

Oslo School museum, Education authority, City of Oslo, Norway

Presentation by

Bente Clausen, Head of museum and
Marita Hesjedal, Museum educator/Drama teacher

"Site-specific interpretation"

A digital upgrading of an analog exhibition

The project aims to reach out to a larger audience and give a more detailed historical interpretation of the schools in Oslo. By using a digital platform called Kultur-Punkt (KP), we are given a larger and more accessible medium. Kultur-Punkt is a digital platform for interpretation to the public's own mobiles and tablets, and iPads mounted in exhibitions. KP is developed by Kultur-IT, a company owned by Norwegian museums to develop digital platforms for museums.

The present exhibition is situated in our entrance. It is designed as a time line where each school in Oslo, existing and closed down, is represented with a card. In a delicate and effective way, each card presents the same fact: 1. Name, 2. Age, 3. Private/public, 4. Level 5. Existing/closed down.

Why digitize?

There are three main objectives for the project:

1. The exhibition is informational and pedagogical, but very analog and nowhere else to be found. It is limited and our visitors wish to learn more.
2. We consider the history of Oslo's 188 existing and 197 formally existing school buildings, as part of what the museum should convey.
3. The museum works to gain more users, not only as visitors to the museum, but also through our digital platforms.

A digital platform as KP gives us the possibility to give a more detailed historical interpretation of the schools. The form can vary and the audience can decide how deep they want to go in each school. Furthermore, it gives us the opportunity to be site-specific and actually convey at each school. We "meet" the audience where they are. We reach out wider.

Project status – January 2019

The project is in its very start and we have only released a few "schools". The projects structure is still under development. During the next six months, we aim to release 20 schools and to develop a schedule to get through, first of all, the 188 existing schools. We will encounter several challenges and will discuss these in our presentation.

Challenges

The digital platform gives us unlimited space, and we need to establish a framework for the project. The amount of schools is large and we need to create a strategic plan for which schools should be prioritized first and last. And maybe most important we are obliged to convey the historical information truthfully in an interesting and varied form.

How do we convey history in a digital form being authentic, correct, interesting and easy accessible at the same time? Museums are experts in meeting people face to face, but how can we, just as good, communicate with people we don't see? And last, but not at least; how do we get Oslo's population to use this platform?