The Role of Antiquities Museum
in preserving the archaeological Heritage
in Alexandria.

- The Bibliotheca Alexandrina contributes as a cultural establishment with a principal role in preserving the archaeological heritage and supports all cultural and artistic activities and exhibits. Since its inauguration in October 2002, the BA maintained an effective and active role in the different fields of cultural and civilization heritage.

- The Antiquities Museum plays an important role in spreading cultural and archaeological discoveries in Alex. Its mission is to promote research and creativity to all through different programs and activities.

- The Antiquities Museum is considered the first museum in Egypt is exhibiting a rare collection of submerged antiquities found at Abukir and Eastern Harbor. The most important of which are some royal heads in addition to some daily life tools (pots) where once existed the cities of Heracleion-Canopus and Menouthis. The collection encompasses beside coins, jewels and amphorae and a unique collection of statues.

- New project in our museum is the exhibition of the archaeological discoveries that were found on Nelson’s Island.

- This collection will be permanently exhibited in a new hall of the Antiquities Museum in the library. The Italian Excavations in Nelson’s Island will be directed by Prof. Paolo Gallo (from the University of Turin). These discoveries are more than two hundred finds of high archaeological importance, fundamental for understanding the life and material culture of the ancient inhabitants of the place. These potteries, whose shapes are very peculiar, are homogeneous in dating, all of them belonging to the period of the
foundation of Alexandria till nowadays, showing the cultural daily life of the first Greeks of Alexandria through archaeological artifacts. It is a pity that such an important material for the history of Alex can be shown to tourists and scholars visiting the town, especially after its restoration.

- This discoveries led to finding monuments that date back to the 26th dynasty of the Egyptian Pharaohs. Dr. Paolo had discovered some artifacts, graffiti and burials that believed related to the British occupation of the island from shortly after the Battle of the Nile in August 1798.

- Based on archaeological activities, it has been proved that the Macedonians the followers of Alexander the Great and the new dwellers of the island have established a massive fortress above the Egyptian cemetery, as well a residential area consists of large houses established according to the Greek style with decorated walls, complete kitchens, bathrooms and beds rooms and sewing utensils. It’s worth to mention that all artifacts from the island were found inside the houses.

- The form of constructions on Nelson Island gave us a lid to facilitate Museum display where two neighboring areas would be used: The first displaying Egyptian civilization, while the second displaying Greek Civilization.

- Nelson’s Island is an island located in Abukir Bay off the coast of Alexandria (Egypt). It is a local site for picnics and recreation and is the location of a group of British graves dating from Napoleonic Wars.

- Nelson’s Island is considered the only site in Alexandria that has huge Egyptian tombs cut in the rock cliff dating back to the late Egyptian periods containing mummies and Egyptian funeral scenes and decorations.
Preserving these artifacts and their historical essence allow creating a unique Museum Display where every detail in construction highlight an artifact.

- Nelson Island has the only Pharaonic cemetery in Alexandria such as inner construction of an Egyptian tomb holding its provisions and mummies.

- The cemetery assures the existence of unknown costumes such as coffins made of pottery, amulets and valuable offerings of faience representing the only collection in the Delta dating back to the late period.

- This section is divided into three divisions:
  **First:** displays amulets, scarabs, Ushabtis, and other small funerary objects.
  **Second:** displays a mummified body inside a coffin made of pottery covered by a net of shells.
  As well it contains amulets of faience and a scarab taking the shape of the heart was also found.
  Behind the head is an amphora containing food offerings for the afterlife.

  **Third:** contains vessels and urns from the Egyptian period set as offering jars in Nelson’s tomb.

- **The Greek Section:**
  Contains daily life objects from one of the Macedonian houses (End of the Fourth-Beginning of the Third century BC). We have now extraordinary collection of artifacts, debris and objects demonstrating life at that time. Such as jars and utensils used as tableware by the time, for cooking and kitchen. As well utensils used for sewing and domestic activities.

- This section is divided into two divisions:
  **First:** tableware consists of Kantharos cups for wine, water jugs, serving plates and baskets, ointment and cream bottles and flasks and oil lamps.
**Second:** kitchen tools, basin made of pottery, jar to preserve liquids and food (wine, oil, salt) kitchenware to produce different sorts of food, plates and mortars to crush and mix food.

- **The objectives:**
  - In the Antiquities Museum we have a display with only a few artifacts from Alexandria and as all artifacts are displayed out of their archaeological context, it has to be positioned in its correct place. In this manner the characteristics of both the Egyptian and the Greek civilizations which flourished on the coast of the Mediterranean are demonstrated.
  - One of the main objectives of this exhibition is to be able to tour the world’s most famous antiquities of Museum in order to engage people in the cultural heritage dialogue and to make them aware off Egyptian culture.