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Thesis Title	Developing a Computerized Museum Documentation System : A Case Study of the Bangkok National Museum
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Date of Graduation	14 May 1997.

ABSTRACT

Developing a museum documentation system is one of the main activities of a museum . A study of the objects in museum collections enhances the knowledge of arts, history, archaeology and the civilization of a country. Therefore it is necessary to have a complete museum documentation system. The purpose of the study was to look at the status and potential of the museum documentation system of the Bangkok National Museum; to explore staff's opinions concerning data collecting, processing, museum documents presentation and reporting of information, and to establish a computerized database for the museum records.

The findings revealed that

: The Bangkok National Museum established for more than 122 years, has collected more than 60,000 items. The present status of the museum

documentation system of the museum showed that it used mainly a manual system and some problems were found in data collection . There is a need for modern technology and equipment for helping museum records and for more staff to work with the museum documentation.

: The result of the study was the development of MSWT(Museum System on Windows Thai edition) software for recording the museum inventory and for cataloging objects in the Bangkok National Museum. The system would incorporate features such as pull down menu, the ability to define and classify objects to groups, categories and sub-categories, and to record museum objects with texts and images. Information retrieval can be using key-words : accessing the object number, object name, categories, sub-categories, art styles, mode of acquisition ...etc.

The proposal to develop museum documentation system is as follow

: Short term planning , to develop staff and skill and making retrospective museum documentation a priority. Finance support can come from parent organizations to help in planning museum development.

: Long term planning by writing a museum policy to define the scope and uses of the museum's collection, the need for standards development in documentation, terminology control, and data reference.

Regarding the opinions about the collection management system, all staff agreed that it is necessary to establish on information technology center (IT Center) at the museum. This center would be responsible for data collecting, data processing and data presentation of the museum collection.