The crucial role of the information search that must be carried out before any historical heritage intervention or before any archaeological survey is a methodological aspect coined by all sorts of professionals who, in one way or another, investigate, work and intervene in monuments, objects, archaeological excavations, the adaptation of buildings and natural sites, etc. But this search for documents and for original and—sometimes unpublished—sources is perhaps still not shared by everybody. Perhaps this work in the archives is not considered by all as an indispensable task to be completed before any type of intervention. Archives and documents are essential sources and resources for the fundamental investigation before any intervention is carried out. This investigation leads to the adoption of appropriate intervention criteria and contributes to the decision-making process.

On the other hand, historical heritage interventions imply a multidisciplinary work, as required by international guidelines and national regulations. This work must be carried out by architects, engineers, restorers, archaeologists, etc. All these professionals must thoroughly analyse the object before taking any measures.

The International Council on Archives (ICA) is an international non-governmental organisation working for the promotion of the preservation, care and use of the world’s archival heritage. Its members are the heads of national archives, professional associations of archivists, local and regional archives, archives of other types of organisations, as well as independent archivists. ICA’s current members are spread throughout over 190 countries and territories.

Directors
Esther Cruces Blanco
Director of the Archivo Histórico Provincial de Málaga. President of ICA/SAR (Section on Architectural Records/International Council on Archives).

María del Mar Villarfranca Jiménez.
General Director of the Patronato de la Alhambra y Generalife

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Goals:
The International Seminar “Documents and monuments. The Mediterranean tradition” intends to promote collaboration among different international institutions, interdisciplinary work and the exchange of knowledge and experiences. Therefore the Seminar has several objectives:

1. To gather different types of professionals involved in historical heritage interventions for a multidisciplinary discussion.

2. To inform about the documental sources and the archives that keep the necessary and basic information to approach the preservation, maintenance and intervention in historical heritage.

3. To offer training for professionals coming from several different fields of knowledge in relation to the topics of the Seminar.

4. To search for similar experiences in the Mediterranean countries with a common cultural history and tradition.

Tuesday, 11 Nov

Morning session:
10:00 a.m. / Introduction
10:30 a.m. / Opening lecture: “Archives and documents. The memory of Mankind”. David Fricker. President of the International Council on Archives. (videoconference)
11:30 a.m. / Break
12:00 a.m. / Lecture: “Intervention in historical heritage: documenting and training. The example of the Alhambra”. María del Mar Villafranca. Director of the Patronato de la Alhambra y Generalife. Jesús Bermúdez López. Archaeology consultant of the Patronato de la Alhambra y Generalife
1:00 p.m. / Round table: “Convergences and divergences: documenting and informing”. Moderator / María del Mar Villafranca (Art historian)
Members of the round table / Esther Cruces Blanco (Archivist), Javier Piñar (Historian), Antonio Orihuela (Architect), Ramón Rubio (Restorer), Pedro Galera (Art historian) and Adela Fábregas (Archaeologist).

Afternoon session:
4:30 p.m. / Case studies: “Documents and archives: indispensable resources for historical heritage interventions” (45 minutes each): “Documents and monuments”. Esther Cruces Blanco. Director of Malaga’s Provincial Historical Archives. President of ICA/SAR.
“Ottoman documents and archives”. Mrs. Nil Baydar. Art historian in charge of improving the collection of handwritten documents, Turkish government.
6:00 p.m. / Break.
6:30 p.m. / “International cooperation’s contribution to the preservation of cultural heritage”. Howayda Kamel. Head of the International Relations Department in Egypt’s National Library and Archives.

Wednesday, 12 Nov

Morning session:
10:00 a.m. / “Intervention projects in the Islamic world”. Professor George Arbid. Director of the Arab Centre for Architecture. Lebanon.
11:00 a.m. / Practical cases (45 minutes each): «The Court of the Lions in the Alhambra of Granada». Francisco Lamolda and Pedro Salmerón Escobar. Architects in charge of the restoration of the Court of the Lions in the Alhambra.
11:45 a.m. / Break.
1:00 p.m. / “The restoration of objects. Cairo’s Museum of Islamic Art”. Magda Youssef Mohamed Aly. General Director of Cairo’s Museum of Islamic Art.
1:45 p.m. / “The Archives of the Academia de España en Roma: the Academy’s building and architecture scholarship holders”. Lourdes Gutiérrez Carrillo. Professor of the Architectural Constructions Department in the University of Granada.

Afternoon session:
4:30 p.m. / “Sources for researching Iberian-American Mudejar Heritage». Rafael López Guzmán, Professor, Holder of the Art History Chair in the University of Granada.
5:30 p.m. / “Alhambra’s Archaeology Plan”. Antonio Malpica Cuello. Archaeologist (University of Granada).
6:15 p.m. / Workshops, visit to the Patronato’s Archives. Bárbara Jiménez Serrano. Head of the Department of Archives and Library in the Patronato de la Alhambra y Generalife.

Thursday, 13 Nov

Morning session:
9:00 a.m. / “The International Council on Archives”. David Leiitch. Secretary of the International Council on Archives.
10:00 a.m. / “The Blue Shield and the protection and intervention in historical heritage. The current situation in Islamic countries”. Pilar Barraca de Ramos, Expert consultant. Legal Regime Section, General Sub-Directorate for the Protection of Historical Heritage. Spanish Ministry for Education, Culture and Sports.
11:00 a.m. / Break.
11:30 a.m. / “Training for historical heritage interventions”. Francisco Javier Gallego Roca, Professor, Holder of the Restoration Chair in the Higher Technical School of Architecture in the University of Granada.
12:30 a.m. / Round table: “Interdisciplinarity as an inherent requirement for training in historical heritage”.
Moderator / Ignacio Henares Cuellar. Director of the Art History Department in the University of Granada.
Members of the round table / Emilio Herrera Cardenete. Dean of the Higher Technical School of Architecture in the University of Granada. Leonardo Sánchez-Mesa Martínez. Director of the Historical Heritage Secretariat in the University of Granada. Victor Medina. Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts in the University of Granada. Eduardo Mosquera, Director of the Masters in Architecture and Historical Heritage by the University of Seville.