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Natural history museums as provocateurs for dialogue and debate

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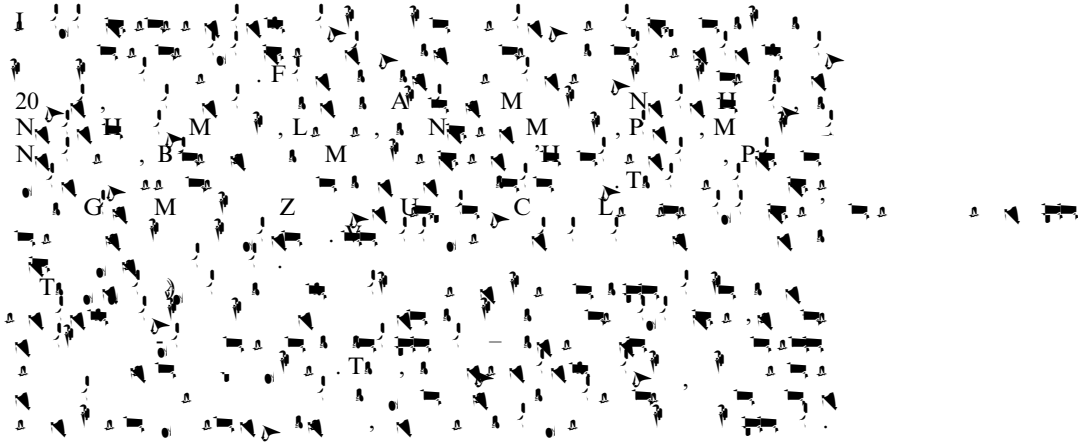
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Natural history museums as provocateurs for dialogue and debate

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Better the devil?

©



Is finding a cure for Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) in Tasmanian devils from a contagious cancer which could see the species extinct in 20 years?

Vast sums are dedicated to curing human illnesses, while relatively minute amounts go to conservation. Devil Facial Tumour Disease appeared in 1996 and has since wiped out 90% of the population of the largest surviving marsupial carnivore. Is preserving its biodiversity worth less than a few human sniffles?



UCL Conversation Research and Development



4. S B D P



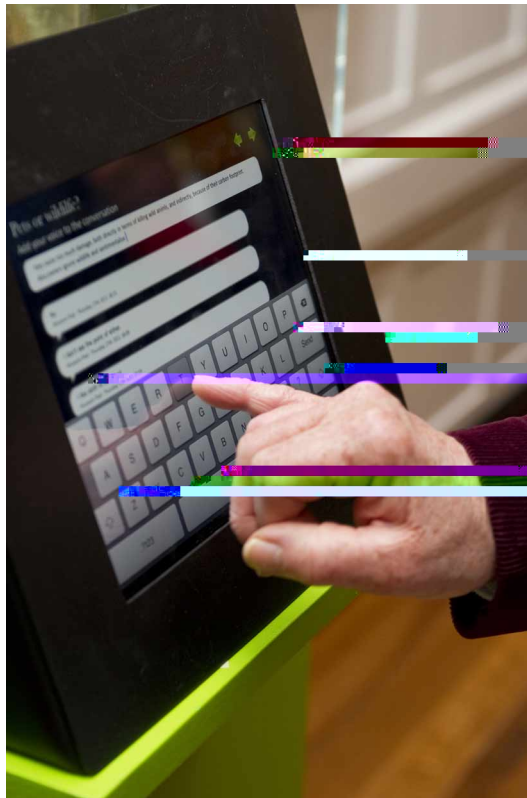
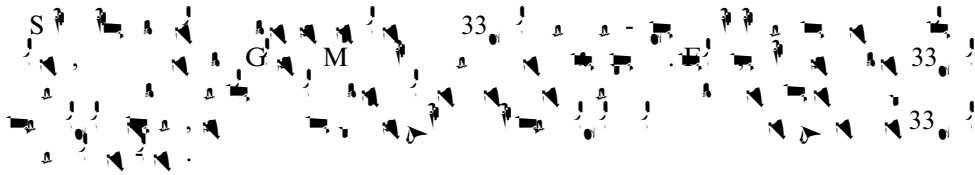
What worked well

Outcome: visitors engaging with issues





Outcome: visitors engaging with the museum and its specimens, off-topic



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Are we exploiting our visitors?

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Is it impossible to remove biases?
What happens when we disagree?

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How do we interpret the data?

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The future



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