

Resource Guides

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Developing a training plan

What skills do the people who work at your place need to develop? How do you find out? How do you plan to meet their needs? This guide looks at how you put together a training plan for your museum.

Planning your training

A TRAINING PLAN SETS OUT YOUR ORGANISATION'S

TRAINING NEEDS AND YOUR PRIORITIES FOR MEETING THEM

INSIDE

2 Why plan?

- 4 Developing the plan
- 11 Maungaroa Community Museum's training plan

You develop a **training plan** in order to organise your **training programme**. When you make a training plan, you:

- identify who needs training and what training they need
- set priorities for meeting those needs.
- A training programme is the next step. It sets out what training is planned for a given period, how, when and where this training will take place and how much it will cost.

What is in this guide

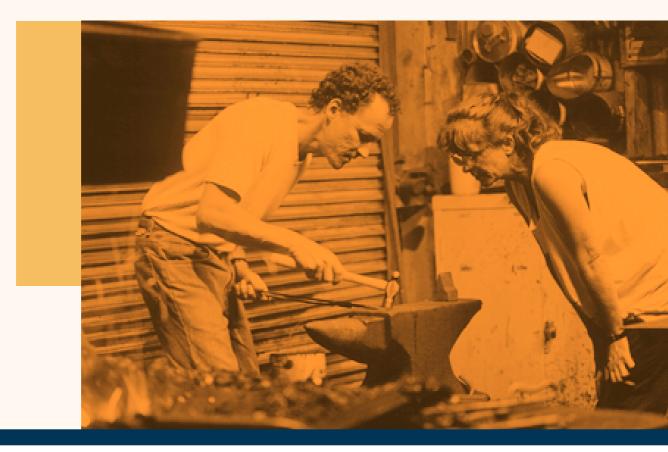
This guide explains how to prepare a simple training plan for a typical museum.

- It describes a process to follow for identifying training needs, setting priorities and translating these into an annual training programme.
- It includes a sample set of forms for you to photocopy and use in this process.
- It also includes a completed plan and annual programme for a fictional museum using these forms, to help you complete your own.

This guide is just a guide. Adapt the suggestions offered here to suit your own situation.



Why plan?



Benefits of the well thought out plan

A training plan helps you to develop a well thought out training programme. This has many benefits. If your programme results in having people who are confident and know what they are doing, they will substantially assist the smooth running of your museum.

A training plan is the basis for a one- to three-year programme to develop the skills of people working in or with your museum. The plan should:

- result in a programme which increases levels of skill
- help you make a case to get funds needed to cover the costs of your training programme
- give you better value for your training dollar
- be part of your long-term development plan for your organisation
- give your sponsors confidence that your museum and its collection are in good hands.

Remember, in training no effort equals no results.

Your planning and the National Training Framework

The planning outlined here is designed to fit in with the Te Papa National Services' National Training Framework. The framework is a long-term plan for the development of all people who work in the museum sector.

For details, see the document *National Training Framework for Museums | Te Anga Kaiako ā Iwi mō Ngā Whare Taonga ō Te Motu*, Te Papa National Services, 1999. Copies are available from Te Papa National Services.

When should you plan?

You can plan for a training programme at any time (especially if you don't have one now). Ideally, training needs should be reviewed and updated annually in tandem with the cycle of planning for your financial year.

A good training plan

A good training plan:

- covers the essential skills of your museum
- links to the National Training Framework
- is supported by the people involved
- results in a well thought out training programme.

A well thought out training programme:

- covers a specific time period
- is cost effective
- is achievable.



Developing the **plan**

Overview of the process

We suggest that you use a three-step process for developing your training plan. See *Musuem Training Plan Templates,* the supplement to this guide for a set of forms to assist you at each step. The set includes:

- a form for defining roles looking at who does what in the organisation
- a form for assessing needs looking at who needs what training (both individuals and groups) and giving priorities to meeting the needs
- a form for writing your annual training programme saying who will be trained, what training there will be, how, when and where training will take place and how much it will cost.

Refer to pages 11-23 for the (fictional) Maungaroa Community Museum's completed example using these forms to see what the finished product looks like.

The process in detail

In this section we look at the planning process in detail and give you some hints on how to fill in the forms.

First step - prepare yourself

This step is important to get yourself orientated and be sure of what you are doing. Take the time to work through this resource guide and discuss training fully with other people involved in running your museum.

First sequence of tasks

Here is a suggested sequence of tasks to undertake within this step.

- Review the National Training Framework.
- Discuss the process with your board, director or committee.
- Discuss the process with other museums within your network.
- Review this guide especially look at the Maungaroa Community Museum's completed plan and annual programme.
- Decide the term of the training programme, for example, annual, for two years, for the financial year.
- Think about the people you have at your museum and their roles.
- Record the details in the role definition form.

The role definition form

Use the role definition form to review what people in your museum do now. You may be able to make lists of tasks from current job descriptions.

You may find that various tasks will be shared or overlap. In these cases, repeat the task for each group or individual.

Role Definition Form

Museum <u>M</u> 1 Role De	laungaroa Community Museum		
Role	Tasks	Number of People	Hours per Week Enter the average weekly hours.
Enter the positions or groups in this column, e.g., Curator.	For each position or group, broadly list the tasks they perform, e.g., Run the finances; Manage the collection; Develop policy.	Involved Enter numbers for position or group.	
Board Trustees	 Set the direction/vision Assist fundraising Approve policies Approve annual plan Liaise with council 	5	5
Curator	 Runs the museum Raises funds Looks after the facilities/buildings Deals with trustees Runs the finances Negotiates acquisitions for the collection Manages the collection 	I	40
Assistant Curator	 Works with the collection Manages the guides, hosts and front of house Looks after the shop Looks after the displays Handles money/daily accounting 	1	40
Collection Assistants	Help set up the displaysHelp catalogue and maintain the collection	2	20
Collection Help/ Volunteers	 Maintain cuttings service Assist with the collection 	5	10
Volunteer hosts/ guides	 Run the shop/counter Take guided tours Answer queries Explain the displays/collection to visitors 	10	40

Second step - identify the needs

The needs assessment checklist

For this step you need to refer to the needs assessment checklist. It lists in heading form a large number of skills. These are essentially the skills required to run a museum.

You can find a detailed list of these skills in the Programme Inventory in Part 5 of the National Training Framework. The skills (grouped into three main programmes) were identified by a working party of museum leaders, including the directors of several small museums.

The needs assessment checklist used here is based on the inventory. Accordingly, it gives you a good basis to compare your museum with others.

YOUR NEEDS ASSESSMENT IS A BIG TASK. DON'T BE

PUT OFF BY THAT. IT IS WORTH THE TIME YOU INVEST IN IT.

A note for smaller museums

Small museums tend to be museums in microcosm and most of the skills in the inventory could apply to your museum. Of course, the scale and complexity will be different from a large museum. The inventory also reinforces the fact that people in small museums need to be generalists who are multi-skilled.

What museums do - the needs assessment summary

On page 12 is a one-page summary of the skills. Use this to see how the checklist is organised and to get an overview of the division of skills within the three main skill streams:

- museum management
- relationships
- operations.

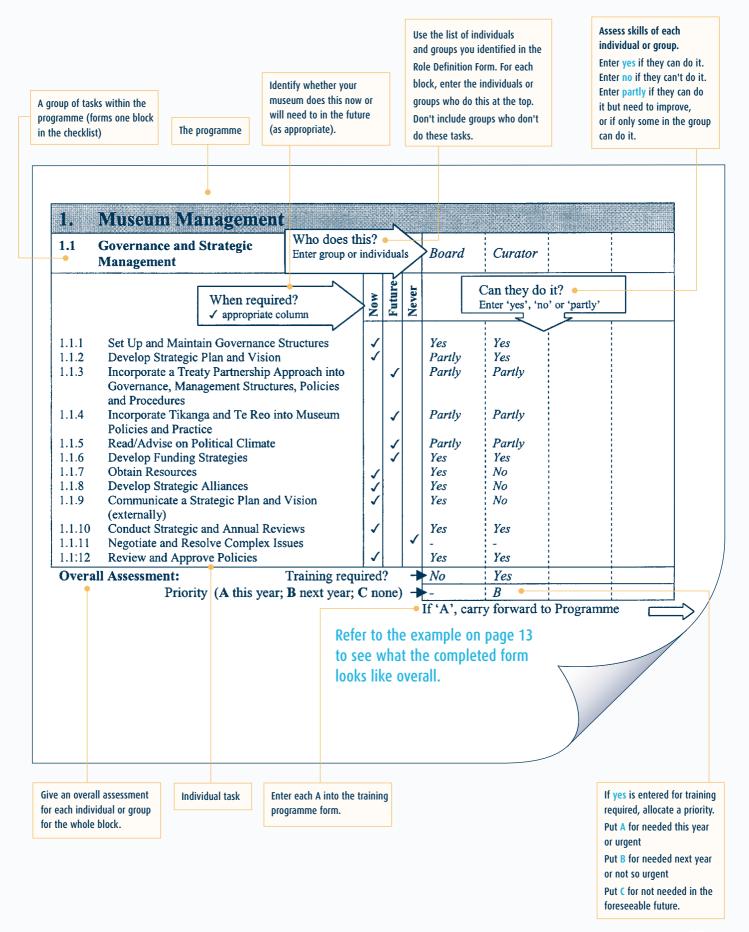
Second sequence of tasks

Here is a suggested sequence of tasks to undertake within this step:

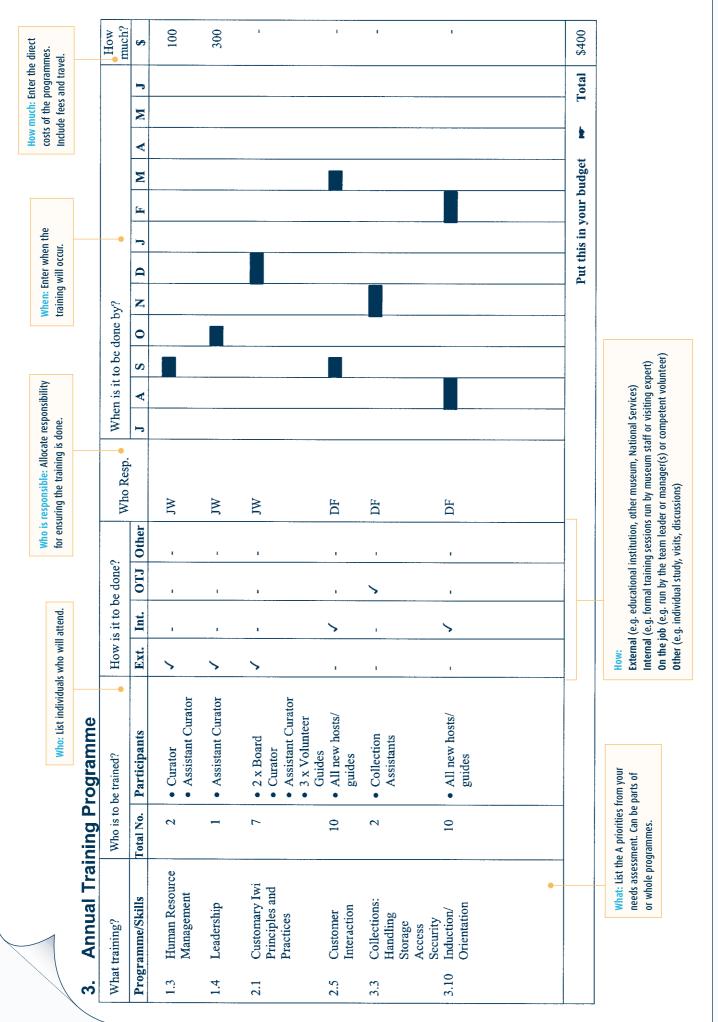
- Read through the needs assessment summary and checklist.
- Identify what tasks your museum does or will need to do and tick when the skill to do them is required.

Try doing your needs assessment as a team involve people in their own development.

Needs assessment checklist example



Training Programme form example





- Start with the Museum Management programme. Work through each block of skills in turn.
- Add any tasks that you do or will need to do that are not on the list. Make up your own block or add to the existing blocks.
- Ignore anything you are not clear about (if you don't recognise it, it is probably not applicable to you).
- Go through each block of skills carefully and identify which groups or individuals need these skills.
- Assess whether or not they have the skill to do the task.
- Complete an overall assessment of training needs for each block.
- Give a priority ranking for when training is required.

Third step - make up the training programme

The final step in the planning process is to transfer the individual or group needs to a programme for the whole museum. At this stage you work out when and how the training will happen, who will provide it and how much it will cost.

This then becomes your programme for action. A document like this is useful to take to your board and funders. It is a statement of credibility for your funding bid.

Cost effective learning

Your training does not need to cost a lot of money (over and above people's time). It is a well-established fact that the vast majority of learning happens best on the job, learning from managers, peers and colleagues. A good training programme will always aim at making this on-the-job learning happen.

Methods of training include:

- attendance at formal courses (for example, at polytechnics) or seminars
- visits or attachments to a larger museum
- structured learning sessions with your own people running them, or experts coming in to assist you
- doing the task with a competent person on the job
- learning by reading, research or discussion with other expert people.

Ongoing review

Keep your programme up to date. Review and revise it once a year and keep a lookout for opportunities as they occur. However, be careful to check that they are part of your priorities, that is, 'must haves' rather than 'nice to haves'.

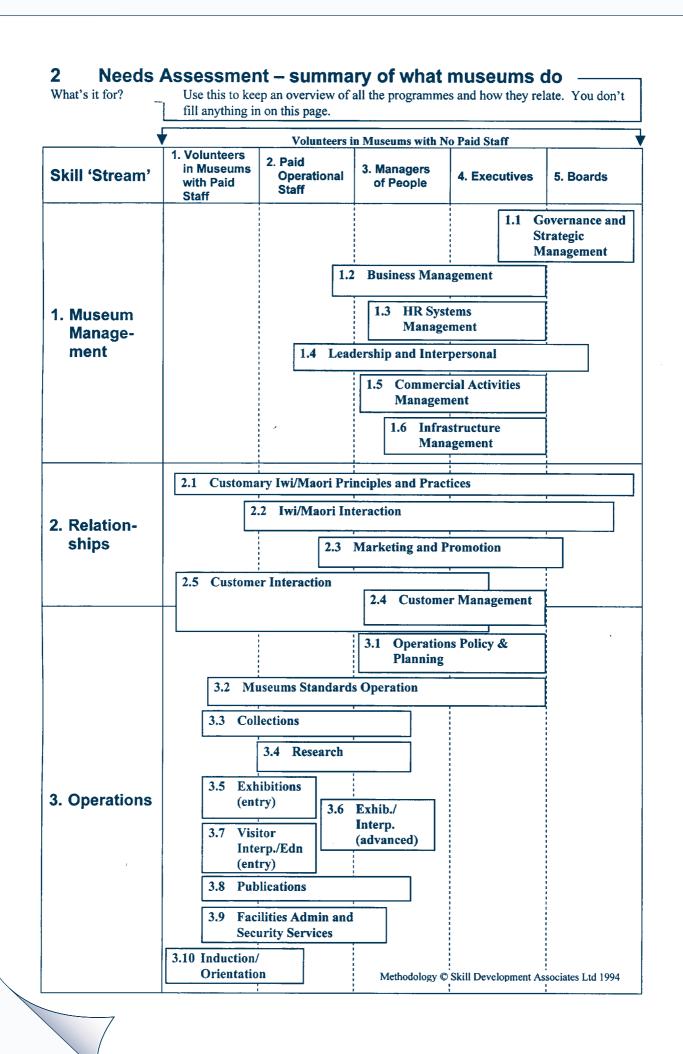
Third sequence of tasks

Here is a suggested sequence of tasks to undertake this step. Use the training programme form provided to assist you.

- Transfer the A priorities from your needs assessment checklist to your training programme form.
- Decide who will receive training. Use priorities to select the individuals who need the training the most, for example, the ones with the lowest levels of skill.
- Decide how it is to be done. Select the method of training.
- Decide who will provide the training. Select the best provider according to your local knowledge and research.
- Determine when it is to be done.
- Calculate the cost.
- Add all the costs and transfer the total to your museum budget.

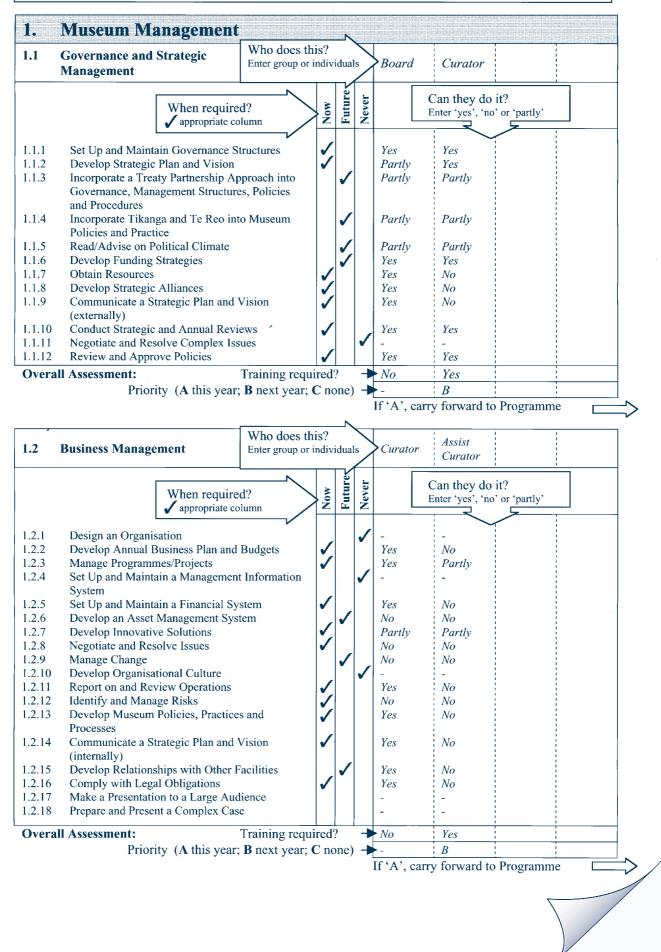
Maungaroa Community Museum's training plan

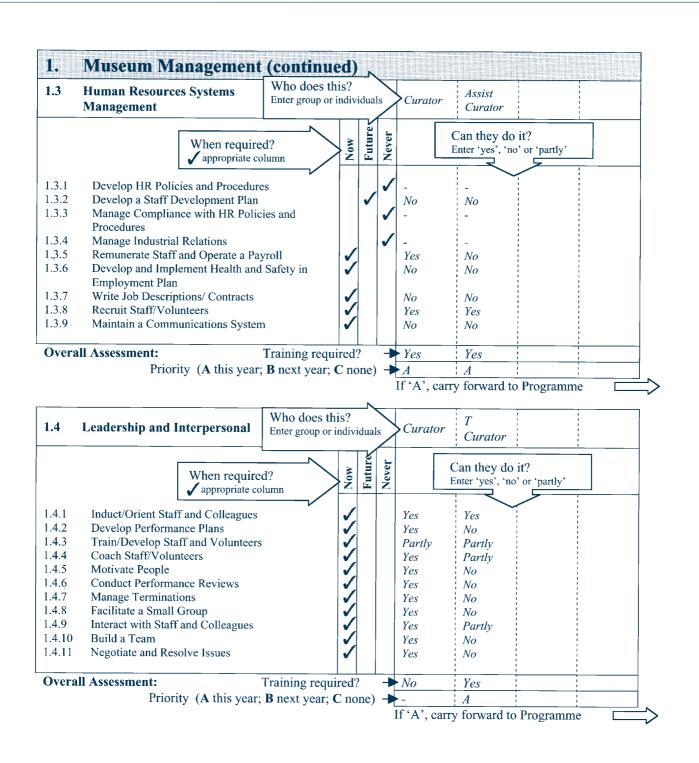
Role	Tasks	Number of People Involved	Hours per Week	
Enter the positions or groups in this column, e.g., Curator.	For each position or group, broadly list the tasks they perform, e.g., Run the finances; Manage the collection; Develop policy.	Enter numbers for position or group.	Enter the average weekly hours.	
Board Trustees • Set the direction/vision • Assist fundraising • Approve policies • Approve annual plan • Liaise with council		5	5	
Curator	 Runs the museum Raises funds Looks after the facilities/buildings Deals with trustees Runs the finances Negotiates acquisitions for the collection Manages the collection 	1	40	
Assistant Curator • Works with the collection • Manages the guides, hosts and front of house • Looks after the shop • Looks after the displays • Handles money/daily accounting		1	40	
Collection Assistants			20	
ollection Help/ volunteers• Maintain cuttings service • Assist with the collection		5	10	
Volunteer hosts/ guides	 Run the shop/counter Take guided tours Answer queries Explain the displays/collection to visitors ` 	10	40	

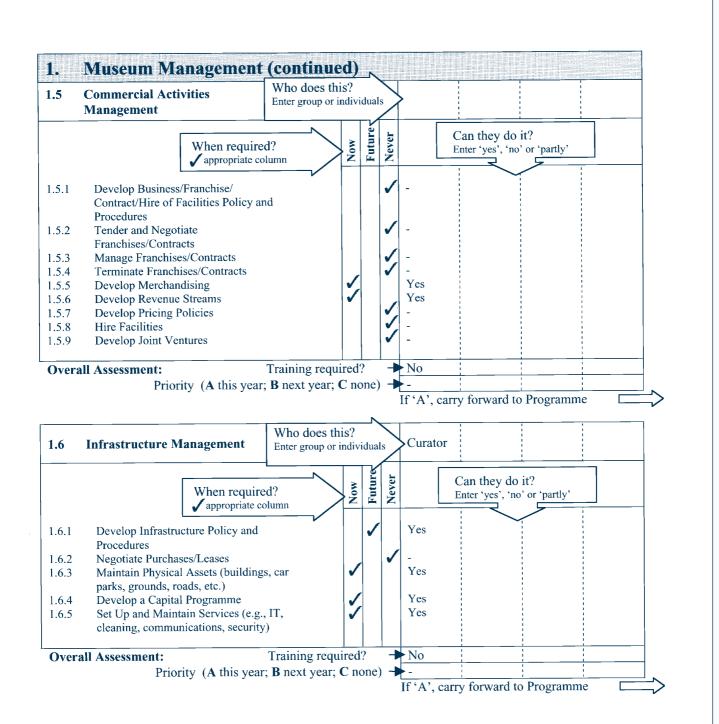


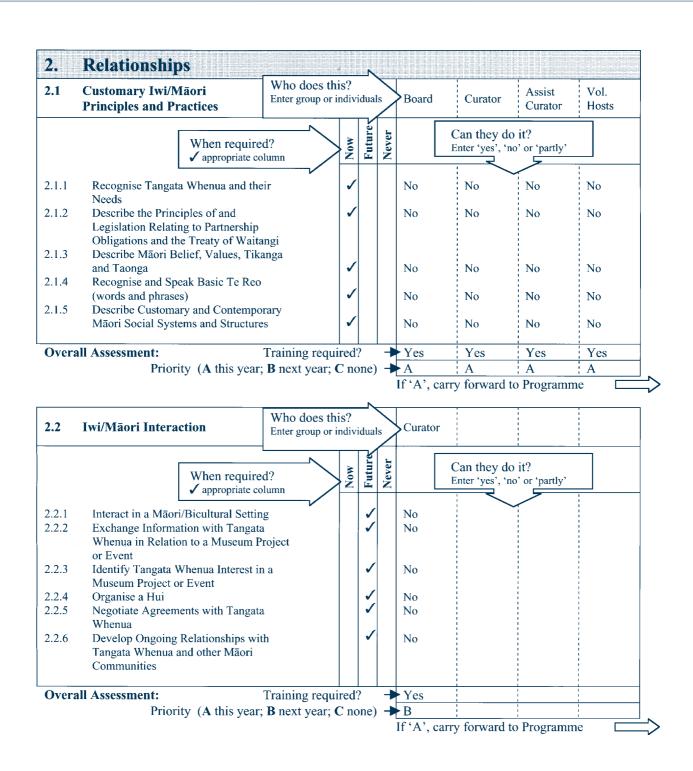
2 Needs Assessment Checklist

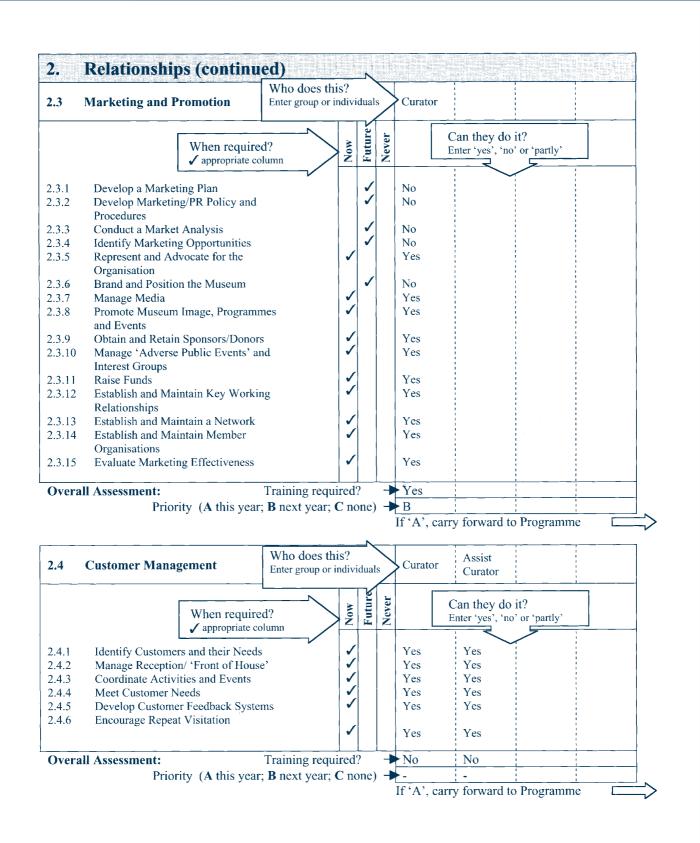
What's it for? There are 10 pages showing breakdowns of the skills in each programme, \checkmark those skills that are needed in your museum. Then enter and assess the group or individuals who need those skills.



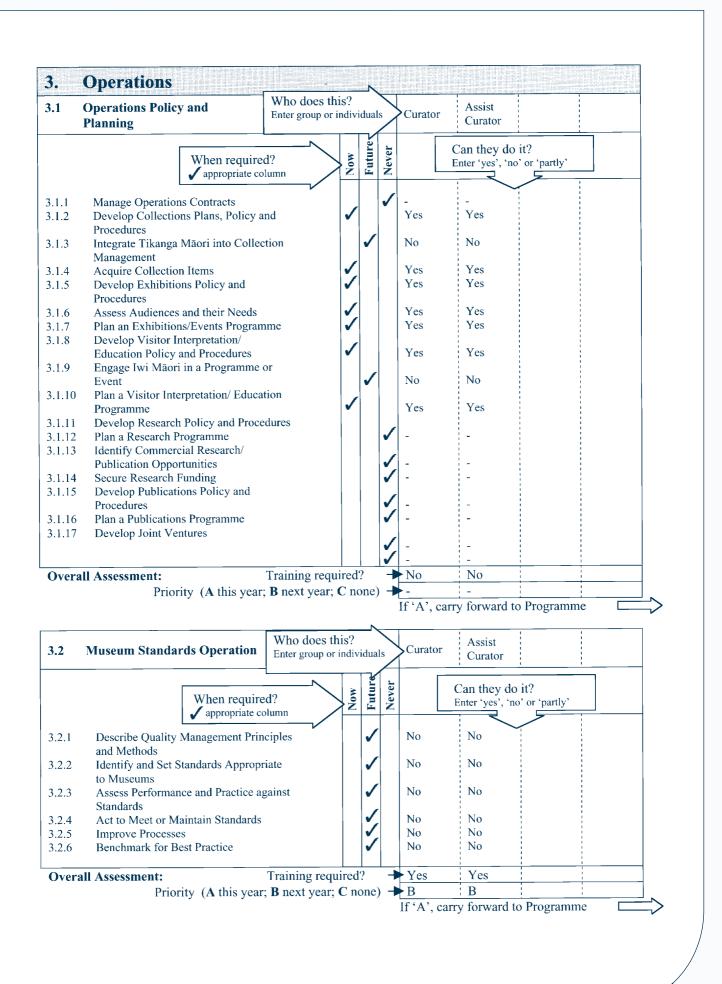


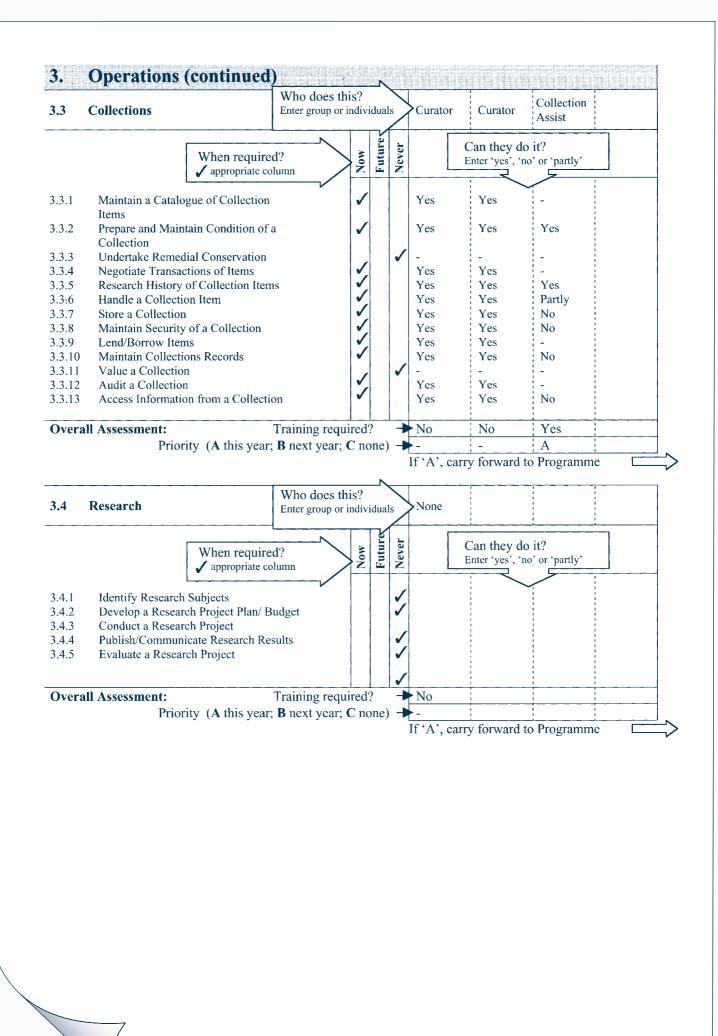


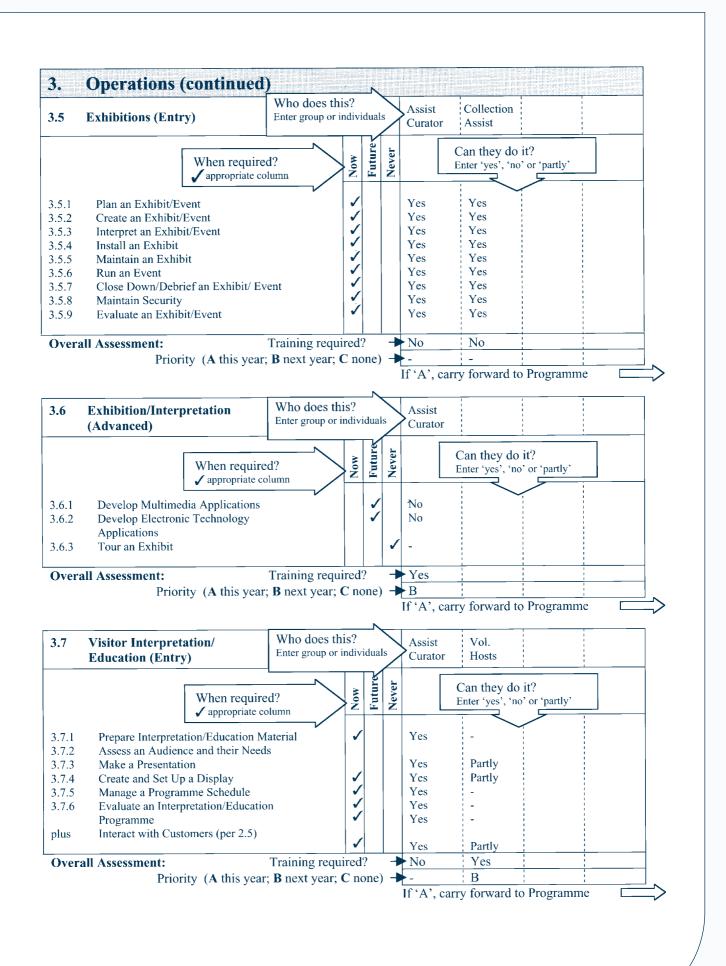


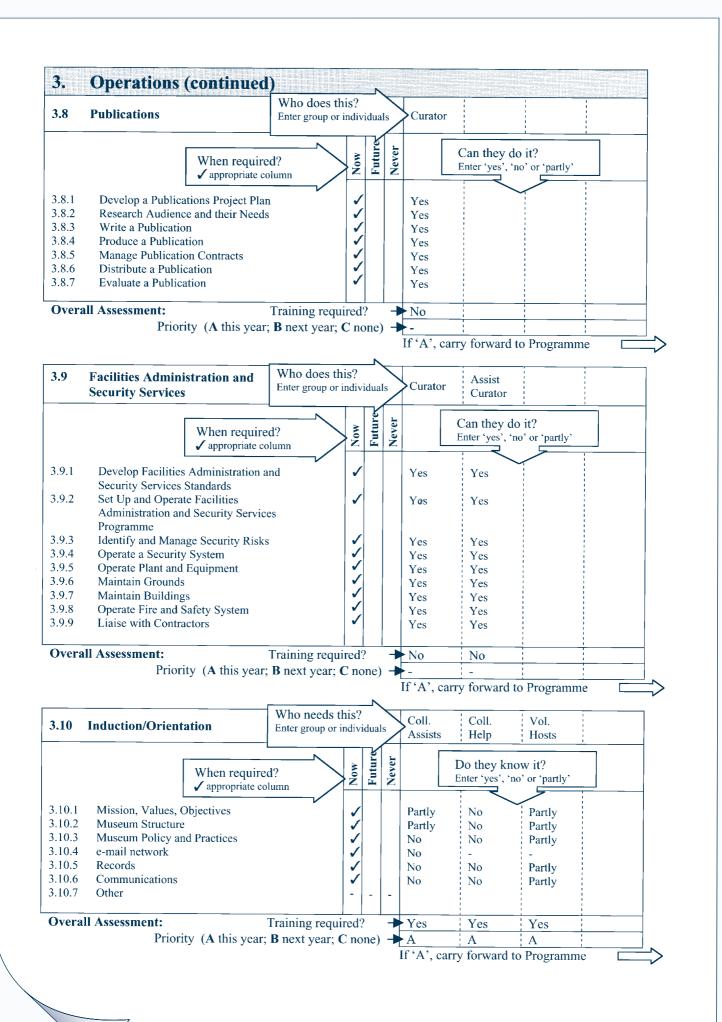


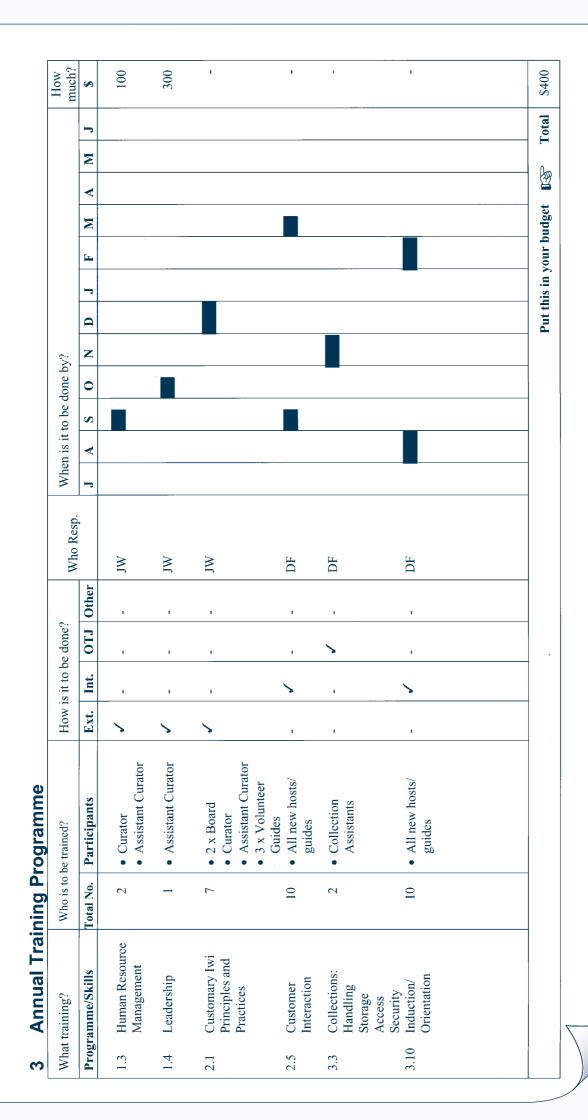
2.5	Customer Interaction	Who does this? Enter group or individuals Asst Curator		Vol. Hosts/ Guides				
	When requi		Now Future	Never		Can they do it? Enter 'yes', 'no' or	partly'	
2.5.1 2.5.2 2.5.3 2.5.4 2.5.5 2.5.6 2.5.7 2.5.8 2.5.9 2.5.10	Make a Presentation to a Custom Host/Guide a Group Sell Products Interact with Different Cultures Give Information Find Out Facts Listen Relate to People Deal with Extreme Feelings Resolve Customer Problems	er Group	>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>		Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	Partly Partly No No Partly Partly No Partly Partly Partly		
Overa	Il Assessment: Priority (A this ye	Training requ ar; B next year; (-	No - If 'A' ca	Yes A rry forward to Pro	ogramme	











References

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa (1999). *National Training Framework for Museums | Te Anga Kaiako ā Iwi mō Ngā Whare Taonga ō Te Motu*. Wellington: Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. (Available from Te Papa National Services.)

Acknowledgments

This guide was developed with the assistance of Skills Development Associates Ltd.

Follow-up workshops

Te Papa National Services is keen to assist museums further in planning for training. You are encouraged to approach us with proposals for workshops either for your individual organisation or for groups of museums and/or iwi within your region.

Te Papa National Services Resource Guides | He Rauemi are published by Te Papa National Services in support of its work with museums, galleries, iwi, and related organisations throughout New Zealand to enhance the museum services offered within communities.

For further information or to discuss training opportunities related to this topic, please contact:

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