

Leveraging Today's Cloud Technology to Keep the Past Alive: Optimizing Efficiency and Flexibility for the Washington State Historical Society

Key Features

- Streamlined communications between teams, members, and facilities
- Immediate access to extensive object data, including images
- Intuitive and easy to use for staff with varying degrees of technological proficiency
- Works well across multiple platforms and device types
- Strong collaborative capabilities permit real-time teamwork, regardless of location
- Significant time savings and efficiency gains enable staff to apply efforts to important non-administrative tasks

"We can take the time we spent compiling spreadsheets and doing data entry, and put it toward creative work, research, and tending to the objects instead."

Gwen Whiting
Lead Curator

Contact us to find out
if Curia is right for your museum.

info@curia.com | 248-412-8200



The Washington State Historical Society is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and vividly presenting Washington's rich history for the benefit of the state and its citizens.

The Solution

To fulfill its mission, the Society presents a continual series of richly detailed exhibitions and educational events, drawing upon its collection of over 100,000 historical artifacts. The exhibitions, educational programs and the collection continually expand in order to meet its audiences' needs and expectations—and that places mounting demands upon its small staff and the systems they use to plan and execute the Society's activities.

The Exhibition

The Society decided it needed to move beyond its spreadsheet-centric exhibition planning process in order to improve efficiency and reduce the time demands created by routine administrative tasks. When researching potential solutions, a key consideration was integration with the Society's existing KEMu collections management system.

"Curia has given us the ability to be more efficient and move more quickly," explains Lead Curator Gwen Whiting. "It saves so much time. We can take the time we spent compiling spreadsheets and doing data entry, and put it toward creative work, research, and tending to the objects instead. It lets us be less administrative and more creative. I can safely say that it saves me at least five hours a week, or more."

“Implementation was remarkably fast; Curia is very easy to use. After just a couple hours, we were in there working with it. I’ve shown other staff members how to use it. If you use a computer, you can use Curia; it’s really not very difficult.”

Gwen Whiting
Lead Curator



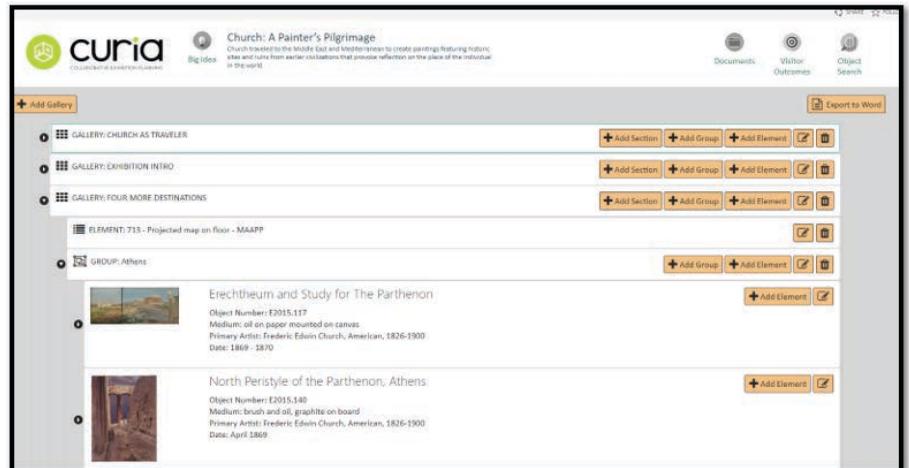
**Inspire.
Challenge.
Engage.**

create visitor centric experiences with



Whiting finds that the extra time comes in handy when trying to manage multiple exhibitions in multiple galleries—especially when it’s necessary to collaborate effectively with colleagues in different buildings. “Before, we would have to exchange emails. When you’re dealing with a spreadsheet and the person on the other end can’t access photos or something, a lot of misunderstanding can happen,” Whiting explains. “Now I can upload a document, send it to my supervisor, she makes comments on it that I can view in real time. Curia has the functionality of a lot of different cloud-based products, all in one program, which is really nice and allows us to continue working from home without using VPN. It consolidates a lot of what we need to do. I didn’t realize how nice it would really be.”

Because Curia connects seamlessly with the Society’s collections management system, images and detail data for the 100,000-plus items in the collection are readily available for research and planning purposes by all teams using Curia. Exhibitions, Audience Engagement, and Education staff all currently leverage Curia; thanks to the excellent results to date, the Society plans to expand its usage by other groups as well, including for project management functions.



Whiting notes that Curia’s ease of use by users of differing levels of technological sophistication has also been a notable advantage. “Implementation was remarkably fast; Curia is very easy to use. After just a couple hours, we were in there working with it,” she says. “I’ve shown other staff members how to use it. If you use a computer, you can use Curia; it’s really not very difficult.”

All in all, Whiting sees the Society’s adoption of Curia as a decided advantage for her and her team—and ultimately for the Society’s visitors and patrons. “A lot of what we do are administrative tasks. When you take that off your shoulders, you can be more creative, flexible, and imaginative in ways that you can’t when you are bogged down with things that are important, but routine. Instead, you are freed up to dive more deeply into the things people want to know, and you spend less time having to organize.”

Contact us to find out if Curia is right for you.

info@curia.com | 248-412-8200 | curia.com