

Workshops teach traditional archiving skills to public

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The Historical Archives of Macao conduct conservation workshops for up to twelve people on one or two Saturday afternoons a month. Participants meet in the gallery of the old Historical Archives building and learn some of the fascinating skills used in conserving paper records. Projects taught so far include paperback and hard cover notebooks, silk-bound volumes and accordion fold-out books.

Launched in June 2009 to mark the newly established International Archives Day, the workshops aim to give locals an insight into this traditional craft while demonstrating the care Historical Archives professionals extend to the historic documents they work with every day.

The archive staff have years of experience and training in handling these precious records, and are keen to share some of the basic notions involved in this craft with the public.

While the presentation is mostly in Chinese, instructional support is also provided in English and support is on hand for the hearing-disabled.

Registration for each workshop opens a few days before the scheduled date, and organisers say the places usually get snapped up very quickly. The registration fee is MOP 20 which also covers the cost of materials.

All workshops start at 2 pm and end at 5 pm. The next binding workshop will be held on Saturday April 24 and registration opens on April 19. To register, visit the Historical Archives of Macao (open Monday - Friday 9:30 am - 6.30 pm and Saturday 1 pm - 6 pm) and pay the workshop fee.

A schedule of upcoming workshops is available online at www.archives.gov.mo or by calling Esther Chu on 8598 6537.

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