

Press release



**Overseas Territories Year:
Frédéric Mitterrand visits the Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer
in Aix-en-Provence**

Frédéric Mitterrand, Minister for Culture and Communication, will visit the Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer in Aix-en-Provence this Friday, 8 July 2011.

The Minister will launch the new access portal to digitised documents created for the Overseas Territories Year*. With this new portal the Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer is continuing a dynamic policy of adding digital value to their archive collections.

The Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer has the task of "conserving archives relating to the French colonial presence overseas". With a wealth of thousands of historic archives, including the dossier relating to Toussaint-Louverture, correspondence received from the stewards and governors of the colonies in the XVIIth and XVIIIth Centuries, or even the magnificent collection of maps and plans from the XVIIth to the XIXth Century, the collections kept at Aix-en-Provence cover three centuries of history and many geographical areas.

The Ministry for Culture and Communication is particularly vigilant that all the documents relating to slavery put on sale, and in particular the plantation archives, are incorporated into public collections.

The Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer allow consultation of 120,000 works, and a collection of 150,000 photographs, often rare, and nearly 65,000 maps and plans complete this collection.

In Aix-en-Provence French or foreign researchers find an exceptional heritage covering a geographical area which is particularly vast (North America, Caribbean-Guyana, Black Africa, Algeria, Asia, islands in the Indian Ocean, Madagascar, Polynesia, New Caledonia) where all the fields of colonial history are represented, including that of the penal colonies.

By his presence at the Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer, the first for a Minister for Culture and Communication since it was inaugurated, Frédéric Mitterrand intends to show his particular interest in the history of "ultramarins" (people from the French Overseas Territories), as well as for the task and radius of the archive centres.

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www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/anom/fr/12_annee-outre-mer/Annee_des_outre-mer.html

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