

WH-IARS-WFSF-UNESCO 2013

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Both the one-day conference at IARS on 28 November 2013, for non-initiated academics and students and the Workshop organized by the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO on 21 December 2013 for World Heritage experts were successful. These events were attended by a total of no less than 70 participants. Most of the distinguished speakers brought in their texts and these have been bundled as full text in the IARS report on the events. This document is included in the LEALA pedagogical resources database. Some of the activities were video-recorded and will be made available on the LEALA video channel from August 2014.

The activities culminated in a number of pertinent recommendations and in the elaboration of concrete steps for the activation and sponsoring of the new Master Degree at IARS. The recommendations highlight presently emerging threats that push the agenda for the future of African World Heritage towards immediate problem solving rather than long term visioning. Solutions for threats to African World Heritage are sought in two distinct areas: firstly, in real world environments and places and secondly in the minds of people, through education.

On the ground more protection is needed and more sites are to enjoy World Heritage status by inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The second essential ingredient for improved African World Heritage protection is education with more attention for the future in education in general and in heritage education in particular. Professional heritage managers, caretakers and communities can benefit from heritage education with a futures outlook.

WFSF pilot coordinator Samir Ghabbour was present throughout the proceedings of the single day conference. His input provided a futures perspective to the overall motivation behind the event and guidance with long-term thinking concerning world heritage in Africa.

A significant benefit of the experience with this pilot is related to knowledge and capacity building for the blended learning strategies that LEALA proposes. Among our goals is to understand the different scales at which online education is organised effectively. While we are not directly involved in the development of the Online Masters course itself, the partnership with the IARS has brought to our attention some of the challenges of starting up full academic online courses. These include economic, administrative and organisational challenges that will have to be taken into account when the WFSF considers providing full online courses in future.

The organisation of a workshop day treating the future of African World Heritage with the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO was a major benefit and accomplishment of this pilot. This workshop was not in the original planning but was an excellent opportunity taken up during the course of the project. The commission took up the logistical organisation of this day and the content and speakers and expert participants were sought out with the collaboration of the WFSF pilot coordinator.

Modifications

The pilot was run with half of the originally requested Participation Programme budget. The date proposed for the activity to connect into the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in 2012 could not be maintained as it was prior to the approval of the project for the UNESCO Participation Programme. The rescheduled activity could therefore not benefit from partnerships in the context of anniversary activities. The pilot was restructured considerably due to these broad budgetary and calendar constraints. Moreover, the launch of the actual online Masters Course this pilot was linked into was postponed so that the one-day conference became a stand-alone event. As this launch has been postponed and LEALA online tools were not yet available during the implementation of the pilot, there has not yet been online engagement of participants with the futures network or otherwise.

Originally a one-day set of educational activities (lectures by invited guests, including WFSF members from the field of education) was proposed as part of a two-day conference. These activities were to focus exclusively on a futures introduction for the heritage specialists taking part in the event. Because such a full conference day could not be financed by LEALA the set-up was modified and the second day of the conference was dropped. The remaining conference day was focussed exclusively on the area of African world heritage. The title of the conference nevertheless still indicated the intention for an explicit futures orientation in African heritage work. Conservation and opening up heritage to the population are in themselves futures oriented activities, even if they are generally undertaken with little explicit reference to futures theories or methods. With LEALA we explicitly emphasised this futures dimension of the management of African world heritage.

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LEALA Online Pedagogical Resources

The project develops global blended learning in futures studies, by creating an online teaching and learning environment guided by the needs of the three pilot courses. LEALA will increase the ability of WFSF community members to offer glocal blended learning courses. Consult our Online Pedagogical Resources Database for a selection of text, web and video resources to support those who want to teach and/or learn about futures studies anywhere in the world.

Search our [Pedagogical Resources](#) to find out more about Futures Studies.

The LEALA online learning environment has been built and trialled among our resource persons, but not yet used by course participants because of the limited time and resources for planning and development aggravated by unforeseen delays in the build process. As a result we were constrained to focus the Online Component of the project on migrating, growing, and consolidating our Database of pedagogical resources within the new upgraded WFSF website.

LEALA Communication "channels" include:

- 1/ A pedagogic resources channel (Joomla CMS-based repository);
- 2/ A video-channel (Vimeo)

3/ A bibliographic channel (static list of books at this stage)

4/ A discussion and exchange platform (UN Teamworks)

5/ A live meeting, webinar and streaming tool (Adobe Connect)

Other components (Twitter, Wiki, Blog) are now proposed for LEALA Stage 3.

A pedagogic resources channel (Joomla CMS-based repository)

The LEALA Database of Pedagogical Resources in Futures Studies provides access to resources that support futures studies education and futures literacy globally. Twelve types of resources in four meta-category headings comprise over 120 items, with double that number expected by the end of 2014.

The idea is that this database will act as a hub to gather, store and interlink the diversity of futures pedagogical resources being created globally (including school, undergraduate, graduate, professional and lifelong learning) and that it will be used beyond the WFSF membership, including by UNESCO officers and partners. The project encourages participation and collaboration from all players in the ongoing establishment and development of the futures studies and foresight field, through furthering open access to leading-edge pedagogical research and practice.

The LEALA team has gathered the initial resources from individual WFSF members, including the pilot coordinators in Egypt, Malaysia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, from universities that provide futures education and from Stage One of the project. All these resources can be accessed freely, even though not all are strictly Open Educational Resources (OER). Even so, all these futures education materials can be made available electronically to students, workshop participants and project members.

As this blended learning project continues into later phases, materials from other glocal courses will be included. The long-term aim of LEALA is that WFSF members and LEALA participants and facilitators will upload additional materials to enrich the Database. This will continue to increase the capacity of WFSF members to set up live and online teaching occasions globally. Initially this updation will be undertaken by members sending the material to our Webmaster to upload. In the longer term we envisage having a team of LEALA editors responsible for coordinating and editing the LEALA Repository.

A video-channel (Vimeo)

Cross-referencing to the listing of Videos above, WFSF has set up its own VIMEO channel where we are in the process of uploading videos of our members and other futurists presenting material on futures studies and foresight that would be of interest and value to members and others seeking to know more about futures studies. This is an open channel, which will be accessible from anywhere in the world. It can serve as a resource to our course participants in Africa, other least developed countries, and elsewhere, where we operate.

Within the WFSF VIMEO channel is a separate LEALA channel that will particularly focus on pedagogical videos and products from our LEALA pilot programs. It will be updated continuously with new materials as we develop them.

Please go to the link to our [VIMEO Channel](#) to see what is there already.

A bibliographic channel (static list of books at this stage)

It was our intention to use an Open Source Bibliographic Software Platform to create an interactive channel for books and journals articles. However there are many copyright issues related to such a project that lies within the scope but not the scale and timing of the current project. To fulfil at least part of our intention to provide a bibliographic resource within LEALA, we have simply migrated our static lists of futures studies books from our old website to the online LEALA environment within the new website. This is still an excellent resource, however, and one that no other futures organisation to our knowledge includes. There are dozens of books in English from pre-1950s to the current decade, as well as lists of books in Spanish and Portuguese, Hebrew, Hungarian, Swedish and Farsi. Many more will be added.

Visit our [Futures Book Shelf here](#).

As part of our bibliographic resources we also have an extensive linkable list of futures studies and foresight journals—both academic and popular magazines.

Visit our [Futures Journal page here](#).

A discussion and exchange platform (UN Teamworks)

There were many options considered for creating a live-meeting platform. After discovering that the UNDP had undertaken extensive research and utilised extensive human and monetary resources to set up a very comprehensive online meeting platform, we decided to approach them. It was explained on their website that "UN Teamworks brings together not only UNDP core and project staff—but also staff from participating UN entities and, by invitation, trusted partners worldwide..."

Once we explained that WFSF has been a Special Consultative Partner with UN ECOSOC since 1987, they agreed that we could be considered a "trusted partner" and therefore be invited to use their Teamworks platform as our LEALA meeting-place.

Find out more about our collaboration with [UN Teamworks here](#).

From the pilot in Katanga: Imagine by Amos Nkulu