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TAVORN SUPACHOKEAUYCHAI: THE CONSERVATIONAL MANAGEMENT
AND INTERPRETATION FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROYAL THAI
ARMY MUSEUM IN HONOR OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

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The Royal Thai Army Museum in Honor of His Majesty the King IX, referred to this dissertation as the '*RTA Museum*', was the first military museum in Thailand, having been established since 1986 as the place to illustrate to the general public the pivotal role of the army in the national history through object displays and exhibitions. In fact, the museum building was erected in 1906 as the '*Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy*' during the reign of King Rama V and has been renovated since then to accommodate the museum function that it has today. In recent years, the RTA museum has not met its management objectives and has low visitation rates due to several internal and external factors. The museum has suffered from its location as it was built within the restricted area of the army headquarters and also its transformation from the former academic function into the military museum, leading to the difficulty of access by the public and the installation of an unsystematic set of exhibitions up to the present. The museum has lacked the financial means to improve its exhibitions and necessary facilities for visitors. As it was constructed more than a century, the museum building is in a state of deterioration and needs special conservation works to retain its functions and physical aspects in an original state.

This research emphasizes the potential for developing possibility of the RTA museum to improve its current exhibit presentations and provide necessary visitor facilities on site. The new management plan and policy are also proposed for effective administration and conservation of the museum, aiming at developing the RTA museum as a military 'edutainment center' in Thailand.

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