The relation between research and museums: utopia or reality when museums become participatory?

Gustavsson, Karin

2015

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

• Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
• You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
• You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.
The relation between research and museums: utopia or reality when museums become participatory?

Short Abstract

The paper investigates the relations between Swedish museums and research. Is there a need for scientific excellence when working with heritage management, collections, collecting and portraying cultural history or is this idea an utopia from the past?

Long Abstract

The relation between research and museums in Sweden has been a subject of debate among researchers as well as museum managers and curators during the last decades. The number of museum professionals with a PhD is low, which has been considered a problem. Publicly founded museums has for long been considered as reliable. The confidence from the visitors has been based upon the strong emphasis on reliable knowledge from the museums. But is this orientation towards authorativ knowledge a phenomena from a past century, now an utopia with no relevance, when transparency and visitor participation has became the ideals?

Museums of the 21th century is working participatory, they can no longer appear as authorities of knowledge. Experiences from the visitors and the citizens own constructions of heritage is just as important and interaction between museums and their visitors is at need. The notion of the need for scientific excellence at museums is challenged.

But is it possible to form a participatory museum without having a mood of work based upon research within this specific field, or is this also an utopia? Can a participatory museum be successfully formed without an interaction with research?

The aim with my paper is to investigate the relations between Swedish museums and research. Is there a need for scientific excellence when working with heritage management, collections, collecting and portraying cultural history or is this idea an utopia from the past? What is the relation between the participatory museum of the 21th century and research?