



Margaret Horsburgh

Our Health Journeys - the e-museum of medical history

What is an e-museum? This presentation outlines the development and challenges of the New Zealand Aotearoa digital museum www.ourhealthmuseum.org.nz “Our Health Journeys” is a national e-museum in Aotearoa New Zealand; an online platform for the sharing and collecting of stories about New Zealand’s healthcare history. Its overarching purpose is to encourage a deeper understanding of New Zealand’s medical history and an appreciation of the importance of medical science in our society. The ‘Museum’ first opened its doors virtually (and physically) in 2017 with a touring exhibition that profiled New Zealand’s key contribution to cardiac research and clinical care. From this the concept of a digital museum developed, a museum that gathers and tells “stories” solely online. A museum able to reach all corners of the country identifying parallels with the past, telling stories, sharing science, and celebrating trailblazing people and guided by the Māori whakatauki Kia whakatomuri te haere whakamua – I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on the past. Discussion will focus on what is the role of an e-museum in medical history; who are the audience (s); who contributes; how is it maintained; what is the impact and what is the future of “Our Health Journeys”.