



INTRODUCTORY TRAINING COURSE ON “ORAL HISTORY” FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Dates: 24 – 28 May 2015

Place: ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah, UAE

Course Main Partners

- ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre
- UCL-Q: University College London, Qatar

Background and Aims

ICCRUM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in partnership with UCL-Qatar has developed a short course series titled “*Informed Conservation*”, aimed at professionals who are looking to expand their working knowledge and experience in the field of cultural heritage conservation.

This course will examine the role of oral history as evidence of cultural heritage; it will explore “how” and “why” personal narratives of the past are constructed, as well as demonstrate how interviews are to be conducted and analysed for cultural heritage preservation.

Course Objectives and Expected Results

The course will present the storyteller’s role in safeguarding elements of intangible cultural heritage and in developing current techniques for collecting data through oral history practices. It will demonstrate how traditions can be passed through conservation work to future generations.

The course will help participants develop their research methodologies and enhance their' skills in identifying and collecting data from accurate, reliable sources. By the end of the course, participants will apply with confidence knowledge relevant to the field of oral history to their heritage conservation work.

Course Structure

Participants in this course will be exposed to a range of topics, focusing on the:

- Definition of oral history and how it is different from written history and other research methods for conservation.
- Relationship between oral history and the oral tradition.
- Subjectivity and objectivity in oral history.
- Learning how to make oral history interviews as effective as possible.
- Practical demonstration and trial use of recording equipment.
- Analysis and discussion of demonstration interviews.