Implementing Best Practices in Museum Documentation in Developing Countries

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Coverage

- Introduction
- Museum Documentation
- Documentation System
- Collection Care
- Documenting ICH
- Digital Documentation Vs. Physical Documentation
- Conclusion

Introduction

- There are 3 levels of practices
  - Basic practice
  - Good practice
  - Best practice
- What is best practice?
  - commendable actions and
  - philosophies that demonstrate an awareness of standards, solve problems and can be replicated.

- Nine broad areas that can be evaluated using those practices
  - Policy
  - Buildings
  - Storage
  - Housekeeping
  - Handling and use of collections
  - Environmental monitoring and control
  - Conservation
  - Surrogate copies and new media
  - Emergency preparedness

(The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries, 2002)

Documenting ICH

- Safeguard them before it dies or disappears from the community

- Safeguard means transmitting of knowledge, skills

- Transmitting or communicating ICH from generation to generation as living heritage

- ICH should be an active part of present generation

- Museums can employ modern technologies to transform them into tangible presentation

Documenting ICH contd..

- Inventories
  - Can be used as a tool for documentation
  - Provides necessary information about museum artifacts such as size, location and its significance to the particular community
  - It can be physical inventory or computerized data base system
  - Valuable piece of document for research, heritage tourism and for general public
 - Provides information about museum artifacts

Documenting ICH contd.. Inventories

- Providing accurate, accessible and complete information of archeological sites, historic buildings, museums, archives and libraries.

- Protect the museum artifacts legally during armed conflicts, natural and human made disasters

- Provide accurate identification of the museum artifacts and clearly express the values

- It is important to maintain clear, accurate inventory data for museum documentation to avoid problems

Documenting ICH contd..

- Use of multimedia technologies to preserve undocumented ICH such as –
  - expressions
  - social rituals
  - daily rituals
  - performing arts
  - oral traditions
  - knowledge and practices etc.
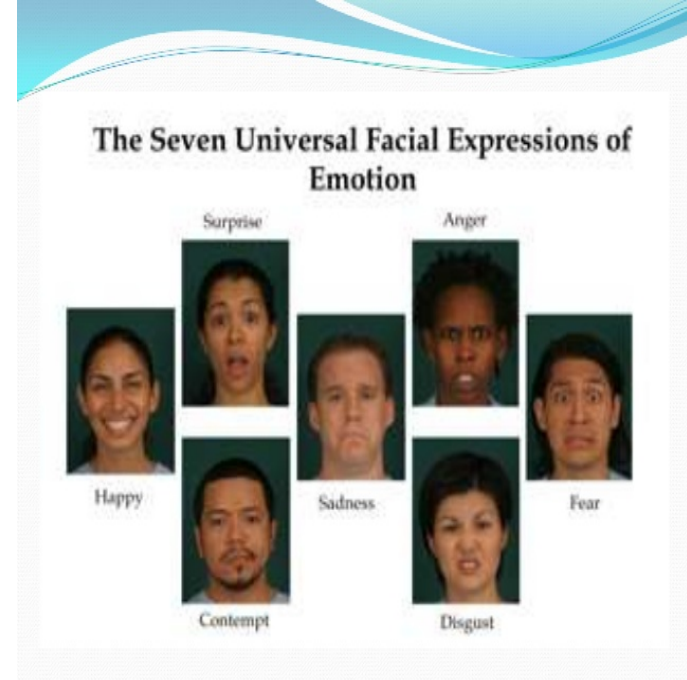
| Who are the Veddas? | Accounts of the Veddahs | Vedda People Today | News & Recent Articles | Resources |

Sri Lanka's forest-dwellers the Veddas or Wanniyalaeto

Struggle for Survival

- Who are the 'Veddas'?
- Their Vulnerability
- Wanniya-laeto identity
- East Coastal Veddas
- The 1992 ILO study
- Post-Independence Struggle
- Mahaweli Development Scheme
- Non-violent Resistance
- Veddas and Human Rights
- Wanniyalaeto Sanctuary
- The Wannietto Trust
- Cultural Survival Plan
- Details of the CS Plan
- Plan's Advantages & Benefits
- Cultural Survival partners
- 1992 interview with Chief Tissahamy
- Sri Lanka's Wanniya-laeto: Case History
- Warige Wanniya's address to the UN
- Let Veddahs be Veddas
- UN Urges Recognition of Veddas
- Veddhas say 'No' to Colonisation

Resources: maps, etc.

- Traditional Vedda settlements in Sri Lanka
- Mahaweli Vedda resettlement areas
- Vedda hamlets in Maduru Oya National Park
- ILO Convention 169
- Plan to protect Bio-diversity and Indigenous Culture
- Wanniyala-Aetto Cave Art
- Courtesy the Indigenous Way
- Living Heritage Network
- Related sites
- Contact Us

- Download the 390-page landmark study "Socio-Anthropological Research Project on Vedda Community in Sri Lanka" by Premakumara De Silva and Asitha G Punchihewa NEW!

Dambana Wanniya-laeto Chief Tissahamy (d. 1998)

- Resource: Complete text of *The Veddas* by C.G. and Brenda Z. Seligmann (1911)
- Into The Jungle With Sri Lanka's Last Hunter-Gatherers NEW!
- Timber barons threaten Dambana tribe
- "Caught between two worlds"
- "Row over where the Veddah roams"
- Wanniyalaeto to stop offering honey

"Colonial Histories and Vädda Primitivism" by Prof. Gananath Obeyesekere

- Introduction
- A Genealogy of Vädda Primitivism
- Vädda Heterogenity & Historic Complexity
- Spread and Dispersal of Vädda Lineages
- Väddas and the Resistance (1817-18)
- Hunting vs Agriculture, Structure & History
- Conclusion

Feature Articles

- The Veddas of Sri Lanka NEW!
- The Ahikuntikaya or Gypsies NEW!
- Goyigama, Kinnaraya, Ahikuntikaya & Rodiya: Lanka's other indigenous peoples
- Revisiting Cultural Heritage in Sri Lanka: The Vedda by David Blundell
- "On the Vanished Trails of Coastal Veddahs"
- Wanniya-laetto article in Sept 2010 Serendib magazine
- The Wanniya-Laetto (Veddahs) of Sri Lanka
- The Curse of Kuveni: The Anti-Thesis of Modernization
- Anthropologists Take a Stand to Protect Vedda Culture
- "Early Man and the Rise of Civilisation in Sri Lanka: the Archaeological Evidence" by S. U. Deraniyagala
- "People of the Forest"
- Veddas target for religious conversion
- "De Veddas van Sri Lanka" (Dutch)
- Among the Danigala Veddas
- Danigala Veddas' plight
- Prof. G.L. Pieris: What we can learn from indigenous people
- Vedda lullabies oldest in the world
- Colonial Histories & Vädda Primitivism
- *The Graphic* of 1884: "Wild Men of Ceylon"
- Indigenous Lanka: Consensus for Survival
- Robert Knox's 1681 account of the Veddas
- Coast Veddas: 1911 Seligmann account
- Veddas celebrate Valli Amma's Wedding
- Veddas agreement with Kataragama Mahadevale
- Sinhala-Tamil Nationalism and East Coast Veddas

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Indigenous People in Sri Lanka

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COLOMBO NATIONAL MUSEUM

The Colombo Museum as it was called at the beginning was established on 1st January 1877. It founder was Sir William Henry Gregory, the British Governor of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) at the time.

The Royal Asiatic Society (CB) was instrumental in bringing to the notice of Gregory on his appointment as Governor in 1872 the need for a public museum with much difficulty the approval of the legislative council was obtained within a year. The Architect of the Public Works Department, J.G. Smither was able to prepare the plans for new structure on Italian architectural style. The construction was completed in 1876 and the Museum commenced it functions in the following year.

The Authorities of the museum took various steps to display the cultural and natural heritage of the country for this purpose.

With the development of the museum to international level, it earned the status of a national museum during the period of Dr. P. E. P. Deraniyagala. He was able to open up branch museums in Jaffna, Kandy and Ratnapura and a full - fledged Department of National Museums was established in 1942 under the act No. 31. The extension of the number of branch museums has now increased to nine and in addition a school science programme and a mobile museum service are also in operation.

This process has further been improved by the arrangement of the galleries of the ground floor in a historical sequence and those of the upper galleries on a thematic basis.

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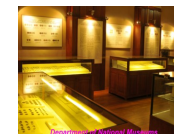
Image Gallery : Colombo National Museum

Conclusion

- Museums documentation
  - can be done physically or digitally
  - It can be digital or physical inventories
- Technology has created golden opportunities to limitless access, enhancing learning and teaching skills
- Technology bridges the information gap, enhances all forms of literacy, and facilitates to access hidden documents on demand
- Technology provides access to high definition digital images online

Colombo Museum in Sri Lanka 1880

Colombo Museum in Sri Lanka 2017

Thank you