**Visualizing Collections & Enabling Collaborations**

**Zurich Ethnographic Museum**

This challenge is based on a very practical real-life problem: we want to develop collaborative provenance research projects with concerned communities - but the collections at the Ethnographic Museum in Zurich are currently not accessible online

This means external partners both here in Switzerland and abroad are unable to look up what is currently held in the museum. To find out about the collection they have to email a member of staff.

The museum is currently addressing this and has decided to make its database accessible online.  But it is early days, and this will most probably require us shifting to a new collection management software and will take time and resources.

In the meantime, having recently joined the institution as the museum's provenance researcher, I would like to have a quick and creative solution that communicates to the general public where our collections come from and during which period they arrived in the museum.

This prototype does not need to communicate all of the information that one would normally find in a museum database but should provide a basic overview, ideally in the form of a visualization, or mapping so that external partners get a good sense of what is in the collection.

The intention is that making this data available in a user-friendly format could foster further collaborations between concerned communities and the museum. This would fill an important gap whilst the collection is still off-line.

**Difficulties:** Whilst the geographical regions have pre-defined country and area codes, the provenance data when available is in an open text schema. Actors names from acquisitions over the last 30 years would need to be protected.

**Outlook:** Such a prototype could be the start of a collaboration with hackathon participants, which based on available resources could be further developed together. It could even be that the prototype inspires us to adopt certain

principles and creative solutions as we work on putting the full database online.

We hope you are willing to jump on board and with your tools and skills set help us develop a solution to this challenge!

**Inspirations:**

Atlas der Abwesenheit – Kameruns Kulturerbe in Deutschland

Digital Benin

Mapping Philippine Material Culture

Africa Art Archive

Past GlamHack projects
The spatial evolvement of a Museums' collection - GLAMhack 2021 (opendata.ch)

**Data:**

Data storage:
https://drive.switch.ch/index.php/s/dldzVcW6r4raK0R

Data fields: The data fields would be the object name, inventory number, continent, region and country, and then the date of entry and provenance actors.

Karteikarte: Name Objekt, Inventar-Nr, Kontinent, Weltregion, Land, Geographische Region. History: Eingangsdatum, Von, Sammler, Provenienz

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