



## ASM Museum Chat

NOV. 14, 11 am  
Session 25

Moderator (Participant#2): We have started recording the session.

Moderator (Participant#6): Hi Amy

Moderator (Participant#6): I was about to send you an email with the new link

Moderator (Participant#6): Sorry about the switch everyone

Participant#10: Phew, I made it

Moderator (Participant#6): We will work this out for next time

Moderator (Participant#6): The version 11 is a lot nicer but you need an updated version of JAVA to run it

Participant#3: We're Alaskans. We're adaptable.

Moderator (Participant#6): So let's get started

Moderator (Participant#6): anyone have a question or a topic to discuss

Participant#3: I do want to thank everyone for your comments about RH

Moderator (Participant#6): Yes, Wendy that was a great topic

Participant#9: Agreed - it's one of those things that seems to difficult to get a handle on no matter where you're at!

Participant#10: I'm really grateful to Wendy for bringing the RH issue up, since I've really benefitted from the information that was shared

Participant#11: Hi - finally

Participant#3: some of the emails I received were pretty heated and frustrated.

Moderator (Participant#6): Did you get emails that were not sent to the whole list?

Participant#9: we're lucky that we have an operations manager who can interface with our HVAC shop who understands museum issues.

Participant#3: I got one from a gentleman in Canada, who I believe found me after googling me. Heard about the issue from ???

Moderator (Participant#6): That is interesting

Participant#3: so it's obviously a widespread problem

Moderator (Participant#6): I can see about getting someone like Doug Nishimura from IPI to maybe get on here and do a chat session with us

Moderator (Participant#6): he seemed to be really nice with his answer

Participant#9: I attended a really interesting session at AAM about changing standards and it would be a great session for next year's meetings!

Moderator (Participant#2): I think the person in Canada might have gotten it off the Museum list archives. See <http://list.state.ak.us/soalists/akmuseums/a/>

Participant#3: Yes, and it came home to me that it's more important to avoid extremes and fast changes than to reach the "ideal."

Moderator (Participant#6): Yes Angie, put that on the list for next years Museums Alaska

Moderator (Participant#2): Those archives are probably indexed by Google.

Participant#9: done!

Participant#10: It brought up issues about the building environment v the micro environment inside the display cases and I have lots of questions about display cases at the moment since we need to purchase some. I don't have a lot of room to store them at the moment, though. Is it ok to keep wooden pedestals and plexiglass covers in cold storage, does anyone know?

Participant#7: The "crashes" and "surges" definitely create more visible damage, e.g. kayak skins tearing.

Participant#3: yes, and the ivory cracking and shooting pieces across the case

Moderator (Participant#6): Amy, cold storage won't hurt cases as long as it is dry

Participant#9: we keep ours in an unheated conex

Moderator (Participant#6): They could get moldy if there is a lot of moisture, but cold won't hurt them

Participant#9: I think the guys wrap the exterior with tyvek, then stretch-film, to keep them from getting dirty and scratched.

Moderator (Participant#6): This is a good point to discuss, it is not the short term excursions into the extremes but the long term ones that cause the damage

Moderator (Participant#6): So if it drops down for a day, and then comes back up that won't hurt too much

Moderator (Participant#6): But when it drops below 20% for a week or a month, that is when the damage occurs

Participant#8: on typical dry winter days I measure 17% but today it's snowing so its up to 22%

Participant#8: I'm at the mercy of the owner of this building and my hvac is down

Moderator (Participant#6): Below 20% is not good for museum artifacts especially skin, fur, bone ivory etc.

Participant#9: Eva, who does own your building? AVCP?

Participant#7: We have had overnight crashes in humidity that have torn kayak skins. Obviously i try to microclimate as much as possible now, but can't do that with a full sized kayak on display. It is probably the signs of the long term problem, but the damage appeared suddenly...

Participant#8: UAF does. darn them

Participant#3: Well, ours does something similar and we supposedly have a state-of-the-art system

Participant#9: I'm surprised they can't get the facility services guys out there to help you!

Participant#4: Would a portable humidifier help in emergency cases when the HVAC goes down?

Participant#8: they have to send Fairbanks men down here

Participant#10: Awesome, thank you! Our office building has RH in the teens on this cold windy day. I'm hoping to use bags and cases to improve conditions until we're in a building with better environmental controls

Moderator (Participant#6): Marnie, with skin covered kayaks the danger may be much higher even for short term excursions

Moderator (Participant#2): Hi Diane! We're discussing environmental conditions

Moderator (Participant#6): Andrew, yes it would help

Participant#3: I can tell when my kayaks are "happy" by the way they smell.

Participant#5: I wrote to the Registrars' List about that. The consensus was it could create pockets of humidity that could cause damage.

Moderator (Participant#6): What do they smell like when they are happy?

Participant#3: earthy and a little leathery, tannic, but not acidic

Moderator (Participant#6): Well, if you have enough air flow in the room it should not be that much of a problem

Moderator (Participant#6): What do they smell like when they are sad?

Participant#3: lol. They don't smell as strongly.

Participant#3: It's like the humidity in the air, when it's right, carries the scent better?

Participant#7: Andrew, a portable does not seem to work for the size of our gallery, unless we want to spend a lot of money on an industrial one. We purchased readily available ones that supposedly were for a space as big as ours, but it made no difference. And, when our HVAC used to crash, it happened when we were not around, so we didn't notice until the next day. We will be upgrading to a system with 24 monitoring, I hope.

Participant#10: Is surface area a big factor? Seems as though the larger items are the most at risk.

Participant#4: Sounds like a good whiskey... "with just a slight after-scent of oakiness" ...

Moderator (Participant#6): You have a good point Wendy, even though I was teasing a bit, I know what you are talking about. They smell "Happy" when there is enough humidity in the room for them to off-gas a bit.

Participant#3: exactly right Andrew and Scott.

Participant#3: and you can make fun all you want. I don't mind

Moderator (Participant#6): Amy the Surface area does matter

Participant#3: More surface area dries out faster

Moderator (Participant#6): With big Kayaks there is a lot of surface area and even though they may only expand or contract a small percentage (2 or 3%) over a large area that means a lot of movement like it could be 2 or 3 inches

Participant#7: holy cow!

Participant#8: I looked into migratory bird treaty act and use of feathers in masks

Participant#7: i guess that's why skins were removed in the winter when the kayaks were not in use.

Moderator (Participant#6): If a kayak is 100 inches long and the wood expands in the longitudinal direction by 3% that would be 3 inches

Moderator (Participant#6): Yes Eva, tell us more, we have finished the RH discussion and should move on to a new one

Participant#8: AVCP's position is that we represent federally recognized tribes and can use feathers

Moderator (Participant#6): Do you still need to get a permit?

Participant#8: we can buy art, give feathers to other tribal members, and sell art

Participant#8: but only the value of the work is payable, not the feathers themselves.

Participant#9: Let's talk about the permit issue! Who has done this?

Participant#8: we won't. but non-members will have to

Participant#8: north slope borough does have a FWS permit

Participant#11: I'm at the Alaska Native Heritage Center so therefore, not a federally recognized tribe. I am now in discussion with NOAA about whale bones, baleen and seal pelts/fur, I've not addressed the use of any feathers we have here at the facility

Participant#7: i have heard that MBTA may be amended to change some of the rules for native Alaskans. not sure if true, but Sunaq Tribe has been working on this issue. oh, or did they amend them? because as of a year ago, no permits for feathers, period, if under MBTA.

Participant#3: The college we are part of has a salvage permit, so we are able to have migratory bird parts for educational purposes, except bald eagles.

Participant#8: the MBTA was amended 10/12/12

Participant#7: technically you can get a bald eagle feather now if you plan to use it on display or in a specific program

Participant#9: Since our natural history curators have collecting permits, I'm wondering if that covers cultural collections in the same facility or do we have to have individual pieces described?

Participant#11: This is all very complicated - my two ivory tusks are now tagged

Participant#4: We have a couple of eagles on display, we need to renew our permit for them yearly.

Participant#3: We have to report any new acquisitions each year

Participant#8: museums are exempt and don't need permits as long as they are public entities

Participant#9: to who?

Participant#9: @wendy - who are you reporting to?

Participant#3: i think the fish and game, but it's something our business manager does

Participant#11: fish and wildlife

Participant#9: I'm sensing a need for a "Legal Issues in Collections Management" session part 2 where we deal specifically with permits - who needs what?

Participant#11: I'm sorry, fish and wildlife came and tagged my tusks and gave me more info on marine mammal parts and someone to contact for feathers

Moderator (Participant#6): We did something like that when Museums Alaska met in Juneau

Participant#3: yes, good idea. Should I bring up the seal skin pelt issue, Scott?

Moderator (Participant#6): Yes Wendy please do

Participant#7: agree with Angie, with new rules, and considering it's a complex issue, i could see revisiting the subject.

Participant#3: OK, we have a ringed seal pelt which is badly degraded, which I want to deaccession so we can get it away from other stuff.

Moderator (Participant#6): @Angela, I am sensing a Legal Issues in Collections Management for every year

Participant#3: and we need to find out the legal way to dispose of it

Participant#9: @scott - agreed! we'll put it on a standing session list.

Participant#3: we don't know when it was taken, but we acquired it in 1998 with the bulk of our collection.

Participant#9: @wendy- is the pelt native or commercially tanned?

Participant#5: Actually museum do need to have permits. The Sheldon Museum also has to renew their permit annually for the two eagles we have on exhibit.

Participant#3: um, I see no marks telling me who tanned it.

Moderator (Participant#6): Wendy You said it smelled acidic?

Participant#9: is it pliable or sort of stiff?

Moderator (Participant#6): Could it have been urine tanned?

Participant#3: It smells very acidic and it is crumbling like a dry cookie

Participant#9: does it have the holes cut around the edges to show it was stretched on a frame?

Participant#3: yes, it was stretched on a frame

Moderator (Participant#6): So the issue now for Wendy is what can she do with it once it is deaccessioned

Moderator (Participant#6): I mean legally what can she do with it

Moderator (Participant#6): Can she just throw it away or does it need to go somewhere special?

Participant#9: I think that NMFS is the agency that deals with seals so I would contact USFWS law enforcement to see if they could advise you.

Participant#3: we are consulting the legal dept at UAA.

Participant#9: good

Participant#9: there's a USFWS law enforcement office in FAI and the guys are super helpful on issues like this.

Participant#3: the president of our college suggested we ask the donor if she wants it back, and I said, but we can't legally give it back to her because she is not a museum anymore

Participant#3: an individual non-native can't own that

Moderator (Participant#6): I think that is true Wendy,

Participant#3: whether it's pre 1972 or not

Participant#10: Can't own or can't purchase?

Participant#9: I think you just can't sell it if it's pre-1972

Participant#9: or purchase

Participant#9: there are plenty of people who own pre-

Participant#3: Transfer possession

Moderator (Participant#6): Well this has been a great session

Participant#3: sorry- I seem to have monopolized it

Moderator (Participant#6): Sorry it was not as long as we have had before

Moderator (Participant#6): But we will have another session next month.

Participant#10: I need to re-read these laws and make a cheat sheet for our organization this winter. I'll share whatever I can put together.

Moderator (Participant#6): I will look into guest speakers for focused chats in the future

Participant#5: I'm glad we all finally made it through. Thank you.

Participant#9: I'd like to request that people let us know about sessions you'd like to see for next year's meeting!

Moderator (Participant#6): Yes good point Angie

Moderator (Participant#6): Maybe we could discuss that next time

Participant#5: Which is going to be in Haines...

Moderator (Participant#6): I will advertise it

Participant#9: or, possibly workshops we could try to set up around the state!

Moderator (Participant#6): Yeah Haines!!

Participant#9: yahoo!

Participant#12: Angie I sent you a message on this via Linkdin? Did you get it?

Participant#10: Eagles are a great topic for a Haines conference, too

Moderator (Participant#6): Ooh that is really good Amy

Participant#9: @diane - yes ma'am!

Participant#8: have a happy Thanksgiving, Everyone!

Moderator (Participant#6): Let's put a session on eagles and migratory birds

Participant#5: I'll see if i can arrange to have them come earlier next year. The eagles, that is.

Participant#12: Legislative appropriations 101 for us newbies?

Participant#9: I'm thankful for all my museum colleagues!!!

Participant#10: You too, Eva, Happy Thanksgiving, and happy Native American Heritage Month everyone!!!

Moderator (Participant#6): Yes thanks Eva

Participant#11: any feathers is a great topic for the next conference

Participant#5: Actually, the Bald Eagle Foundation would love that.

Participant#11: no - send again the link - thanks

Moderator (Participant#6): Great, lets continue this discussion next month

Moderator (Participant#6): I hope you all can be there

Participant#5: Bye.

Left on November 14, 2012 at 11:59 AM

## Next Chat Session

December 12<sup>th</sup> 11 am