

## **GLOSSARY OF MUSEUM STUDIES & MUSEO-ETHNOGRAPHY**

### **A. Glossary of Museum Studies**

- Accession** : A batch of material received at one time from one source.
- Acquisition** : Object, specimen or collection obtained by the museum through purchase; field collecting, gift, legacy or exchange. Deposits and loans are not included in the museum's acquisitions.
- Cataloguing** : Assigning an object to one or more categories of an organized classification system.
- Collector** : The person who looks for objects or specimens in the field, to add to the museum's collection. Also means a person who collects objects by trade, by taste or by hobby.
- Collection** : A unit of the collections, consisting of objects having something of importance in common.
- Collections** : The collected objects of a museum or a collector.
- Data** : Facts given as elements of information. In computer science, a data is a raw material of information.
- Designer** : In the museum context, a person who has overall responsibility for the arrangement and appearance of an exhibit, a gallery or a complete museum.
- Display** : The showing of objects, depending on the interest of the viewer in the objects themselves. Objects are the pivot of arrangements for showing to the visitors.
- Document** : Text or object to be used as a record of information.
- Documentation** : Record of information concerning a certain subject.
- Exhibit** : Of more important, and professional connotation than "display". It is a unit of exhibitions or exhibits which is the presentation of ideas with the intent of educating the visitors.
- Exhibition** : An assemblage of objects of artistic, historical, scientific, or technological nature, through which visitors move from unit to unit in a sequence designed to be meaningful instructionally and/or aesthetically. An exhibition is equally corresponded with an exhibit.
- House museum** : The Great Man's former house, or at least, a house in which he once stayed, and in which a visitor can see collections on display.
- Identification** : Specification as to the nature, origin, etc. of an object, given at the time of its acquisition.
- Information** : a refined material or finished product regarding knowledge in computer science.

**Label** : Written material in an exhibit to identify, to explain, and to inform.

**Labelling** : The writing and placing of a label on or near an object, or on the spine of a book.

**Living museum** : This term is used in two senses: a museum in which there is a good deal of participation on the part of visitors, and a museum in which some or all of the exhibits are actually alive.

**Museography** : A part of 'museum studies' in terms of practical and the technical aspects. It is a composite discipline which is relevant to operate museums, to manage museum materials and to create substantial museum environment based on arts, crafts, designs, and techniques.

**Museology** : To study museums, museum materials, museum visitors, museum workers and their environment in holistic and scientific approaches. It is 'museum studies' in terms of theoretical and methodological aspects.

**Object** : A material, three-dimensional thing of any kind.

**Preservation** : Keeping museum collections from deterioration.

**Registration** : Assigning a permanent number for identification purposes to an accession and recording this number according to a system.

**Restoration** : Measures taken to bring an object back to its original condition.

**Specimen** : Usually synonymous with museum object but properly having the connotation of an example or sample; a representative member of a class of objects.

## **B. Glossary of Museo-Ethnography**

**Acculturation** : Major culture changes that occur as a result of prolonged contact between societies.

**Adaptation, cultural** : Learned plans for whether from the physical/biological environment or the external social system.

**Animism** : A belief in spirit beings which are thought to animate nature.

**Anthropology** : The study of man and his culture.

**Approach, cross-cultural** : In ethnology, techniques for inferring culture history by comparisons of several related cultures.

**Approach, ecological** : Examination of the relationship of cultural systems to the larger environmental systems in which they operate and to which they must adapt.

**Archaeology, prehistoric** : That subfield of cultural anthropology that deals with inferences about extinct societies.

**Artefact** : An object produced or shaped by man or, possibly, a natural object deliberately selected and used by man.

**Castes** : Endogamous social groups based on descent and ranked in a rigid hierarchy, each caste usually having specific ritual and/or technical functions.

**Chief** : A person who exercises authority usually on behalf of a multi communities political unit.  
**Chiefdom** : A political unit within a society, with a chief at its head, integrating more than one community.  
**Chopping Tool** : A Stone Age tool, made on pebble or dyke by flaking a part of the periphery on both lower and upper faces, used for cutting.  
**Clans** : Descent groups composed of several lineages.  
**Class, social** : A division of a societal group into ranked subgroups with recruitment based on a variety of criteria and with movement of individuals among groups.  
**Cleaver** : A Stone Age tool having a wide chisel-edge formed by the intersection of two large flake-scars.  
**Crafts** : Strictly speaking, 'craft' refers to the skill, not to the products of that skill. Basket-making is a craft, a basket is a craft-product.  
**Cross-cousins** : Children of ego's mother's brother matrilinear) or father's sister (patrilinear).  
**Culture** : The ways of life and the products of a particular society.  
**Culture area** : A geographic region in which a number of different societies follow a similar pattern of life.  
**Deculturation** : In acculturation, loss of a substantial part of a culture.  
**Endogamy** : The rule that marriage must be within a particular group or category of individuals.  
**Ethnography** : The subfield of cultural anthropology which formulates descriptions of social, technological, and ideological systems.  
**Ethnocentrism** : The attitude that one's own culture is the highest and constitutes a standard for judging all other cultures.  
**Ethnohistory** : The subfield of anthropology which uses materials from ethnography and archaeology in conjunction with documentary evidence for the reconstruction of history.  
**Ethnology** : The subfield of cultural anthropology which compares materials provided by ethnography, usually to draw historical inferences.  
**Ethos** : Integration patterns of value which give coherence to an ideology.  
**Exogamy** : The rule that marriage must be outside the group.  
**Extended family** : A family consisting of two or more monogamous, polygynous, or polyandrous families linked by a blood tie.  
**Microliths** : A Stone Age tiny tools made on fine grained stones like quartz, chalcedony, jasper, agate, carnelian and chert.  
**Nuclear family** : A kinship group composed of a married couple together with their unmarried offspring.  
**Handaxe** : A Stone Age tool, almond or pear-shaped tool, made by removing flakes usually from both upper and lower faces.  
**Hierarchy** : Any arrangement of parts from high to low whether in terms of power, wealth, or prestige.

**Horticulture** : Any system of food cultivation that does not employ the plow, though it may use "intensive" techniques such as fencing, irrigation, or fertilization.

**Pantheons** : The several gods and goddesses of a people.

**Patrilineal** : A rule of descent which automatically assigns ego to the kinship group of his or her father.

**Patrilocal residence** : A residence pattern in which a married couple lives in the locality associated with the husband's father's relatives.

**Point** : Tool of stone, bone or metal, having a sharp end, and presumably used as arrow-head.

**Polygamy** : Any marriage rule permitting ego to have more than one spouse at the same time. More particularly, "polyandry," which allows a female ego to have plural husbands, and "polygyny," which allows a male ego to have plural wives.

**Rejection** : In acculturation, changes may be so rapid that a large number of persons cannot accept them, resulting in either total rejection, rebellion, or revitalization movements.

**Reinterpretation** : The assignment of new "meanings" to borrowed cultural elements.

**Relativism cultural** : The attitude that beliefs and practices must be understood in terms of the culture of which they form a part.

**Rites of passage** : Rituals marking important stages in the lives of individuals, such as birth, marriage, and death.

**Scraper** : Implement of stone, bone or metal having a specially-prepared scraping-edge. Used for scraping hides, smoothening wood, etc. It has many varieties, for example, straight-sided, convex, round, keel-shaped, hollow, etc.

**Slash-and-burn** : A form of shifting horticulture in which the natural vegetation is cut down and burned off.

**Sorcery** : The use of certain materials to harm people through the manipulation of supernatural powers.

**Spirits** : Unnamed supernatural beings of nonhuman origin, who are beneath the gods in prestige but closer to the people.

**Subculture** : The shared customs of a subgroup within a society.

**Substitution** : In acculturation, replacement of a preexisting trait or complex by another that fills its function, with minimal structural change.

**Syncretism** : In acculturation, the phenomena, i.e., amalgamation of elements from very different cultural sources.

**Totem** : A plant or animal name given to a clan which provides group identification and may have other special significance for the group.

**Witchcraft** : The practice of attempting to harm people by supernatural means, but through the emotions and thought processes alone, not by using any tangible objects.