

Documenting Heritage and Access to Knowledge

Dr. Hala N. BARAKAT

Deputy Director,

Center for Documentation of Cultural and Natural heritage (CULTNAT)

The Center for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage (CULTNAT) affiliated to the Library of Alexandria in Egypt has been active in the documentation of Egypt's heritage since the year 2000. It focuses on the use of the latest information technologies to gather, organize and disseminate data about the various aspects of Heritage.

CULTNAT covers both tangible and intangible cultural heritage and as such has programs for the documentation of Egypt's archaeological sites, architectural wealth, its music and arts heritage, the folklore and traditional heritage, the Arabic manuscripts and the photographic heritage. CULTNAT's mandate also includes documenting Egypt's natural heritage through a unique program that links the components of the natural world to the cultural heritage in a country where history is omnipresent and where the continuity of the culture is very evident.

The presentation will show how the collection and documentation of data is carried out at CULTNAT and how this wealth of data has been used to create a knowledge base. It also presents CULTNAT's experience in making this knowledge accessible to the public, researchers, young audience etc. through innovative technology applications and tools.