



ASM Museum Chat

July 17, 11 am
Session 32

- Jan Yaeger - Seldovia joined the Main Room. (11:05 AM) -

Scott Carrlee 11:05 AM

well there is someone

Hi Jan 11:05 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:05 AM

Hi Scott!

Scott Carrlee 11:05 AM

You can start recording now Daniel

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:05 AM

Sorry - accidentally deleted the software - had to reinstall

Scott Carrlee 11:06 AM

no problem

Daniel and I were just wondering if anyone would join us 11:06 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:06 AM

I hear rumors of sun in Juneau

Scott Carrlee 11:06 AM

Summer is a busy time in the museum world

Yes sun in Juneau 11:06 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:06 AM

You folks certainly earn it

LAM 11:06 AM

It's true

Scott Carrlee 11:06 AM

I am in Skagway and there is sun here too

How is Seldovia 11:06 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:07 AM

Getting your gold rush souvenirs?

Seldovia is good - decent weather; too much to do to enjoy it properly 11:07 AM

Scott Carrlee 11:08 AM

Yes I am just picking up a few nuggets. They just leave them lying around on the street.

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:08 AM

not actually paving with them?

Scott Carrlee 11:08 AM

yes paving with them but the bricks are too heavy to carry around

LAM 11:09 AM

hee

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:09 AM

Low melting point - just scatter them around and turn on a blow torch.

Scott Carrlee 11:09 AM

sounds like you enjoy metalurgy

So Jan do you have any questions? 11:11 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:11 AM

Not really... just recall a few things from chemistry. I like rocks better than minerals. On a more serious note - I am working on getting loan agreements and deeds of gift for our collection... have some questions about how to deal with the fact that many of our donors are deceased

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia

11:11 AM

Not really... just recall a few things from chemistry. I like rocks better than minerals. On a more serious note - I am working on getting loan agreements and deeds of gift for our collection... have some questions about how to deal with the fact that many of our donors are deceased

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:12 AM

There is no existing paperwork that we have been able to find recording the gifts or loans - just note cards with names

Scott Carrlee 11:13 AM

well that is a tricky one

so you have the name of the donor but they are now deceased? 11:13 AM

- Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) joined the Main Room. (11:14 AM) -

LAM 11:14 AM

Hi Kate!

Scott Carrlee 11:14 AM

Hi Kate welcome to the chat

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) 11:14 AM

Hi!

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia

11:14 AM

Probably about 80% of the donors are no longer with us. I am trying to figure out if we are obligated to go to their family (even though we have no idea who might be the designated inheritors/executors of wills, etc.)

Scott Carrlee

11:14 AM

Only a couple of us on the chat today

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia

11:14 AM

Or if we should treat the items as 'found in collection', etc.

Scott Carrlee

11:15 AM

How long have you had the donated items?

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia

11:15 AM

Again, hard to say. Several probably go back to the 70s, but with no record-keeping being done, a lot is a guess

Scott Carrlee

11:16 AM

It might just be easier to go the found in collections route. The state has guidelines that I can dig up for you. Also Andrew Goldstein at the Valdez museum was just going through this so he might be a good one to contact

You have to announce it in the local paper that you are considering these items to be the property of the museum

11:17 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia

11:17 AM

OK - I am somewhat familiar with the statutes for FIC...

Scott Carrlee

11:17 AM

Then if anyone wants to dispute it they can come forward

what is FIC? 11:17 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:17 AM

Found in Collections

Scott Carrlee 11:17 AM

oh sorry

Good that you are family with FIC 11:17 AM

familiar not family 11:17 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:17 AM

Hooray for a session in Sitka last year!

Scott Carrlee 11:19 AM

yes I remembe that session

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia

11:19 AM

The we just have to figure out what constitutes a "local paper" here in Seldovia

Scott Carrlee

11:19 AM

I think they should do a session like that every year

Andrew was wondering if notices on the bulletin board or on their website would do 11:19 AM

I think I asked the AG's office and they said you had to follow the letter of the law 11:20 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:20 AM

I suppose there are the Homer papers...

Scott Carrlee 11:20 AM

so if it says "published" it has to be published

The Homer paper would probably be the best 11:20 AM

Most of the time it is just a formality because no one wants their beach combed piece of wood back 11:21 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:21 AM

Wonder if our local electronic 'paper' counts as publishing. I remember the speaker last year raising that issue but if I recall correctly he kind of waffled on it - I got the impression it isn't really settled law yet

Scott Carrlee 11:21 AM

But you do want to prove clear title to what you have

I think that speaker was Neal from the AG 11:22 AM

s office and he seems to waffle a lot 11:22 AM

I think it is the lawyer in him 11:22 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:22 AM

Thanks - I tried tracking his name down awhile ago and failed utterly

Scott Carrlee 11:22 AM

It probably has not been tested in the courts yet.

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:23 AM

Be funny if the case that finally settles it is someone wanting our tube of umbilical tape

Scott Carrlee 11:23 AM

wow that is interesting, any other collections questions?

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:24 AM

Not at the moment. We are ordering our new exhibit cases to replace the old trophy cases in the lobby; once we get those I am sure I will be looking for lots of ideas of how to best utilize them

Scott Carrlee 11:25 AM

Kate how is it going at the Seward Museum?

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) 11:25 AM

Not a terribly pressing one, but I'm doing some research on putting in text rails and I wondered if anybody had any prefab shortcut ideas so I could avoid manufacturing them from scratch?

Scott Carrlee 11:27 AM

I could check with our exhibit guys.

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus)

11:27 AM

It's going well, I think. We've done a lot of work on the lighting, to make sure we're not actively hurting anything, but we still haven't received those additional fixtures, so it feels a little underlit. Some of our energy is going to be going into the Earthquake archival project, which is exciting but also adds to the pile.

Scott Carrlee

11:28 AM

I thought that Patty had already ordered those lights?

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) 11:28 AM

She had, I think, months ago. I think it deserves a call.

Scott Carrlee

11:28 AM

About the railings, have you tried googling exhibit railing?

I know I have seen companies selling them 11:28 AM

It would be good to see what they offer even if you get them made locally 11:29 AM

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus)

11:29 AM

I have, although most of what I get is for hanging pictures and the like. Wall-hanging.

Scott Carrlee

11:30 AM

oh yeah like a picture hanging rail

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) 11:30 AM

Yep.

Scott Carrlee

11:31 AM

I think you might have to get it custom made anyway because the lengths and heights will be very specific to your situation.

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) 11:31 AM

That's probably true.

Scott Carrlee

11:32 AM

The best way to do it is to have a welding shop weld up bar stock to you specs and have them paint it black.

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus)

11:32 AM

That's probably what I'll end up doing. I just wondered what people usually used.

Scott Carrlee

11:32 AM

Then you can have your labels printed on something hard like sintra or gator board and attach them to the bars

It would be good to have pictures. I think I have some photos of what they used in our temporary gallery last year. I will send some to you., 11:33 AM

When I get back to the office 11:33 AM

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) 11:33 AM

Thanks!

Scott Carrlee 11:33 AM

I am in Skagway right now

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) 11:33 AM

Always on the move!

I'm really looking forward to the exhibit workshop in September. I think that will help me a lot. 11:34 AM

Scott Carrlee 11:35 AM

Great! Will you be able to come early and participate in the Angels project?

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) 11:35 AM

That's the plan!

Scott Carrlee 11:35 AM

How about you Jan are you going to take the Exhibits workshop?

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:35 AM

Planning to!

I had a friend ask about cleaning some Nepali grass baskets that have gotten greasy from being hung near a stove; I told him to put them in the dishwasher with Joy soap.... no, actually I steered him toward Ellen's contact info at ASM. Hope that's okay. 11:37 AM

Scott Carrlee 11:37 AM

Ha ha, you had me there!

Ellen is moving her lab this week so she is super busy so you might warn you friend that she might not be able to answer right ways 11:38 AM

away 11:38 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:38 AM

Silly Scott - everyone knows you don't put Joy soap in the dishwasher...

I will let him know. I don't think it's overly pressing. 11:38 AM

Scott Carrlee 11:38 AM

You can also give him my contact info. I am also a qualified conservator you know

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:39 AM

This you are!

Scott Carrlee 11:40 AM

Grease on a basket is a tough one. He could try a little saliva on a swab. I know it sounds gross but conservators use it all the time. We call it a "mild enzymatic solution"

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:40 AM

Semantics are important!

Scott Carrlee 11:40 AM

It sometimes can dissolve a little great grease especially cooking kind

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:41 AM

Not sure how much material is involved - but he is retired, he ought to have time on his hands...

Scott Carrlee

11:42 AM

If that does not work then your suggestion of dish soap is not that far off. I prefer Dawn and you want to use just a couple of drops in a little dish of water. Warm works better than cold

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:42 AM

With a cotton swab?

Scott Carrlee

11:42 AM

But it all depends on what condition the baskets are in

yes a cotton swab like a q tip. 11:42 AM

There really is not a "Dip" method that is going to work, it will all have to be done on a swab level. 11:43 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia

11:43 AM

I haven't seen them - I would expect they're something they picked up traveling and not especially old...

Scott Carrlee

11:43 AM

Baskets are really sensitive to water so making sure the swabs are damp and not wet is important

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:44 AM

Good info - I will pass it on. Thanks!

Scott Carrlee

11:44 AM

and it is important to clear the soapy ones afterward with distilled water on a swab

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia

11:44 AM

Hmmm. Distilled will be a challenge. Might be able to get some across the bay...

Scott Carrlee

11:45 AM

or rain water, you have some of that don't you?

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia

11:45 AM

Shhhh.... we're trying not to attract it. The sun is too nice.

LAM

11:45 AM

You might be able to distill your own water. See <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Distilled-Water>

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:46 AM

Cool! Thanks!

Scott Carrlee 11:46 AM

ooh thats a good one

You don't need a lot of it 11:46 AM

There is also a "soot sponge" which we use to clean the surface of things in a dry method. 11:46 AM

They are these rubber type sponges that attract greasy oily dirt. You don't wet them you just rub them genlty on the surface. 11:47 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:47 AM

I thin kI may have one of those...

Scott Carrlee

11:48 AM

They are sometimes available at places like home depot or pet stores. They are also called "gonzo pet hair sponge"

Yes I thought I saw one in your supplies 11:48 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia

11:49 AM

I bought one to keep dog hair off my paramedic uniform. It was useless - but I was happy when I learned later it had other selling points!

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus)

11:49 AM

I guess I had another question. The Collections Committee and I have been talking about how some of our accessioned items (collections of baskets and ivory) don't have a strong connection to the area and therefore don't really pertain to our mission. Do you have experience with de-accessioning large groups of items? Do things acquire relevance by virtue of having been in the collection for a long period of time?

Scott Carrlee

11:49 AM

yes, I never found them very effective for dog hair

kate those are really good questions 11:50 AM

Sometimes a collection does gain relevance over time or maybe a connection to the community. I have heard of artifacts becoming so beloved that the museum just could not part with them no matter how irrelevant they were

11:51 AM

But I think it is great that you and the collections committtee are mulling this one over 11:51 AM

I see this a lot in small museums and Jan is dealing with the same issue in Seldovia 11:51 AM

I think that if you have a large basket collection that came in from a single donor then that might say something about the donor

11:52 AM

But unless you are using it effectively to serve your mission, I think it is good to think about deaccessioning it.

11:52 AM

I would make sure that you get buy in from the community though and not surprise anyone

11:53 AM

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus)

11:54 AM

That was my feeling. I think I'll do some more digging about the donors and see if there's anything more interesting that we can say with them before I really start the conversation about rehoming them.

Scott Carrlee

11:54 AM

There will be a session on deaccessioning at the meeting in Haines, you should attend it.

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) 11:54 AM

Great!

Scott Carrlee

11:54 AM

I think it would be a great venue to bring up these types of questions

Deaccessioning is a healthy part of collections management but it has to be done properly 11:55 AM

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) 11:56 AM

Considering the state of our records at the moment, it's almost scarier to think of deaccessioning these things than just quietly caring for them.

Scott Carrlee 11:56 AM

Good Point!! Well I am so glad you two joined the chat today, great questions, I am sure people will really enjoy reading the transcript even if they could not attend

Hope you can join again next month 11:56 AM

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:57 AM

Thanks for your time, Scott! And Kate, I am looking forward to getting over to Seward and seeing the new building!

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) 11:57 AM

Thanks for the input!

Looking forward to seeing you, Jan! 11:57 AM

We love the building. 11:57 AM

Scott Carrlee 11:57 AM

bye everyone

Jan Yaeger - Seldovia 11:57 AM

Bye!

LAM 11:57 AM

Bye!

Kate Rullman (Seward Community LibMus) 11:57 AM

Bye!

Next Chat Session

August 14th 11 am