I'm uncertain about who I might become, what I have to offer and the world I would like to enter, and would like to find out more about this area.

Introduction
Working in Heritage, Museums and Libraries can incorporate a wide range of roles across a number of different workplaces. With thousands of museums and galleries across the UK, from large, publically-funded institutions to smaller, privately financed ones, along with thousands of libraries and broader heritage bodies, there is no shortage of options for places to work.

A career in this sector is a popular one though, and breaking into it is not always easy, with more demand for jobs than there are available roles. Many employers ask for a postgraduate qualification, with the bigger names in the sector also likely to value a PhD. Despite this, the rewards aren’t always immediately great, with 55% of people working in the sector earning less than the UK average.

This introduction isn’t designed to try and steer you away from pursuing a career in this area! It can be a very interesting and varied career, leading to high levels of job satisfaction. But be aware that you really have to want it to achieve success in this area! Read on to discover more about the sector, and some useful resources to find out more.

Available roles
- Curator
- Collections/Exhibitions
- Registrar (includes working with legalities, logistics, managing exhibitions)
- Conservation
- Education
- Marketing
- Hosts/Tour Leaders

You can read more about these roles and what they consist of on the Prospects website: https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/creative-arts-and-design/museum-jobs

Further resources
The following resources will also help you to gain an initial understanding of the sector:

Prospects Museum/gallery exhibition officer job profile
https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/museum-gallery-exhibitions-officer

A useful overview with information about job responsibilities, salaries, professional development. The equivalent page for a Curator is also useful, and can be found at https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/museum-gallery-curateur

University of Kent – guide to the heritage sector
https://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/workin/heritage.htm

A very wordy guide to the sector, but with a lot of useful information and links to useful sites.

Tate
http://www.tate.org.uk/about-us/working-at-tate/volunteer-internships
The Tate’s internship programme aims to bring interns in who may not have thought about working in the sector before or who haven’t had prior experience. Therefore they might be worth keeping an eye on if you’ve only recently considered the sector. Their internships are advertised in partnership with organisations like Employ SE1 and Creative Access.

Focus
I’m focusing my future choices and beginning to understand what knowledge, attributes, skills and experience I have to offer and might need to develop.

Routes into the sector
While there’s pretty much no sector where work relevant work experience won’t give you an advantage, the large numbers of people trying to get a job in the sector compared to the relatively small amount of available jobs means it’s even more imperative here.

On a positive note there’s lots of opportunities available to gain this experience, particularly on a voluntary basis. And given the size of the sector, experience you do gain will be easier to transfer into applications for other roles, and the contacts you make through your experience more valuable. On the topic of contacts, networking is also particularly key in this sector.

Take advantage of the generally helpful and altruistic nature of those working in museums and ask for advice and support, whether that’s at events you attend or through LinkedIn.

Sadly unpaid internships (or expenses paid only) are still found in the sector, including by some relatively big players such as the Natural History Museum. The line between what constitutes a genuinely voluntary position and one that should be paid can also be blurred. It’s important to therefore think about the value of any opportunity you take up to your future career plans.

Museums Association
https://www.museumsassociation.org/workforce
A key resource for anyone interested in working in museums, their website hosts a careers section including information
about where to find jobs, job types, voluntary applications, starting a career and professional development.

Do-it
https://do-it.org
Large volunteering opportunity website, you can filter your search to bring up available opportunities in museums.

Ministry of Curiosity
http://theministryofcuriosity.blogspot.com/
A fun way of finding out more about the sector, self-described as “an irreverent insider’s view into the world of London’s museums.”

@museumhour
https://twitter.com/museumhour
Weekly Q&A session on working in museums.

English Heritage
English Heritage is a major employer within the sector. Jobs are listed in this section, along with information about working for the English Heritage. There’s also a whole section about the wide array of volunteering positions available at http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/support-us/volunteer/

National Trust
https://www.nationaltrustjobs.org.uk/
Similar to the English Heritage, with even more detailed information about the range of roles available.

London Museums Group
http://www.londonmuseumsgroup.org/
A group representing all London Museums and those that work in them. Their website features useful information and events for those looking to work in the sector.

National Museum Directors Council
https://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/jobs/
Similar to the above, although at a national level and representing the major museums. A good source of understanding about the sector, it also features a jobs board.

Library and Information Management
Separate to a career in the Museum and Heritage sector, but with many similarities, careers in Libraries and Information Management may also appeal. While facing some similar issues around falling budgets, roles tend not to be as competitive.

Prospects - Information Officer job profile
https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/information-officer
An introduction to working in this sector, with related information linked to.

Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
www.cilip.org.uk
A professional body for information workers. Careers section has information on training, salary expectations and job opportunities.

Li$jobnet
www.lisjobnet.com
Jobs board for Librarians and Information Professionals.

ARLIS - The Arts Libraries Society
http://www.arlis.org.uk/being-art-librarian
ARLIS is a society representing librarianship of the visual arts, including architecture and design. This page provides information about being an Art Librarian, and case studies.

British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL)
www.biall.co.uk
BIALL is an independent and self-supporting body that was created to represent the interests of legal information professionals and other suppliers of legal literature. Their website has a useful careers page, and a jobs board.

The National Archives - ARCHON Directory
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon
Listing of archives centres. There is also a link to “jobs and careers” with the National Archives (http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/jobs/)

Society of Archivists
www.archives.org.uk
Site includes jobs listing, voluntary positions and information on training and qualifications.

Using this handout
Like the majority of our sector handouts, the content in here for both Marketing and PR is divided into three sections:
Discover, Focus and Action. These sections will help you access the right level of information, depending on how far along you are with your career plans.

All three of these stages have corresponding pages on our KEATS Careers Hub (www.kcl.ac.uk/careerse-learning) which you may also find helpful to explore and work out where in your career planning journey you are. You may find that you are somewhere in between these stages, or move from one to another at different stages – don’t worry, this is completely natural!

King’s CareerConnect
www.kcl.ac.uk/careerconnect
King’s CareerConnect is our exclusive online career portal enabling students and recent alumni to engage with our services. Once logged in, you can access our vacancy board and search hundreds of part-time roles, placements, internships and graduate-level opportunities, book one-to-one careers or application guidance appointments, apply for exclusive King’s Internships and view our full events calendar to book attendance at our many events throughout the year.

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