What do teachers want from a digital museum resource?

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Aims of the project

How are digital technologies being used in the classroom?

How can we link this to our museum collections?
What did we do?

Visited 5 schools (2500 students)

Visited classes from Nursery through to VI\textsuperscript{th} Form (3-18 year olds)

Observed 32 lessons

Worked with 43 teachers observing how they used digital resources

Looked at and discussed 28 images and handling objects from 4 UCM collections (Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, Polar Museum and the Fitzwilliam Museum)
In primary schools
In primary and secondary schools

Online resources and platforms are heavily used

Lesson plans are accessed by teachers of all key stages but are then heavily adapted

Images and video clips are used at all key stages
In secondary schools

More individualised learning using iPads

Not all classrooms have interactive white boards

Quizzes and online tests are frequently used
How did teachers respond to our collections?
Teachers

Range of skills, abilities and confidence

All were time poor

Were prepared to pay for resources

If they liked the site they would signpost pupils to it

Acknowledged that some resources were poor quality
What do teachers want?

- Trusted sites
- Expertise
- Searchability
- Clear visuals
- Adaptable content
Trusted Site

Teachers look for quality and reliability

- T1: Well I like the BBC
- T2: Like Bitesize?
- T1: Yeah. They seem more child friendly so you can use them.
- T3: Thing is, we know as teachers, we’ve used them, we feel comfortable going round them and we know they hit the curriculum that we have to teach.

Quotes from interviews in school B (LOWER)
Expertise

Teachers said they needed guidance on teaching from images and objects. There was a general fear amongst teachers of getting it wrong, of not having ‘the knowledge’ needed to teach from collections.

People worry about how to introduce artefacts, maybe [you could have] some kind of demonstration. What you should have is somebody model it: here's an artefact, here's the questions you might ask to get the children's juices flowing, how old it is? how was it used?

Primary school teacher
Searchability

There is a need for easily searchable, well organised content

If I don't find it within ten or fifteen minutes, I stop looking...If it doesn't come up within the first page of Google, I don't look. I sort of think the most helpful thing would be if it was organised by learning objective

Quotes from interviews in school C (primary)
Clear Visuals

Images, videos, animation and 360 scans are highly valued and extensively used

T13: Pictures, pictures… I find myself going to Google images, if I’ve got the google image search up on screen I will just say ‘look. Look at all these photos and look more widely.’ You know, assuming that it’s something appropriate cos sometimes you’ve got to watch out what’s in amongst all the other things, ah, but if you've got a full page of little thumbnails, the children can just see it all out there in front of them.

Quotes from interviews in school C
Adaptable Content

Activity ideas *not* lesson plans

- T5: I’m not after a lesson plan. I’m just after a video or something with lots of pictures. So I want the resources to support my own lesson that I’ve got my own idea for.

- T6: It’s nice to have an idea, if you have a video that you could link it to. So, a suggested activity could be quite good.

Teachers from school B (Primary)
- 5 themed films
- Each film lasts approx. 5 mins
- 17 objects are featured
- Downloadable, high resolution image for every object
- Key facts for every object
- 5 activity ideas per object
- Links to other resources
- All resources are free
For more information search for ‘what do teachers want from a digital museum resource’. This takes you to our blog posts and links to the full research document published in March 2016.


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