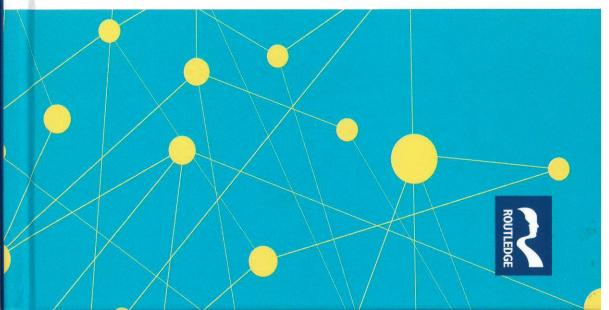


ARTEFACTS, ARCHIVES, AND DOCUMENTATION IN THE RELATIONAL MUSEUM

Mike Jones



Artefacts, Archives, and Documentation in the Relational Museum

Artefacts, Archives, and Documentation in the Relational Museum provides the first interdisciplinary study of the digital documentation of artefacts and archives in contemporary museums, while also exploring the implications of polyphonic, relational thinking on collections documentation.

Drawing on case studies from Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, the book provides a critical examination of the history of collections management and documentation since the introduction of computers to museums in the 1960s, demonstrating how technology has contributed to the disconnection of distributed collections knowledge. Jones also highlights how separate documentation systems have developed, managed by distinct, increasingly professionalised staff, impacting our ability to understand and use what we find in museums and their ever-expanding online collections. Exploring this legacy allows us to rethink current practice, focusing less on individual objects and more on the rich stories and interconnected resources that lie at the heart of the contemporary, plural, participatory 'relational museum.'

Artefacts, Archives, and Documentation in the Relational Museum is essential reading for those who wish to better understand the institutional silos found in museums, and the changes required to make museum knowledge more accessible. The book is a particularly important addition to the fields of museum studies, archival science, information management, and the history of cultural heritage technologies.

Mike Jones is an archivist, historian, and collections consultant with more than 12 years of experience working with the GLAM sector (galleries, libraries, archives, and museums) on digital, archival, and public history projects. His interdisciplinary research explores the history of collections-based knowledge, and the ways in which contemporary technologies can help us to develop and maintain relationships within and between archives, collections, disciplines, and communities.

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Contents

	List of figures Acknowledgements	vi vii
	Introduction	1
1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	20
1	Archives and museums	20
2	Museums Victoria and the history of museum	
	computing	41
3	Field books, dissociation, and organisational	
	knowledge	64
4	Donald Thomson and the relationality of collections	89
_	Down I not make an account of the conflictions	
5	Beyond networks: reconceptualising collections documentation	118
	documentation	110
	Conclusion: from theory to implementation	138
	PARENTS AND MERCHANISM AND A FORM FOR	
	Bibliography	146
		177
	Index	1//

Figures

1.1	Letter to Mr. Gibson, in No. 1—Register of Articles	
	obtained for the Saffron Walden Museum from the year	
	1832 to 1880 or 1881. Reproduced by permission of Saffron	21
2.1	Walden Museum	21
2.1	Science Museum of Victoria Catalogue Card—Reg. No. 21734	4.4
	(front and back). Courtesy of Museums Victoria	44
2.2	Science Museum of Victoria Catalogue Card—Reg. No. 9414	
	(front and back). Courtesy of Museums Victoria	45
3.1	Lincoln Ellsworth display case. Credit: © American	100
10 121	Museum of Natural History/D. Finnin	65
3.2	'Fresh from the Field' display, National Museum of	
	Natural History, April 2016. Courtesy of Smithsonian	
	Institution. Photograph by Mike Jones	66
4.1	Item DT 3324. Rope, Harpoon, Kopoi, Kuuku-ya'u, East	
	Cape York, Queensland, Australia, 1929. The Donald	
	Thomson Collection. Donated by Mrs. Dorita Thomson	
	to the University of Melbourne and on loan to Museums	
	Victoria	90
5.1	The only illustration in Charles Darwin's 1859 On the	
	Origin of Species, showing the divergence of species, via	
	Wikimedia Commons	119
5.2	Roy Wilkins Park, St. Albans, Queens. Tdorante10, CC	
	BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons	124
5.3	The Föhr Reef is part of the 'Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef'	
	project and was exhibited in Tübingen (Germany) during the	
	exhibition 'Wie Schönes Wissen schafft,' from 19 April to 1	
	September 2013 in the Museum of the University of Tübingen	
	(MUT). NearEMPTiness, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia	
	Commons	126