

Outline for Development of Archaeological Curation Guidelines in Washington State

Curation Guidelines Work Group
July 8, 2004

Statement of Intent

Washington Curation Summit, an informal group of interested individuals who recognize our responsibility to promote, preserve and maintain the archaeological heritage of Washington State for the future.

We envision a set of guidelines for individuals and institutions charged with the care and preservation of cultural resources. These guidelines must accommodate the dynamic and adaptable nature of the curation process, and will provide the standards for the long-term care and use of archaeological collections.

To promote and uphold these standards, we endeavor to assist all interested groups in achieving and maintaining these standards.

Introduction

These guidelines have been developed in consultation with tribal, federal, state and city governmental agencies, museums, repositories, and cultural resource contract firms who do or may curate archaeological collections.

As a starting point, we began with the 1991 federal curation regulations, Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections (36 CFR Part 79), and expanded them specifically for Washington State.

The guidelines address five fundamentals that provide the foundation for appropriate long-term curation:

- Facility (Mary C.)
 - Dedicated space
 - Secure
 - Relevant environmental controls
 - Meets Uniform Building Code
 - Appropriate equipment and furnishings
 - Maintenance
- Staff (Laura P.)
 - Professionally trained and experienced
- Practices and Procedures (Paula J.)
 - Registration and cataloging
 - Inventory and information management
 - Packaging and labeling

- Materials monitoring and conservation
- Integrated pest management
- Emergency planning
- Risk management
- Documentation
- Inventory
- Health and Safety
- Curation protocol for incoming systematic collection
- Access and Use (Laura P.)
 - Restrictions
 - Reporting
 - Promotion of Collection
- Policies
 - Legal and ethical considerations
 - Research
 - Public programming/interpretation
 - Strategic planning
 - Governance
 - Loans

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