



National Preservation Institute

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Archaeological Curation, Conservation, and Collections Management

Seminar Overview

Become familiar with principles and methods for curation and management of archaeological collections. Topics will include responsibilities under federal regulations (36 CFR Part 79) and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; archaeological standards; collections policies; costs of curation; storage facilities; field conservation; proper housing of collections; archaeological laboratory procedures; cataloguing systems; and educating the public with archaeological collections.

Agenda

Introduction and participants' problems and concerns

Legal background to collections management

- Federal regulations
- Overview to 36 CFR part 79
- Roles and responsibilities
- Finding dispersed collections

Collections Policies

- Collections policies and ownership issues
- Archaeological standards, proposals, and scopes of work
- The cost of curation

NAGPRA

- Relationship of NAGPRA and 36 CFR part 79
- Current issues with NAGPRA

Conservation Strategies for Archaeologists

- The role of conservation in the field and laboratory
- Planning and preparation for the care of excavated materials
- The condition of materials upon excavation
- "First aid" packing and transport methods
- Simple stabilization techniques
- Tips for mending vessels

Planning for Storage: Evaluating Repositories and their Curation Practices

- Conservation surveys: Environmental assessment and condition survey
- Disaster planning
- The Curation Checklist
 - Physical space, environment, security, and fire protection
 - Storage equipment, storage materials, and packing
 - Record keeping
 - Access to collections

Curation Practices

- Laboratory procedures
- Computer cataloguing and inventory

The Benefits of Collections Management: Educating the Public

Field Trip to Curation Facility

Discussion and Wrap-Up