

MUSEUMIZATION OF LIBRARIES

Isaac Mukungu
Busitema University

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The Evolution

Historically, the library was akin to a “place of worship” for **scholars**:

- Silent, communal, and occasionally self-punishing.
- Ladders needed to be scaled in order to access
- The PATRON needed the library more than the library needed the patron.

Traditional spaces

- Reference section
- Stacks
- Information desk
- Reading Rooms etc,

Modern library spaces

- Creative commons & Maker spaces
- Self service spaces
- Studios
- Mothers corners
- Galleries
- Individual & Group study
- Group study & collaborative spaces
- Socialization spaces cafe

The 21st century library has evolved far far beyond its original state.

From a **book repository** to a **vital community hub** and **Omni-channel content source**.

Our libraries have continually developed to offer relevant and needed **services, resources** and **space** to the **communities they serve**.

The library is no longer defined by the number of books it has on its shelves, but rather a vibrant “**living**” space for the users.

THE CONCEPT
“MUSEUMIZATION”

Museumization Coined from the word **Museum**

A museum is a **not-for-profit**, permanent institution in the service of society that **researches, collects, conserves, interprets** and **exhibits** tangible and intangible heritage.

Open to the public, accessible and inclusive museums foster diversity and sustainability.

They operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the **participation of communities**, offering varied experiences for **education, enjoyment, reflection** and **knowledge sharing**.

Definition by the International Council of Museums

Museumization is the phenomenon of **presenting** and **interpreting cultural** groups and their representative **tangible and intangible HERITAGES**.

Galla & Paulo (2016)

Museumization embodies a series of events aimed at **discovering, examining, reviving** and **popularizing** of **HERITAGES**.

(Samuelyan, 2000)

Museumization

Discovering
&
Identifying

Examining

Interpreting

HERITAGES

Documenting

Conserving

Popularizing

Presenting

As presented by UNESCO (1972) heritage is divided into:

- Natural heritage; and
- Cultural Heritage.

Natural heritage include places of natural features whether geological, biological, physical and physiographical formations that are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or aesthetics (Xial... et al 2018).

Whereas:

Cultural Heritages are physical objects like paintings, sculptures, monuments, architectural buildings and archaeological sites etc.

Cultural Heritage spreads beyond monuments and collections of artefacts (Tangible CH) to include an array of traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants (Intangible Cultural Heritage). ICH may include:

- Performing arts;
- Oral traditions;
- Rituals;
- Cultural festive events;
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and
- The knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.....

([UNESCO, 2003](#)).

Museumization in Libraries is about setting and pacing intervention in cultural heritage management in our libraries.

- Opening spaces for cultural heritage
- Promoting Cultural heritages
- Exhibiting cultural heritages
- Preserving cultural heritages

Which in turn:

Strikes a balance between developing the tourism industry and generating revenue;

While still conserving the physical integrity of heritages as well as **promoting** and **celebrating** their **educational, historic** and **cultural** values.

How does Museumization of
Libraries fit in the UN SDG
2030 Agenda?

Museumization and SDGs



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth employment and decent work for all



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Museumization and SDGs.....Cont'd

SDG 8:

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

SDG 8.9:

“By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and ***promotes local culture and products***”.

SDG 11:

Make Cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 11.4:

emphasizes the requirement to “Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s ***cultural and natural heritage***” so that it can continue to benefit people.

SDG: 8.9

Promotes local culture and products



- Develop and implement policy
- Offer spaces
- Virtual Tours
- Physical exhibition
- Public Participation
- Heritages Marketing

Cultural Heritage Management



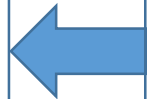
SDG: 11.4

Protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage



- Identification & Documentation
- 3D imaging & printing
- Digitization
- Database management
- Conservation works

The library



**CASE STUDY:
LIRA UNIVERSITY (LU)
LIBRARY MUSEUM**



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE LU LIBRARY MUSEUM

- To Appreciate local heritages without discrimination.
- To Acquire and secure Cultural heritages in the area.
- To document Cultural heritages of the areas.
- To preserve and manage cultural heritages of the communities.
- To Display and exhibit cultural heritages.
- To Create a centre for cultural heritage education and training.
- To Promote Research in Cultural Heritage Management.

Lira University Library Museum Activities

- Participation in National exhibition fairs and festivals
- Planning Community Participation activities
- Education services: Teaching Museum visitors on cultural heritages
- Museum objects conservations
- Collections acquisitions
- Documentation
- Other Collections management functions

Scope of Lira University Museum objects

- Currencies and legal tender
- Ugandan Currency and its evolution
- Sculptures (wood carvings)
- Artifacts
- Traditional knives - Pala
- Body adornment evolution
- Local preservation containers
- Essential animal skins
- Traditional mats
- Traditional furniture including Adanya & Meya
- Leisure and entertainment tools
- Food culture equipment and tools
- War and fighting tools

Identified challenges at LU Library Museum

- Absence of a budget
- Space challenges
- Museum staffing issues
- Long distances especially during collections
- Language barrier
- Absence of insurance
- Policy and regulatory issues
- Rigid Communities

In conclusion, Museumization in Libraries calls for a shift in which libraries can integrate cultural heritages in their spaces with the aim of achieving and promoting SDG 8.9 and 11.4 in the UN Agenda 2030 as these heritages:

- Are essential to the spiritual wellbeing of people for their powerful symbolic, aesthetic and religious impressions;
- Are important for economic development and
- Help people recover a sense of continuity, dignity and empowerment.

Cultural heritage is a resource for sustainable development and plays a substantial role in the creation of National Identity and the preservation of cultural diversity.

Археолог Вба



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