

# The Science Museum, London

E-MAIL RESPONSE FROM JOHN GRIFFITHS

30 July 2002

Michael Isaachsen  
Curator  
Melbourne Museum of Printing

Michael,

"An impressive collection, as you have described, has a value that is infinitely greater than the sum of its parts.

"Its value extends across a very wide range of audiences - from the general to the specialist. In many instances there are uses of the material that are yet to be articulated - such is its diversity.

"There is an ongoing public fascination with printing and if there was a facility set up (using the collection) that could show the whole process of 'hot metal' printing it would undoubtedly become an important visitor attraction in its own right, as well as providing social capital in the way it will preserve skills and pass these on to future generations.

"In this context it should be remembered that even in the age of electronic publishing the preservation of these old skills is seen as having a vital place in the printing industry.

"There has been much energy put into the preservation of industrial heritage across the globe. Sadly the same cannot be said about our printing heritage - just look at what is left of Fleet Street! This vital industry needs projects of this nature so that it can leave a legacy for future generations."

*John Griffiths*

(then) SENIOR CURATOR, MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES