

## The Egypt Centre: review and outline planning 2013-2017



Swansea University  
Prifysgol Abertawe

# 2013

The Egypt Centre  
Museum of Egyptian  
Antiquities



This piece, from a tomb Chapel at Deir el-Medina shows the creator god Ptah with a green face. Ptah was often called *nfr hr*. Nefer is often translated as 'beautiful' but it also has connotations of newness and thus greenness.

The Egypt Centre, Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, is set in the Singleton Park campus of Swansea University.

Based around the collection of Sir Henry Wellcome, the Centre receives c.18,000 visitors a year and contains c.5000 objects. The collection was substantially founded in 1971 on material from the Wellcome Institute. The collection opened initially part-time in 1976 as the Wellcome Museum in Swansea, moving to its current facilities in 1998 as the Egypt Centre.

The Centre's collection is the largest collection of Egyptian antiquities in Wales and an important UK collection, attracting academic and public interest from

across the UK and further afield. The Centre provides a range of services including the preservation of the collection, educational activities for schools and visitors and support for academic teaching and research.

The Museum is managed by a dedicated curator, supported by three full-time, two part-time and additional weekend support staff. The Centre also has a pool of around 100 child and adult volunteers who bring their effort and energy into its activities. Additional staff are employed as external funding is available.

The Centre is largely funded by Swansea University, with some costs met by Welsh Government and other grants.

### ONLINE

[Egypt Centre Website](#)

[Egypt Centre blog](#)

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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## 1. The University Mission

The Egypt Centre, located at the heart of the University's Singleton campus, falls within the University's strategic vision and mission. The current Strategic Plan<sup>1</sup> lays out the aims of the University until 2017, leading it to the University's centenary in 2020. The plan states that the University, building on its success in the previous planning period, will:

- Provide an environment of research excellence, with research that is world-leading, globally collaborative and internationally recognised;
- Deliver an outstanding student experience, with research-led and practice-driven teaching of the highest quality that produces global graduates educated and equipped for distinguished personal and professional achievement;
- Use its research strength, collaboration with industry and global reach, to drive economic growth, foster prosperity, enrich the community and cultural life of Wales and, contribute to the health, leisure and wellbeing of its citizens.

Key collections held at the University, including the Wellcome Collection at the Egypt Centre, the South Wales Coalfield Collection and our historical and archival collections, play a key role in supporting these themes.

The Egypt Centre is used by Swansea University and external researchers, delivers academic modules and other teaching sessions with undergraduate and postgraduate students, engages with significant

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.swansea.ac.uk/pspu/media/Strategic-Plan.pdf>

numbers of school pupils through its educational activities and visits, attracts the general public to visit the University and the collection, and through its innovative volunteering programme allows children and adults to take part in the life of the University.

These activities, while supporting University aims, also clearly support a range of Welsh Government and HEFCW priorities, supporting local communities, engaging pupils with Higher Education at an early age and widening participation in HE<sup>2</sup>.

The Egypt Centre relies heavily on a small team of dedicated full-time and part-time staff, an exceptional group of volunteers, the Friends of the Egypt Centre, and other contributors. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to all those who make the Centre the success that it is today.

## **2. The Egypt Centre**

### **Statement of Purpose**

The Egypt Centre aims to collect, interpret and care for Egyptian archaeological material and related documentation in order to enhance the education and cultural life of Wales and beyond, now and in the future.

### **Core Functions (Key Aims)**

The Centre has three core functions which are delivered through several Museum services and in which all staff are involved.

The core functions, explored more fully below, are:

- Preservation of the collection and collection management. Without the collection there would be no museum. Collections are fundamental to the defining and workings of a museum. The acquisition and disposal policy, conservation strategy and documentation are central to this and are a requirement of accreditation.
- Education at Egypt Centre is as defined by Inspiring Learning for All and uses the collection to deliver a service for all ages and abilities. Education, includes teaching and learning, research, acquiring of skills, inspiration, etc., and involves a variety of resources including the shop sales point. Education also relates to staff and volunteer training and personal development.
- Widening participation makes explicit our aim to reach as diverse an audience as possible and to incorporate all groups in the life of the museum and thus the University. Thus the two audiences of 'University' and 'Public' are incorporated

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<sup>2</sup> [HEFCW Remit letter 2013/14](#) and [Reaching Wider](#) strategy

In brief, the Centre:

- Preserves an important collection of Egyptian antiquities, the largest in Wales, with national and international relevance.
- Enables academic engagement across University departments.
- Acts as a bridge between academics and non academics
- Is an important tool in recruiting and retaining students, particularly those studying Egyptology.
- Contributes directly to the University aim of enriching the community and cultural life of Wales.
- Is managed by experienced and enthusiastic staff and volunteers who aim to uphold the practise and spirit of the Museums Association Code of Ethics, 2002 and the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Code of Ethics for Museums, 2006
- Has good public transport links, with frequent bus service to and from the City of Swansea.
- Is situated within the Taliesin Arts Centre which also attracts visitors to the University.
- Plays an active role in University educational outreach
- Supports and runs modules for the Children and Young People's University Cymru<sup>3</sup>.
- Maintains and develops a comprehensive online resource and searchable database.
- Provides work-based modules to current students
- Runs a pioneering, inclusive volunteer programme, including disabled and child volunteers as well as students.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=37863>

- Has an active and supportive Friends of the Egypt Centre group organising lectures and providing funding for some activities<sup>4</sup>.
- Runs a longstanding artefact handling programme (for the public and for student teaching).
- Organises innovative and popular hands-on activities.
- Enables and carries out its own Egyptological research.

An online history of the collection, *How the Centre was Born*, can be found on the Egypt Centre website<sup>5</sup>.

### 3. Core Activities

#### Preservation of the Collection

The collection is valuable in terms of monetary value but 'academically' priceless. The effective preservation and curation of the collection is critical to the future of the Centre and all the activities it supports and its collection is important to the prestige of the University.

The services directly related to preservation of the collection are collection management, including the acquisitions and disposal policy, and documentation.

The collection is one of the top collections in the UK and it is therefore an ACCES partner<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.egypt.swansea.ac.uk/index.php/friends-of-the-egypt-centre>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.egypt.swansea.ac.uk/index.php/history-of-the-egypt-centre>

<sup>6</sup> [http://ssndevelopment.org/acces\\_ssndevelopment/home/acces/public\\_html/](http://ssndevelopment.org/acces_ssndevelopment/home/acces/public_html/)

## Education

The Centre provides a range of educational services including research, teaching, workshops, an enquiry service, a library, entertainment and the shop sales point. The aim of the education function at the Egypt Centre is to facilitate life-long learning and inspiration for all through the use of the collection. The Centre does not see entertainment and research as separate functions from education but rather as invaluable parts of its education function.

Education is seen as lifelong and inclusive. The Centre is involved in teaching from Foundation Phase age school children to postgraduate Higher Education students. Education includes the development of skills and the changing of attitudes and feelings as well as the acquisition of knowledge and understanding. These are outlined by the Generic Learning Outcomes stated in the Inspiring Learning For All initiative<sup>7</sup>.

Education in the Centre particularly focusses around Egyptian artefacts but also is museological and interdisciplinary.

As recommended by the University Museums Group<sup>8</sup> the Centre strives to use its resources and expertise in interdisciplinary work. It has worked with the Mathematics department on a project concerning Egyptian mathematics, worked with the College of Engineering on obtaining finance for their Cave project, and more recently with Computer Sciences on a digital project. The Centre provides lectures and workshops on an ad

hoc basis for various departments in the University, for example to the Medical School on ancient Egyptian attitudes to death.

As education is integral to the functioning of the museum all staff and volunteers are involved. Services integral to the education policy include: collection care and documentation, the shop area, the volunteer programme, research and teaching, Children's University, etc. The Egypt Centre has a more detailed education policy available on request.

The Centre is developing its teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate students. As well as delivering lectures and organising handling sessions of objects for modules largely delivered by other lecturers, the Centre runs a module with Kasia Szpakowska giving undergraduate students an opportunity to work in the Egypt Centre for four weeks and to learn various aspects of museology. The Centre developed and delivers an MA module which incorporates museology and Egyptology.

## Widening Participation

The Centre aims to reach as diverse an audience as possible and to incorporate all groups in the life of the Museum, and thus the University. The Centre attracts students to Swansea University. Moreover, the Centre is able to normalise the University experience for children aged 4 onwards. Traditionally, university widening participation schemes only target secondary school children but the Centre is able to engage with younger audiences.

Widening participation incorporates the active role of the Centre in terms of inclusiveness. The Centre strives to be physically and psychologically

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.inspiringlearningforall.gov.uk/>

<sup>8</sup> University Museums Group UK, 2004, *University Museums in the United Kingdom. A National Resource for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

accessible to as many groups as possible including: different ethnic groups, religions, genders, ages, social classes, people with disabilities and mental health problems and people with a variety of learning needs.

For the Centre, widening participation is not simply about encouraging greater numbers of people to study at University but, rather lies in encouraging as diverse a group as possible to engage with the Egypt Centre and thus with the University. This aim is not only to recruit additional students to higher education and to Swansea in particular but also to introduce the idea of learning to as wide a group as possible, including those who are potential supporters of universities but not necessarily direct customers of degree programmes.

As a university museum, the Centre also acts as a bridge between the academic and public spheres, a means by which academics may engage with the public. The Museum is not only the public face of academia but aims to be a centre of dialogue between the two groups.

Services which support our widening participation function include: collection care and documentation, exhibitions, research, enquiry service, Children's University, the shop area, the Centre's Saturday workshops for disadvantaged groups from Community First areas, etc.

#### **4. Egypt Centre Audiences**

Local audiences comprise those within Wales and include Swansea University and other local educational establishments, local councils, Job Centres, groups and societies, individuals, etc.

Within the University, the Centre works with academic and non-academic departments within Swansea University and has developed, and presently teaches, one MA module and over half of one undergraduate module in Egyptology with a strong emphasis on museology. It set up a series of research seminars to publicise the Egyptological research carried out within the University and it has established HEAR modules to help ensure that Swansea graduates are credited for their non-academic work at the Centre. The Centre has also worked with Reaching Wider on several activities.

Local external groups that engage with the Centre are largely within the boundaries of the City and County of Swansea. The Egypt Centre fulfils its obligations to these through many activities including: its work with Children's University Cymru Swansea Branch (the assistant curator is on the steering panel and the Centre provides an extensive range of modules for the group); its work with schools offering skills based curriculum activities (the Centre offers an extensive package of innovative educational activities); its function as a tourist attraction increases employment in the area; the Centre offers Saturday out of school activities for disadvantaged children in Swansea Community First Areas (these are free to the schools).

The volunteer programme increases the employability of students, helps the long term unemployed gain skills and confidence to find work (the Centre works with the Swansea Job Centre) as well as offering volunteering opportunities to those with learning difficulties, mental health problems and other disability groups.

The Centre works with local museums as and when appropriate, for example it works closely with Swansea Museum with shared school visits and it has recently offered activities and talks for British Association of the Friends of Museum's meeting which will be held in Swansea in 2014. The Centre has also advised Swansea Council Museums on their Egyptology collections and it has publicised artefacts held by the Swansea Council but on display in the Centre; recently research on a fragment of early glass appeared in the national press through the auspices of the Egypt Centre. The Centre has worked with and provided activities for Swansea based community groups such as the African Community Forum, Ethnic Youth Support Team and Rascals Asylum Seekers.

Welsh National audiences include work with CyMAL (Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales), the Welsh Federation, Welsh educational institutions outside the City and County of Swansea. Work with CyMAL and the Welsh Federation has been largely limited to attending meetings and giving occasional talks at their seminars and conferences. However, the Centre is more active in other areas. The Centre particularly attracts schools from Monmouthshire and Cardiff, though promotes its work across Wales.

The Egypt Centre's volunteer programme has attracted wide interest and the volunteer manager attends the meetings of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. Many of the Centre's volunteers are from outside the City and County of Swansea and the Centre has advised the National Museum of Wales on its volunteer programme and its educational programme.

Supporting the University's Welsh Language Scheme and its aim to provide access to all, the Centre's web site has key information in Welsh and English and all permanent item descriptions on display in the galleries are bilingual.

British National audiences include groups such as ACCES (the curator has been chair of this subject specialist network, the Association for Curators of Collections of Egypt and the Sudan, and the Centre has organised workshops for this group); Centre staff have advised English museums on the lithic Egyptology collections; the Egypt Centre regularly has organised visits from English schools; the Centre staff have been asked to speak to Egyptological groups in England and Scotland; the Centre also takes volunteers and work placements from English Higher Education establishments. The Egypt Centre has lent artefacts to the Royal Cornwall Museum and has organised loans of objects from the British Museum and Woking College.

International audiences comprise the Egypt Centre's worldwide network. More specifically these include: answering enquiries posed by international scholars; producing publications which are of interest to international scholars; providing information online; ensuring selected information sheets are available in other languages such as Spanish, German and French; taking international work placements and volunteers through the Erasmus programme and elsewhere. Egypt Centre staff have been invited to speak at international conferences and seminars on their areas of expertise. In 2011 the Egypt Centre lent an artefact to Madrid National Archaeological Museum.

## 5. Consultation and Analysis of Views

The Egypt Centre receives and analyses feedback from its users in the following ways:

- Volunteers (who are part of the general community) are surveyed biannually.
- All visiting schools are asked to fill in a survey.
- All schools participating in the Saturday workshop scheme are given a questionnaire. Additionally children attending the workshop are given a child friendly questionnaire.
- Teaching carried out by the Egypt Centre staff is appraised by students through the relevant academic department.
- There is a visitor comments book.
- Visitor questionnaires.

Copies of the survey outcomes and analysis are available on request.

## 6. Centre Highlights

- The Centre achieved accredited status in 2008, this is reviewed every five years.
- A book on the Centre's 21<sup>st</sup> Dynasty Coffin book was published online.
- The proceedings of the 2005 conference on Sex and Gender in Ancient Egypt was published as a volume of peer reviewed papers through the Classical Press of Wales

- A grant from CyMAL helped digitise and produce display panels of photographs taken in Egypt in 1917.
- An 'object of the month' scheme was implemented.
- Around 300 information sheets have been produced and are available online.
- A new website was implemented.
- A grant from CyMAL enabled the purchase of new display cases for the upstairs gallery and the display of more artefacts.
- Staff have attended and presented at conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to the collection in the UK and internationally.
- In 2012 a school from Woking College in Surrey donated a group of Egyptian objects to the Egypt Centre. The items had originally been offered to the British Museum but the British Museum staff had suggested that Egypt Centre might be able to make good use of them because of its excellent educational programme. The artefacts are now on display and have been catalogued. They have received publicity- including in the press in Egypt.
- The Centre has taken a lead in the specialist subject network for curators of Egypt and the Sudan (ACCES) and a member of staff has chaired the group, applied for a and received a grant from Arts Council England which was used in employing a Swansea University student in a project which benefited researchers internationally. The Centre also organised a seminar for the group on innovative educational work in Egyptology museums. The Centre continues to work with the group as a core member.
- The Centre has organised several Egyptological conferences with international speakers



- The Centre was the first museum in Britain to ensure that its whole collection was put onto Culture Grid (a national database of museum collections) using MODES Complete (software designed for museum collections). This enables scholars and the general public to know more about the collection.
- The Centre collection is also on the European museums database (Europeana), the first Welsh museum to do so, and one of the first in the UK.
- The Centre's volunteer programme has gone from strength to strength with a framework for volunteer progress now in place. We also offer limited travel expenses to volunteers. The programme has won several awards.
- Egypt Centre Child volunteers were the first in Swansea to achieve a gold award at Children's University and Youth University.
- The Egypt Centre has been short-listed in the Times Higher Education award for Widening Participation.
- The Centre has an agreement with University of Wales Press to produce publications on its collection which will be for the benefit of those with little knowledge of Egyptology as well as specialists. Publications will be themed according to popular subjects such as 'demons and spirits of the dead', 'coffins and body coverings', 'religion in the home', which, it is intended, will interest non-specialists. At the same time, within those publications, specific aspects of the collection will be intended. This should appeal to specialist readers.
- The Centre has lent artefacts to other institutions in the UK and internationally.
- A grant from CyMAL enabled marketing and enhancing its volunteer programme.
- The Centre is the only UK museum which involves child volunteers from diverse social and economic backgrounds and with diverse abilities.
- The Centre staff have recognised international Egyptological expertise.
- Centre staff helped found Children's University Cymru in Swansea
- The Centre has won several awards for its educational activities, particularly for its out of school hours activities.
- The Centre was involved in the development of Egyptological modules which later led to the teaching of Egyptology as an undergraduate degree in Swansea.
- The educational service to schools has been developed, allowing the Centre to support groups of up to 60 pupils for full day workshops (previously this was limited to 40). Due to increased demand the Foundation Phase activities have also been greatly developed.

## 7. The Future

The Centre aims over this planning period to:

- Continue creating and supporting research, teaching and publications based on the collection.
- Continue to preserve, curate and manage the collection in line with best practice and its accreditation.

- Continue to develop the digital, online catalogue and access to the collection.
- Work with the University's other historical and research collections to share resources and services including: emergency planning, cataloguing, digitisation, online access and services, etc.
- Review schools' educational activities using teacher and volunteer feedback in line with the National Curriculum in Wales.
- Continue working with appropriate partners and schools to develop the role of Egyptology in the National Curriculum and Welsh Baccalaureate.
- Continue to consult with its users and volunteers to support its planning and activities.
- Seek funding to conserve a number of artefacts annually.
- Train all staff in MODES Complete operation.
- Seek funding to review and improve the downstairs gallery.
- Train newer staff to update the website.

The University aims to be a UK top 30 research-led institution by the end of the current planning period in 2017. Following its success in the Research Assessment Exercise in 2008 and in growing its research and teaching activities, the University has a strong focus on research excellence, teaching excellence and in providing a lead to the local business and cultural communities. Collections such as the Egypt Centre play an important role in defining the role and remit of the University, showing what can be achieved through gathering important research collections, creating partnerships with academics and others, and working with diverse communities.

In light of the University's aims, the Centre, together with Information Services and Systems and other key individuals and services, will review and consider the opportunities presented by changes to the University estate in 2015. The opening of the Science and Innovation Campus will have a significant effect on space management of the Singleton Campus, possibly presenting the Egypt Centre with opportunities for growth and to provide better space for teaching, workshops, visiting researchers and the currently stored parts of the collection.

The creation of the Egypt Centre, and more recently the new Richard Burton Archives facilities, demonstrate that the University has the vision and the means to act to create services that are locally, nationally and internationally important. With the development of the Science and Innovation Campus, it is timely to consider how our cultural and historical collections could best be preserved, presented and made accessible to support new research and activities.

The Egypt Centre is a key element in this planning with the aspiration to provide better conditions, wider access and more engagement for educational and cultural activities for this and other collections.

The Following Appendices contain elements of the documentation supplied for Museum Accreditation. This provides more details of activities in the last planning period, an update on new activities already completed or underway and the objectives for the coming period. Certain items will therefore be duplicated from the text above.

## **8. Appendix A: Publications and events since April 2008.**

### Monograph

Graves-Brown, C. 2010. *Dancing for Hathor: Women in Ancient Egypt*. Hambledon Continuum: London and New York.

### Edited Volume

Graves-Brown, C. 2008. *Sex and Gender in Ancient Egypt. Don Your Wig For A Joyful Hour*. Classical Press of Wales: Swansea.

### Refereed paper:

Graves-Brown, C. 2008. *Licking Knives and Stone Snakes: The Ideology of Flint in Ancient Egypt*. In Martín-Torres, M. and Rehren, T. (eds.), *Archaeology History and Science. Integrating Approaches to Ancient Materials*. Left Coast Press: Walnut Creek, 37-60.

Centre staff have given several talks and lectures at local, national and international levels. These range from delivering a lecture on lithics to CIPEG (the Egyptological group of the International Council of Museums) to lectures about the Centre to local talks history groups and other local societies. (core aim: widening participation and education).

In 2010 the Egypt Centre together with Kasia Szpakowska organised a conference on Experimental and Experiential Egyptology. The conference brought together international academics, the general public and craftspeople. The Proceedings are in the process of being edited by Egypt Centre staff (with external referees) and are to be published by Classical Press of Wales.

The Egypt Centre has organised a series of research lectures designed to highlight Egyptological research of Swansea University staff and students and also to encourage Swansea PhD researchers.

During school term time the Centre has visits from schools almost every day. It also runs workshops for disadvantaged children from Swansea Community First areas on Saturdays. During school holidays the Centre organises workshops for children. These are usually oversubscribed.

The Centre has organised specific events such as talks and lectures for International Women's Day and an evening event called 'Demons and Spirits of the Dead' for Museums at Night.

## 9. Appendix B: Review of previous objectives (2008)

Objective	Action Required	Timescale	
Achieve accreditation	Revisions of existing procedures, re-writing of plans and policies and passing them for acceptance to governing body.	August 2008	This was achieved with advice from CyMAL.
Complete 21 <sup>st</sup> Dynasty coffin book	Finish Research, write up research, secure funding	December 2008	Unfortunately it was not possible to publish this in print, however the publication is online. The Centre has since agreed with University of Wales Press to publish other aspects of its collection.
Gender conference Book published	Edit book	December 2008	The book was published with Classical Press of Wales.
Research and complete exhibition of photographs	Research person who took photos. Research scenes taken Find recent comparable shots Outline Boards Commission Person to design boards Put information online	January 2009	This was completed with the help of a grant for digitising the collection and producing panels from CyMAL and is also online
Object of the month scheme implemented	Object chosen and highlighted on display each month- press releases written	May 2008-2013	This was started though lack of staff time has meant that there are gaps. However, the Centre highlights at least one object per month on Facebook and on its blog. Additionally the Centre has a twitter account.
To continue Out of School Hours workshops	Dependent on funding from University	2008-2013	These continue to receive positive feedback from children and schools (user feedback available on request)
At least 10 information sheets published online each year	Research and writing of sheets	2008-2013	Around 300 information sheets have been produced on various aspects of the collection. The information available rivals that of much larger institutions. The Centre has restructured its web-site using Joomla.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	
Continue moving artefacts from storage to display	Apply for grants for cases for open storage (in exceptional years when there has been no equipment needing replacement, for example, money may be spent on case purchase).	Ongoing- as and when funding available	The upstairs gallery now has all new cases, thanks largely to a grant from CyMAL. There are very many more objects on display.
20 artefacts per week to be condition checked	Take artefacts from storage, check against catalogue. Amend catalogue where necessary. Photograph where necessary	Ongoing	Unfortunately there is a backlog on this. However, it is still an aim of the Centre.
Relabeling of objects on display	Write labels, evaluate and alter	2009-2010	The changing of labels is ongoing
Shop assistant to do Leicester museology MA distance learning	Find sources of grants to go toward training	2008-2011	This was completed. The shop assistant has now progressed to become our part-time education officer.
All staff to attend conferences, seminars, etc. on museology and/or Egyptology where this would benefit the Museum or for personal development and where resources are available. Priority will be given to staff presenting papers.	While the Centre has some money for training, it is likely that we would be dependent on grants for other event.	Ongoing	Ongoing. Egypt Centre staff have presented papers at national and international conferences.
Re-writing of existing display boards	Prioritise boards to be re-written. Research information, obtain funding for board production, liaise with designer.	Ongoing- As and when funding available	ongoing
To continue to recruit and thus necessarily train volunteers	Training is done in house, through staff development and through the appointment of specialised trainers. funding may occasionally be required additionally for specialised training-thus will be funding dependent.	Ongoing	Ongoing.

## **Changes and Achievements Since Last Review (2008)**

During 2009-2012 the Egypt Centre employed a person with dyslexia. This gave the other staff the opportunity to set up procedures, including proof reading for the new member of staff. Additionally another member of staff was on maternity leave for several months, which gave us the opportunity to take on their duties. Consequently, the Centre could not achieve all its objectives. However, the Centre achieved most of its objects and very many more that were not on the original list. These include:

The Centre has taken a lead in the specialist subject network for curators of Egypt and the Sudan (ACCES) and a member of staff has chaired the group, applied for a and received a grant from Arts Council England which was used in employing a Swansea University student in a project which benefited curators nationally. The Centre also organised a seminar for the group on innovative educational work in Egyptology museums. The Centre continues to work with the group as a core member. (core aim: widening participation and education).

The Centre was the first museum in Britain to ensure that its whole collection was put onto Culture Grid (a national database of museum collections) using MODES Complete (software designed for museum collections). This enables scholars and the general public to know more about the collection. (core aim: education and widening participation).

The Centre's volunteer programme has gone from strength to strength with a framework for volunteer progress now in place. We also offer limited travel expenses to volunteers. (core aim: widening participation).

The Centre has an agreement with University of Wales Press to produce publications on its collection which will be for the benefit of those with little knowledge of Egyptology as well as specialists. Publications will be themed according to popular subjects such as 'demons and spirits of the dead', 'coffins and body coverings', 'religion in the home', which, it is intended, will interest non-specialists. The highlighting of the specifics of the collection, within these popular themes, is intended for specialist readers. (core aim: education and widening participation).

The Centre has lent artefacts to other institutions.

### **Volunteer awards**

In 2011 the Egypt Centre was given a grant from CyMAL for marketing and enhancing its volunteer programme. Specifically, the Centre purchased a badge maker for its volunteers. This has proved very popular with volunteers and visitors. The Centre also advertised in the local press this was not so successful. (core aim: widening participation)

The upstairs gallery has now been redesigned. Cases were purchased with the help from CyMAL. Cases allowed more objects to be put on display thus meaning that more could be taken out of our unsuitable storage facilities which threaten the collection. (core aim: preservation of the collection and education)

Since the last review Centre staff have published a number of items as detailed in Appendix A (core aim: education and widening participation):

Centre staff have given several talks and lectures at local, national and international levels. These range from delivering a lecture on lithics to CIPEG (the Egyptological group of the International Council of Museums) to lectures about the Centre to local talks history groups and other local societies. (core aim: widening participation and education).

In 2010 the Egypt Centre together with Kasia Szpakowska organised a conference on Experimental and Experiential Egyptology. The conference brought together international academics, the general public and craftspeople. The Proceedings are in the process of being edited by Egypt Centre staff (with external referees) and are to be published by Classical Press of Wales. (core aim: widening participation and education).

The Centre is now more heavily involved in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students. As well as delivering lectures and organising handling sessions of objects for modules largely delivered by other lecturers, the Centre runs a module with Kasia Szpakowska giving undergraduate students an opportunity to work in the Egypt Centre for 4 weeks and learn various aspects of museology. The Centre developed and delivers an MA module which incorporates museology and Egyptology. (core aim: education).

The educational service to schools has been developed so that we now allow access of groups of up to 60 pupils for full day workshops (previously we only took groups of up to 40). Due to increased demand the Foundation Phase activities have been greatly developed. Several other individual activities have been developed. The Centre recently underwent a staff restructuring which allowed us to appoint a part-time education officer. (core aim: education and widening participation).

In 2012 a school from Woking College in Surrey donated a group of Egyptian objects to the Egypt Centre. The items had originally been offered to the British Museum but the British Museum staff had suggested that Egypt Centre might be able to make good use of them because of its excellent educational programme. The artefacts are now on display and have been catalogued. They have received publicity- including in the press in Egypt. (core aim: education and widening participation).

## 10. Appendix C: Context and Environment analysis

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An important collection, the largest in Wales</li> <li>• Engagement with other University Departments</li> <li>• A collection which should excite public imagination and interest</li> <li>• Frequent bus service to and from the City of Swansea</li> <li>• Situated within the larger facility of the Taliesin Arts Centre which also attracts visitors</li> <li>• Enthusiastic and capable staff and volunteers</li> <li>• Publication agreement with University of Wales Press</li> <li>• Involvement in Children’s University Swansea</li> <li>• Online, searchable database</li> <li>• Situation on campus means the museum is able to serve the student population, including provision of work-based modules</li> <li>• Pioneering volunteer programme</li> <li>• The amount of information on the collection online (not only on the database but also on our web site) rivals that of better resourced, larger institutions</li> <li>• A longstanding artefact handling programme (for the public and for student teaching)</li> <li>• Innovative and popular hands-on activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional space required to display parts of the collection currently in storage.</li> <li>• Better space for visiting scholars or students of the University required</li> <li>• Better teaching space/breakout rooms required.</li> <li>• Limited resources for preservation and other activities</li> <li>• Better storage and working space required, adjacent to display areas, for preservation and other activities.</li> <li>• The position of the Centre in a university campus may deter some visitors but attract others.</li> <li>• The design of the building has limitations and issues that will need addressing: air conditioning, windows, etc.</li> <li>• Timely, efficient and cost effective response to facilities/building matters needs to be addressed.</li> <li>• On campus signage could be improved.</li> <li>• Parking for able and disabled volunteers and visitors is an issue. Parking on campus is a general university-wide issue.</li> <li>• Egyptology not in the Welsh National Curriculum</li> <li>• Additional office space required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibilities of further working with other University departments.</li> <li>• Potential to work with ISS to mitigate certain weaknesses identified above.</li> <li>• The nature of the collection (colourful and ‘romantic’) smoothes the path for press interest, school interest, etc.</li> <li>• The Friends group helps with resource problems</li> <li>• The new University campus may free space on the present campus to allow expanded facilities for museum research, teaching and storage</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanding services require additional financial resources.</li> <li>• Environmental: fire, flood, temperature, humidity, etc.</li> </ul>



## 11. Appendix D: Current Objectives up to April 2018

The Egypt Centre will continue to maintain its existing excellent volunteer programme, its educational activities and widening participation activities.

Objective	Date	Resources needed	Core aim	Opportunities/threats
At least one publication focussing on the Egypt Centre collection	2014	Time for the curator to write this	Education and widening participation	Need to identify staff time to enable writing.
Work with Information Services and Systems and other University departments to mitigate weaknesses and threats identified through the SWOT analysis	April 2014	Staff time. Evaluation of issues and options.	Education, widening participation and preservation of the collection	Mitigating key weaknesses will facilitate the use and management of the collection.
Review all schools activities using teacher feedback and monitor volunteer delivery in line with the National Curriculum in Wales	ongoing	c. £300 per year plus training room space needed to review and retrain volunteers	Education and widening participation	Identify in discussion with ISS sources of funding or seek external funding.  Identify staff resource.
Look into the development of new hands-on activities in the galleries, if the review and training if the point above identifies the need	ongoing	c. £300 to maintain equipment for existing and new activities. Time needed by assistant curator and education officer	Education and widening participation	Identify in discussion with ISS sources of funding or seek external funding.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Resources needed</b>	<b>Core aim</b>	<b>Opportunities/threats</b>
Explore the possibility of increased space as the University moves towards the development of a new campus	September 2015	Staff time. This will involve the production of a brief for ideal storage, research and teaching areas.	Education, widening participation and preservation of the collection	A university group is considering this area, chaired by Pro Vice Chancellor, Iwan Davies. The opportunity to consider the Egypt Centre as well as the facilities provided by the Taliesin Arts Centre, the Richard Burton Archives and the South Wales Miners' Library, under the auspices of the Richard Burton Centre or a Centre for Research Collections is being actively considered through this group. The Centre may need to apply for grants to support this activity.
Around 10 artefacts per year to be given remedial conservation treatment	ongoing	The cost will depend upon the type of artefacts, etc. Estimate £300 per item	Preservation of the collection	Discuss with ISS the opportunity for funding to support this activity. Seek external funding from CyMAL and others.
Egypt Centre staff to be trained in MODES complete	April 2014	£600	Education, widening participation, preservation of the collection	Discuss with ISS the opportunity for funding and/or apply for grants from CyMAL/the Welsh Federation.
Improvements to downstairs gallery (the upstairs new cases have allowed objects to be kept safer and more to be seen-we are hoping to do the same for downstairs)	ongoing	As this will be opportunistic it is difficult to cost. We can make some improvements at little cost, such as putting shelving in cases	Education, widening participation, preservation of the collection	We expect to research external grants for this.  Discuss with ISS any opportunities for internal funding.
Train new staff to use Joomla to update web pages	April 2014	Staff time	Education, widening participation	Discuss with staff, arrange time for training, arrange timing of updates on a weekly basis. Longer term, discuss with ISS the use of standard web services that may make updating and the use of the web and other online services simpler.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Resources needed</b>	<b>Core aim</b>	<b>Opportunities/threats</b>
Work with ISS on the development of a new emergency plan and review of procedures	ongoing	Staff time	Education, widening participation, preservation of the collection	
Look into the possibility of a new database suitable for our volunteers to include photographs, awards, achievements, etc.	September 2014	Staff time Funding	Widening participation	Discuss with ISS to possibility of them supporting us on this

## **12. Appendix E: Review Date**

In accordance with accreditation guidelines, this document will be reviewed at least once every 5 years. Date of next review to be by April 2018.