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I am a graphic designer from London. I am currently visiting Melbourne and I have recently discovered the Melbourne Museum of Printing. During my degree in graphics at Edinburgh College of Art we had access to a print workshop which was part of the university. Here we had use of letterpress type and printing machinery and screen printing – it was a fundamental part of our graphic design training and I value the knowledge that I gained from it. I am a strong believer that to be able to completely understand printing, laying out text and typography you need to know how the process has evolved. I cannot stress enough how important such training is as a graphic designer and was happy to learn that the Melbourne Museum of printing is used by local university and high school students for workshops on traditional printing processes.

The museum is also enjoyed by various other people. Members of the public have access to the museum two days a week where they can look around and explore the collection, receiving demonstrations and listen to a wealth of information provided to them by the various volunteers who keep this museum alive. However this is not just a museum for students and enthusiasts. Artists and others often make use of the machinery for their own projects. One guy came to hand print his own individual wedding invitations. And another graphic designer I have met at the museum has used the machinery to produce her own business cards.

However in their current building, the majority of the machinery isn't available due to space restrictions. In a larger building, and with sponsorship, this museum could be transformed into its full potential. This would give more students full access to a much wider range of training, as well as providing the public the full extent of the machinery available.

If more people were aware about this collection it could become a thriving museum providing artists, students, enthusiasts and the general public with an extensive range of printing machinery demonstrating the history of printing and typography and the development of the process over the years. As well as providing a useful function where the machinery is available for use by people wanting to create their own printing.

As a visitor of the museum it isn't difficult to see the potential it has and how much of a shame it is that the full collection and extent of the machinery is currently unavailable.

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