

The Governance of UK Museums and Art Galleries: Implications for Accountability

Authors : Aminah Abdullah, Iqbal Khadaroo

Abstract : This paper investigates to what ends, how and by whom museums and art galleries in the UK are governed, and to whom they provide accounts to justify their behavior and activities. A theoretical framework is developed by drawing from the governance and accountability literature and is fleshed out by using empirical data from secondary sources. The findings show that the governance model used, informed by the new public management (NPM) philosophy, and has created tensions between the managerial and social forms of accountability. Museums and art galleries have adopted a managerial culture of getting done what gets measured.

Keywords : governance, accountability, UK museums and art galleries, public sector

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