Accessing audiences: visiting visitor books

Accessing audiences: visiting visitor books

Sharon Macdonald

Abstract

Museum visitor books, although held by almost all museums, are rarely used as a research source. This article explores their potential to provide insights and information about audience views, experiences and understandings. To do so, it focuses primarily on visitor books at the Documentation Centre of the former Nazi Party Rally Grounds in Nuremberg, Germany. The article highlights questions about using such books as a research source and to this end it contains discussion of forms of address, visitor conceptions of the nature and role of visitor books and of museums and exhibitions, styles of entries, and ways in which visitors talk about exhibition media and types of display, and make comparisons and links with their own experience. It also includes discussion of some themes more specific to history exhibitions, including different possible 'temporal orientations' exhibited by visitors; as well as some more specific to the exhibition of morally and politically difficult topics, and of Nazism in particular.

Full Text:

PDF

SHARE

- University Home
- University A-Z
- Contact the University

ARTICLE TOOLS

🖨 Print this article

How to cite item

Finding References

✉ Email this article (Login required)

✉ Email the author (Login required)

JOURNAL CONTENT

Search

Search Scope
All ▾

Search

Browse

> By Issue

> By Author

> By Title

> Other Journals

INFORMATION

> For Readers

> For Authors

> For Librarians

CURRENT ISSUE

ATOM 1.0
RSS 2.0
RSS 1.0

KEYWORDS

Museums, Fiji, Colonial HIstory, Art, Climate Art Gallery Identity Modernity Museum Change Persian Gulf actor-network theory children, museums, research, photography collection management digital art document analysis exhibitionary practices institutional change material semiotics methodologies museum activism museum apps politics of display scale spatiality topology

FONT SIZE

A⁻ *A* A⁺

USAGE STATISTICS INFORMATION

We log anonymous usage statistics. Please read the privacy information for details.