

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The big news I'd like to share with our readers and contributors is that Capes has promoted *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos* from A National to A International in the area of History. Let me translate for those unfamiliar with Capes or Qualis: Capes is a federal agency that promotes graduate education in Brazil by offering fellowships here and abroad, assessing graduate programs, and fostering scholarly production and exchange. Updated every three years, Qualis is the agency's list of periodicals that disseminate the intellectual production of graduate programs. Capes classifies these periodicals according to circulation (Local, National, or International) and quality (A, B, and C). A International encompasses "well-established periodicals ... indexed in representative bases ... and considered vital to the construction of historical knowledge, and that are of marked international scope and impact in the area, in addition to attracting unpublished texts by foreign authors" (<http://qualis.capes.gov.br/webqualis/>).

At the SciELO Portal, *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos* occupies two categories: Health Sciences and Human Sciences. The journal's transdisciplinary nature is evinced by the number of Capes area committees that evaluate it. Today *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos* is classified as A National in Anthropology and Archeology, Applied Social Sciences I, Education, Physical Education, Medicine I, Sociology, and the Multidisciplinary field. It ranks B National in Biological Sciences and the Teaching of Sciences and Mathematics; B Local in Social Service; and C International in Nursing, Medicine II, Collective Health, Biological Sciences III, and Engineering Sciences II. Since a *sine qua non* requisite for publication in *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos* is that the article address phenomena and processes in areas like those above from a historical perspective, we are very proud to have received the top ranking in History.

Another piece of great news is that Fiocruz's Oswaldo Cruz Archive has made it into the National Registry of the Memory of the World Program, along with nine other Brazilian collections of unquestionable value to research and memory.<sup>1</sup> In 1992, UNESCO realized that the world's documentary heritage was in a lamentable state of preservation in different regions of the globe and decided to create this program. According to the UN agency, the collective, documented memory of the peoples of the world stands as a legacy of our past for the global community, today and tomorrow. The situation has been aggravated by accidental or deliberate displacement, wars, and technical and political obstacles that jeopardize both the integrity of valuable

---

<sup>1</sup> The full list can be found at "Memória do Mundo. Comitê Nacional do Brasil do Programa Memória do Mundo da Unesco," <http://www.arquivonacional.gov.br/cgi/cgilua.exe/sys/start.htm?sid=91>.

<sup>2</sup> "Memória do Mundo. Diretrizes para a salvaguarda do patrimônio documental," p. 5. Revised in 2002. Prepared for UNESCO by Ray Edmondson (Portuguese translation by Maria Elisa Bustamante), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Available at <http://www.portal.arquivonacional.gov.br/Media/Diretrizes%20para%20a%20salvaguarda%20do%20patrim%C3%B4nio%20documental.pdf>.

documents and access to them. “Much documentary heritage has vanished forever,” a UNESCO statement reads. “For much of the rest, preservation efforts will arrive at the very last moment, if at all.”<sup>2</sup>

The Memory of the World Program has three main goals: to facilitate preservation of the world’s documentary heritage by the most appropriate techniques, assist universal access to it, and increase awareness of its existence and importance.

In 1993, the Program’s International Consultative Committee met for the first time, in Poland. With the help of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the International Council on Archives (ICA), the committee drew up lists of library collections and archives that had suffered irreparable damage. National committees identified endangered libraries and archives and compiled a list within the realm of cinematographic heritage located around the world.

Using modern technology, pilot projects have been launched to reproduce endangered documentation. One project, for example, involves making microfilms of newspapers; seven Latin American countries are participating. Regional committees were established in Asia and the Pacific in 1997 and in Latin American and the Caribbean in 2000, along with some 45 national committees. Brazil’s Ministry of Culture legally instituted a committee on September 2, 2004.

The paradox is that the same Ministry that has thrown its support behind the Memory of the World Program pays a mere pittance to the staff it entrusts with caring for Brazil’s archives, museums, and libraries. While this Ministry nominated collections to the Program’s National Registry, it joined the rest of the federal government in impassively standing by while a strike brought activities in the country’s documentary heritage sector to a standstill for quite some time—before it came to a fruitless end.

Yet this initiative nevertheless deserves our applause. Moreover, the choice of the Oswaldo Cruz Archive reflects the growing import of the history of the sciences and of health within the field of Brazilian historiography.

*Jaime L. Benchimol*  
Editor