



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Heritage / Patrimoine Mondial

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Nationality of author: British

Language of thesis: English

Title of thesis: Heralding Heritage Preservation: An
International Role for Local Museums

Type of thesis: Master

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Please provide a 500 words abstract outlining your thesis; you may wish to attach a table of contents or any other relevant material:

Proposal for Dissertation.

(Finalised abstract will be produced ready for publishing final dissertation by Sept 2010.)

Secondary Questions this dissertation will seek to address:

- Why is it important to promote the need for heritage preservation in communities?
- What consideration and provision is given to museums in delivering aims of international legislation and publications?
- How have other 'grass root' organisations raised awareness of the importance of preserving our world heritage?
- How can individual UK museums spread the importance of preserving heritage in practice?

An initial reading of literature suggested an apparent scarcity of information about what the 'world heritage site' designation means specifically for museums at 'grassroots' level. For international organisations (such as UNESCO, ICCROM, and ICOM) it appeared that promoting the importance of preserving our heritage, especially to the younger generation, was a key aim for universal heritage, because it links to sustainable development. As museums are now rapidly gaining recognition for 'Inspiring Learning for All' within the UK, this international aim of promoting heritage preservation could be a key role that museums could play, and ought to be a key learning objective for any museum experience, as it links to the UK National Curriculum subjects like Citizenship and PSHE. As I currently work at a museum within a UK World Heritage Site, I realised that this international learning objective wasn't explicitly explained, but rather implicitly assumed in our programme as we focussed on the museums' specific collection and its relevant subject themes. In addition, the World Heritage Site team concentrated mainly on the strategic and higher order management of the site, more than how museums within the WHS can implement initiatives straightaway on a daily basis.

Therefore, this dissertation will comprise of a literature review, as well as an information gathering exercise, via telephone interviews and email surveys with heritage professionals and other relevant stakeholders. Through these, appropriate resources and event ideas will be compiled (subject to consents), providing potential suggestions for UK museums to implement that would directly address the international aims of UNESCO's Cultural Section. Practical applications include how to demonstrate to superiors that all museums have a social responsibility to promote the value of preserving heritage, and suggested activities and projects to engage local groups in preserving their heritage for others, based on case studies from elsewhere.