**Research questions re database**

Our over-arching questions are:

* What are the long-term trends in the development of independent museums?
* What factors prompted and facilitated the massive increase in numbers of independent museums?
* Were the new independent museums symptomatic of wider cultural concerns and, if so, what?
* How has the independent museums sector changed since 1989 and why?

More specifically we will ask:

* Did independent museums open in different countries / regions / counties etc at different times?

[numbers of museums opening in each country / region / county according to date]

* Are there locations where no or very few museums opened?

[total numbers of museums in each region etc]

Identify areas that are under-represented.

* What are the most common topics of exhibition and have these changed?

[numbers according to subject matter at different points in time]

Temporal analysis

* Is there a relationship between the subject of exhibition and when and where the museum opened?

[numbers of museums according to subject matter in each country / region / county at different points in time

Spatial distribution of topics

* Did the museums that closed share in any commonalities of location, date, size, subject matter, or other factors?

[numbers of closed museum according to location / date of closure, subject matter]

Logistic regression on a set of variables

* Do patterns in the emergence, location, subject matter, and closure of independent museums correlate to other national and local factors including: transport networks, employment, tourism, property prices, funding, and the presence of public-sector museums?
  + Regressions (linear or spatially weighted) on population, employment stats, etc.

**[NB so these all require comparative outputs rather than tables of lists]**

**Research questions in detail**

* How many museums are there in 1960? Of what type? Covering which subjects? Where? How does that change over time?

Opening:

* When do independent museums start opening in large numbers?
* Are there periods when very few independent museums open?
* What subjects are covered by the first museums?
* What are the relative numbers of museums opening by subject matter?
* Do different types of independent museums open at different times?
  + R analysis

Location

* In which nation /region / county do independent museums start opening first? Does that change and if so how?
  + Change maps
* Are there areas where no / few independent museums open?
* Are there areas where large numbers of independent museums close?
* Are some subjects more or less common in different nations / regions / counties
* Are there higher rates of closure in some nations / region / county
* Is there a relationship between the number of public-sector museums in a given area and the number of independent museums in that same area?
* Is there a link between a museum’s location and status change?
* Do different types of independent museums open in different places? )ie regimental, national trust, university?)
* Is there a link between accreditation and location?

Subject

* What subjects do the first independent museums cover?
* Which subjects are the most common? Least common?
* Which subjects are more or less common at different historical junctures?
* Is there a link between the nation / region / county and the subject they cover? i.e. are transport museums clustered in the Midlands? Presumably fishing museums will be on the coast.
* Are there higher rates of closure among museums of particular subjects?
* How many museums of e.g. buses as opposed to cars
* Is there a link between subject matter and governance?
* Is there a link between subject matter and size?
* Is there a link between subject and accreditation?
* How does the museum sector look when divided according to DOMUS subject matter rather than ours?
* What types of subject matter are covered by the different types of independent museums?

Governance

* How many museums change status? i.e. they were independent and become local authority or vice-versa?
* At what point do status changes occur?
* Is there a link between a museum’s location and status change?
* Is there a relationship between the number of public-sector museums in a given area and the number of independent museums in that same area?
* Is there any correlation between when public sector and private sector museums open / close?
* Is there any relationship between location of public and location of private sector museums?
* Is there a link between subject matter and governance?

Size (equated with visitor numbers)

* How many museums are large, medium, small or very small?
* Is there a link between size and subject matter?
* Is there a link between size and country/ region / county?
* Is there a link between size and status?
* Between size and when museums opened?
* Is there a link between size and accreditation?

Closing

* Are there periods when numbers of independent museums close?
* Are there periods when numbers of local authority museums close?
* Are there correlations between when local authority museums close and the opening or closure of independent museums?
* Are there any correlations between museums closing and their size?
* Are there any correlations between museums closing and their subject?
* Are there areas where large numbers of independent museums close?

**Questions arising in process of data collection / research**

How does the breakdown of subject matter compare in terms of numbers if we use the domus subject matter categories rather than our own? How would the over-arching categories used by e.g. Domus break down if we used our system E.g. what types would ‘social history’ fall into?

How many museums are open in total?

How many museums have been open in our time frame?

How many stately homes are there as opposed to labourer’s cottages

How many unaccredited museums are there?

How many unaccredited museums did not appear in any official data (i.e. aren’t included in Find a Museum, MGS, or spotlight data?)

Of the unaccredited museums that did not appear in data (i.e. aren’t included in Find a Museum, MGS, or spotlight data?), what are their specific types e.g. Historic house with resident, NT, gallery or to put it another way how many Historic houses, NT premises, art galleries, etc. did not previously appear in official lists on museums?

What sources did the information on unaccredited museums derive from?

**Broader questions: Is there a link between:**

* Unemployment and the prevalence / closure of museums?
* Unemployment and the subject of museums?
* Income levels and prevalence / closure of museums
* Tourism and the prevalence / closure of museums?
* Tourism and the subject of museums?
* Tourism and the size of museums?
* Property prices and prevalence of museums?
* Property prices and museums closure
* Rural areas and prevalence of museums
* Rural areas and type of museum [size, status and variety of independent]
* Industrial areas and prevalence of museums
* Industrial areas and type of museum [size, status and variety of independent]
* Historically different funding regimes and the prevalence / closure of museums
* National / regional funding regimes and the prevalence / closure of museums
* National / regional funding regimes and the subject of museums
* Population density and the prevalence / closure of museums
* Brexit areas and prevalence of museums
* Brexit areas and subject matter of museums
* Political orientation and prevalence / subject matter of museums
* Motorways opening and the prevalence of museums
* Car ownership and prevalence of museums?