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Museum Collections: management, conservation and presentation

Presented by
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Structure

• Define and examine what the roles and functions of a museum are.
• Collection management.
• Collection conservation.
• Collection presentation.
• What is next…
Derivation of the word museum

- Latin: *museum*
- Greek: *mouseion* – a temple or place of the muses
Calliope - epic poetry
Clio - history
Erato - love poetry
Euterpe - lyric poetry
Polyhymnia - sacred poetry
Melpomene - tragedy
Urania - astronomy
Thalia - comedy
Terpsichore - choral songs and the dance
Museums enable people to explore collection for inspiration, learning and enjoyment. They are institutions that collect, safeguard and make accessible artifacts and specimens, which they hold in trust for society.
What is a museum for?

• **Education** - exploring values, centres of learning.

• **Protection** - Protectors of artistic, historic, scientific and cultural heritage.

• **Economic** - encourage economic growth and regeneration in an area attracting tourism and business.

• **Political** – giving a sense of identity national, local, corporate or civic.
Storage & conservation
Environmental Conditions

Areas of consideration:
- Thermohydrograph
- Blackout windows
- UV filter on lights
- Insect traps
- Shelving off floor and away from pipes
Storage

- Different storage requirements for different types of materials
Basics of storage

• Wrap in acid free tissue
• Wrap with acid free cotton tape
• Place in acid free box/folder
Clothes

• Calico covers and appropriate hangers and rail.
• If packed in boxes - special care has to be given to packing and storage.
Complications
Interpretation & Presentation
Display
Labeling styles
Ideas for the future
Ethics
What is next…

• Provisional display of objects.
• Systematic cataloguing and object numbering of the collection.
• Collection packing and storage.
• Development of collection management policies.
• Develop an interpretive strategy.
• Funding applications?