



**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Does anyone have any initial comments on Artist files?

**Angie Demma 1:** I pulled together a list of artist files that are available at the Alaska Heritage Museum at Wells Fargo and a few resources that I will send to the list serve tomorrow when I'm at my work computer.

**Laura Forbes:** It's something that's been coming up for ASCA a lot, along the lines of rostering, Public Art Archive, and other kinds of cultural inventories statewide...I know that's been one of the thoughts at the Alaska Cultural Trust, too.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** That is great Angie

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Hey Laura could you tell us what all those acronyms mean and who is the Alaska Cultural Trust

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Hi Amy, we are just getting started

**Laura Forbes:** Sure, ASCA is Alaska State Council on the Arts, and the Alaska Cultural Trust is a developing consortium of state agencies and cultural non-profits and policy makers.

**Amy (Beringia Center of Culture and Science):** Oh Good, hi everyone. It's one of those busy Wednesdays up here but this is a good topic for us so I wanted to pop in.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Hi Diane, welcome

**Diane Fleeks:** Hi Scott

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** So as I understand it there is no central database of all the artist in Alaska past and present?

**Teresa Williams:** I have never heard of a central database, but I think it's an excellent idea!

**Laura Forbes:** Saunders is wondering if we're talking paper to digital, and also what's driving the collective interest behind the idea. What would we be using them for?

**Angie Demma 1:** There are also limited written art historical resources, especially on Alaska Native artists.

**Angie Demma 1:** I use them for cataloguing and interpreting collections as they relate to the artist of the piece.

**Teresa Williams:** At the Anchorage Museum, ours are in constant use by staff as well as the general public. Our collection mainly consists of published materials, like articles, exhibit catalogs, etc.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Are they in file cabinets or is it electronic

**Teresa Williams:** We have a paper file, but are inputting the citations in TMS

**Angie Demma 1:** I also use them to richen the collection with real artists in residence in the gallery/museum.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** TMS is the Museum System?

**Teresa Williams:** Yes

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** And is TMS accessible to the public or only staff

**Teresa Williams:** Currently it is used only by the Collections staff. At some point in the future there may be public access.

**Amy (Beringia Center of Culture and Science):** It would be useful to have a central one, and a researcher who pools all the historical information from old State Historical Library and Alaska Polar Regions Archives vertical files about artists. This would be a great reference service to provide since people are always looking for information about artists, and there are so many curricular projects on AK artists coming up now. Good to have a clearinghouse where people can consistently look for available info.

**Laura Forbes:** One of the things Janelle here at the Council is working on is inputting all the public art/contemporary art bank work into the WeSTAF technology "Public Art Archive."

<http://www.publicartarchive.org/> We also have slide registers and other documentation going back to the beginning of the 1% for art statute.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** so Public Art Archive is a bigger thing not just ALaska?

**Laura Forbes:** We've also got, through the Silver Hand Permit Program, about 1700 files on Alaska Native Artists.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Wow 1700 artists is a lot

**Laura Forbes:** Yes. It's like CaFE, a service that allows states, munis and other to digitize and publish Public Art Archives.

**Teresa Williams:** I'm curious to know what types of information are collected for artist files.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** So after this topic came up last week, I went down and looked at our artists files. We have two filing cabinets full of files, thick folders filled with newspaper clippings, solo show fliers, hand written notes

**Laura Forbes:** Since the inception of Silver Hand (1970's), it is all the artists who've applied for permits.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** all of this has to be pretty rare one-off stuff at this point. I am sure it would be interesting if more people could get access to it.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Who else here has artist files like that?

**Jerrie:** We have a drawer with information about Chilkat Valley artists.

**Diane Fleeks:** At the moment mine is just a bunch of file folders with our print materials and some digital files.

**Laura Forbes:** We do...public artists, native artists, teaching artists, Living Cultural Treasures, but it's not standardized, and not all easy to access.

**Teresa Williams:** I am hoping to create MARC records to input into WorldCat as well as our online library catalog... but that is something I will have to write a grant for as we have over 12,000 artists in our files.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Teresa are you saying you have files on 12,000 Alaskan artists?

**Amy (Beringia Center of Culture and Science):** We only have files on artists who have worked with our e-commerce division at Kawerak. The Alaska Native Arts Foundation probably has some files, and I'm curious what the Rasmuson Foundation has. Does anyone know if they have a catalog of all the works purchased through their Art Acquisition Fund somewhere?

**Teresa Williams:** Yes, 12,000 individual artists.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** OMG that is a lot

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** I am sure the Rasmuson has some information but not a lot of historical information

**Angie Demma 1:** There is some on their website

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** They would have contemporary information about what art has been purchased through their Art Acquisition fund

**Laura Forbes:** Saunders is wondering if the 12,000 represent artists that they've granted or have applied?

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** One disappointing thing about our files is that there is not even an electronic list of the artist who we have a file on.

**Angie Demma 1:** the 12000 is at Anchorage Museum

**Teresa Williams:** We don't track that information. Basically, if someone is putting on a show, or is mentioned in a paper, we create a file for them. We go through a clipping service that reviews Alaskan newspapers but outside as well.

**Angie Demma 1:** From using the files someone has also gone through existing literature to a certain extent.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** And you do this as a part of your archiving function?

**Amy (Beringia Center of Culture and Science):** I've just been looking at grants and I wonder if the NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources would be a good one to apply for to build such a database. It has a max of 350,000 so it could support staff for up to 3 years. (Deadline is July 19 though)

**Laura Forbes:** Saunders is curious about everyone's policies about sharing these files, and how that's done?

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** I am curious about that too. I don't know that we have a policy

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** I think if someone comes in and wants to look through the files they can

**Laura Forbes:** All of our files are public record, but it's a capacity issue of someone finding the documentation and getting it copied and out in a usable fashion.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** But like I said we don't have a list of what we have so you would have to look through the files drawers

**Teresa Williams:** Anyone can come in and look at our files. We do keep some information in a private file for staff use only. It's usually personal letters that discuss donors or purchases of artwork.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Amy that is an interesting idea about that grant

**Laura Forbes:** It's also an issue of institutional memory, which is one of the reasons behind the Public Art Archive effort...trying to un-silo it from access.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** I wonder who would take the initiative though

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** This could be a huge project

**Angie Demma 1:** There is a model in California that your second moderator mentioned

**Angie Demma 1:** but that doesn't answer your question

**Diane Fleeks:** Would Public Art fall under a project like this?

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Angie, do you mean CaFe?

**Amy (Beringia Center of Culture and Science):** We are drafting up an intellectual and cultural property policy to protect any media that we share online, including photos of artwork. I think newspaper clippings, description of any published works, and basic biographic information would be ok for sharing. I wouldn't want to publish or provide copies of photos of living artists work w/out their permission, though.

**Teresa Williams:** Angie, what's the model in CA?

**Angie Demma 1:** There is a Artist Files Working Group and a group in California, I'll look it up.

**Laura Forbes:** I think it kind of depends on how we prioritize the information, too, are we thinking about this driven from the artist/biographical perspective or from the art work perspective.

**Angie Demma 1:** ARLIS/NA

**Angie Demma 1:** I think it has to be two-fold for the two uses

**Angie Demma 1:** those artists we have in our collections and those we want in programming/collecting

**Laura Forbes:** Uncle Google took me to the ARLIS/NA, they also mention MARC, not sure what that stands for?

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** I would be curious to hear from Teresa how it would be possible to get this stuff if an electronic form that would be useable

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** what is ARLIS/NA

**Angie Demma 1:** Artist Files Revealed: Online Directory

**by the ARLIS/NA Artist Files Working Group <http://www.artistfilesrevealed.com/tiki/tiki-index.php>**

**Teresa Williams:** MARC stands for Machine Readable Cataloging. It creates a record much like a book record that you see in library catalogs

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** That website is really cool, we should have something like that for Alaska!!

**Teresa Williams:** If I created MARC records, it would be a basic record that has the artist name and a generic reference as to what it pertains. I would not include all the clippings etc digitally

**Jerrie:** Isn't ARLIS through the National Archive?

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** So is there any system where one could make a pdf of everything in a file and then make it accessible through a database. Or does that infringe on all kinds of copyrights?

**Teresa Williams:** I think we would run into copyright issues... that is something that we'll have to look into more.

**Angie Demma 1:** ARLIS in this case stands for Art Libraries Society of North America

**Teressa Williams:** We could at least have the citations to articles and such... much like UAF's Polar and Periodical Index.

**Amy (Beringia Center of Culture and Science):** Also we should know how we're defining Alaskan artists- if it's both artists that resided and produced work in AK (including annual artist-in-residence at Denali types) and artists who hail from AK but produce work elsewhere, and if we're limiting it to visual arts or including musicians and performance artists. But I think following some of these available models would help set the parameters.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** I find that really interesting because if someone wants to come into the Alaska State Museum and browse through our file, that is ok, but if we put the file somehow online then it becomes a copyright infringement

**Teressa Williams:** Don't forget artists who aren't from here but have painted here... much like Sydney Laurence and the like...

**Angie Demma 1:** User agreement is probably the key

**Teressa Williams:** It depends on how the files are used... research use, or will be published in some way...

**Laura Forbes:** When digitizing, aren't there ways to set things up as "view only" and to attach the copyright info? Or is that then the issue of somebody has to go through each item and do that...

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Teressa, if someone were to call you up from down south and ask about an artist in your file, would you copy come information and send it to them?

**Teressa Williams:** I'm pretty sure you would have to do that for each item. We'd have to look it up.

**Teressa Williams:** Usually I would give them the citation on how to find it. Then they can go through their library and request the article via interlibrary loan

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** What about archival material like flyers for solo shows?

**Angie Demma 1:** They're in my files

**Teressa Williams:** Those are also included in the file. If someone is requesting a flyer from a solo show here at the museum, I usually have spare copies on hand to give out to people... although I don't advertise that as I only keep 25 spare copies!

**Amy (Beringia Center of Culture and Science):** I entirely agree about user agreement. I also think that starting small would be the best way--providing citations for where more artist info can be found, because all these different holding institutions have different policies about use of their items, and we don't want to try and circumvent any of that.

**Teresa Williams:** I agree Amy!

**Laura Forbes:** The other question I would have about such a process of consolidating information would be, what is the mechanism for reaching out across the state agencies/institutions/organizations with artist files, how would such a consortium look?

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** What about making a pdf of a flyer and posting that online, is that copyright infringement?

**Teresa Williams:** I would say it depends.

**Teresa Williams:** If it had an image used, and the creator had received permission for just the flyer and not for posting online, then that could be an infringement.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** That is interesting

**Teresa Williams:** Especially if it's a living artist!

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** I think that Amy has a good point that we could start out small and try and just provide information about where all these files exist

**Angie Demma 1:** ARLIS/NA authorizes you to view and download the materials at this website only for your personal, non-commercial use, provided that you retain all copyright and other proprietary notices contained in the original materials on any copies of the materials.

**Amy (Beringia Center of Culture and Science):** RE; pdfs of posters: I don't think advertisements are currently considered protected works. There's a category of pictorial, graphic and sculptural works but they're generally presented in a protected environment to begin with, with adverts usually aren't.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** I could get a volunteer to make an electronic list of all the artists we have files for, kind of like a finding aid

**Angie Demma 1:** That sounds like a great start!

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Angie, that seems to do what I was thinking needs to be done with the material

**Angie Demma 1:** I did that for the Alaska Heritage Museum, but it was a much smaller endeavor.

**Laura Forbes:** Perhaps that's where the group efforts go, is in deciding what format these initial lists might take and figuring out where they live...

**Teresa Williams:** Scott, like the idea. Do we know which institutions collect artist files?

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Well that was part of having this chat.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** I think we are getting to the end of our time but we can continue this discussion on the listserv if people want to

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** or we can have another chat session in a couple of months

**Jerrie:** We haven't done much so far. However, we have a lot of artists. It would be a good thing for this area.

**Amy (Beringia Center of Culture and Science):** I think we should float this topic with our Museums Alaska meeting in Sitka this year as well because there may be agencies who would want to jump on this and take on a grant application and their names might come up when we get more folks together. We could present names of artists we have some information for to show at that meeting.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** These are all good ideas

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** I will post the transcript and usually a lot of people read it

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Then maybe we could bring this up again before Sitka

**Laura Forbes:** Thank you, happy Solstice!

**Amy (Beringia Center of Culture and Science):** Thanks for another awesome Chat everyone!

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Thanks for joining.

**Angie Demma 1:** Thanks Scott!

**Teresa Williams:** Thanks Scott!

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Don't forget to mark your calendar for next month because Ellen will be doing a labeling chat!

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Chat with you all then

**Jerrie:** Thank you for conversation, all. It's given me something to think about.

**Moderator (Scott Carrlee (ASM)):** Bye all

