

# **National Archives of Egypt: A mission to preserve cultural heritage**

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## **Abstract:**

National Archives are the memory of nations and a live record of people civilizations, store the creativity of people, their cultures, their dreams and their hopes, where highlights past and show present and illuminates the future. They play great roles in caring the world's cultural property, they attempt to interpret it for their public, by identifying, documenting and representing culture heritage. Through their collections, they can encourage communities to preserve their cultural property. They have responsibilities for caring and preservation of cultural heritage and make its more accessible for all.

The National Archives of Egypt is considered one of the most important Archives in the world, were founded in Cairo in 1828, as the third oldest archives in the world, when the National Archives of France were established in 1794 and the Public Record Office of London, were established in 1838.

Mohammed Ali Pasha (Rule of Egypt, 19th century) decided to construct a place in Cairo Citadel to preserve official records and named it Daftarkhana (House of Documentation). The main aim behind its construction was collecting written documentation of the state's activities and maintaining it in one place; thus, it eventually turned to a storehouse of Egypt's national heritage. Through its history the National Archives of Egypt were affected by political issues and took place in different locations, in 1932 an order was issued by King Fouad (Ruler of Egypt) to construct "the Historical Records Department in Abdeen Palace, to preserve the historical documents like decrees and Analyzing and organizing the 900,000 foreign documents dating to the period of Ismail Pasha's reign as well as summarizing and translating some of them into Arabic.

The National Archives of Egypt contains huge number of historical documents and manuscripts about 110,000,000 documents were written by different languages like Arabic, Turkish, English,

Italian, French and German as well as a few in Amharic that the oldest manuscripts date back to Fatimid era (535 H / 1156 AD).

Due to its importance, they received sufficient attention, when Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qassimi (the sovereign ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah), as a contribution to preserve the Egyptian Heritage, donated of 120 Million Egyptian pounds for establishing new construction according to international standard and inaugurated it since 2016.

This presentation aims to discuss many topics like: the history of national archives of Egypt and their importance, the role of those archives in their communities, the documentation system of those archives and records management system, then how did those archives manage their documents or manuscripts according to these procedures: acquisition, classification, documentation, caring and conservation, storage system, security and risk management.