

ITP FINAL REPORT

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Even before the end of the 19th century, Sousse already had two exhibition spaces for archaeological collections: the municipal museum and the hall of honour of the 4th Tirailleurs. But in 2007, a renovation project was decided. This project was marked by a desire for modernisation and new museum concepts which, in my opinion, required professional redefinitions. Indeed, the evolution of the museum's missions has favoured the emergence of museum teams where the curator used to assume many functions alone.

Since my visit to the British Museum and following discussions with my colleagues, we have been in favour of a division of tasks like in Anglo-Saxon museums. The curator does not do everything: there is the administrative and budgetary function, the scientific management of the collections (conservation, inventory, restoration), and cultural activities and mediation. So there are three different aspects.

On the other hand, in these difficult times, the issues facing managers have become increasingly complex. This development seems to impose a specialised administration and increases the demand for professionalism in this field. The managerial skills expected are not only related to budgetary tasks and the day-to-day running of their institution, but also to the "managerial" tasks of planning and evaluating different museum actions. These issues were discussed with the administrative team. After discussions, we assessed the potential of our institution, which allowed us to move forward with confidence and ambition for our organisation.

In terms of my priorities for changes in practice that I wish to bring to our organisation, through the lessons of the ITP, within the museum, the storerooms must perform the function of a conservation area. The notion of a storeroom

must be definitively removed from our minds. All areas of the museum, both storage and operational areas, must be treated in the same way. There should be no difference in treatment (in the broadest sense: facilities, safety and security conditions, etc.) between the different areas.

Generally speaking, the small size of the storage areas often results in a pile of archaeological objects that is detrimental to a good knowledge of the collections and their proper conservation. This also makes it difficult to move the objects when necessary. In addition, the security conditions in these storerooms were unsatisfactory and even potentially dangerous for the collections.

Following the observation of imminent risks to the objects, the teams have undertaken a large-scale conservation plan, the operations of which will take place in two stages: The first stage consists, as a matter of urgency, of securing the buildings with an alarm system. In a second phase, a protection and fixing system adapted to each type of object will enable the rich collections of the various museums to be housed in good security and conservation conditions.



The reserves in Sousse before the refurbishment.



Changes already taken place The Sousse reserve, work in progress.

Amongst the new skills, I was pleased to discover that the school trip, as an experience of encounter with a new place, is often synonymous with change, surprise and emotion. While the school and the museum are similar in terms of learning, the specificity of each makes the child move from the position of student to the less usual position of visitor. Generally speaking, it is desirable to relate the content of the museum visit to the school curriculum and to situate the visit in a learning sequence. The subject of the exhibition will therefore influence the planning of the visit in the school calendar; a visit that will take place at the beginning, middle or end of the year depending on the lesson plan.

The International Training Programme's professional experience, dynamism and innovative spirit have been of great use to us during the design of the various museum activities back at home.

Finally, to continue to part of the ITP 'global network' I think we all need to stay in touch and why not think about seminars that bring the whole team together by video conference or in person.

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