

Subject Level Collection Statement: Museum and Heritage Studies

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1. Purpose of the Statement

The purpose of this statement is to provide a framework to guide the collection development and management activities for Museum and Heritage Studies. The statement supports the teaching, learning and research activities of Museum and Heritage Studies Programme within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

This statement is developed in accordance with the principles outlined in the [Collection Development and Management Policy](#) (CDMP).

2. Description of the Academic Subject

The Museum and Heritage Studies Programme grew out of the Recreation and Leisure programme originally established in the 1970s. It was initiated after a national forum with the cultural sector in 1997 which led to the introduction of the new Master of Museum and Heritage Studies (MMHS) in 2000 and the first director was Dr Michael Volkerling. From 2000 until 2004, the MMHS was in a period of transition from the former MA (Applied) Recreation and Leisure Studies, with a variety of courses and codes from the old degree extant within the new degree. After the review convened by Professor John Davidson in 2003 the Recreation and Leisure programme was discontinued.

After the 2005 review by Professor Bandyopadhyay, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences recommended the establishment of an advisory group and the rationalisation and restructuring of qualifications, courses and content in order to create more flexible options and encourage more enrolments. Dr. Conal McCarthy was appointed as director at the beginning of 2005.

Along with an MA (by thesis), the Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma were added to extend the range of qualifications offered to those wishing to undertake further study.

The programme currently offers the following degrees:

- Graduate Certificate in Museum and Heritage Studies
- Graduate Diploma in Museum and Heritage Studies
- Master of Museum and Heritage Studies
- Master of Arts (by Thesis) in Museum and Heritage Studies
- Doctor of Philosophy in Museum and Heritage Studies

Notable relationships with other cultural institutions:

The central Wellington location presents many opportunities for academic staff and postgraduate students to collaborate and build close relationship with a diverse range of museums, art galleries and heritage and cultural organisations.

- Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa & Te Aka Matua Library
- Alexander Turnbull Library
- Archives New Zealand Te Whare Tohu Tuhituhinga a Aotearoa
- The Museum and Heritage Studies staff and students use the collections of Museums of New Zealand, Te Aka Matua library at Te Papa, Alexander Turnbull Library and Archives New Zealand, and New Zealand Historic Places Trust extensively for teaching and researching primary and secondary sources.

The Museum and Heritage students can undertake 200 hour practical work placements as a part of MHST512 from the following organisations:

- [Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa](#)
- [Ministry for Culture and Heritage](#)
- [Creative New Zealand](#)
- [International Festival of the Arts](#)
- [Film Commission](#)
- [New Zealand On Air](#)
- [New Zealand Historic Places Trust](#)
- [Archives New Zealand: Te Whare Tohu Tuhituhinga a Aotearoa](#)
- [Department of Conservation](#)
- [Pataka Porirua Museum of Arts and Cultures](#)
- [Colonial Cottage Museum](#)
- [Auckland Museum](#)
- [Auckland Art Gallery](#)
- [Te Ara](#)
- [Museum of Wellington City and Sea](#)

There are two permanent teaching staff and various associate staff from different organisations and schools. The current research focus of staff in the Museum and Heritage Studies programme includes museum history, theory and practice, visitor and market research, Māori exhibitions, visual culture and contemporary heritage issues, leisure (history, theory and contemporary practice), narrative research methods, tourism and natural/cultural heritage.

See the Museum and Heritage Studies [website](#) for more information about the research interests and publication details of the staff.

3. Focus of the Subject

Museum and Heritage Studies programme at Victoria can be described as the academic analysis of the history, theory and practice of museums, art galleries and cultural and natural heritage. The Museum and Heritage Studies programme encompasses the critical analysis of museums, objects, buildings, monuments, sites and landscapes in their social context as well as 'museology', the scientific analysis of specific museum methods.

The Museum and Heritage Studies courses include the analysis of internal processes and practices such as collections, exhibitions, education and public programmes, interpretation, management, marketing, conservation, visitor studies and so on. A diverse range of museums, art galleries and heritage organisations are examined and many diverse subjects are canvassed such as art and visual culture, history and particularly public history, material culture, visitor studies, finance and governance of cultural organisations, science and natural history, and many types of heritage: built heritage, historic heritage, natural heritage, intangible heritage, digital heritage, etc. Drawing on related disciplines such as art history and theory, history, sociology, anthropology, and more recent post-modern hybrids such as cultural studies, museum studies has developed a diverse and wide-ranging corpus of work that is inter-disciplinary. A particular strength of the programme is the attention to Māori heritage, which is reflected in the incorporation of Te Reo Māori on a tikanga in teaching, research and professional practice.

4. Overview of the Current Collection

Books

Museum and Heritage Studies is a book-based discipline even though the use of journals is increasing. The Museum and Heritage Studies collection is relatively young one as the programme itself started independently from 2005. However, the existing collections of the associated disciplines such as Architecture, Art History, Classics, Education, and New Zealand History were already established and have grown vigorously during the 1970s and 1980s. The core collection of the Museum and Heritage Studies has gradually begun to grow from the 1980s onwards.

Items relevant to Museum and Heritage Studies are held in the Kelburn Library, with some high demand course material on Three Day Loan and Closed Reserve. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the subject relevant materials is not limited to the LC call number ranges AM (museology). Resources may also be classified CC (archaeology & heritage materials), DU (New Zealand, especially Māori related heritage material), LB (museum education), N (art museums, galleries, or curating). Some items related to conservation or preservation of historic building and museum planning are located in the Architecture and Design Library, and other items related to heritage tourism are located in the Commerce library.

Reference Collection

The reference collection (dictionaries, encyclopedia, directories) in Museum and Heritage Studies is basic and needs development. The majority of the reference books are print resources.

Electronic Resources

The subject specific databases for the Museum and Heritage Studies include the Museology Bibliography (BMUSE), which is freely available on the Internet, and the Australian Heritage Bibliography (AHB), which the library subscribes to. In addition, much use is made of a wide range of other databases (e.g. Arts & Humanities Citation Index, British Humanities Index, Project Muse, JSTOR, Library & Information Science Abstracts).

The websites of various prominent museums, museum associations, international cultural organisations and virtual museum libraries are additional electronic resources used by the

staff and students. Their links can be found in the [Recommended Resources guide for Museum and Heritage Studies](#).

E-Books

There are a small but growing number of e-books on topics of social and education aspects of museums, cultural policy, and heritage and historic buildings etc. In addition, the Library also provides access to a small number of electronic documents produced by New Zealand government and cultural and heritage organisations as well as dissertations from international universities via ProQuest Dissertations and Theses.

Journals

As with databases above, the use of specific journals follows the specific topic at hand. There are a small number of Museum Studies journals: some are subscribed by the library (e.g. Curator, Museum History Journal, Museum Management & Curatorship), while others are freely available online (e.g. Museum & Society, Open Museum Journal). New print subscriptions to journals are rarely added to the collection. As a result, the staff and students extensively use interlibrary loans to obtain journal articles for their research. However, the library access to the electronic journals continues to grow. Perpetuity of access to electronic journals is therefore important.

5. Collection Development Guidelines

Library resources in all formats are selected primarily by academic staff and the Subject Librarian.

LC Callmark Range	Subject Area	Current Collection Level	Future Collecting Level
AM10-AM101	Description & history of museums	Study	Research
AM111-AM160	Museology. Museum methods, technique, etc.	Study	Research
CC135-CC137	Reservation, restoration, & conservation of antiquities, cultural heritages, historic sites	Basic	Research
DU422-DU424.5	New Zealand, ethnography	Research	Comprehensive
G155	Tourism	Study	Study
GN35-GN41	Anthropological museums and collections	Research	Research
GV1-GV188.3	Recreation and leisure	Study	Study
GV191.2-GV200.66	Outdoor life. Outdoor recreation	Basic	Study
LB1047	Fieldwork. Excursions. Museums education	Study	Study
N5097	Art exhibition pamphlets	Study	Research
N7406-N7408	NZ Art History	Study	Comprehensive

5.1 Languages Collected

The collection consists primarily of publications in English. All current acquisitions are in English.

5.2 Geographical Areas Collected

The collection is international in scope. Special significance should be place on acquiring material originating in New Zealand, the Pacific and Australia.

5.3 Chronological Periods Collected

The collection development emphasis is on current topics in both applied and theoretical areas.

5.4 Publication Dates

Current materials published within the past five years will receive priority. Older materials may be selectively acquired in order to fill in weak areas of the collection or as the research emphasis of the department changes.

5.5. Format Guidelines

Electronic journals with perpetual access rights are the preferred format.

Print is preferred format for books as most important publishers in this field (e.g. Routledge, Ashgate, Altamira) published in print only. Purchase of e-books will be negotiated with academics on a case by case basis. E-books may be a good choice for reference books, or edited books. Authored books are best as hardcopy.

5.6 Budget Guidelines

Museum and Heritage Studies books are primarily purchased from New Zealand, Australia, USA and Great Britain, although publications from throughout the English speaking world are collected. Therefore our buying ability is unavoidably influenced by currency fluctuations. Future purchasing must take these factors into consideration and should be carefully targeted towards publications that strongly support current teaching and research. Under unexpected circumstance (e.g. drop of New Zealand dollar against major currency due to the 2009 financial crisis), continuing purchases of key new texts from the major publishers should take priority to maintaining journal subscriptions.

5.7 Classification Guidelines

Library of Congress classification system is used.

5.8 Preservation Guidelines

Museum and Heritage Studies journals are not bound. Any books that are beyond repair or lost should be assessed for re-purchase when appropriate.

5.9 Digitisation Guidelines

To be developed during 2012.

6. Relegation Statement

From 2012 the following criteria apply:

6.1 Journals

The following relegation criteria apply:

- Journals (post-1980) which support current teaching or research needs (i.e. within the last 10 years) will be retained in the main collection.
- Pre-1980 issues will be retained in storage.
- Journals which do not support current teaching or research (i.e. within the last 10 years) will be relegated to storage.

6.2 Books

The following will be retained in the main collection:

- items relevant to current (published within the last 10 years) teaching, study and research and which have been issued within the last 10 years
- single copies of different editions of classic or influential works
- New Zealand and Pacific specific materials

The following relegation criteria apply:

- items which are not relevant to current (published within the last 10 years) teaching, study and research
- items which have not been issued within the last 10 years

7. Deselection Statement

From 2012 the following criteria apply:

Journals

The following deselection criteria apply:

- periodicals where access to electronic versions is available
- periodicals which have been discontinued (over 10 years ago)

Books

The following deselection criteria apply:

- duplicate copies when usage has fallen or when there is duplication within the collection in other formats, e.g. electronic
- superseded editions (NB. retain earlier editions if they provide a useful snapshot of an earlier state of knowledge)
- worn, badly marked or damaged books (only important titles will be replaced when possible)

- items used for informational purposes that contain out-of-date, misleading or inaccurate information (unless the inaccuracies shed light on the state of knowledge of a subject at a particular time)
- donated items that do not reflect the University's teaching and research.
- items that were purchased to support academic programs or courses but which have not been taught for the previous ten years and are unlikely to have any future use

Special care will be made to retain items regardless of usage which fall into the following categories:

- items authored by academic staff (past or present)
- items by New Zealand authors
- single copies of different editions of classic or influential works
- items that authoritatively capture the state of knowledge of a subject at a particular time
- items which are unique to the collection (i.e. there is little or no information available on the subject elsewhere)

Audiovisual material

The following deselection criteria apply:

- items that are replicated in more modern or more usable formats (e.g. videos replaced with DVDs)
- materials in formats requiring obsolete equipment

In all cases academic staff will review items selected for deselection.

Other Guidelines/Considerations

If access to an e-journal is discontinued (e.g. removed from a package or aggregated database) the Library will endeavour to reinstate access.

Some courses require multiple copies of textbooks or recommended reading for teaching purposes. Multiple copies of superseded editions should be retained in the Library collection while their content is still relevant. Location will be negotiated with academics.

The Museum and Heritage Studies courses were originally taught as part of the Recreation and Leisure programme, and began to offer a stand alone degree from 2000 at Victoria. Since this time the Library collections have grown to support the changing teaching and research needs of the staff and students. The challenge for the future will be to keep the collection relevant and contemporary while acknowledging the historical importance of the monograph collection. Electronic publishing of academic journals has had a huge impact, and has given researchers fast and convenient access to the international world of scholarship.

Keeping the balance between books and journals, print and electronic, just-in-case and just-in-time delivery, teaching and research, and historical and contemporary will be the focus of collection development in the future.

Links to other relevant Subject Level Collection Statements

- Architecture
- [Art History](#)
- [Classics](#)
- Education
- [History](#)
- Māori Studies
- Tourism