

Active Participation of Museum Visitors Regarding Environmental Changes

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Abstract

Museums have always played an important role to help people become more conscious of their world, its limitations, and how their actions affect it. The aim of this article is to examine how museums can take a step forward to encourage visitors become active participants regarding environmental changes.

This paper starts with a literature review exploring the Citizen Science Project in the U.K. and U.S.A museums. It examines how museums invite the public to join scientific researches by contributing observation data. Besides, the “Come to Our Future: Climate Change exhibition” (2012) of the National Taiwan Museum is analyzed as a case study. This exhibition presents issues of environmental changes, and tries to persuade people to become more environmentally friendly.

Findings suggest that museums and the public can collaborate together to protect our earth through the Citizen Science Project, exhibitions and educational activities. In these process, the public have transformed themselves from passive receivers to active participants in terms of environmental conservation and knowledge production.

Keywords: Environmental Changes, Public Engagement of Science, Citizen Science Project, Earth Day, Museum Visitors