

Training exercises for museums
around the world

INTERCOM Management Scenarios



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Introduction

by David Fleming OBE

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Imaginary case studies, or 'scenarios', are a familiar device in management training. They can be a powerful and rewarding technique for encouraging us to think about the issues and problems which challenge us in our work. Stephen Weil, the great American museum thinker and writer who died in 2005, used this technique in his teaching. He called them "warm-up exercises".

The idea that INTERCOM should create some scenarios arose at a meeting held in 2006 at the University of Victoria, Canada, at which people who had known or been influenced by Weil discussed his work and his legacy. This series of scenarios is the result.

INTERCOM have published six scenarios, courtesy of a special grant from ICOM, in printed form, but they are also available free to download from the INTERCOM website. I hope they will be of use to museum professionals around the world, and I hope that INTERCOM is able to create and publish more scenarios in future. The scenarios are intended to create a forum for open discussion among museum professionals at all levels in museums and academic training workshops.

Many thanks to all the contributors, and to Françoise McClafferty of National Museums Liverpool for undertaking the unenviable task of commissioning these pieces of work and then extracting them from contributors (some more easily than others...) and editing them for publication.

Dr David Fleming OBE



President of INTERCOM and Director of National Museums Liverpool (UK)
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Edited and compiled by Françoise McClafferty for INTERCOM
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