

DCDC

C O N F E R E N C E

#DCDC18: Memory and Transformation

19 - 21 November 2018 :: BCEC, Birmingham

Discovering Collections, Discovering Communities Conference 2018 Memory and Transformation

DCDC18 will consider the interplay between memory and transformation within heritage organisations and their wider impact on the cultural landscape. We will seek to examine how, through developing new points of entry to collections, archives, libraries, museums and galleries, we can work collaboratively with each other and academic organisations to meet strategic ambitions. Further, we will explore how to meaningfully engage with different audiences and communities whose far reaching interests can often have an equally transformational impact on our own professional cultures.

Memory is a thread running through every collection: their content, their production, their physicality, their journey and current use. The memories held in collections can both connect us with the past, immersing us in experiences through the eyes of others, and inform the future through innovative research and the development of new ideas, technology, science and art. The important role that scientific collections and heritage organisations have played in the health of the human mind, including through reminiscence therapies and supporting mental wellness, are examples of their potential and value to individuals and society.

In 2018 the centenary anniversary of the First World War comes to a close, presenting an opportunity for reflection on the range of activities, especially around collections, over the preceding four years. The role of anniversaries in work of archives, libraries, museums and other heritage organisations has played an important role in securing funding and footfall in recent years, with events for Magna Carta 800 and Shakespeare 400 dominating the cultural landscape. How do these occasions allow institutions to produce innovative collaborations and engage new audiences? Is the question 'why now?' on every funding application a blessing, or does heritage risk being dominated by the cult of remembrance?

In contrast, forgetting and the absence of memories can be as powerful as their presence. There are fundamental questions to be asked around the collecting of memories. Which communities and individuals are, or are not, represented within collections, and what we can do to ensure their voices will continue to be heard?

Finally, at the heart of all these questions is the subject of technology and digital methodologies. These will play a vital role in preserving the 'memories of the future', with the potential to preserve more memories of more individuals and communities than ever before and transform institutional and professional practices.

Proposals

DCDC18 invites proposals on this year's theme of 'memory and transformation' on any project involving archives, libraries, museums and other heritage and cultural organisations in partnership with each other, communities and the academic sector.

The main conference themes will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Commemoration: anniversaries, statues & memorials and national memory.
- Physical memory: production, materiality and physical engagement with collections.
- Artificial memory: deception, forgery and fake news.
- Institutional memory: cross-sectoral skills, hidden knowledge and 'memory institutions'?
- Cultural transformations on working practice: when, how and why?
- Hidden memories: minority communities, representation and oral histories.
- Future memories: digital amnesia, the cloud and missing collections.
- Immersive memories: 3D modelling, multi-sensory engagement and virtual reality.
- Health and Culture: dementia, mental health and wellbeing.
- Spatial memory: landscapes, journeys and buildings.
- Fundraising and Cultural Memory: collaboration, public engagement and impact.

Within this year's theme examples of funded collaborative projects between cultural heritage and academic organisations are especially welcome. In particular, it would be pertinent to hear about projects and case studies which can demonstrate impact and value at institutional, local, national or international level.

Submissions

Papers

The conference organisers invite abstracts for the delivery of 20-minute presentations. Where possible, papers should relate to the conference sub-themes listed above but can also relate to other topics pertinent to the conference theme. 10 minutes will be allowed for questions after each presentation.

Workshops

We welcome proposals for practical 90 minute workshops on the theme of the conference. All workshops should involve a high level of interactivity and/or training which should be clearly demonstrated in the abstract.

Submission format

All submissions should be presented in the following format:

- Name, job title and organisation of speaker/s
- Presentation or workshop title
- A summary of no more than 100 words (this will be printed in the conference programme)
- A more detailed abstract of no more than 300 words
- Any scheduling conflicts for speakers

Submissions should be sent to Melanie Cheung (Melanie.Cheung@rluk.ac.uk) AND Laura Tompkins (Laura.Tompkins@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk) on or before Friday, 27 April 2017. Submissions received after this date will not be considered.

DCDC18 Conference fees

It has always been the aim of the conference organisers to ensure DCDC is as inclusive as possible, and we have been delighted that past events have attracted delegates from all stages of their careers.

In order to sustain the quality of the conference we will charge a modest fee of £100 (+VAT and Eventbrite fees) for a full conference ticket and £60 (+VAT and Eventbrite fees) for a day ticket at DCDC18. We believe this amount will ensure the conference remains accessible for delegates from organisations of all sizes.

Please note that we will not be able to cover any expenses for speakers, however, we will offer up to two speakers per paper and three speakers per workshop a 50% discount on the conference fee (not including evening events).

Full information on the conference can be found at www.DCDCconference.com