Archives and Africa Training Action Network

Who are we?

Since 2016, the École nationale des chartes has been committed to strengthening its cooperation activities with African countries, particularly in the field of archival science. The École nationale des chartes has joined the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar (School of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists) and the Senghor University in Alexandria to develop a series of actions in favour of degree courses in archival science in Africa.

Towards an Archives and Africa Training Action Network (AA-TAN)

In order to strengthen the capacity of archives and archivists to act efficiently in Africa and to develop degree courses adapted to the needs of the public and private employment sector as well as research institutions, the École des chartes is developing a network of partners from universities, heritage institutions and actors of the national and international associative sector.

A programme developed in the framework of ADE SF A 2 (Support for the Development of French Higher Education in Africa)

The programme implemented by the network in 2021 aims to provide training resources (from consultancy to educational tools, practical workshops and networking) to strengthen the professional archival sector in Africa. It should enable both public and private archives, in conjunction with local academic institutions, to overcome the challenges of preserving, processing and transmitting archives, both contemporary and old; and whatever their medium, in order to enhance and disseminate their unique historical heritage.

The aims of the programme are to:
- build together training guidelines adapted to the professional and scientific challenges faced by archives in Africa today;
- set up training (initial and lifelong), research (support for mobility, co-supervision of theses, etc.), and promotion (scientific events) activities to encourage pan-African exchanges and meetings on the central issue of archives;
- strengthen the synergies between existing projects in the field of archives and African written heritage;
- support the network’s activities in 2021-2022 by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (FEI) operator, in the framework of ADESF A 2, by the French Institute, in the framework of the Africa 2020 Season, and by the University Research School Transilvânia.

The University Degree in Archival Science (UDAS)

The École nationale des chartes, the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar (EBAD - School of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists) and the Senghor University in Alexandria have launched a fully online university degree (UD) in archival studies, a co-production of the ENC - EBAD (Cheikh Anta Diop University) - Senghor University.

What is UDAS?

The University Degree in Archival Science (UDAS) is an international diploma aimed at training professionals in the field of conservation of written heritage, particularly archives.

For whom?

The UDAS is aimed at a French-speaking audience, primarily African, wishing to receive professional training to work in the field of archives. The objective of this online training is to facilitate the integration of people who have difficulty accessing university education.

The UDAS is of interest to anyone with a professional project related to archives and wishing to engage in records management, conservation, communication and promotion of written heritage.

Archival Science and Higher Education in Africa

International Conference, 6 September 2021

Within the framework of the Africa 2020 Season, the network is bringing together for the first time a Franco-African network dedicated to archives on the occasion of the international conference entitled “Archival Sciences and Higher Education in Africa: Realities, Challenges and Perspectives”.

The École nationale des chartes is joining forces with Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar (School of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists) and Senghor University in Alexandria to develop a series of actions in favour of degree courses in archival science in Africa. These initiatives mobilize a large network of directors of national archives, managers of degree courses from African higher education institutions, representatives of transnational organisations, and of course French, African and European researchers.

The conference on the theme Archival Sciences and Higher Education in Africa: Realities, Challenges and Perspectives is an opportunity to bring together the members of this network for the first time, and thus to inaugurate a cycle of joint actions, supported by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

This conference is a part of the Africa 2020 Season, curated by NGom Fall and organised by the French Institute.

The discussions are divided into two series of round-tables dedicated, firstly, to an overview and comparative analysis of the issues and needs specific to archives in Africa, and secondly, to research fields where the cooperation of archives and researchers allows new objects of study to emerge and be developed for the benefit of a wider public.

Amongst others, Mrs Esther Clerbel, Director of the National Archives of Cameroon, Mr Jamali Barba, Director of the Archives of Morocco, and Mrs Salomé Andraoharama, Director of the National Archives of Madagascar, are present and speak during these two half-days.

International Summer School in Archival Science

Dakar, Saturday 26 March to Friday 8 April 2022

Partners of the Réseau-action de formation Afrique et Archives (RAFAA), the École nationale des chartes – PSL, the School of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists (EBAD) of the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar and the Senghor University in Alexandria are organizing, with the support of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (ADESF A programme), an International Summer School on Archival Sciences.

Bringing together experts from the organizing institutions and their networks, this training course is aimed at professionals in charge of training programmes leading to degrees or certificates, from African institutions. Around each of the 9 training modules, over a period of 15 days, the learners benefit from the teachings and participate in workshops aiming at defining a common reference base (fundamental contents; tools/sweers/pedagogical methods; examples of concrete cases) which will enable them to build, consolidate or renovate the training courses they supervise within their respective institutions in the field of archiving.

The success of that experience allows the network to envisage new meetings which will be held, in a comparable format, at the various partner institutions, according to the thematic fields in which they will be held.

For whom?

The UDAS is aimed at a French-speaking audience, primarily African, wishing to receive professional training to work in the field of archives. The objective of this online training is to facilitate the integration of people who have difficulty accessing university education.

The UDAS is of interest to anyone with a professional project related to archives and wishing to engage in records management, conservation, communication and promotion of written heritage.

Meeting between the National School of Charts, EBAD and Senghor University in Alexandria © Université Senghor