

Art Curation- Challenges Of Art Curation in Historical Research - Emerging Trends

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Abstract: *This paper examines the issues relating to art curation & challenges on historical research. Art curation is one of the most desired jobs in historical research discipline. Art curators are the reflection of a nation's heritage. A Nation's cultural and historical heritage is reflected in the preservation and exhibition of the nations' historical artifacts . This work of art curation is a very skilled work and needs lots of love and patience towards the curation job. Higher education sector can support the initiatives of art curation with awareness creation training certificate courses or add on courses which stimulate students to take up art curation job after their graduation or along with their graduation..*

Keywords: *Art Curation careers, historical research, higher education sector, emerging trends*

I. Introduction:

Art curators hold the bulk of the responsibility for acquiring pieces to display, whether through purchase or loan from another institution or private collector. The love of art and its history is a must for anyone with a desire to become an art curator. They are the "face" of the museum or gallery, and people will expect the curator to have the knowledge to answer questions about the various art pieces on display, whether a painting, sculpture, modern or ancient piece of art.

Specific skills of curation-

Skills specific to art curation include

1. The ability to examine and analyze the authenticity of works,
2. The preservation, and protection of works of art,
3. The knowledge to assess their value, both culturally and monetarily.

Art curators hold the bulk of the responsibility for acquiring pieces to display, whether through purchase or loan from another institution or private collector. Curators are also the driving force behind exhibition themes and designs, which are often pulled from existing collections or through the purchase of additional works. Often, other museums, galleries or collectors will loan or exchange pieces for use in a related exhibition. Once the elements of an exhibition are acquired, the curator must create a display that is engaging to the public and expresses the theme or story behind the exhibition.

Much of a curator's job, depending on the size of the company, organization, or gallery, includes more mundane tasks, including budgeting, inventory, marketing, staffing, and research. Travel may be required and curators who work independently, but they must still possess the ability to collaborate with others on certain tasks. While almost all curator positions require a college degree, smaller galleries may only ask for a Bachelor's Degree in Art or Art History, while larger organizations will require a Master's or Doctorate in Art or Art History. Coursework varies, but will often focus on art history, covering a wide range of periods and styles of art and architecture, including Medieval art, 19th or 20th century art, Greek art, Baroque and Italian art, graphic design and art and gender.

Essential business skills an art curator must possess include negotiating for the best price or trade terms, working within a budget, managing staff, colleagues, and benefactors, as well as some marketing and grant-writing knowledge. Although art and business often seem like conflicting concepts, to successfully curate an art collection, you will work with finances, the public, staff, volunteers, and possibly a board of directors. In smaller organizations, the curator may also write grant requests that allow the gallery or museum to acquire and care for works of art. Any gallery or museum must have an audience to be successful. Therefore, marketing exhibits and collections is a vital part of an art curators job.

Computer skills for a Art curator - Although common in most careers, computers are also an integral part of a curator's work. Not only are inventories kept in databases, but research and design are often done electronically.

A curator may be responsible for updating the organization's website when exhibits are changed, or new pieces are acquired. An Occupational Information Network (O*NET) survey of art curators found that 100% of respondents said they used electronic mail to communicate for work "every day." O*NET also lists calendar and presentation software, graphic design and desktop publishing programs, and web-based and word processing platforms as essential tools for a curator.

Technological support for a Art curator - Art curators also must have a firm handle on project management software

1. Adobe In Design,
2. Adobe Freehand and Photoshop,
3. The Museum System,
4. MINT,
5. Gallery Systems'
6. Past Perfect, and
7. Vernon Systems
8. Vernon CMS.

Analytical skills for a Art curator- Analytical skills are also essential to an art curator's career and are often used to determine the authenticity of a piece. Combined with the historical knowledge gained through study, curators use their own observations of art to determine its characteristics, age, materials, and other factors to confirm its authenticity and relation to a specific era, artist, or style.

Organization skills for a Art curator - organizational skills are essential for success for a curator- . Curators must keep track of their own collections, as well as any pieces on loan. Planning exhibits requires foresight, attention to detail and the coordination with other departments within the institution.

Catering skills for a Art curator -A curator must be able to retrieve information quickly from requests by the public, your board or other museums and galleries. Customer service and the ability to communicate well comes into play with exhibits, tours, educational lectures, and sales or loans of items to other organizations.

Communication skills for a Art curator - A curator must speak confidently, and work well within a team when necessary. Preservation techniques or chemical processes are nearly always used in the course of an art curator's workday. These techniques can be taught through college or university courses, by professional curators, or through self-study, but must be mastered.

Students and motivation- Art curation work is a highly valuable and intricate work it needs lots of patience and perseverance. Any one small mistake can cost the nation of its grand historical reputation besides it proves detrimental for his job and future career. Students and aspirants of art curation career need not wait for their degree or certificates, they have to gain the experience that can set them apart from other curator job candidates.

1. Students can be motivated to volunteer at curation work with visits to local museums and temples.
2. Students can be motivated to apply for internships at galleries, museums, colleges, and even auction houses to familiarize themselves with the workings of the art world.
3. Students can be motivated to search for part-time positions such as tour guide, educational assistant, or research assistant.
4. Students can be motivated to know about creating and maintaining databases, working with art curation work budgets
5. Students can be motivated to develop inter disciplinary relationships as they study, volunteer and work to create a strong network of professional resources.

Challenges -Art curator positions are highly sought after and limited by the number of museums, galleries, and other organizations dealing in art. By keeping in touch with NGOs , professors, volunteer coordinators and curation supervisors from part-time or entry level jobs, students need to develop contacts and resources to help them to gain future employment in art curation . Students need to acquire required expertise and knowledge of a all types of art style as India is a multi cultural country with varied cultural historicity backing their past. Besides Art curators need to know issues relating to fundraising and grant acquisitions, development, and installation of exhibits, or creating traveling exhibitions; Western, Asian or contemporary art.

II. Conclusion

Thus the work of art curation is a very skillful profession with lots of opportunities for venturing into dream careers. Historical scholarship today has become more and more digitalized , hence the ability to examine and analyze the authenticity of works, preservation, and protection of works of art, and knowledge to assess their value, both culturally and monetarily is very important .Higher education sector can be very

supportive in setting an example of creating interest in art curation and support them to support in conserving the rich and vivid heritage of India intact..

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