

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE
PROGRESS AND CONDITION OF
THE U.
S. NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR THE
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1907**

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Annual Report on the Progress and Condition of the U. S. National Museum for the Year
Ending June 30, 1907 by Smithsonian Institution

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS AND CON-
DITION OF THE U. S. NATIONAL
MUSEUM FOR THE YEAR
ENDING JUNE 30, 1907



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1907

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM,
UNDER DIRECTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
Washington, D. C., November 8, 1907.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a report upon the present condition of the United States National Museum, and upon the work accomplished in its various departments during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1907.

Very respectfully,

RICHARD RATHBUN,
Assistant Secretary, in Charge of the National Museum.

DR. CHARLES D. WALCOTT,
Secretary, Smithsonian Institution.

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in financial reporting and auditing.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. This includes both qualitative and quantitative approaches, as well as the use of statistical tools and software to process large volumes of information.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the interpretation of results and the drawing of conclusions. It highlights the need for critical thinking and the ability to identify patterns and trends within the data. This section also discusses the importance of communicating findings effectively to stakeholders.

4. The fourth part of the document addresses the challenges and limitations of data analysis. It notes that while data provides valuable insights, it is not infallible and can be subject to errors and biases. Therefore, it is crucial to approach data analysis with a cautious and objective mindset.

5. The fifth part of the document provides a summary of the key points discussed and offers recommendations for future research and practice. It suggests that ongoing education and professional development are necessary to stay current in this rapidly evolving field.

6. The sixth part of the document contains a list of references and sources used in the research. These references include books, articles, and online resources that provide further information on the topics discussed in the document.

7. The seventh part of the document is a conclusion that summarizes the overall findings and reiterates the importance of data analysis in decision-making processes. It expresses the hope that the information provided in this document will be helpful and informative to the reader.

8. The eighth part of the document is a list of appendices, which contain additional data, charts, and tables that support the main text. These appendices are provided for reference and to allow the reader to explore the data in more detail.

9. The ninth part of the document is a list of footnotes, which provide additional information and citations for specific points made in the text. These footnotes are intended to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the research and to give credit to the original authors of the cited works.

10. The tenth part of the document is a list of acknowledgments, which express gratitude to the individuals and organizations that provided support and assistance during the research process. This section is a way to recognize the contributions of others and to show appreciation for their help.

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS AND CONDITION OF THE U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1907.

BY RICHARD RATHBUN,

Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, in charge of the U. S. National Museum.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

INCEPTION AND HISTORY.

The inception and history of the National Museum have often been discussed in the opening pages of the annual report. Congress, in the act of August 10, 1846, founding the Smithsonian Institution, recognized that an opportunity was afforded, in carrying out the large-minded design of Smithson, to provide for the custody of the museum of the nation. To this new establishment was therefore intrusted the care of the national collections, a course that time has fully justified.

In the beginning the cost of maintaining the museum side of the Institution's work was wholly paid from the Smithsonian income; then for a number of years the Government bore a share, and during the past three decades Congress has voted sufficient funds to cover the expenses of the Museum, thus furthering one of the primary means "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men" without encroaching upon the resources of the Institution.

The museum idea was inherent in the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution, which in its turn was based upon a ten years' discussion in Congress and the advice of the most distinguished scientific men, educators, and intellectual leaders of the nation of seventy years ago. It is interesting to note how broad and comprehensive were the views which actuated our lawmakers in determining the scope of the Museum, a fact especially remarkable when it is recalled that at that date no museum of considerable size existed in the United States, and the museums of England and of the continent of Europe were still to a large extent without a developed plan, although containing many rich collections.

The Congress which passed the act of foundation enumerated as within the scope of the Museum "all objects of art and of foreign

and curious research and all objects of natural history, plants, and geological and mineralogical specimens belonging to the United States," thus stamping the Museum at the very outset as one of the widest range and at the same time as the Museum of the United States. It was also fully appreciated that additions would be necessary to the collections then in existence, and provision was made for their increase by the exchange of duplicate specimens, by donations and by other means.

If the wisdom of Congress in so fully providing for a museum in the Smithsonian law challenges attention, the interpretation put upon this law by the Board of Regents within less than six months from the passage of the act can not but command admiration. In the early part of September, 1846, the Regents took steps toward formulating a plan of operations. The report of the committee appointed for this purpose, submitted in December and January following, shows a thorough consideration of the subject in both the spirit and the letter of the law. It would seem not out of place to cite here the very first pronouncement of the Board with reference to the character of the Museum:

"In obedience to the requirements of the charter,* which leaves little discretion in regard to the extent of accommodations to be provided, your committee recommend that there be included in the building a museum of liberal size, fitted up to receive the collections destined for the Institution. * * *

"As important as the cabinets of natural history by the charter required to be included in the Museum your committee regard its ethnological portion, including all collections that may supply items in the physical history of our species, and illustrate the manners, customs, religions, and progressive advance of the various nations of the world; as, for example, collections of skulls, skeletons, portraits, dresses, implements, weapons, idols, antiquities, of the various races of man. * * * In this connexion, your committee recommend the passage of resolutions asking the cooperation of certain public functionaries, and of the public generally, in furtherance of the above objects.

"Your committee are further of opinion that in the Museum, if the funds of the Institution permit, might judiciously be included various series of models illustrating the progress of some of the most useful inventions; such, for example, as the steam engine from its earliest and rudest form to its present most improved state; but this they propose only so far as it may not encroach on ground already covered by the numerous models in the Patent Office.

* Since the Institution was not chartered in a legal sense but established by Congress, the use of the word "charter" in this connection would seem to be unauthorized. It was not subsequently employed.