

Chapter 6

Recording and Documentation of Historical Textiles and Their Role in Conservation and Sustainability Processes

Hisham Hassan Tawheed

Mintor Group, Egypt & Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Egypt

ABSTRACT

Documentation is considered one of the oldest scientific methodologies, and it is the first important step for preserving historical textiles, artifacts, and antiques. This step precedes other stages of restoration and thus must be done carefully. 'Documentation' is the recording of all information and data related to heritage textiles, starting from the date of the antiquity, its artistic and historical importance, its dimensions, and the forms of decoration it contains, the different aspects of damage that the antiquity suffers from, and each of the elements of the antiquity, in order to refer to it when conducting the preservation process.

INTRODUCTION

The Importance of Recording and Documenting Cultural Heritage

1. Documenting and recording historical textiles is the only way to create a record of antiquities that can be referenced in the event of the destruction or loss of those antiquities as a result of terrorist operations.
2. Increasing the interest and participation of citizens and activating them to preserve their heritage.
3. Giving the opportunity to monitor the conservation and maintenance work and to monitor all changes that occur to the historical textile pieces or the heritage resource.
4. Ensuring that the restoration and maintenance operations include the heritage resource in terms of form and material used in its manufacture.

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Figure 1. One of the textile museum holdings, which is a part of the covering of the Kaaba. Photographed by the researcher



5. To determine the extent of the integrity of the historical textiles and to limit the manifestations of deterioration therein.
6. An inventory of what is inside the museums of holdings and identifying what they are, and specifically where they are located.
7. Proving the ownership of the pieces, which helps to reduce the smuggling of antiquities and the illegal trade in antiquities?
8. Creating and updating information on archaeological artifacts (untranslated text - undefined dimensions)
9. Updating the data regarding the status of the antiquity because it varies according to many things (time factor - climate factor - material - storage circumstance - how to handle the antiquity or deal with it - the presentation method in terms of the two curtains commensurate with the appropriate temperature, humidity and lighting for the monument) (Ioannides et al., 2014; Lister, 1996).
10. Documentation and scientific recording help the restorer in:
 - a. Determine the degree of damage to speed up maintenance operations.
 - b. Develop a strategy for the maintenance and permanent protection of the impact.
 - c. Documentation is a protection for the restorer for his performance in the repair and maintenance operations.
 - d. Successful and unsuccessful maintenance work must be documented, as documenting unsuccessful maintenance work is as important as achieving successful work in order to avoid reusing methods or materials that have proven ineffective) Saleh 2018; Badr, 2015).

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