Assessment of the Educational Role of the Museum of
Jordanian Heritage at Yarmouk University

By

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Abstract


This study is considered one of the first initiative studies aimed at evaluating the educational role of one of the best museums in Jordan. Being located in an educational organization, it is assumed that the educational role of the Museum of Jordanian Heritage (MJH) has been given the attention it deserves.

To evaluate that the data were collected through interviewing museum curator, technicians and social science teachers; personal observations held in the museum exhibitions; searching institute and museum publications; questionnaires sent to social science teachers and students of the primary phase in some of the elementary and secondary schools in Irbid, and the results were evaluated according to the "Excellence in Practice: Museum Education Principles and Standards" that was developed by the Edcom (Committee on Education) in January 17th, 2002.

Based on the results obtained, it has been found that the MJH lacks educational policy, the major educational activities it offers includes 1) planning different themed temporary exhibitions; 2) providing students and researchers from the university and other local and foreign universities with the needed materials for conducting research projects;

The educational workshops offered by the museum are based on the personal contribution of museum staff, which means that they are not organized in fixed time intervals.
To fulfill the educational role the museum should 1) make provision of an educational policy that will help it in organizing the educational activities and services provided to museum visitors; 2) hire specialists in different disciplines to facilitate planning the different programs and projects; 3) plan school visits that are linked to school curriculums with school teachers; 4) organize different themed lectures; temporary exhibits; workshops; educational events and activities in a regular basis; 5) conduct visitor studies and assessment projects; 6) eliminate all physical barriers that prevent accessibility and provide diverse interpretative materials that engage museum visitors in the process of meaning-making.

Key Words: Workshops, Museum of Jordanian Heritage, School visits, research, staff, services, special events and activities, temporary exhibits.