Gathered from heritage sites and objects, collected as reference materials, or even fabricated as replicas, the materials held within heritage samples archives have a unique knowledge value for the study and preservation of cultural and natural heritage. Yet, despite their enormous didactic and research potential, these non-renewable historic resources are often little known, and their value under recognized. As a result, they are critically threatened.

This 3-day international workshop aims to raise awareness about the importance and fragility of heritage samples archives, and find practical strategies to protect and disseminate the knowledge they hold. It is organised as part of the Heritage Samples Archives Initiative, launched by ICCROM to answer common challenges concerning their preservation, access, and sustainable use. To date, over 25 institutions from 15 countries have joined forces in this initiative.