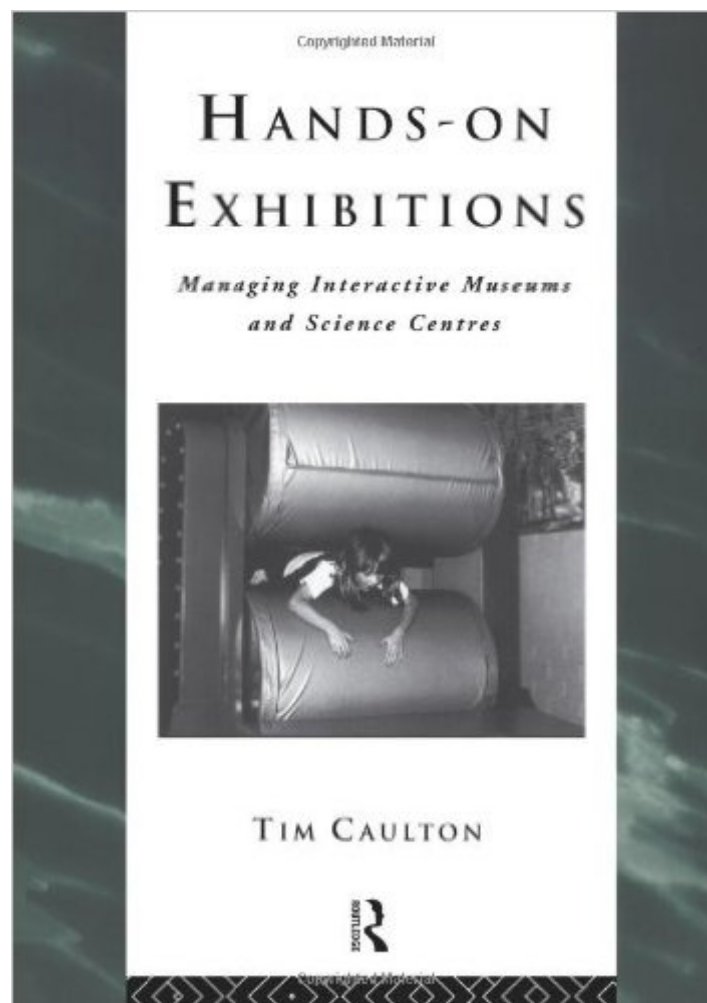


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Hands-On Exhibitions: Managing Interactive Museums And Science Centres (Heritage: Care-Preservation-Management)



Synopsis

The development of interactive displays has transformed the traditional museum world in the last decade. Visitors are no longer satisfied by simply gazing at worthy displays in glass cases - they expect to have hands-on experience of the objects and be actively involved with the exhibits, learning informally and being entertained simultaneously. Hands-on museums and science centres provide the most remarkable example of how museums are redefining their roles in society - improving access to real objects and real phenomena, so that they can be enjoyed by more people. In recent years museums have been thrust into intense competition for the public's time and money with all branches of the leisure industry, from commercial theme parks to retail shopping and home entertainment. This has upset the traditional stability of the museum and their visitors. A hands-on approach encourages a broader visitor base, which in turn helps to bring in additional revenue at a time of declining public subsidy. Tim Caulton investigates how to create and operate effective exhibitions which achieve their educational objectives through hands-on access. He concludes that the continuing success of hands-on museums and science centres hinges on attaining the very best practice in exhibition design and evaluation, and in all aspects of operations, including marketing and financial and human resource management. Hands-On Exhibitions provides a practical guide to best practice which will be indispensable to all museum professionals and students of museum studies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tim Caulton has prepared an excellent reference book for anyone involved in Science Centers and Children's Museums. He manages to contextualize all the relevant factors: history, education, exhibit development, marketing, finance, human resources, operations, special events and activities. I have used this book to a great extent. It has helped me plan and manage a mayor children's museum. His style is straightforward and synthetic. The book has a lot of useful information. It addresses the main educational theories and particular museum cases to illustrate the problems, risks and most effective procedures to run a kind of museum that is not like the rest. A must for anyone that operates interactive museums. Not many books on the subject. This one is a keeper.

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