

Editorial « The Importance of preserving and accessing OMEP archives »

An NGO that preserves and promotes its archives demonstrates its legitimacy, professionalism, and longevity. This strengthens its credibility with funders, the media, and the general public.

Archives provide concrete data for communication purposes, illustrating OMEP's impact and informing reports, awareness campaigns, and advocacy efforts. They can also be instrumental in mobilizing support or defending a cause. Certain records must be kept to fulfill legal obligations (such as accounting and contracts). Proper archive management helps prevent legal or financial risks.

The OMEP-France and World OMEP archives spanning from 1950 to 2020 are preserved across 10 linear meters of shelving in one of the University of Angers Libraries. This library houses a specialized collection on early childhood and women, operating under the motto "Women and Children First," which perfectly complements OMEP's own motto, "Rights from the Start."

These archives have been sorted and classified into three categories: World OMEP/OMEP-France archives, publications, and OMEP/UNESCO archives. Here are the links to the finding aids to consult the inventories available to us: OMEP France, World OMEP.

Researchers and students have already consulted the OMEP archives. Notably, Michel Christian utilized them for his research on the history of early childhood in Europe, as well as the founding and evolutionary history of OMEP.

Since the classification was completed in December 2023, 29 archive boxes from the OMEP-France collection have been requested for consultation.

A research project titled "EnJeux" is currently underway. Three research and innovation chairs have been established, systematically integrating children and youth not merely as subjects of study, but as active participants in the research. An interdisciplinary Master's degree in "Childhood and Youth Studies" has also been created.

Full details regarding the research and training program are available on the dedicated website: <https://enfance-jeunesse.fr/>. Accessing these archives offers several major benefits for OMEP. They serve as an institutional memory, documenting the history, initiatives, and decisions of the organization. This enhances transparency with donors, beneficiaries, and partners, and can serve as evidentiary support when necessary (such as for audits or evaluations).

By analyzing past projects, we can identify successes and failures, draw valuable lessons, and improve our future strategies. The archives are a precious resource for both evaluation and innovation.

Proposals for promoting OMEP's archives include: creating communication materials (newsletters); organizing events, activities, and exhibitions (both physical and virtual), as was successfully done for OMEP's 70th and 75th anniversaries; utilizing digital media and social networks; developing collaborative and participatory tools, such as an interactive project map or a crowdsourcing platform; fueling advocacy and fundraising efforts; and engaging stakeholders to build donor loyalty.

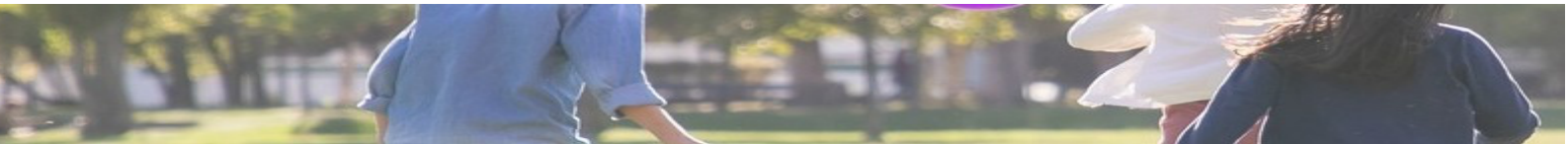
We will make a new deposit of both physical and digital archives in 2027, following the reorganization and modernization of the University of Angers Library services. This modernization will specifically improve universal access to IT tools, thereby better facilitating access for researchers and students conducting research through the University of Angers.

Regularly backing up digital archives, safeguarding physical archives (in dry, fireproof locations), and restricting access strictly to authorized personnel ensures their security and long-term preservation.

In summary, archives are a strategic tool for upholding OMEP's statutes, preserving our collective memory, enhancing our communication, and ensuring the effectiveness of our actions.

Danièle PERRUCHON Honorary President of OMEP-France

A more detailed version of this text is available [here](#).



OMEP France

- [March 11 and 12, 2026](#): Hosting an OMEP-Japan delegation in Paris. OMEP-France organized a study visit for a Japanese delegation, which included a trip to UNESCO and an immersive experience at an outdoor daycare center in Paris.
- [March 17, 2026](#): OMEP-France Board of Directors Meeting. During this meeting, the new statutes and budgets were implemented. Marie Thomas officially joined as the new Treasurer of OMEP-France.
- [May 21 and June 23, 2026](#): Scientific Commission. The commission's work focuses on childcare arrangements for 3-year-olds, which are currently at the crossroads of public policy in France. A literature review and an analytical brief are planned.
- [June 1, 2026](#): Arrival of the new Communication and Development Support Officer for OMEP. Lubna Boularas officially joined the OMEP-France team to succeed Mbayang Tine in this role.

OMEP World

- [April 2, 2026](#): The new World President of OMEP, Adrijana Višnjić-Jevtić, alongside her delegation, met with the heads of the UNESCO education sector. The strategic partnership with OMEP, previously well-established by her predecessor, Mercedes Mayol-Lassalle, was reaffirmed.

UNESCO

- [April 14, 2026](#): International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, UNESCO. This roundtable explored the complex challenges of passing down memory in Rwanda, particularly in the face of heavy intergenerational silence and disinformation.
- [May 6 and 7, 2026](#) (English): Forum on Financing Early Childhood Education and Care (Kigali, Rwanda), ECDAN/UNESCO. In response to the severe budget deficit allocated to early childhood, international stakeholders convened to identify sustainable funding models.

OMEP warned of the risks associated with diversifying funds, emphasizing that integrating innovative financing must not allow States to abdicate their responsibility, which critically includes providing equitable education for all.

[May 19-22](#): African Week and International NGO Forum: "Promoting a Culture of Peace in Africa"

Francophone Commission and UNESCO

- [March 31, 2026](#): Webinar "Analyses and Practices in ECCE", OMEP and UNESCO. This webinar highlighted the urgent need to upgrade the status, training, and working conditions of early childhood professionals. UNESCO and various experts proposed contextualized training models and new self-diagnostic tools to support public policies.
- [May 20, 2026](#): Webinar "Ensuring Equitable and Inclusive Access to Quality ECCE in Emergencies: Policies, Approaches, and Promising Practices", UNESCO and OMEP. The event shed light on the multiple barriers (administrative, legal, and linguistic) that hinder the education of children in emergency situations. The discussions led to recommendations focused on adapting policy frameworks and strengthening psychosocial support on the ground.

Upcoming events

- [July 1 to 3](#): OMEP will participate in the AGEEM congress (Poitiers).
- [July 13 to 18, 2026](#): World OMEP Assembly and Conference in Poznan on the theme "When a Child Speaks... Korczak's Inspirations for Education and Children's Rights."

More information on:

<https://www.omepfrance.fr>

