



## Museum Management & challenges of research – time for a multidisciplinary approach

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**Abstract:** Collecting things is an old activity which includes passion & love towards collected materials. There have been several new emerging trends in museum related research. The language related researches often depend on museum. These days there is a great emergence trends in museum & museum related researches. Museum challenges creativity challenges the boundaries of knowledge & makes independence of mind through unique interdisciplinary partnerships

**Key words:** emerging trends, knowledge, of public museums

**Emergence of public museums:** Later half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century saw the emergence of the public museums. Museum also serves as research institutions. Today most museums are historical, i.e., they preserve and disseminate knowledge about the past. but right from their beginning, museums have also been research institutions that have promulgated new knowledge about the contemporary natural world and human ways of life. Accordingly museums have played a decisive role in the development of academic disciplines such as anthropology, botany, geology and zoology, as well as historical disciplines such as archaeology, ethnology and art history.

Museum involves study of both the history of museums and how they exist today. from around 1900 researchers began to investigate the best ways for museums to organize their collections and communicate knowledge.

Subsequently museologists have become more concerned with studying the relationship between museums and

society and have asked questions such as: why do we have museums; why are museums institutions of power; and how do museums promulgate knowledge and provide experiential space?

Museologists also study how efforts to preserve culture and the natural world are constantly expanding museums' areas of relevance. they also study the preservation and museumisation of particular areas.

Today museology is an interdisciplinary field that derives theories, methods and research topics from fields such as art history, the history of science, media studies, sociology, anthropology, archaeology and cultural history.

**a challenge of museum management- the indian historical background is** culturally very rich, vivid & vivacious. indian heritage is honored across the globe for its eternal values & enduring standards. indian heritage is found



across the country in every form one can imagine. this living heritage needs to be protected legally through museums . indian museums numerically are within 1000 & nearly 95% of them are in government control both state & central government. majority of these museums lack supportive technical staff , funding & infrastructure & such other basic amenities. but there several other problems in museum management. inherent lacuna in indian museum management is

1. **absence of awareness** - absence of awareness among people about museum visiting , taking student s through schools & college s, giving projects about museum visit , tour packages about museums.

2. **absence of ngo support** – nearly 95 % of the museums are government managed, there is complete absence of ngo support. but in western countries there are museums which are run with public private partnerships. this partnership supports the cause of museum management affirmatively.

3. **absence of official protection** .in india several of the objects which could be protected & conserved inside a museum are being left to lay in open weather because there is no museum in that place / village. it is seen specially in remote & isolated villages that several objects such as folk / tribal items, stone age materials , rare coins , unusual potteries etc which are often researched are not conserved in any form. there is a need for some type of official protection to these rare materials as people can be stimulated to protect these items in future. this official protection lapses

cause several inherent lacuna in museum management.

4. **absence of patronage** – in india several historical objects of heritage lay strewn around villages without any awareness or mechanism to make it protected. sometimes, villagers use these historical objects for their daily chores without historical knowledge. this leads to destruction & obliteration of the historical objects. private run temples, mutts, heritage centers, can take up protection of rare materials on personal interests. cine stars. sports stars , corporate officers , legendary nationals can fund museum & join hands with the government in protection of rare objects.

5. demolition

6. destruction -voluntary / unintentional

7. insensitive attitude

8. lack of historical sense

9. lack of knowledge

10. lack of private funding

11. natural calamities

12. unsympathetic interventions

conserving heritage offers the potential to conserve both traditional objects such as monuments, manuscripts, buildings, coins, drawings , stone writings , line sketches , potteries , etc .

1. this helps the survival of a country's pride heritage & inheritance besides in this globalizing environment it offers opportunities for define the past & preserving it to the future.

2. besides it provides avenues for employment & parallel marketing opportunities. in india there are several buildings which have historical legacy. they can be conserved with private support by converting them



into museum & heritage building. this stimulates local tourism prospects. archeological surveys of india & state archeology departments have helped the conservation of several buildings on the lines of unesco. this can be a model for museum management as well. museum can be opened near temples , heritage centers, pilgrimage centers , new archeological excavation sites, science labs , etc. this will boost up indigenous & foreign tourism in a bigger way.

#### **key indicators to conservation process**

there are several key points which have to be noted before

1. the official intervention in the name of conservation process has to be very minimum
2. it should act contrary to the socio religious thinking of the local people
3. it should interfere with their traditional thinking
4. it should prohibit them from publishing their personal opinions
5. hybrid strategies should be avoided
6. the rationales should be preserved before taking any action
7. the contemporary exigencies have to be taken care of before renovating , rebuilding , restructuring , repairing a heritage building / site
8. the overall spatial & voluminous composition of the building have to be looked into
9. looking into making new urban vicinity near the heritage site needs to be supervised & visualized.
10. the integrity of the heritage building or site has to be defined & interpreted

11. the collective knowledge systems have to be taken into account

12. each community has its own distinctive culture constituted by its traditions, beliefs, rituals and practices - all intrinsic to defining the significance of the unprotected architectural heritage and site.

13. the conservation strategy must respect the fact that local cultures are not static and, therefore, encourage active community involvement in the process of decision-making.

14. this will ensure that the symbiotic relation between the indigenous community and its own heritage is strengthened through conservation.

15. a holistic coherence of the architecture with the support of the local community is the need of the hour. this global era is undergoing visual spaces which are rapidly becoming homogenized. it is necessary to retain the specific visual identity of a heritage site or monument.

16. priority must be accorded to retaining the continuity of original functions. any new use must be introduced only after studying its effect on the local context, and must conform to the carrying capacity and vulnerability of the architectural heritage.

17. all changes to the original fabric should be preceded and followed by comprehensive documentation.

18. additions and alterations must respect the coherence of the whole, and must, to the extent possible, engage traditional materials, skills and knowledge in the process.

19. conservation of architectural heritage and sites must be integrated



with the social and economic aspirations of society.

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4. besides it provides avenues for employment & parallel marketing opportunities. in india there are several buildings which have historical legacy.

5. these buildings have to be protected from indian historical technology of buildings has been unique.

6. the use of material also is very special for several thousand years indian building have been testimony for the architectural excellence.

7. archeological surveys of india & state archeology departments have helped the conservations of several buildings on the lines of unesco.

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