

Plain Language at a museum in Bragança

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■ Information in museums

Museums are visited by many people with different backgrounds.

Museums give information in different formats:

- brochures
- labels on the objects
- exhibition texts
- audio guides
- or videos.

A museum is more accessible when the information is simple.

If the information is simple many people understand it, such as:

- children
- older people
- migrant people
- people with hearing disabilities
- or people with low literacy.

Information in plain language is accessible to many people.

■ The Museum of the Abbot of Baçal

The Museum of the Abbot of Baçal was created in 1915 in Bragança.

Bragança is a city in Portugal.

The museum is about history, archeology, painting, sculpture, coins and silverware.

It has 15 rooms divided in 2 floors.

■ Plain language in the museum

The museum curator created 17 texts on:

- the 15 rooms
- the building
- and the history of the museum.

Some texts were very short.

Other texts were very long.

The researchers simplified the 17 texts in 6 rounds.

The simplification included:

- making sentences shorter
- making more sentences
- explaining difficult words
- and increasing the font.

The readability level was measured on the website Legibilidade.com.

The original texts had a level of 16.3 and the simplified texts a level of 11.7.

47 people visited the museum

and answered our questionnaire.

They were from different backgrounds.

They were children, older people,

migrants and people with disabilities.

They helped us confirm

that the texts were simple.

But they are not easy

for people with intellectual disability.

■ Acknowledgments

We wish to thank:

- the Academia dos Santos Mártires
- the Bragança's Senior University
- the students from the IPB
- and the local community in Bragança.