

Fantasy Legal Exhibitions

Briefs

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Prepared by Victoria Barnes + Amanda Perry-Kessarlis
for *Fantasy Legal Exhibitions*—an event held on July 18 + 19,
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Brief 1

[British Museum](#) (Great Court)
Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3DG

To do

Choose one room on which to focus as an 'exhibition'.

- Draw a simple map of the room, including whatever labels you feel are relevant.
- Photograph the room in a way that you feel captures a sense of the space.

Choose one artefact from this room.

- Photograph it.
- Sketch it.
- Locate it on your map.
- Caption it for a lay visitor.
- Caption it for a legal practitioner.
- Caption it for a legal academic.

To consider

How might you use this or a similar sense of space in your Fantasy Legal Exhibition?

How might you use this or a similar artefact in your Fantasy Legal Exhibition?

To what (concepts, actors, things, events, relationships...) is the exhibition drawing your attention?

Is anything missing or erased? Uncomfortable or unclear? Over-emphasised or underplayed?

What (if anything) is distinctive about trying to think about 'legal' (versus other) phenomena in the context of an ostensibly non-legal exhibition?

Brief 2

[Postal Museum](#) (Discovery Room)
15-20 Phoenix Place
London WC1X 0DA

To do

Sketch and photograph one item from the archive.

- Caption it for a lay visitor.
- Caption it for a legal practitioner.
- Caption it for a legal academic.

To consider

How might you use this or a similar item in your Fantasy Legal Exhibition?

What kinds of archives are you naturally drawn to and why?

- For example, formal records of public bodies, collections focused on specific historical events, evolving collections of everyday life such as postcards, personal archives relating to well-known figures?

What are the similarities and differences in the relationships between a curator and their exhibition, versus a researcher and their publication?

What are the similarities and differences in the relationships between an archivist and their archive versus a researcher and their sources?

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We are grateful to Susannah Coster, Postal Museum Archivist, for her time and expertise.

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Brief 3

[Spa Fields Playground](#)

Skinner Street
London EC1R 0HU

To do

Sketch and photograph one piece of equipment in the playground

- Caption it for a lay visitor.
- Caption it for a legal practitioner.
- Caption it for a legal academic.

To consider

How might you adapt this or a similar piece of equipment to create an interactive or experiential exhibit within your Fantasy Legal Exhibition?

What are the differences and similarities between looking at and interacting with it?

What are the differences and similarities between playing and teaching-learning?

What might you learn from your visitors if you included an interactive element in your Fantasy Legal Exhibition?

Brief 4

[Middle Temple](#) (Fountain Court)
Middle Temple Lane
London EC4Y 9BT

To do

Sketch and photograph one artefact.

- Caption it for a lay visitor.
- Caption it for a legal practitioner.
- Caption it for a legal academic.

To consider

What is distinctive about Middle Temple as compared to the other spaces we have encountered? Its anticipated audience?

What kinds of exhibition spaces are you generally drawn to?

Do you find yourself seeking similar themes in this space as in the others we have encountered? Can you find them here?

What is distinctive about a tour as opposed to a free exploration of an exhibition space?

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We are grateful to Barnaby Bryan, Middle Temple Archivist, for his time and expertise.

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Brief 5

[IALS](#) (Room L101)
Charles Clore House
17 Russell Square
London WC1B 5DR

To do

Visitors

- Generate ‘personas’ capturing one intended, and one unintended type of visitor to your Fantasy Legal Exhibition.
- Try to identify their interests and standpoints, hopes and fears (generally and in relation to your exhibition).

Collection

- Identify one item that it would be desirable but impossible to include in your Fantasy Legal Exhibition—for example, because it never existed, or no longer exists.
- Make a clay model and display it.

Narrative

- Draw a map of the journey that you expect your visitors to take through your Fantasy Legal Exhibition
- Indicate the location of three items that you would exhibit.
- Indicate what you hope the visitor will sense, feel, learn and tell at each stage of their visit—before, during and after.

Pitch

- Capture the focus and spirit of your Fantasy Legal Exhibition in a single phrase or sentence.
- Do the same for another participant.