Collaborative curators and toolkits

In a traditional museum-led exhibition

curators would normally research

the topic, write all of the text,

select the objects, write the object labels,

do all the copyright research,

source the images, work with designers

to produce the layout of the exhibition

and organise the public programmes with education staff.

My role working in collaboration

with different groups is very different actually

depending on which type of group it is:

It could be a very small community organisation

or it could be more of a bigger organisation,

who are more used to developing their projects

and possibly even other exhibitions.

So I suppose it really needs

to be tailored to that particular group.

I support and facilitate the exhibitions themselves and the process

because obviously, if you've never done an exhibition before

you really wouldn't know what was involved.

So it's really kind of helping

and supporting the group

in trying to bring to life

their vision of what they'd like to see in their exhibition.

Thinking about word limits for the text

is very important and editing that down.

Obviously words that you can and can't use

for access reasons, that people might not understand

and might really put them off.

Or 'viewing bands' for text, text size

and of course standardisation of credit lines.

Another thing we can advise them on

is obviously the installation programme.

Thinking about displaying objects,

mounting of objects, insurance.

All these very practical things

that you've got to think about that

other people might not even consider really.

And when working in collaboration

sometimes I do get involved

with some of the research

and helping clear copyright, acquire images,

writing object labels, that kind of thing.

Because, for a lot of people,

they've never done this before.

So really, it's kind of practical help

when and where it's needed,

using my knowledge and expertise as well.

We developed a tool kit,

which offers advice to any participant

and also ourselves regarding; text,

and word lengths and all of those standard

access requirements that are involved.

Marketing and press, loans

and registrar requirements for our AV process.

Kind of; what files would be required

what resolution, what type of files,

just really practical guidance

that people might not even consider.

Or obviously along the way

that would really help them

talk to other people about

and provide the right thing at the right time.

And of course, obviously, as part of that process

I really encourage people to chat to us,

if there's any kind of potential problems or pitfalls

not just rely on the tool kit, it's...

you really need the person there to chat you through

and kind of help and advise along the way as well.

But it's really just kind of a tool in our arsenal

to help everyone understand the process

and the standards required really.

And I've found it does help them

to ask the right questions really

or find out more about certain things.