

DAVID ALEXANDER TAYLOR

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PROFILE

I am a cultural heritage specialist with a trans-atlantic education, extensive training in multimedia technologies and experience of cross-cultural working. My objective is to join a progressive organization where I can share my knowledge and skills whilst continuing to develop professionally.

EDUCATION

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) - Decorative Art and Design History

University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK

2004 - 2005

- Awarded the James McNeil Whistler Travel Scholarship 2005 for research in USA

Master of Arts (MA) – History

University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK

1999 – 2003

- Specialist Subject – The Scots in India

Student Exchange Programme

Harvard University and Boston College, Boston, USA

2001 - 2002

- Studied History, Foreign Policy, Music and Ethics

PROFESSIONAL MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

Cultural Heritage Consultant

DA Taylor Design

March 2009 - Present

Established in March 2009, DA Taylor Design is a freelance cultural heritage consultancy specialising in design, research, multimedia, display and interpretation. DA Taylor Design has been involved in a number of projects in the UK and the Gulf Region. Services provided, skills and experience include:

- Providing informed advice and formulating development strategies through scoping studies and feasibility assessments.
- Researching comparable collections, exhibitions and methodologies.
- Designing workflow patterns for digitization, cataloguing schemes and collection management tools.
- Audience research and research into commercialisation opportunities for clients.
- Designing, maintaining and moderating websites and online forums.
- Designing digital educational resources for use in primary and secondary schools.
- Developing Web 2.0 technologies - podcasting, blogging, social networks and RSS feeds.
- Developing online exhibitions using oral histories, period film footage, digitised photos, medals, maps, newspaper articles, letters etc.

Selected Projects - Gulf Region

1. Lead Project Advisor, Noor Ali Rashid Collection, Sharjah/Dubai, UAE (Jan – Jun 2010)

Managed the development of an ambitious program of digitization, cataloguing and oral history capture for Noor Ali Rashid, the former Royal Photographer of the United Arab Emirates. Worked with a range of contractors from the UAE, India, Indonesia, USA and the UK.

2. Exhibition Consultant, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE (Oct – Dec 2009)

Prepared a strategic plan and initial design layouts for the introduction of permanent exhibitions at Zayed University campuses in Dubai and Abu Dhabi to commemorate the life and achievements of Sheikh Zayed. Gained valuable experience working closely with senior Emirati decision makers and learned important skills in protocol and etiquette.

Selected Projects – United Kingdom

1. Web Developer, Highland Light Infantry Association, Glasgow, UK (Aug 2010 – Present)

Developed a web presence for the regimental veterans association (www.highlandlightinfantry.org.uk) with sections for user generated content such as family history research, military research and general social networking.

2. Content Developer, 602 Squadron Museum Association, Glasgow, UK (Mar – Nov 2009)

Designed and built the 602 Squadron Museum Website (www.602squadronmuseum.org.uk) officially launched in June 2009. Also developed online educational resources for use in schools and during visits to the museum.

3. Oral History Project Officer, Lions Rampant Project, Glasgow, UK (Mar - Nov 2009)

Managed a youth engagement project involving local youth groups interviewing war veterans to create oral histories. These were then further developed into online exhibitions for the museum website, www.602squadronmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/lions_rampant.php

Project Development Manager - Scottish Emigration Museum

Museums Galleries Scotland, Edinburgh, UK

Mar 2008 – Mar 2009

Developed scoping and feasibility studies for a virtual museum on the theme of Scottish Emigration aimed at linking collections in Scotland with related collections in Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

- Monitored the progress of the project against key objectives and controlled activities against budgets.
- Liaised with key partners and coordinated project steering group meetings.
- Raised the profile of the project and the organisation to key stakeholders and the public.
- Identified potential content and opportunities for the project in Diaspora countries.
- Engaged with Scotland's national, regional and local museums, libraries and archives.
- Organised and participated in a partnership building visit to New Zealand.

Head of Web Content Development

Just One Hotel Ltd., Glasgow, UK

Jan 2006 – Feb 2008

Just One Hotel is a web-based travel company offering a range of cultural and travel services. Employed initially as webmaster, my position evolved to managing a small team of content developers.

- Developed creative travel web content/resources (guides, maps, photos, reviews etc.)
- Responsible for integrating customer feedback to guarantee quality assurance.
- Collaborated with programming team on the development of new public-facing systems.
- Applied troubleshooting to find creative solutions to accessibility issues.
- Assisted in SEO and online advertising/marketing.

Collections Development Assistant

Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum, Glasgow, UK

Dec 2004 – Nov 2005

Digitised a selection of the museum's archive material e.g. letters; photographs; pamphlets; journals; diaries; and audio recordings. Assisted with public enquiries and research in the Regimental library and archive.

Research Assistant in Multimedia Applications

Hunterian Museum Multimedia Studio, Glasgow, UK

Jul 2004 – Nov 2004

Assisted in identifying potential collections material for QTVR photography and contributed to research into alternative content delivery methods e.g. ipods, mobile phones, pdas etc.

Architectural Heritage Recorder and Assessor

Scottish Civic Trust; Buildings At Risk, Glasgow, UK

Mar 2004 – Jun 2004

Compiled high quality condition reports for 2004 Buildings at Risk Register. Photographed buildings to be included in Conditions Report and assisted with the design and maintenance of the on-line version of the Register.

IT SKILLS

- Microsoft Office Package- Access, Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Microsoft Project (Project Management Software) Microsoft Sharepoint (CMS Software)
- Adobe - Photoshop / Dreamweaver / Premier
- PHP, MySQL, CSS, XHTML, Javascript

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Effective Writing for the Web – Henzteeth Training, Edinburgh (2008)
- Project Management Training – Pitman Training, Glasgow (2008)
- Presentation Training – Voice Business, Edinburgh (2008)
- Facilitation Training – Miles Harrison, Edinburgh (2008)

PUBLICATIONS

- David A. Taylor (2006), **The Great Exhibitions of Glasgow & San Francisco**,
In: *History Scotland - Vol. 6 No.5 September/October*, Edinburgh, (pp. 16 – 21)
- David A. Taylor (2005), **My Favourite Place – Experiments in Education**,
In: *Children in Scotland December 2005*, (pp. 11 – 14)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Sharjah Museums Department (Nov 2010 pending)**
Delivery of staff development workshops on Effective Interpretation and Oral History Skills.
- **University of Glasgow – Hunterian Junior Archaeologists Club (2006 – Present)**
Involved since 2006 in leading educational visits and developing new educational resources.
- **Hunterian Museum/Caledonian University - Summer School (Summer 2008)**
Delivered workshops focusing on 'Applying IT and Multimedia in the Heritage Sector'.
- **University of Glasgow - Post Graduate TA Work (2004 – 2005)**
Provided various assistance in the teaching of undergraduate courses in History of Art, Decorative Art and Design and Architectural History.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST