



Transcending language and cultural boundaries, appealing immediately to the eye and the ear, to the literate and illiterate, audiovisual documents have transformed society by becoming a permanent complement to the traditional written record.

Audiovisual documents, such as films, radio and television programmes, audio and video recordings, contain the primary records of the 20th and 21st centuries. They help to maintain the cultural identity of a people but countless documentary treasures have disappeared since the invention of image and sound technologies that permit the peoples of the world to better share their experiences, creativity and knowledge.

All of the world's audiovisual heritage is endangered. No where can it be said to be preserved but through initiatives such as the [World Day for Audiovisual Heritage](#) and the [Memory of the World Programme](#)

, the precious work of preservation professionals is given impetus to manage a range of technical, political, social, financial and other factors that threaten the safeguard of heritage.

The theme for this year's celebration of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2011 is "**Audivisual Heritage: See, Hear, and Learn.**"

UNESCO encourages everyone, everywhere to join them in celebrating 27 October by showcasing their precious collections as part of a global endeavour to promote the value of audiovisual heritage.

World Day of Audiovisual Heritage: Highlights of UN Audiovisual Archives.

United Nations Multimedia:

www.unmultimedia.org

- [UN Audio Library](#)
- [UN Radio Classics](#)
- [UN Video and Film Collection](#)
- [UN photo gallery for the World Day for Audio Visual Heritage](#)

[UN Photo](#) contains a selection of images from the United Nations photo collection, which contains approximately 800,000 photographs dating back to the mid-1940s chronicling the history of the Organization and its work.

Useful Links:

- [UNESCO](#)
- [World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2011 - UNESCO](#)
- [World Day for Audiovisual Heritage - UN Observance Page](#)
- [Memory of the World - UNESCO](#)

Edited: S. Robin & G. Cornwell