

Contemporary Collecting: Theory and Practice



This is a revised colour edition of this acclaimed book, which deals with the problems of collecting contemporary objects in museums and aims to answer some of the awkward questions raised. What should we collect? Who should decide? How can we adequately record how we live our lives today? What about the storage implications? What limits should we place on ourselves? What processes and directives can ensure best practice? Owain Rhys reminds us that contemporary collecting is the first and most significant act of interpretation and a primary responsibility of almost every museum. - David Anderson, Director General, National Museum Wales. The contemporary moment is the moment in which to collect, effectively. But overwhelmed by diverse recording media, unsure of an appropriate collecting philosophy or fieldwork practice, and facing up to globalisation and mass production, most museums have recorded that moment as a silence. Owain Rhys gives timely reflection on the development of contemporary collecting practice, and considers how museums might face up to the challenge. - Professor Simon Knell, School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester.

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