

Content development and interpretation experience

Buxton Museum & Art Gallery

2015-17

I am currently Copy-Editor for Buxton Museum and Art Gallery's HLF funded *Collections in the Landscape* project, responsible for overseeing all written content for the renewal of the museum's main gallery, online resources and promotional material as well as training staff in accessible writing practice.

<https://collectionsinthelandscape.wordpress.com>

Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust

2012-14

As Learning Services Manager I had joint responsibility with the Museum Services Manager for interpretation across three sites, including temporary exhibitions and new gallery displays.

Temporary exhibition

2013 *Rustless: The Harry Brearley Story*

Gallery development

2013 *The Mill Owners' Arms* (new gallery about the brewing industry)

I was responsible for a £100,000 learning and community participation project at Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet (part of a Heritage Lottery funded project that included building a new Learning Centre and restoring water-powered machinery). Part of my role was to lead a team renewing the interpretation for visitors on the site, including the Abbeydale Explorer App <http://www.simt.co.uk/abbeydale-industrial-hamlet/what-to-see/abbeydale-explorer-app>.

I was also the lead on Access All Areas – a £125,000 Arts Council England funded disability access improvement programme. The team I led included an Inclusive Access Forum of people with personal or professional experience of disability who we recruited for the project. My role involved overseeing consultation activity, training for staff and volunteers, sourcing and purchasing new equipment and commissioning contractors for improvement works. <http://www.simt.co.uk/about/projects/access-all-areas>

On the Abbeydale HLF project, we worked closely with architects, contractors, fitters and statutory and local authorities, as well as community members and schools, to find the best way to make the new Learning Centre adaptable for different audiences. This work overlapped with Access All Areas, which meant that we had the benefit of Inclusive Access Forum volunteers helping us ensure that a wide range of needs was considered in the planning and interpretation development.

IWM (Imperial War Museums) North

2010-11

I worked in partnership with the Head of Exhibitions to ensure that exhibitions and gallery displays were accessible and appropriate for all audiences. Together, we wrote an interpretation strategy for the planned multi-million pound redevelopment of the main exhibition space.

Temporary exhibition

2011 *War Correspondent: reporting under fire since 2014* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URZlr-svt8g>

Gallery developments

2011 *Al-Mutanabbi Street* (Big Picture Show) <http://www.iwm.org.uk/exhibitions/iwm-north/big-picture-show>

2011 *Service and Separation* (Big Picture Show)

The Manchester Museum

2005-10

As Head of Learning & Interpretation and a key member of content and project teams I contributed to the success of a series of exhibitions and gallery developments, including a complete revamp of the Animal Life gallery and a multi-award-winning temporary exhibition, *Lindow Man: A Bog Body Mystery*.

My role was to lead on content development from an audience perspective, working closely with subject specialists, and to guide colleagues in developing appropriate interpretive methods. This involved developing interpretive strategies, action plans and evaluation methodologies for each project and providing training where necessary.

In addition, I was responsible for researching, writing and editing text with particular audiences in mind, for graphic panels, labels and supplementary content. I negotiated a joint 'sign off', with subject specialist curators responsible for factual accuracy. I also developed and delivered an interpretation module on the Art Gallery & Museum Studies MA course at the University of Manchester.

Temporary exhibitions

2005 *Life through Time*

2007 *A Place for Everything: Making Order out of Chaos*

2007-8 *Revealing Histories exhibition and gallery trail*

2008-9 *Lindow Man: A Bog Body Mystery*

Lindow Moss: A place of finding

2009-10 *Made in Africa: portrait of an Ife ruler*

Charles Darwin: evolution of a Scientist

In Darwin's footsteps

2010 *Nanoq: flat out and bluesome*

Finding Manchester, lost in Bolivia

China: Journey to the East

Gallery developments

2008 *Revealing Histories: Myths About Race*

2009 *The Manchester Gallery*

Nature Discovery

2011 *Living Planet* (on content & project team until October 2010)

2012 *'Ancient Worlds'* (on content & project team until October 2010)