

**Abstract:**

Egypt has an outstanding archaeological heritage, of world-class importance. Yet Egyptian archaeological finds have suffered a long history of neglect and dispersal, and centuries of illicit trafficking. The current storage and global distribution of Egyptian antiquities force us to think seriously about their present varying state of conservation, and to strive for their physical and intellectual accessibility to a wider public. This paper provides a risk assessment of the current storage and conservation conditions of the Egyptian antiquities in museums and archaeological sites, explores the conservation needs for better preservation, and addresses the need for new policies and strategies in conservation and collection management, with increasing research and public engagement. Without better access to collections, risk assessment, better training for conservators and professionals and a clear policy for antiquities, we place our cultural heritage at risk. With economic growth and increased building and pollution, cultural heritage is at even greater risk. Documentation and the demand for electronic access require a concerted effort in order to allow greater world-wide access to cultural heritage objects in Egypt. Responsible and ongoing collaboration with foreign conservators and missions in Egypt is fundamental, and is preferable to one-off training events for selected professionals or policy makers.