

Special exhibitions are suitable for knowledge transfer

D. Kleinschrot¹

*¹University of Wuerzburg
e-mail:kleinschrot@uni-wuerzburg.de*

The most beautiful exhibits are in the showcases of our museum and attract numerous visitors who want to see these original objects from locations all over the world. The permanent exhibition can be visited at any time during opening hours and gives visitors enough time and space to learn more about the objects or to deal with a specific topic. In the temporary exhibitions of the Mineralogical Museum, for example, current topics such as raw materials in smartphones are dealt with. Scientists take the opportunity to present their research results to a broad public and thus emphasize their importance for society. In 2007 we presented 25 years of Antarctic research. Mining in Namibia and the exploration of eclogite and gold were also themes of exhibitions. Collaborations with various artists attract visitors to the museum who previously had little or no interest in geosciences. Together with other institutions, museums, and students, we organized an interdisciplinary exhibition project that showed the different aspects of color. Today we are still showing a showcase from this exhibition. The formats of the respective exhibitions are different. We have the showcase that changes quarterly, showing a mineral's properties, its origin and use as a raw material. Every one to two years we create larger exhibitions lasting 6 to 12 months. The museum team conveys the complex content in easy-to-understand exhibition texts, organizes lectures, guided tours, action Sundays for families and hands-on stations in order to reach a broad target group and, above all, to introduce young people to science. The amount of work is enormous and a temporary exhibition is usually associated with high costs. In order to convince sponsors of our work, we carried out visitor statistics, among other things. We can thus show that the number of visitors is increasing during special exhibitions and that the accompanying program is being used for further training by school classes and individuals of different ages.