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Abstract

The text provides an overview of the concept of museums and their collections, offering both a theoretical background and examples of good practice. It presents a brief historical development of the course of museums, from nuclei of private collections to spaces of public debate and fields of social cohesion, with special reference to Greece. The concept of the museum as an idea is examined, how it relates to museology, which studies the theory and practice of the museum, transcribing and interpreting scientific data in a way that is comprehensible to the public, and the dimensions of the museum as a public good. The concept of museum management as a complex organisation is defined, the different types of museums, the functions and departments of museum organisations, management policies and museum professions are presented. Collecting policy in the contemporary context of cultural heritage protection is discussed. The collections are considered as the 'heart' of the museum, the paragraph

discusses the acquisition of collections, the legal framework and codes of ethics and morals are discussed, and a case study of donation is mentioned as an example of good practice on museum collecting policy and how it 'talks' to the permanent collection of a particular museum. The approach to object conceptualisation is discussed, and models for object study are discussed. It also considers how we move from the documentation and meaning-making of objects to narrative. The main axes of organising the museum's collection are presented, in particular the creation of catalogues and registers that include historical and informational documentation of objects using international standards. Special reference is made to the use of controlled standardised vocabularies to convey the meaning of museum objects. Finally, an overview is given of the development of the educational role of the museum, and how this has been shaped on the basis of relevant educational theories and epistemological data.

