Second Hand Bookshops at Heritage Sites and Museums
Fishbourne Roman Palace
A Future Bookshop?
Heritage and Books

• Second hand books and encouraging reading will fit well with most museums’ and heritage sites’ ethos or mission statements as it promotes study and learning.

• Can be linked to the specialist interest that the museum covers and this will be explored later.
The Well Read Bookshop

- For 2010, 2011 and 2012, the site received an average of 30,000 visitors per year and an average of £6,500 was spent in the second hand bookshop.
The Rifles Museum

• A more economical approach with a few bookshelves by the reception area, allowing it to be administered by the front desk or a donation only model, depending on staffing levels.
The Palace Bookshop
Top Tips

• Your local community can be a great source of books – not just by appealing on social media – but with contacts. At the Palace, Fishbourne village holds a book festival and we arranged to receive leftover books from this. At Springhill, we engage with the local WI to source books.

• Aim to try and get it located in an area outside of the pay perimeter and make sure that it’s known that it’s free to access.

• This is a project that engages well with the local community, our volunteers are from the village and the community enjoy supporting this.

• A bookshop can even be achieved with a small budget – shelving can be sourced for free on Facebook marketplace and Gumtree. You can start small and build it up.

• If it is volunteer-led, it can operate independently to the site and your volunteers are great ambassadors of the site.