The ALIA Asia Pacific Special Interest Group of Librarians presents a lunch time talk.

# An introduction to the UNESCO "Memory of the World" Regional Committee for Asia Pacific (MOWCAP)

## By Ray Edmondson



Ray Edmondson will present an introduction to the UNESCO "Memory of the World" Regional Committee for Asia Pacific (MOWCAP).  MOWCAP is the forum for all the national Memory of the World Committees spread across the Asia Pacific region of 43 countries. Among other things, MOWCAP maintains the Register of Asia Pacific documentary heritage, which is constantly growing.

Ray will discuss examples of inscriptions including the Tuol Sleng genocide archives of Cambodia, the founding document of the Cook Islands, E Tuatua Akakite of 1891, and Polynesian Immigrant Records 1876-1914 held at the National Archives of Fiji. There are heart-warming stories of countries helping each other to preserve threatened heritage, and the growth of national committees is developing a network of experts which can support libraries and archives across the region.

Australia has always been a strong player in the Memory of the World program. It was among the earliest countries to establish a national committee, and more recently it has mentored the establishment of the New Zealand national committee.

**Ray Edmondson**
Ray has been involved in MOWCAP since its inception and served as its Chair from 2005 to 2014. He is currently a Special Advisor on the MOWCAP Bureau. He is also a member of the Australian Memory of the World Committee. At the international level, he has served in various committee roles. He is the author of the program's current *General Guidelines* and its *Companion,* a manual designed to assist those preparing nominations for any of the Registers.

http://www.unesco.mowcap.org/register.htm#lb2

**Wednesday 5 November**
**12:15pm – 1:15pm**
**McDonald Room**
**Menzies Library**
**Australian National University**
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