

Data Files for the Mapping Museums Report, March 2020

Author: Andrea Ballatore, Birkbeck, University of London

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Abstract

This archive is part of Mapping Museums project (mappingmuseums.org). The Mapping Museums research project began in October 2016 and will conclude in September 2020. It is based at Birkbeck, University of London and is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The project focuses on growth and change in the UK museum sector from 1960 to 2020 and it has four main outputs:

- A database containing information on over 4,000 museums. This data can be browsed, searched, and visualised through a web application, and is free to use under the terms of the Creative Commons (BY) license.
- A website that houses the database and web application, and additional resources linked to the project. These include a glossary, detailed information on research methods, transcripts of interviews with museum founders, films and podcasts, and links to the project publications.
- A series of academic articles addressing research methods and findings.
- A monograph that draws on data, interviews with museum founders, and historical research, to analyse how and why so many new museums were established in the late twentieth century. Publication is planned for 2021.

The data contained in this archive was used to compile the project report:

Fiona Candlin, Jamie Larkin, Andrea Ballatore, Alexandra Poulouvassilis (2020) *Mapping Museums 1960–2020: A report on the data*. London: Birkbeck, University of London.

Archive contents

This archive includes the following files, in both CSV and Excel formats:

- **01-museums_opened_closed_over_time.csv**: Number of museums open and closed each year, including values in total and grouped by attribute.
- **02-museums_opened_closed-change_over_time.csv**: Annual growth in museums open and closed each year, including values in total and grouped by attribute.
- **03-museums_opened_closed_totals-single_variable.csv**: Number of museums open and closed in total from 1960 to 2017, grouped by a single attribute.
- **04-museums_opened_closed_totals-two_variables.csv**: Number of museums open and closed in total from 1960 to 2017, grouped by two attributes.
- **05-museums_accreditation_statistics_2017.csv**: Accreditation statistics with respect to English region and UK country, size, governance, and subject matter in museums in 2017.
- **06-museums_region_population.csv**: Regional statistics scaled by population in 2017.

The tables contain the following columns:

- **year**: Year the data refers to, from 1960 to 2017
- **var_name**: Variable name that is used to group the museums (e.g. size, governance, subject matter). The value “all” includes all museums.
- **var_value**: Variable value that is used to group the museums (e.g. “small”, “independent”, “local history”). The value “all” includes all museums.
- **var1, val1, var2, val2**: Used when grouping museums by two variables.
- **cumul_open_wei_N**: Estimated number of museums open at a given time. The columns **cumul_open_wei_N_min** and **cumul_open_wei_N_max** indicate the bounds of this estimate.
- **cumul_closed_wei_N**: Estimated total number of museums closed up to a given time. The columns **cumul_closed_wei_N_min** and **cumul_closed_wei_N_max** indicate the bounds of this estimate.
- **cumul_open_wei_change** and **cumul_closed_wei_change**: Annual growth rate in the number of museums open and closed.
- **geo_label**: Name of the geographic area (if relevant)
- **open1960, open2017, close1960, close2017**: weighted number of open/closed museums in 1960 or 2017.
- **diffN**: Difference between numbers in 2017 and 1960.
- **growth**: Annual growth rate in the number of museums open.
- **closedpc**: Percentage of museums closed.
- **accredited / unaccredited**: number of accredited and unaccredited museums in each category.
- **pop_2017**: resident population in 2017
- **museums_per_100kpop**: number of museums per 100,000 people.

The files in the archive have been used as follows to produce the Figures and Tables of the report:

<i>Dataset</i>	<i>Figures and tables in report</i>
01-museums_opened_closed_over_time.csv	Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Fig. 6,
02-museums_opened_closed-change_over_time.csv	Tab. 1, Fig. 4, Fig. 5, Tab. 2, Tab. 3, Fig. 7, Tab. 18
03-museums_opened_closed_totals-single_variable.csv	Tab. 4, Tab. 5, Tab. 6, Tab. 11, Tab. 17
04-museums_opened_closed_totals-two_variables.csv	Tab. 13, Tab. 14, Tab. 15, Tab. 16, Fig. 8, Fig. 9, Tab. 19, Tab. 20, Tab. 21, Tab. 22, Fig. 11
05-museums_accreditation_statistics_2017.csv	Tab. 7, Tab. 8, Tab. 9, Tab. 10
06-museums_region_population.csv	Tab. 12, Fig. 10, Fig. 12, Fig. 13

Any enquiries regarding this document should be sent to mappingmuseums@bbk.ac.uk

This document is also available from our website at: www.mappingmuseums.org