

Summary

*“Dissemination of historical and cultural heritage
in archaeological museums in Poland
on the basis of selected examples
- history, education, perception.”*

In recent years, publications in the field of museology in Poland have revealed an increased interest in museum education. These writings usually discuss the issue of museum didactics, analyzed from the perspective of a museum's educational practice.

The thesis presents an analysis of the work that archaeological museums in Poland fulfilled for the sake of society in years 1999-2019. The purpose of this dissertation is to define methods and forms through which archaeological museums promote their collections. Different forms of cooperation between museums and other entities (institutions, research centers, associations, etc.) are also presented. Important part of this thesis is an analysis of the public opinion carried out through the votes of the visitors in investigated museums.

Twelve archeological museums were selected for the purpose of the research. The research methodology is based on a questionnaire carried out in each of the institutions. The questionnaire was completed through conversations with employees of educational departments in each of museums and also through the observations of museums' educational practice. The second research method that was used is the survey that visitors filled while visiting the archaeological exhibitions. Additionally, some printed materials were collected for informational purposes (for example leaflets, guidebooks, exhibition catalogues) and a photographic documentation of exhibitions was carried out. The content of museums' annual reports was also analyzed in terms of educational activities. The dissertation also discusses the integration of new technologies into exhibitions, implementation of various educational methods and consideration for diverse social needs of museum visitors.

First chapter includes definitions related to museology and museum education along with the description of social functions that a modern museum should fulfill. The juridical context of the examined institutions and the state of research on museum education is also briefly presented.

Second chapter is a brief presentation of the history of archaeological museums in Poland and their promotional activities in the field of archaeology. Particular paragraphs

are divided according to social and political situation in Poland throughout the years, which had a great impact on the development of cultural institutions in our country.

Third chapter introduces research methods and techniques used to collect the material. The explanation of selection and choice of analyzed archeological museums is also included.

Fourth chapter provides a description and characteristics of archaeological museums selected for the analysis. The exhibition activities and educational projects carried out by a given institutions in the years 1999-2019 were mainly described. The most interesting promotional projects and topics carried out during educational activities, implemented by educational departments in museums, are also listed.

Fifth chapter contains the main part of the research carried out by the Author. In the following sections of the chapter there is a presentation of the research results. The study focuses primarily on:

- structure of archeological museums (especially the role of educational departments in this structure),
- permanent exhibitions (their appearance, concept and exhibition strategy, equipment and presentation techniques),
- temporary exhibitions (especially thematic analysis of these exhibitions and their relation to archaeology),
- museum education (available offer, thematic analysis of lessons and the cooperation with local community in terms of promoting the collection).

In addition, promotional and publishing work of archaeological museums and their online activity (like for example social media) were also analyzed. The condition of museums' buildings and infrastructure as well as and their adaptation to the diverse needs of visitors.

Sixth chapter summarizes the results of the survey carried out among the visitors of examined museums. It contains a brief description of similar research by different authors and a summary of the state of knowledge on methods of collecting data about visitors' feedback. Next, the Author describes how the survey in the selected institutions was conducted. The survey allowed to bring forward very general conclusions regarding exhibitions presented in archaeological museums. The purpose of this survey was to outline the way visitors perceive exhibitions and how social service was implemented in analyzed museums.

Seventh chapter contains different examples of museums' educational methods and exhibitions from Poland and other European countries. Through certain activities these institutions stand out from the other as they are using attractive educational offer

and innovative methods of promoting archaeology. This way they succeed in reaching the widest possible audience.

Large scale social research among the museum visitors in Poland is still very limited. This is mainly due to financial and time-consuming nature of this type of research. The study undertaken for the purposes of this thesis is aimed to analyze general issues related to education in archaeological museums, presenting their current state and trends of development. An innovative and diverse offer, suitable for visitors of different ages and cultural background as well as socially excluded groups is the museums' response to the requirements of modern society.