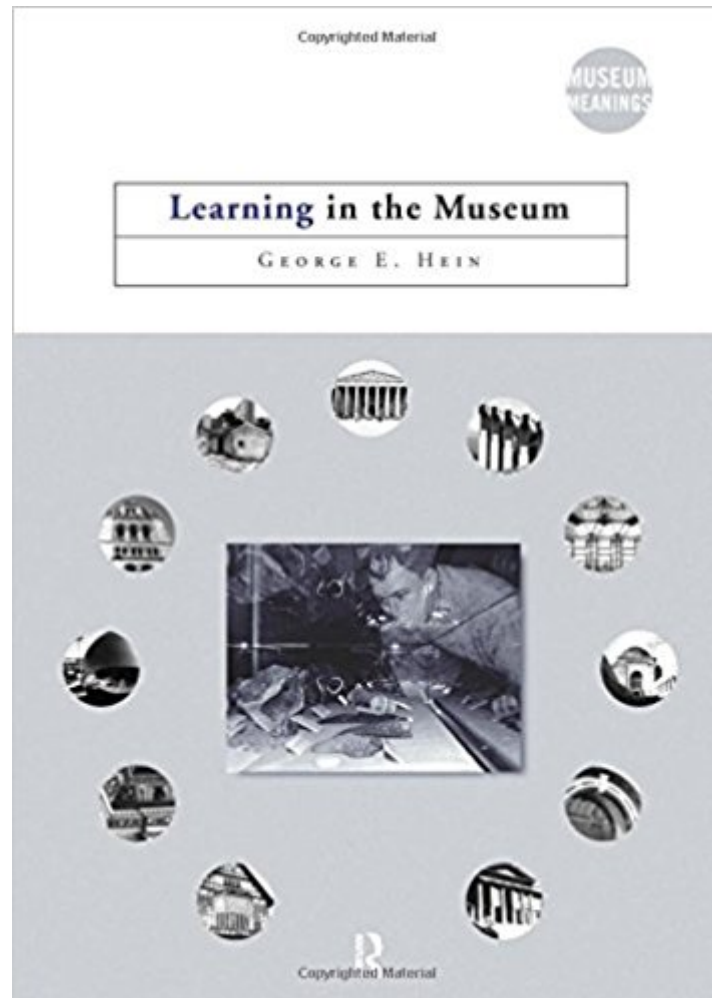




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Learning In The Museum (Museum Meanings)



Synopsis

Learning in the Museum examines major issues and shows how research in visitor studies and the philosophy of education can be applied to facilitate a meaningful educational experience in museums. Hein combines a brief history of education in public museums, with a rigorous examination of how the educational theories of Dewey, Piaget, Vygotsky and subsequent theorists relate to learning in the museum. Surveying a wide range of research methods employed in visitor studies is illustrated with examples taken from museums around the world, Hein explores how visitors can best learn from exhibitions which are physically, socially, and intellectually accessible to every single visitor. He shows how museums can adapt to create this kind of environment, to provide what he calls the 'constructivist museum'. Providing essential theoretical analysis for students, this volume also serves as a practical guide for all museum professionals on how to adapt their museums to maximize the educational experience of every visitor.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a welcome addition to the growing literature on museum education...Its review of the research literature on visitor studies and consideration of research models and methods make it a very useful guide for professionals engaged in those activities. As well, it offers sound educational principles to develop exhibits that are respectful of visitors' abilities to learn.

George E. Hein is a Professor at Lesley College, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is co-author of *Active Assessment of Active Science* (1991) and a leading authority on museum education.

This book provides an excellent summary of current museum learning theory. Concise and engaging, it includes a compendium of virtually all of the relevant research and concepts in the hot topic of audience-centered and informal museum learning. This is persuasively knit together to suggest a powerful approach - the constructivist museum. A must-read for anyone interested in understanding how visitors actually make meaning from their museum experiences.

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