

Final paper

Title: for whom is accessibility improved and enhanced

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Case study of the Zimbabwe Military Museum

The museum opened its doors to the public on the 24 of January 1974 as the Midlands Museum which was changed to the current name in 1985, and it houses different galleries with exhibitions focusing on the military field, air force, aviation and police. The army gallery illustrates the development of military equipment from about the 16th century through the liberation war until to date, the air force gallery showcases the birth of the air force in the country from the colonial era to date, the police gallery also showcases the birth of the police force to date, the aviation also exhibits planes used in the country from pre-colonial to date.

Museums are meant to be accessible by everyone regardless of their physical, sensory and intellectual condition of the people. at any entrance they should be provisions that cater for any person than might wish to visit the museum with inclusion of ramps, steps, rails and proper signage which is easy to understand to help visitors navigate around the parking lot and entrance, to direct visitors upon arrival. The signage should be of high contrast colors, easy to read fonts and simple, straight forward pictograms. On entering there should be people or someone ready to greet the visitor to make him/her feel at home. And our show cases/display should have proper lighting. Lightning plays a significant role of aiding the interaction between people and museum artifacts, therefore it enhances museum experience .and it can be used to draw attention to areas of importance and make people perceive and value of museum objects. Hence at the Military Museum we are changing all the lightening which was used from the inception of the museum to more den lightning and we are also in the process of installing audios Comprehensive guides and audio descriptive displays to make works more accessible to those with visual impairments, while tactile options like 3D printing help to bring other senses into play within a museum setting. The museum should have enough space in between the walkways to accommodate for people with disabilities, it allows them to navigate the exhibitions more comfortable and easily, due to the curb-cut effect, those accommodations often lead to a safer environment for everyone. According to B. Maag 2021 accessibility means different things to different people but is not just a single thing and can be divided into three pillars mainly emotional, functional, and technical. Each pillar must be accessible in itself but all must be considered together .emotional accessibility is the first impression a person experiences when presented with a service .does that person react positively or negatively, do there feel invited or rejected ;in short does the expectation meet the original intent. Factional accessibility defines weather a service or product is designed in such a way that a person can easily understand and manage it does the person experience obstacles that prevent them from achieving the tsk presented to them functional accessibility must support the user in order for a service to be successful. Technical accessibility refers to physical and software products that are engineered in such a way that they can fulfill the function accessibility expectations. We are also in the process of re arranging the air crafts to make the walk space more accessible and want to create raised walk ways so that people can have a full view of the aircrafts from all angles. The military and aviation museum is perceived by the public as a military base because of the military displays and some members of the

public fear to visit it, but we are trying to make outreach programs and are working with the ministry of education to make school group visit of children from all levels to make them aware of the museum thus trying to make it more accessible to the public.