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## Written Heritage Conservation and Restoration in the Matenadaran

### Abstract

The manuscript collection of the Mesrop Mashtots Ancient Manuscripts Institute (Matenadaran) in Yerevan, Armenia, houses the world's largest, oldest and most valuable collection of ancient Armenian manuscripts. The written word tradition has always been extremely important for Armenian culture, which is why the written materials were highly valued, properly stored and looked after with great care. However, as the Armenian people lived through turbulent times in their history, when the books had to be taken into exile and later brought back again, they often suffered on par with the Armenians themselves.