The eventization of movable religious heritage objects: The Lindisfarne Gospels - A case study

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Lindisfame Gospels: History

- Earliest fully illuminated English book
- ‘Dark Ages’ art work
- Holy Island – Lindisfame
- Produced 715-720AD by Eadfrith (illustrations and calligraphy) and Ethelwald (front cover) 518 pages
- In honour of St Cuthbert
- 1000 mile journey

http://bigbible.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/lindisfame_cat33-copy.jpg
Role of curator:
- Custodian
- Interpreter
- ‘Ensuring appropriate levels of access to ensure they continue to exist for future generations’

Influence of technological change
- Facsimile copies
- ‘Same level of access... as scholars working in the British Library’s reading rooms’
Lindisfarne Gospels Durham: one amazing book, one incredible journey

- 3 months 2013 – Durham
- ‘To engage people with the story of the Gospels’
- ‘To celebrate the rich heritage of culture, learning and artistry’
- ‘To emulate the spirit of creativity’
- ‘The exhibition had to be much more than a book in a case’
- Celebration
- Events
- Schools Outreach programme
- 95,000 exhibition tickets sold

Impacts

- Durham University
  - World class exhibition facilities for artefacts
  - Exhibition planning expertise
  - Blueprint for outreach programmes for heritage, museums, libraries
  - Events management experience
  - Social Media
  - Gospels ‘embedded’ in National Curriculum of NE England region
Eventization of movable religious heritage objects?

- Events - role in society
- Links to other themes extends topic: science, print, paper
- Widening participation and engagement with religious heritage objects
- Target specific ages and interest groups
- Curation - what next?
- Need - Develop - Future Use
- Skills - Facilities - Processes