

## **The 'invisible knapsack' of heterosexual privilege in museums**

1. I can go to a museum and be validated in my identity
2. I can go to a museum that reflects my intimate life without having to catch an international flight
3. I can use the bathroom at a museum and be sure that no one will question my right to be there. I do not have to use the disabled toilet even if I am able-bodied
4. I can feel safe in the knowledge that a museum will protect me from discrimination across all its areas of influence
5. I can be sure that all the dimensions of difference that are important to me will be captured in audience research and development
6. I can assume when museums refer to the 'general public,' they are referring to me
7. I can be sure that when I go to see an exhibition that I myself will not be on exhibition
8. I can look at promotional material and see my relationships reflected within
9. I can show affection towards my partner in a museum without being stared at
10. I can bring my family to a museum and be considered eligible for family pricing
11. I can consider museums as a resource in the development of my child, whoever my child may be. It is not questioned that I am the child's parent
12. I can do research that is relevant to my experiences and it can be recognised as scholarly and not only personally motivated
13. I can be issued research material without having to be led to a cordoned-off area because I have been told that it is 'pornography' (this occurred to the author at a major state library). I can be sure that all material was categorised according to the same criteria
14. I can work in a museum and not become the automatic spokesperson for 'my community.' If I choose to do so, I will be rewarded on that basis
15. I can work in a museum and feel as if there are employee and professional networking groups that reflect my interests. Forms that I am required to complete reflect my gender identity
16. I can easily point to several major exhibitions over the past ten years that have centred on people like me. I can expect such exhibitions not to rely on stereotypes. I can be sure that major sponsors did not distance themselves from these exhibitions due to prejudice. I can expect that they were supported and promoted by all levels

of management

17. I can assume that if gender identity or sexuality is not mentioned in a label, then the subject of the label is heterosexual and fits within the concept of binary sex / gender. I can further assume that neither gender identity nor sexuality is relevant in this case
18. I can read a comment book and not feel personally attacked
19. I can offer interpretations of collection items without them being summarily dismissed as speculative. I can easily undertake research using public collections and repositories to validate my claims
20. 20. I can be sure that the standardised taxonomies, thesauruses, keywords, and categories used within a museum do not omit important aspects of my identity