

Appendix A

About the Museum Accreditation Scheme – Background Information

Source: Arts Council England <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/supporting-arts-museums-and-libraries/uk-museum-accreditation-scheme>

The Museum Accreditation Scheme is the UK industry standard for museums and galleries

It tells everyone involved with a museum that they are doing the right things to help people to engage with collections and protect them for the future. The Museum Accreditation scheme does this by making sure museums manage their collections properly, engage with visitors, and are governed appropriately.

What is the Museum Accreditation Scheme for?

To encourage all museums and galleries to meet an agreed standard in:

- How they are run.
- How they manage their collections.
- How they engage with their users.
- To build people's confidence in how museums manage collections "*in trust*" for society.
- How they manage public resources – and,
- to reinforce a shared, ethical way of doing things for everyone involved in running a museum.

What is its Reach?

Accreditation covers all types and sizes of museums and galleries and there are currently more than 1700 museums participating in the scheme across the UK.

The scheme works for museums of all sizes: from the smallest volunteer-run museums to national museums.

Why does Accreditation Matter?

Arts Council England manages the scheme, building on 30 years of experience of what works best. This time has really made it clear how much strong museums matter to our country:

- Museums are at the very heart of our cultural identity: they're places for sharing stories, ideas and connections.
- Museum collections are much more than individual objects: they're irreplaceable public assets. They're our heritage, and people trust museums to safeguard them for the next generation.
- Museums shape communities: whether that's by bringing together people with shared interests or providing places and events that draw local communities together
- Museum Accreditation tells everyone involved with a museum that they're doing the right things to run it properly.

At its heart, it answers one simple question: how do you show that your museum is well run?

What Accreditation means to Local Authorities?

Museum Accreditation is the benchmark for a well-run museum. The award:

- helps authorities show that their museums meet their visitors' and users' needs;
- shows their museums are being managed and governed properly;
- can boost museums' reputations, win funding and give confidence to donors and other supporters;
- helps museums manage their collections fairly, ethically and legally;
- gives museums a set of minimum requirements they have to meet, which include accountability and performance management/monitoring progress;
- opens up opportunities for museums, including funding opportunities and new partnerships, and
- helps museums audit their collections and assess risks to them.