

GOVERNANCE POLICY

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1. Purpose

Gathering knowledge is an essential part of the Museum's core activity of collecting. The knowledge gathered is part of the heritage we share today and hand on to the future. Knowledge we gain about our treasures enhances our understanding and the value of these treasures. The Museum must undertake credible research and must disseminate it to both scholarly and general audiences through its displays and through other means. The Museum needs to continue to increase its participation with the wider research community in order to extend the range of resources brought to bear and to ensure the relevance of what it does.

2. Definitions

Nil

3. Policy

3.1 Core Research

The Museum will conduct collections-related research as a core function. Collections related research is defined as study related to the Museum's collections, their associated documentation, original contexts and contemporary significance, leading to better understanding of those collections and to new knowledge. It includes research based on collections of the Library and Resource Centres, and research supporting Special Exhibitions and their associated publications.

3.2 Priorities for further Research

Priorities for further research will be based on the areas of collection strength and need defined in the Collection Priorities Policy. Research priorities, performance and resourcing will be reviewed annually with recommendations coming to the Trust Board.

3.3 Undertaking Research

Research undertaken by the Museum shall:

- be encouraged and supported as part of relevant staff duties, the role of relevant volunteers and as a service to Museum users.
- meet appropriate ethical, professional and scholarly standards.
- not be regarded as complete until it is made publicly accessible in an appropriate form.

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- be enhanced by actively seeking research and scholarly collaborations with external agencies beneficial to the Museum.

3.4 Resourcing Research

The first priority for the application of Museum resources to research shall be core research. External funding may be applied to further research purposes that help realise the Museum's Vision. Also, the Museum may help fund non-core research activities by increasing its financial self-sufficiency. Allocation of research resources will be based on the potential of each programme to contribute to the achievement of the Museum's Vision and Mission.