

# English for Museology Purpose

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# Introduction

- Conversation + theory, active engagement, presentation, test
- Presentation: conference style, 10-15 min, topic of your thesis / if undecided, other topic of interest, during the semester
- Test: vocabulary, definitions, end of semester
- Reading?

- Introducing ourselves (5-10 min)
  - General introduction
  - Why you decided to study Museology and what you like about it so far
  - Topic of your thesis
  - What type of museums do you like to visit and why

# Discussion

- What is a museum?
- Why do they exist? What is their purpose?
- Who is their audience? Whom do they serve?
- Do we need them? Why?
- What were some of the earliest museums?
- Do all cultures have museums? Are they the same all over the world?

- What all can be considered a museum? (A ZOO? Botanical garden? Planetarium? Science centre?)
- What 's the difference between a museum and a library? An archive?
- Do museums need collections? What type of artifacts can be found in museums?
- What is the relationship of age to worth?
- What is your opinion of virtual museums? Online exhibitions and digitisation?

# Museum - definition

- A museum is an institution dedicated to preserving and interpreting the primary tangible evidence of humankind and the environment.
- What is the last museum you have visited? Where is it? What type of collections do they have? Exhibitions? Other activities? Discuss in pairs (10 min)  
3 things you liked & 1 you'd change

- ICOM (International Council of Museums):

A museum is a not-for-profit, permanent institution in the service of society that researches, collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage. Open to the public, accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection and knowledge sharing. (ICOM 2022)

- Museums Association:

- „A museum is an institution which collects, documents, prepares, exhibits and interprets material evidence and associated information for the public benefit.“ (1992)
- „Museums enable people to explore collections for inspiration, learning and enjoyment. They are institutions that collect, safeguard and make accessible artefacts and specimens, which they hold in trust for society.“ (1998/2016)



# Museums – typology / classification

- Different criteria depending also on their ownership (founder), management and funding
- Basic types (collection criteria):
  - general,
  - natural history and natural science,
  - science and technology,
  - history,
  - art + virtual museum

- ICOM classification – museums of:
  - Art
  - Natural history
  - History
  - Science and technology
  - Social sciences and services
  - Commerce and communication
  - Ethnography and folklore
  - Agriculture

- Museums Association:
  - National museums
  - Local authority museums
  - University museums
  - Independent museums
  - Historic properties and heritage sites
  - Regimental museums and armouries

- Classified by collections (Ambrose & Paine):
  - general museums
  - archaeology museums
  - art museums
  - history museums
  - ethnography museums
  - natural history museums
  - science museums
  - geology museums
  - industrial museums
  - military museums

- Classified by who runs them:
  - government museums
  - municipal museums
  - university museums
  - independent (charitable trust) museums
  - army museums
  - commercial company museums
  - private museums
- Classified by the area they serve:
  - national museums
  - regional museums
  - city museums
  - local museums

- Classified by the audience they serve:
  - general public museums
  - educational museums
  - specialist museums
- Classified by the way they exhibit their collections:
  - traditional museums
  - historic house museums
  - open-air museums
  - interactive museums

- What is heritage?
- What is cultural heritage? Why is it important?
- How can it be exhibited in museums?
- What is living heritage?
- Can intangible heritage be exhibited in museums?
- Have you visited any cultural heritage sites?

# Cultural Heritage - definition

- an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values
- Tangible or Intangible



- Tangible cultural heritage:
  - movable cultural heritage (paintings, sculptures, coins, manuscripts...)
  - immovable cultural heritage (monuments, archaeological sites...)
  - underwater cultural heritage (shipwrecks, underwater ruins and cities)
- (Natural Heritage, World Heritage in Danger)

- Intangible cultural heritage
  - practices, expressions, knowledge and skills that communities, groups and sometimes individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage
  - oral traditions; performing arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship

# UNESCO (1945)

- „ to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity“
- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)

- UNESCO lists:
- World Heritage - 1154 World Heritage sites in 167 countries (897 cultural, 218 natural, 39 mixed), 52 in danger, 3 delisted
- Intangible Cultural Heritage (631 elements in 140 countries)
- Memory of the World Register (527)
- UNESCO Global Geoparks ....

Regions	Cultural	Natural	Mixed	Total	%	States Parties with inscribed properties
Latin America and the Caribbean	100	38	8	146 *	12.65%	28
Europe and North America	468	66	11	545 *	47.23%	50
Asia and the Pacific	195	70	12	277 *	24.00%	36
Arab States	80	5	3	88	7.63%	18
Africa	54	39	5	98	8.49%	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1154</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>167</b>

## World Heritage List

States Parties	Properties inscribed <sup>a</sup>
Italy	58
China	56
Germany	51
Spain	49
France	49
India	40
Mexico	35
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	33
Russian Federation	30
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	26
Japan	25
United States of America	24
Brazil	23
Canada	20
Australia	20

REGION	NUMBER OF INSCRIPTIONS	PERCENT(%)
Africa	24	5%
Arab States	13	2%
Asia and the Pacific	116	22%
Europe and the North America	274	52%
Latin America and the Caribbean	93	18%
Other	7	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>100%</b>

Memory of  
the World

RANK	NAME	TOTAL	MAIN INSCRIPTIONS
1	Germany	23	23
1	United Kingdom	23	22
3	Poland	17	17
4	Netherlands	16	16
4	Republic of Korea	16	16
6	Austria	15	15
7	Russian Federation	14	14
8	China	13	13
8	France	13	13
8	Mexico	13	13
11	Spain	11	11
11	United States of America	11	11
13	Brazil	10	10
13	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	10	10
13	Portugal	10	10

# Visiting museums

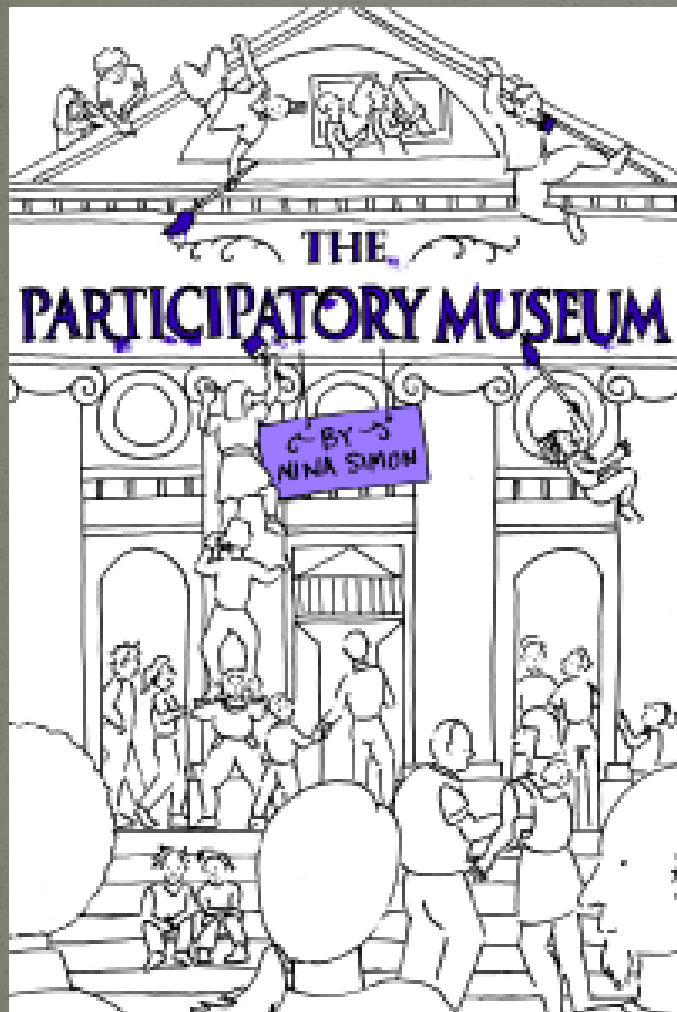
- Why do people visit museums?
- What are your expectations of a museum visit?
- Have you ever been disappointed by a museum visit?

Why?

- Describe the process of visiting a museum
- How can we evaluate the suitability of a museum building?

- What role does ethics play in a museum?
- Are there some regulations as to the proper conduct? Can you think of some negative examples?
- **Ethics – Case Study 4**  
A local collector has one of the finest private collections of material relating to your subject, even though he holds unorthodox views about it. You have fostered good relations with him in the hope that your museum might benefit from this. One day he offers to lend his collection for a temporary exhibition at the museum's expense, subject to two conditions: that the exhibition only shows material from his collection and that he must be responsible for all label and publication content. Do you accept his offer?





What is participation in museums?  
Is it important?  
What forms can it have?

- Opening up the Museum -  
Nina Simon:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=12&v=alcwIHivZ9w&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=12&v=alcwIHivZ9w&feature=emb_logo)