

Virtual Museum and the Public Engagement to Climate Change Issue

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Nowadays, online community has a great impact on the lifestyle of people in every aspect. Searching for information and learning new things can be done by a fingertip in a few seconds. As a museum with mission to support learning and formal education in an informal context, it is also important to keep up with the new trend and provide as much opportunity as possible to promote learning of the public. Virtual museum has been introduced at the early stage to support visit to important archives or some parts of the museum which are not possible for public access such as collections and etc. The approach has also been used to introduce and motivate people to visit the physical exhibition at the real place. However, with today public's preference, it is also possible to create a virtual exhibition which offer visitors knowledge and learning experience as if they visit the museum. This will provide the public to access the information and learn new things regardless of time, cost and location.

National Science Museum (NSM) Thailand has been working on mini virtual exhibition projects for 3 years. Each year about 20 mini exhibitions have been produced online for visitors. Currently due to the importance of climate change and global warming issue which become more and more relevant to the people, NSM is working on the development of a full-scale virtual museum on climate change based on its existing temporary exhibition. The online exhibition will take advantage of its online feature to integrate interactivity and real-time content to give the viewer the best possible information. The exhibition will be used to promote the public awareness of climate change as well as to encourage public participation in environmental protection.

E—Museums: Investing for the Future

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For the sake of preservation, e-museums are vital as they function not only as repositories of digital images of cultural assets but also precious records of heritage. In cases where natural or human-created disasters wipe out physical existence of rare treasures, e-museums can sustain the link of the historical past through the images of these items. Such is possible today with the present technology for digitalisation. However, while some countries have taken the initiative to take this step forward, some have still to catch with the idea of setting up e-museums as a way to digitally preserve cultural assets. An overview of potential and available emuseums in the region will be part of the presentation. This paper proposes that countries in the e-museum movement could help create G2G awareness as the voice of individuals are often not heard by countries that have yet to realise the importance and relevance of e-museums for the future.

~~The Database-driven Examination and History of Climate Change: the Survey of Wind Disasters and Damages in Southeast China according to the Qing Dynasty databases of National Palace Museum~~

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~~The Palace Archives are precious treasures of the National Palace Museum. More than 150,000 reports dedicated to the emperors were written in Chinese and Manchurian by officials and generals for over two hundred years during Qing Dynasty. As China used to be an agricultural society, local officials were responsible for submitting weather reports in terms of harvest or loss resulted from rain and snow. Accordingly, the Palace Archives included natural disasters caused by significant weather change and subsidy policies implemented by local governments. Those archives demonstrated the adapting progress on weather change in human society. Among them, the southeast areas such as Taiwan, Zhejiang, Fujian, and Guangdong, were the most important agricultural and commercial places, devoting most of their tax for the empire. However, they were the most severe areas suffered by climate change as well. With the assistance of effective and efficient digital archives projects applied since the last decade, this paper describes the general process of the adaptation to climate change in those productive areas of Qing Dynasty. It further tends to engage the public awareness regarding researches on adaption of climate change historically.~~