

**Statement Prepared by Angela Neller on
SAA Committee on Museums, Collections and Curation
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I have been on the Society for American Archaeology's Committee on Museums, Collections and Curation since 2001. One of the things discussed in the past was the need for local grassroots curation swat teams that could deal more locally with crisis' like museum closures. This came up out of the University of Nebraska case. The idea was that on a local level you would have people with a better idea of contacts and political connections in the area that would advise and respond, and who could mitigate problems faster and more effectively than people outside the state. At this point none have been set up. We talked about putting together contact lists of people willing to support this at each state.

Another discussion area is trying to get SHPO to record where projects are curated on a state level. It's nice to see that we in Washington are thinking of this in our own attempt to get that database up and running. This would feed a national level survey of the archaeological collections in the country, where they are, their state of curation, and issues/needs/problems related to curation of these collections.

Some of our other discussions surround the issue of deaccessioning, NSF funding of new projects and the need for money and curation requirements for collections generated from this funding (this could also apply to other levels of funding), undergraduate and graduate training in curation of archaeological collections, education of colleagues and the public about archaeological curation, the reinstatement of the NSF systematic collections grant program, working with congress to fund an archaeological curation grants program for upgrade of repositories to 36CFRPart79, to develop standards for field collection, records management, and access and use of collections, and to partner with AAM and others to scope out an accreditation program for repositories to meet 36CFRPart79.

Since we meet once a year at the SAA annual conference, we haven't been extremely active in-between. We've been most successful at sponsoring curation sessions at the SAA annual conference. We've also created a ranking of what we feel are the most important issues concerning archaeological curation and used that ranking to set some short-term and long-term goals. This resulted in a white paper on SAA action plan for the archaeological curation crisis. We also write articles for the SAA Bulletin, and one member wrote a white paper on deaccessioning. We conduct reviews as requested by SAA, such as reviewing the NAGPRA regulations on future applicability and the NAGPRA database of unaffiliated collections.