

Poster session

Open storage display in a small museum

PETER STANBURY

Abstract

Open Storage: Some solutions and suggestions for open storage display in a small museum are presented. They are based on the collections of a medical museum, but are applicable to many collections of small objects. Some mistakes to avoid will also be confessed!

Essentially the open storage consists of sliding glass-shelved upper units with four glass-topped drawers below. The upper units serve as normal display while the drawers below contained small items arranged in a stable foam. The small item storage is designed to allow those more interested in the subject to a range of similar specimens.

Further points:

- Head of units allow space for labeling, provide extra air volume and allow for overhead light if required later
- End of glass display units in corners frosted
- Could be fitted with casters for ease of movement
- Modular units can be rearranged
- LCD lighting better, or small lights to reduce heat production
- Adjustable flexible lighting, each cabinet separately dimmable, each light maneuverable
- Velcro sensitive backing to upper cabinets
- Gap between sliding doors allows some dust penetration, but also helps ventilation in an air-conditioned room. Can be sealed with plastic if required
- Ease of removal and security of sliding glass doors
- Glass shelves heavy, require two people to move with safety
- Some drawers lockable or provided with drawer stops to prevent unauthorised access to the protective glass
- Glass tops to drawers provide security
- Drawers could be spring loaded to close slowly
- Drawer runners designed for various loads
- Add two plinths on casters for display of larger equipment; plinths stored behind entrance doors when not in use

Illustrations of the units can be provided by contacting the author

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The University of Oklahoma: A renaissance in culture, museums and museum education

MICHAEL A. MARES

Abstract

Since its founding in 1890, the University of Oklahoma has developed some of the major collections in the Midwest and the largest in Oklahoma. Collections represent several areas: the Carl Albert Congressional archives; the Charles M. Russell Center and archive for the study of art of the American West; and one of the premier archives on Western History. Three other major collections are world class and now have facilities that are state-of-the-art. In the 1980s a new library provided a home for the world's finest History of Science collection. In the 1990s the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History provided a marvellous facility to house 6 million items. In 2006, the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art provided a new facility to display and protect priceless examples of art from throughout the world. Oklahoma is one of the poorest states, but the University, often spurred by strong directors or major donors, has managed to preserve its collections for the foreseeable future. In 2004, an online Masters in Museum Studies Program was implemented through the College of Liberal Studies. Today more than 140 Masters students are enrolled in advanced museology.

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Mapping of the collections of the University of Tartu

LEA LEPPIK

Abstract

Since 2003 there has been a state program in Estonia to support the management of the historical scientific collections, which are considered an important part of national culture. More than a half of scientific collections in Estonia are concentrated at the University of Tartu.

Some collections are in museums: the Natural Museum (Botany, Zoology, and Geology), the History Museum and the emerging Museum of Medicine. Some collections are distributed around different faculties and institutes, and most of these are in everyday use.

Some collections were neglected, but the program has helped to improve their condition. The most difficult problem was to establish the provenance of the collections - very often the owners do not know exactly what they have most. Continuity is vital, even though uses will change: things that were scientifically advanced 100 years ago, can today remain useful for schoolchildren. But there is no collection without any scientific value.

The scientific collections of the University of Tartu reflect scientific development in Estonia and internationally. Traditionally the history of science is contained in books and papers, but material culture adds a significant dimension.

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University patrimony and democracy - The university museum and heritage awareness

BERTHA TERESA ABRAHAM JALIL

Abstract

In a society constructing democracy, and transforming the roles of universities, citizenship strategies are needed.

According to UNESCO's Commission Delors, students should be able to: a) learn to be, b) learn to know, c) learn to do and d) learn to live together. These basic principles imply democratic values such as: respect for others, open dialogue, tolerance, and the ability to work in a group. We asked: How should a university museum use its heritage to contribute to the development of these values? How can the university museum contribute to peoples' education? How can they contribute to the care of the heritage?

Through a survey of university museums, I concluded that they have a role to promote democratic values and an awareness of the heritage.

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University's heritage new courses: The museums

LUISA FERNANDA RICO MANSARD

Abstract

There is no doubt that teaching collections have helped to define academic disciplines. Not only have they revolutionized practical work, but they have also given great prestige to institutions of high education. Kingdoms and nations wanted universities with collections and museums.

During the 20th century these collections, together with the buildings and laboratories in which they were housed, became classified as university heritage. But today there is a need to ask: How far are the interests of the university community represented in these museums and collections? And does the university heritage have other social uses?

Western universities are required to adopt and adapt to new technologies in their daily activities and educational practices as part of a process of cultural globalization. At the same time the university should not lose sight of the original characteristics and values of its heritage treasure, nor of its social responsibilities.

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A project on a European scale: "Unis vers Cité" - Perspectives on the European university heritage

DIANA GASPARON & NATHALIE NYST

Abstract

The European project "Unis vers Cité" is part of the EU program Culture 2007-2013. The Network of the ULB Museums (Brussels) contacted several other universities, among which three were interested: Université Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg), Universidad do Porto and University of Tartu.

The main purpose of the project is to demonstrate that university heritage is a testimony of humanist culture originating in the Middle Ages and that this material and immaterial heritage continues to contribute to the development of our intellectual and cultural European identity.

It is planned to produce a joint exhibition, part of which should travel. Significant objects from the collections of the four partners will be studied by specialists from several disciplines. This multiple perspective should at the same time enhance the knowledge of each selected object, and prove the complementarity of the university disciplines rather than their concurrence or compartmentalization.

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