

## Museum Artifact Conservation Training for Social Science Educators and Students in Pontianak

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### Abstract

The West Kalimantan Museum stores and exhibits a collection of items with historical, scientific, artistic, and cultural significance, primarily originating from West Kalimantan Province. It is crucial for social science educators and students in West Kalimantan to comprehend the significance of visiting the museum in person. This allows them to directly witness and study historical and cultural artifacts of West Kalimantan, thereby reinforcing the knowledge they acquire from books. Hence, social science education lecturers of Tanjungpura University organized a community service program known as "Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat" (abbreviated as PKM) that invited both social science teachers and students of Pontianak to local museums for a visit. The objectives of this training encompassed two main goals. Firstly, it aimed to generate interest among teachers and students in discovering and familiarizing themselves with the museum. Secondly, it sought to enhance the knowledge of teachers and students regarding the conservation of the museum's collections. Following the training, the lecturers gathered feedback from participants via a Google form to assess their opinions regarding the museum collection and artifact preservation training. This data was then analyzed using a quantitative approach, and the results were presented using descriptive statistics. A total of 19 individuals responded to the survey, consisting of 7 teachers and 12 students. The results indicated that the participants had a positive response to the activity and expressed a request for similar programs to be conducted in the future.

**Keywords:** museum, conservation training, collection, social science teachers

### INTRODUCTION

The museum serves as a suitable venue for educational purposes, particularly in the realm of history and cultural heritage. As stated by Larasati et al. (2017), the museum acts as a gateway to understanding a nation's identity through its history and culture. This perspective aligns perfectly with the museum's responsibility and function as an institution actively focused on preserving, conserving, and displaying cultural heritage through a diverse array of historical artifacts.

The museum can become a sought-after destination for educational tourism, particularly for individuals who possess an interest in and awareness of history and culture (Prabowo, 2021). In this regard, the museum plays a significant role as a medium for cultural education within the community, especially among students, as it serves as a valuable learning resource encompassing vast knowledge and diverse information that contribute to the intellectual development of the nation and the advancement of national culture (Larasati et al., 2017). As highlighted by Hidayat et al. (2022), utilizing the museum as a tool for learning enables students to directly observe and acquire information, moving beyond abstract and verbal forms of instruction (Amilia et al., 2022).

According to Yusuf et al. (2018), numerous individuals, including academics, currently perceive museums solely as institutions that house and exhibit historical artifacts. Consequently, there is a lack of interest among schools in organizing museum visit programs that would allow students to directly engage with and learn about history and culture (Ratnawati & Kustyarini, 2021). This notion is further reinforced by the research conducted by Adam et al. (2013), which highlights that many individuals still need to comprehend the responsibilities and functions of museums, often regarding them solely as spaces to showcase historical collections.

Our community service partners, comprising social science teachers in high schools in Pontianak and their students, are confronted with a similar challenge. They lack a comprehensive understanding of museums, particularly the West Kalimantan Museum. Some of them have never had the opportunity to visit a museum before. Consequently, it becomes essential for us to organize an introduction and training session on the preservation of the West Kalimantan Museum's collection. This initiative aims to enhance the knowledge and awareness of social science teachers and students regarding the West Kalimantan Museum and equip them with the skills necessary for preserving its collection (Aryani & Fuada, 2021).

It is crucial for educators and students to grasp the significance of conservation (Handayani, 2023; Henryanto et al. 2023; Mangruwa, et al., 2022; Zebua et al., 2023). Conservation entails more than just the maintenance of objects to attract visitors; it also entails a deep appreciation for the presence of historical artifacts and the assurance of their long-term preservation (Rohaendi & Salamah, 2019; Sinaga et al., 2023; Zulkarnaen et al., 2023). While conservation is typically entrusted to experts in the field, it is important to educate teachers and staff about the role they play in conserving museum collections as part of the broader effort to safeguard history and culture. This PKM activity has two main objectives: (1) to generate greater interest among teachers and students in learning about and acquainting themselves with the West Kalimantan Museum, and (2) to enhance the understanding of teachers and students regarding the preservation of the museum's collections.

This activity offers several advantages. Firstly, social science teachers can utilize the West Kalimantan Museum as a valuable resource for teaching history and culture after participating in this activity. They can also incorporate the conservation training received from the museum into their classroom instruction (Subekti et al., 2021). Secondly, students can enhance their understanding and knowledge about the West Kalimantan Museum through this community activity. It is expected that they will develop a deeper appreciation for their local history and culture (Simarmata et al., 2022). Lastly, the school benefits from the implementation of this community service activity as it serves as a collaborative effort between the school and the university, which can contribute to the improvement of the school's accreditation.

## METHOD

This PKM project aims to engage the community, specifically representatives from social science teachers and students in various high schools in Pontianak. The participants will include History and Geography teachers from five schools in Pontianak, as well as four student representatives from each school. Here are the specific details of the participants.

Table 1. PKM Participants

No	School	History Teacher	Master of Geography	Student	Total
1	SMA N 1 Pontianak	1	1	4	6
2	SMA N 3 Pontianak	1	1	4	6
3	SMA N 8 Pontianak	1	1	4	6
4	SMA S Mujahideen	1	1	4	6
5	MAN 1 Pontianak	1	1	4	6
<b>Number of Participants</b>					<b>30</b>

This introductory and training activity was conducted in two separate sessions, with the first one starting at 8:00 AM and ending at 12:00 PM WIB, while the second one started at 1:00 PM and ended at 4:00 PM WIB. The PKM utilized a mentorship and training approach, which comprised several activities such as delivering educational material, providing mentorship, and evaluating PKM activities for both social science teachers and students. The activities were organized into two separate sessions: the first session focused on introducing the museum's collections within the Plaza and Utama buildings, while the second focused on providing training regarding the conservation of the West Kalimantan provincial museum's collections. The activities of the program were displayed in the following flow chart (Figure 1).

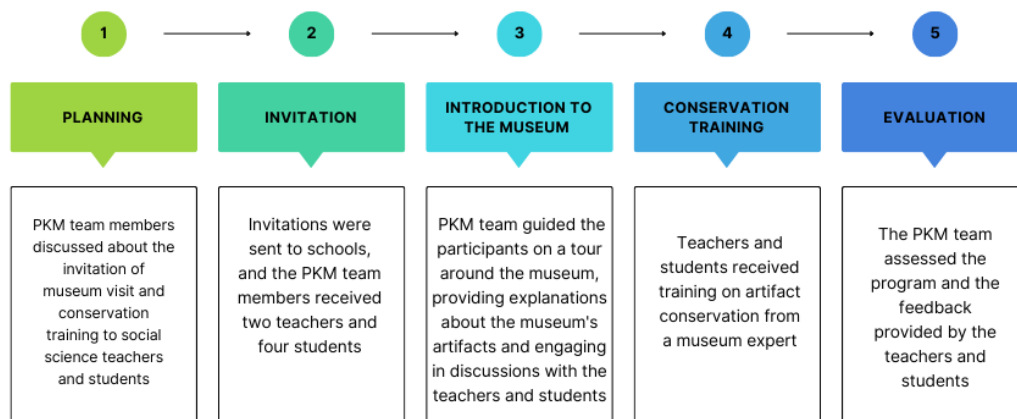


Figure 1. Community Service Activity

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to Yusuf et al. (2018), museums are educational institutions where teachers and students can explore history and culture. These institutions store, preserve, and utilize collections as historical artifacts to uphold the integrity of history and culture. Furthermore, these collections serve as valuable resources for learning. According to the Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia issued on May 19, 1995, museums are institutions designed to house, protect, safeguard, and utilize cultural objects as evidence of human culture, nature, and the environment. These institutions contribute to the conservation and preservation of culture. In line with the Indonesian Museum Guide (2008) by the International Council of Museums (ICOM), museums are long-term, not-for-profit organizations that benefit the community by collecting, preserving, connecting, and exhibiting artifacts associated with human and environmental identities. They serve purposes such as research, education, and entertainment, and are open to the public (Qadri, et al., 2022).

The West Kalimantan Provincial Museum can be found on Jalan Jenderal Achmad Yani in Pontianak, West Kalimantan Province. It serves as a repository for numerous historical artifacts from the region, showcasing remnants of the indigenous cultures of West Kalimantan tribes such as Melayu, Dayak, and Chinese. Visitor hours are from Tuesday to Sunday, 08:00-14:00, with a break on Friday from 08:00-11:00 and then resuming from 12:30-14:00. The museum is closed on Mondays and public holidays. Initially established in 1974 under the Regional Office of the Department of Education and Culture of West Kalimantan Province as part of the West Kalimantan Museum Expansion and Restoration Project, the West Kalimantan Provincial Museum officially opened to the public on October 4, 1983. The museum spans approximately 3,905 square meters of land area with a total area of around 28,167 square meters.

Despite the favorable location of the West Kalimantan Provincial Museum in the city center, there remains a need to educate the public on the specifics of its collection and proper preservation methods. Many participants attending the Community Service activity have not previously visited the museum. The PKM team conducted a survey to assess the level of understanding regarding the West Kalimantan Museum, revealing that a majority of participants still require knowledge about museum collections and their preservation techniques. This Community Service activity was scheduled for Saturday, August 12, 2023.



Figure 1. PKM survey results

The Introduction and Training activity was divided into two sessions. Session I ran from 08:00-

12:00 WIB, followed by Session II from 13:00-16:00 WIB. The PKM method employed a mentorship and training approach, which incorporated various tasks like presenting educational materials, offering guidance, and assessing PKM activities for teachers and students in the social science field.



**Figure 2.** Photo with PKM Participants and Team

During the first session, participants were given an introduction to the museum collections in both the Plaza and main building. This activity included a tour of the museum and an introduction to the various collections. The West Kalimantan Provincial Museum houses a diverse range of collections, which are divided into three rooms. The first room, known as the Introduction Room, consists of seven different types of collections:

- Geographic/Geological Collection, which includes maps and various types of rocks.
- Biological Collection, which comprises human, plant, and animal skulls or skeletons.
- Archaeological Collection, which contains objects that date back to cultural relics from the time of Western culture's entry. Examples of these relics include perimbases axes from the Paleolithic period, shales and arrowheads from the Mesolithic period, pickaxes, square axes, and pottery from the Neolithic period, as well as beads and nectaras from the Perundagian period.
- The Historical Collection in the Introduction Room consists of objects that have historical significance, relating to countries, figures, and groups. Examples of such objects include the traditional clothes worn by the Pontianak Sultan and pistols used by the VOC (Dutch East India Company).
- The Numismatics Collection, consists of different currencies from various time periods., and The Heraldic Collection, includes various items such as badges, currency, official ranks, and stamps that display heraldic symbols
- The West Kalimantan Cultural Space features seven different cultural elements, which are religion and cultural ceremonies, livelihood, community organization, technology and equipment, knowledge, art, and language.
- The Ceramics Room displays a specific type of collection, namely keramologic collection, which consists of crocks, plates, bowls, and spoons that come from China, Vietnam, Japan, and Europe, as well as local Singkawang ceramics.

Besides the three rooms mentioned earlier, there are also diverse collections in the museum's

backyard. These collections include figurines of foreign trading ships, a miniature Lanting House, a miniature rice barn/dangau, a miniature Lancang Kuning Boat, a miniature Dragon Kiln, a miniature kopra house, a rubber press, a Stone Pare Replica, and a gazebo. The museum is engaged in various activities such as exhibitions, providing visitor guidance, conducting research papers, conserving and preparing collections, conducting surveys, acquiring new collections, delivering lectures, facilitating socialization and discussions, conducting research, organizing painting competitions, and hosting quizzes.



**Figure 3.** Introduction to Museum Collection in Plaza and Utaman Building area

During the second session of training, participants were taken to the museum laboratory of the West Kalimantan Provincial Museum to learn about collection conservation. The term "conservation" refers to a process of preserving library materials. Preservation means to maintain and protect library materials from damage or destruction using traditional and modern methods (Natsir et al., 2023). It is an effort to sustain and enhance the physical condition of library materials to ensure their safety from various forms of damage. Preservation involves maintenance, management, repair, prevention, and protection of collectibles against damage to prevent their loss or destruction (Zunanda, 2022).



**Figure 4.** Conservation Training in Museum Laboratory

The participants of PKM show great enthusiasm in attending and listening to the presentations by the team PKM and the Museum. This conservation activity is deemed highly significant for the participants of PKM, as indicated by the survey results provided.





Figure 5. PKM Survey Results

Having a basic understanding of collection preservation helps prevent the destruction of collectibles (Nakahama, 2021). It is important for everyone to comprehend the factors that can alter or disrupt the condition, or even cause damage to museum artifacts. These factors include: 1) climate and environment, 2) light, 3) insects, 4) microorganisms, 5) air pollution, 6) handling of the collection, and 7) fire hazards. Awareness of these seven factors is crucial as they can potentially harm various museum collections (Sinaga et al., 2023; Suryani et al., 2023).

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Museums play an important role as educational institutions for both teachers and students to gain knowledge about history and culture. Moreover, museums serve as repositories for preserving and utilizing collections as historical artifacts. Nevertheless, many individuals lack awareness of the collections in museums and how to preserve them. In response, training programs are conducted to familiarize people with museum collections and provide conservation training (Misnah, 2019). Trainees recognize the importance of the training as it aids in understanding the preservation of museum collections (Muzaki, Aryani, & Amirudin, 2022; Riadi et al., 2022).

The following are the recommendations resulting from this PKM activity. Firstly, it is important to create more public awareness regarding museum collections and the importance of their preservation. It is essential to promote museums while educating the public on the historical and cultural value that these collections hold (Jayusman, Shavab, & Miftahudin, 2019; Rohaendi, & Salamah, 2023). Secondly, it is recommended to conduct regular training programs that cater to teachers, students, and the general public, highlighting the significance of preserving museum collections (Ridhwan et al., 2020). These training programs should include knowledge related to the factors that can damage museum artifacts and ways to avoid such damage. Thirdly, it is suggested to enhance conservation efforts and maintenance of museum collections. Museums require a conservation team that is trained and equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to care for and restore the museum's artifacts. Fourthly, it is recommended to organize exhibitions and educational events in museums to attract public interest while increasing their understanding of history and culture. These displays may allow visitors to interact closely with museum artifacts, providing comprehensive information about the collections. Lastly, it is necessary to foster cooperation between museums and educational institutions to expand access to museum collections for students and teachers. Museums can be a valuable source of learning and can assist in enhancing students' comprehension of history and culture. By implementing these

recommendations, it is anticipated that museums will gain increased recognition and appreciation from the public and can play an active role in preserving the world's historical and cultural heritage.

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