

Abstract

With the new museology, museums have been declared as the public spaces where past is presented through displays and interpretation of exhibits. The narratives and interpretations of museums often fall with the 'present' and are mostly embedded in the broader social and political contexts.

This thesis looks at the Lahore Museum in its journey towards becoming a national museum of Pakistan and its role in nation building from 1947-2000. After Partition, the Lahore Museum was received by Government of Pakistan as the largest museum which led to interpretation of exhibits and displays under official history. Thus it is important to look at role of Lahore Museum critically in nation-building. This thesis looks at transformations of Lahore Museum in three aspects; firstly, in the visions and debates of Lahore Museum's Board of Governors compared with the official history of Pakistan. Secondly, the Lahore Museum's extensions and additions have been discussed in the permanent exhibitions and interpretations of the Lahore Museum along with drawing parallels with the textbooks. Lastly, the meaning making in Lahore Museum by Visitors in receiving the narrative of Lahore Museum as it is or countering and challenging of narrative by visitors with their own social backgrounds or priorities.