

Questions for a Workshop on “Participation in Public Memory Institutions”,
by Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Tietmeyer, Director of the Museum Europäischer Kulturen

Public institutions like galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (GLAM) are places and mediators of cultural memory. Today, many of them communicate memory through interpreting cultural heritage within a participatory framework as meanings of heritage are never one-sided and permanent but rather dynamic and constructed by the current needs of individuals and societies. The below named questions on four relevant topics in participatory memory work can be used in a workshop – organized in groups – which aims at collaboratively developing conditions, fields, chances, and challenges of participatory practices in public memory institutions, especially in museums.

Group 1: Prerequisites for participation

- 1) What should memory institutions be aware of when they plan participatory memory work
- 2) Which structural prerequisites or individual characteristics of possible participants can impact participation?
- 3) How would you as a professional memory worker approach individuals or groups to participate and develop a relationship? What would you do if they asked you to work with your institution?

Group 2: Participation in collection development and data gathering

- 1) How can professional memory institutions enhance the knowledge surrounding their collections?
- 2) How can new collections be initiated?
- 3) How can the outcomes of participatory collecting be saved? Which problems may occur?

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Group 3: Participation in (re)presentation

- 1) Which forms of memory work foster participation for (re)presentation?
- 2) How does curatorial practice change on the institutional side?
- 3) How can the outcomes of participatory work be handled, measured and reflected?

Group 4: Dealing with limits of participation

- 1) What may hinder participation from the institutional side and the participants' side?
- 2) Which problems may occur between all people involved in the participatory process and how can they be solved?
- 3) What can be done to guarantee a sustainable outcome of participation?

