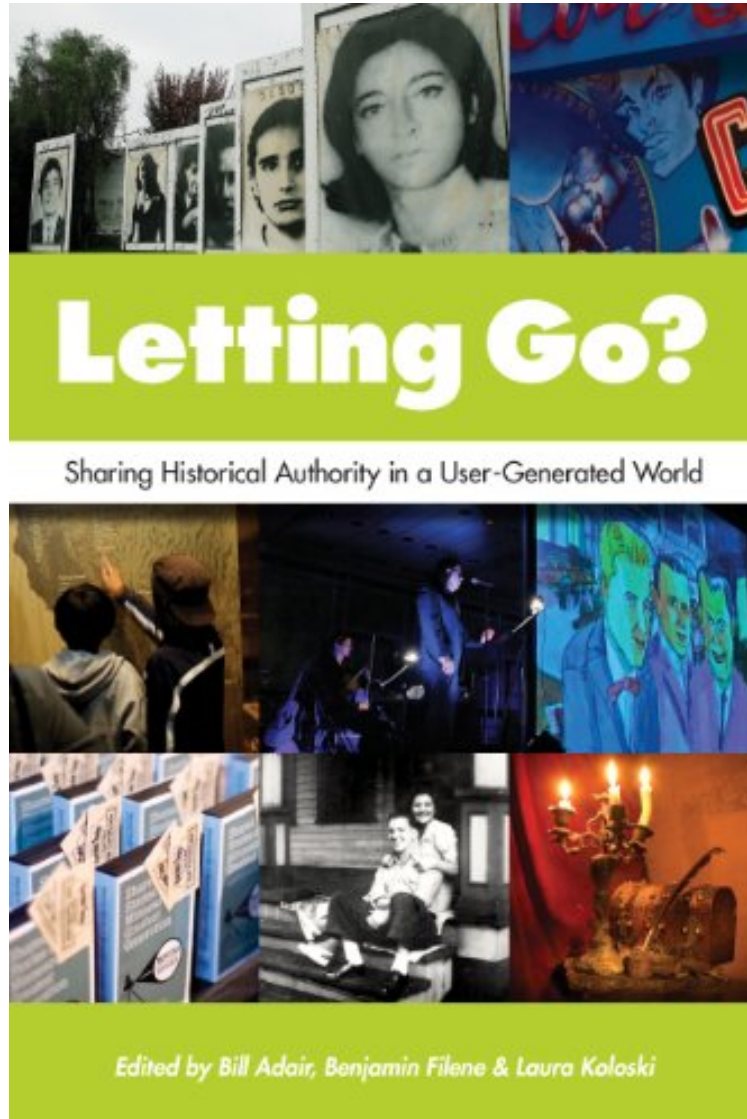


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Letting Go?: Sharing Historical Authority in a User-Generated World

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Letting Go? investigates path-breaking public history practices at a time when the traditional expertise of museums seems challenged at every turn by the Web and digital media, by community-based programming, by new trends in oral history and by contemporary art. In this anthology of 19 thought pieces, case studies, conversations and commissioned art, almost 30 leading practitioners such as Michael Frisch, Jack Tchen, Liz evenko, Kathleen McLean, Nina Simon, Otabenga Jones and Associates, and Fred Wilson explore the implications of letting audiences create, not just receive, historical content. Drawing on examples from history, art, and science museums, Letting Go? offers concrete examples and models that will spark innovative work at institutions of all sizes and budgets. This engaging new collection will serve as an introductory text for those newly grappling with a changing field and, for those already pursuing the goal of letting go, a tool for taking stock and pushing ahead.

Opening a capacious window onto today's core challenge to history museums--situating historical authority--the chapters in Letting Go? range from the scholarly to the eminently practical. [It] reminds us that no matter its theoretical appeal, public curation still must be examined from the visitor's perspective. An ambitious collection, Letting Go? will be valuable for scholar/practitioner/student of the museum field as it continues to define, address and advocate for greater public engagement in our digital age. Leslie Bedford, Director, Leadership in Museum Education Program, Bank Street College of Education