



British Deaf History Society

HERITAGE POLICY

for the

The Deaf Museum & Archive

**(including resources designated for
exhibitions and museum displays)**

July 2008

Updated May 2017

Updated version signed by the Chair on behalf of the Trustees



..... Date...22nd May 2017.....

BDHS Deaf Museum & Archive Heritage Policy

1. Mission Statement

- 1.1 The history of Deaf people and their communities over the past 300 years impacts on every part of our daily lives. The BDHS and its predecessors (in the form of other national Deaf organisations as well as Deaf individuals) have played a leading role in the development and preservation of deaf-related documents (archives) and artefacts including communications technology (i.e. audiological and telecommunications equipment) and their influence on society.
- 1.2 As guardian of Britain's Deaf heritage, the BDHS has an acknowledged duty of care to ensure its long-term preservation as a nationally significant legacy. We believe that responsible management of this heritage is a vital part of our corporate responsibility, which is to conserve, preserve and open up its access to the widest possible audience.

2. Our policy commitments

- 2.1 We will ensure that all our historical collections, not just our archives (much of which have statutory protection), are properly managed and safeguarded for the nation.
- 2.2 We will improve access to a hitherto hidden treasure to the largest possible audience using our expertise and technology, bearing in mind the cost of acquiring such technology and study facilities.
- 2.3 We will ensure the physical preservation and display of the most important of the physical artefacts in collections and exhibitions, sited in appropriate venues including our Warrington premises and those of our partner organisations. Displays of our physical artefacts may also be loaned out to approved museums and galleries.
- 2.4 We will develop and encourage our partners to work as a collaborative alliance in managing the distributed artefacts collection as an holistic entity.
- 2.5 We will seek opportunities with others in the heritage, educational and cultural domains to promote our heritage.
- 2.6 We will endeavour to keep the story up to date in preserving the heritage of the BDHS's current and emerging technologies.
- 2.7 We will ensure the relevant professional standards and best practice apply to all areas of this activity.
- 2.8 We will manage these commitments in a cost effective manner, except in exceptional circumstances.

3. Museum Displays, Semi-Permanent Exhibitions and Travelling Exhibitions

- 3.1 We shall endeavour to widen access to the Deaf heritage through several sources (a) through displays at our Warrington premises and at Open Days; (b) by loaning out specific collections or artefacts to approved museums and galleries; (c) by setting up a travelling exhibition which shall be displayed at suitable venues at events; (d) by establishing a small Deaf-related museum at one or more specific locations
- 3.2 We shall explore the potential for developing an online museum on the BDHS website to widen access even further.