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Abstract

In the past cultural institutions were clearly defined within the context of a specific discipline or institution. That definition identified the mandate, collections, personnel, programs and activities that occurred there. At the same time the public or users had a clear idea and/or set of expectations of what to expect and what services would be provided. That has all changed.

New and highly successful institutions are emerging based upon new kinds of relationships with users and visitors. New cultural institutions are connected interdisciplinary re-positories of objects and stories that visitors can invest with meaning for community-building, etc. New types of museums and heritage displays that are emerging: Idea Musuem, First Voice Museum, and Heritage Centres. New types of libraries and archives that are emerging are: Information or Knowledge Centres and Virtual Resources. This paper examines these new visitor-centred institutions that are springing up world-wide, from the perspective of someone who is helping plan them describes their characteristics and concludes with how this model might be applied in the Philippines.