

Education Programming Category (CMA AWARD 2008)

Project Title: Keys to History

Institution: McCord Museum of Canadian History, Montreal, Quebec.



This visionary and massive on-line project is a model for museums. Directed to both the general public and schools, it now comprises over 135,000 digitized artefacts from the collections of the McCord and seven partner museums in five provinces, accompanied by a vast wealth of related information, organized in themes, games, and virtual exhibitions.

The McCord has worked with many partners to develop innovative ways to give access to *Clef pour l'histoire* to the widest possible range of audiences. The project, in partnership with external

researchers, identifies and uses technologies to assist people with physical impairments to access the project. Segments involving artefacts of particular significance to First Nations groups are presented in their own languages. Thanks to the use of web 2.0 as well as gaming techniques, users are able to make the contents of the site their own and to interact with others in relationship to the contents, which is particularly appealing to youth. Extensive work has been done to ensure that the site supports the educational objectives of teachers and their students.

Clef pour l'histoire is also rigorous in its approach to ensure content that is well researched and documented. Also, in partnership with university-based educational researchers, the presentation of the content directed to teachers and students is informed by educational theory. This project is becoming a trusted source of heritage information for a very wide audience.

Through its pan-Canadian network of partners and advisors, and its keen and sometimes daring orientation to the possibilities presented by on-line technologies, *Clef pour l'histoire* is not only currently an outstanding project, but it also has almost limitless potential.