups of documents – of significant and enduring value to a community, a culture, a country or to humanity generally, and whose deterioration or loss would be a harmful impoverishment. Significance of this heritage may become clear only with the passage of time. The world's documentary heritage is of global importance and responsibility to all, and should be fully preserved and protected for all, with due respect to and recognition of cultural mores and practicalities. It should be permanently accessible and re-usable by all without hindrance. It provides the means for understanding social, political, collective as well as personal history. It can help to underpin good governance and sustainable development. For each State, its documentary heritage reflects its memory and identity, and thus contributes to determine its place in the global community.

Memory institutions may include but are not limited to archives, libraries, museums and other educational, cultural and research organizations.

(Website: http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=49358&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

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Polish heritage on the MoW international Register:

- **Archives of the Literary Institute in Paris (1946-2000) (Association Institut Littéraire 'Kultura')**
- **Archive of Warsaw Reconstruction Office**
- **Codex Suprasliensis – Mineia četia, Mart (The Supraśl Codex – Menology, March)**
- **Collections of the 19th century of the Polish Historical and Literary Society / Polish Library in Paris / Adam Mickiewicz Museum**
- **Files and library of the Unity of the Brethren**
- **National Education Commission Archives**
- **Nicolaus Copernicus' masterpiece "De revolutionibus libri sex"**
- **Peace treaties (ahdnames) concluded from the mid-15th century to late-18th century between the Kingdom (or Republic) of Poland and the Ottoman Empire**
- **Radzwill's Archives and Niasvizh (Nieśwież) Library Collection**
- **The Book of Henryków**
- **The Confederation of Warsaw of 28th of January 1573: Religious tolerance guaranteed**
- **The Masterpieces of Fryderyk Chopin**
- **Twenty-One Demands, Gdańsk, August 1980. The birth of the SOLIDARITY trades union – a massive social movement**
- **Warsaw Ghetto Archives (Emanuel Ringelblum Archives)**

(Website: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/memory-of-the-world/register/access-by-region-and-country/pl/>)

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Document of the Confederation of Warsaw of 1573

(Central Archive of Historical Records, AGAD, Warsaw; photo: AGAD; website: Wikimedia:
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Konfederacja_Warszawska.jpg?uselang=pl)



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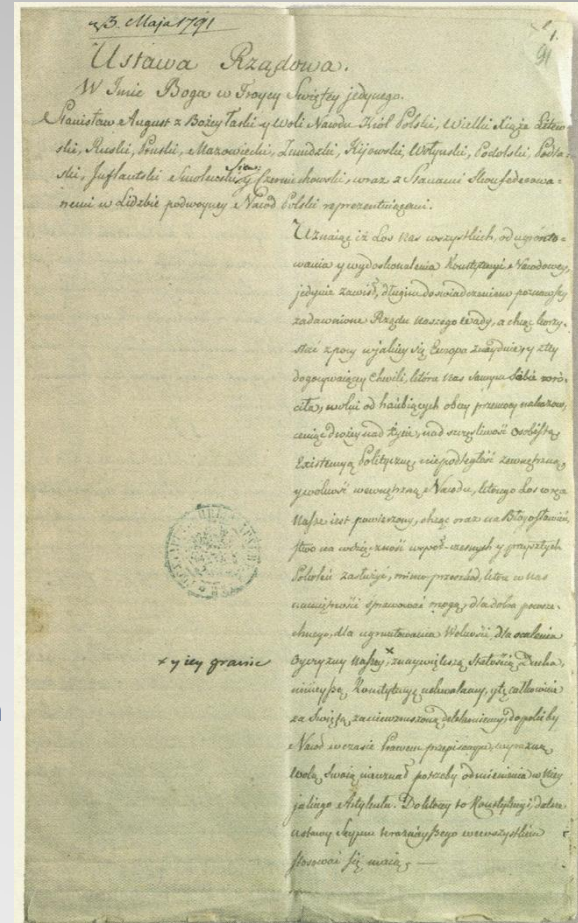
Constitution of the 3rd May 1791

(first page of the manuscript from the Four Year Sejm files, AGAD; photo: AGAD; Wikimedia website: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e1/Konstytucja_3_maja_rekopis_3.jpg?uselang=pl)



Kazimierz Wojniakowski (1806), Passing of the 3rd of May Constitution (deposit at the National Museum in Warsaw, photo MNW; Wikimedia: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wojniakowski_Passing_of_the_3rd_of_May_Constitution.png?uselang=pl)

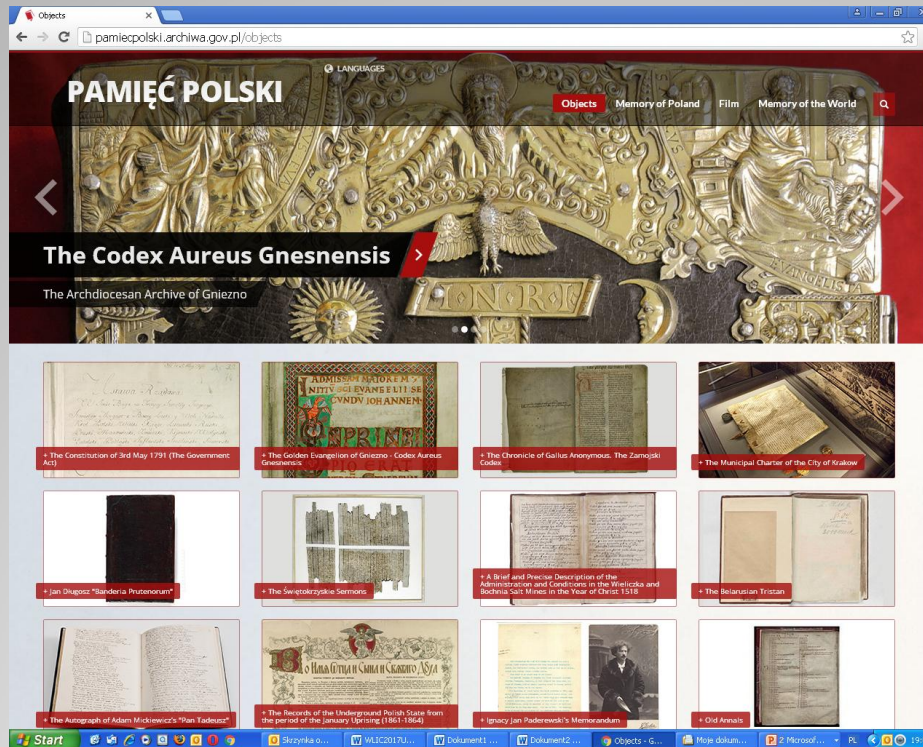
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Polish National Register: 22 items, since 2014

- Information materials available at:

<http://pamiecpolski.archiwa.gov.pl/memory-of-poland>



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Advantages from the MoW Programme:

- Impact on general awareness (including the decision makers)
- Impact on collective memory (or memories) and reflection upon memory and documentary heritage
- Forum of professional exchanges and cooperation on best practices and standards: the work over the 2015 Recommendation (and its result) - a valuable example in this respect; MoW International Conferences and such meetings as Vancouver conference on digital heritage ("The Memory of the World in the Digital Age: Digitization and Preservation") in 2012; PERSIST as a promising initiative.

The 2015 Recommendation on documentary heritage - major guideline for further cooperation within the MoW Programme

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Thank you Dziękuję

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