



ASM Museum Chat

January 14, 11 am
Session 44

Scott Carrlee

Hi Savanna

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum)

Hi!

Scott Carrlee

did you have any trouble logging in?

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum)

Nope!

Scott Carrlee

cool, I had to download an update, did you?

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum)

This was the first time this computer had used this blackboard app, so it took me through the whole process.

Scott Carrlee

11:00 AM

11:01 AM

11:01 AM

11:01 AM

11:01 AM

11:02 AM

11:04 AM

Savanna, we will wait a few more minutes to make sure everyone gets a chance to log on

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum) 11:04 AM

Sounds good!

Scott Carrlee 11:04 AM

Hi Tana

Tana-C'ek'aedi Hwnax 11:05 AM

Hi Scott. Sorry to be late, it always takes me longer than I think it will!

Scott Carrlee 11:05 AM

Did you have to download an update?

Tana-C'ek'aedi Hwnax 11:05 AM

I guess that's what was going on

- Marnie joined the Main Room. (11:05 AM) -

Tana-C'ek'aedi Hwnax 11:05 AM

Long time since I joined

Marnie 11:06 AM

Hello!

Scott Carrlee 11:06 AM

Hi Marnie

Tana-C'ek'aedi Hwnax 11:06 AM

Hi Marnie

Scott Carrlee 11:06 AM

We are just going to wait a bit to make sure people are able to log on

I had some trouble at first 11:06 AM

Marnie 11:07 AM

It took my old computer a few...

Scott Carrlee 11:08 AM

So Marnie, how are things at the Alutiiq?

- Heather McClain - Seward joined the Main Room. (11:09 AM) -

LAM 11:09 AM

Hi Heather!

Heather McClain - Seward

11:10 AM

Hi! Sorry I'm late!

Scott Carrlee

11:10 AM

Hi Heather,

Marnie

11:10 AM

We started our collections move, where Natalie and I are moving mostly stone collections to the new downstairs "Rock Room". It has been a project riddled with issues and is about seven months behind.

Scott Carrlee

11:10 AM

Wow really interesting.

It was nice having Natalie back for a bit to work with us

11:11 AM

Marnie

11:11 AM

We also have to unload the lower part of every movable unit for Spacesaver maintenance.

Scott Carrlee

11:11 AM

I have never heard of that kind of maintenance, can you fill us in?

Marnie

11:12 AM

It's 111 drawers and 26 shelves....

Basically, the parts that glide over the tracks are worn out and need to be replaced. There is some squealing and grinding when a couple of the units are moved.

11:12 AM

Scott Carrlee

11:13 AM

how old are the units?

Marnie

11:13 AM

1995

Scott Carrlee

11:13 AM

hmmm

I wonder if other museums have had to do this.

11:13 AM

I know the anchorage museums compactors are pretty old as well

11:13 AM

So the moving of the rocks, I recall some elevator issues. 11:14 AM
Does the elevator go to that floor?

Marnie 11:15 AM
Spacesaver didn't seem surprised when we called with the issue...

- Natalie Wadle joined the Main Room. (11:15 AM) -

Scott Carrlee 11:15 AM
Hi Natalie

We are just hearing about your fascinating work with the 11:16 AM
rock collections

Natalie Wadle 11:16 AM
ahh

Marnie 11:17 AM
Oh, urg, it is a circuitous route, with lots of doors and thresholds, and
an elevator that shuts on you...and is tiny. When Natalie and I were
designing the new space, we kept coming up with grand plans,
realizing that, no, that was not going to work, we couldn't get it in
the elevator (or down the stairs)!

Scott Carrlee 11:17 AM
couldn't you build a tunnel?

Natalie Wadle 11:18 AM
i still say my plan to use dynamite to blow a hole through the floor
would work

Marnie 11:19 AM
Ya, we could spend all chat talking about this!!! We don't control the
building, so we have had pest issues, the floor had issues, the
cabinets, the plastic totes...goes on and on.

- Valarie Kingsland - Seward joined the Main Room. (11:19 AM) -

LAM 11:20 AM
Hi Valarie,

Scott Carrlee 11:20 AM
Hi Valarie

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:20 AM

Hello! Had to set up BBC on a new computer.

Scott Carrlee 11:21 AM

We are just catching up with everyone while we are waiting for everyone to get on board

Heather do you want to give us an update on what's happening at the Seward Museum? 11:21 AM

Heather McClain - Seward 11:23 AM

Sure! Right now we are in the process of catching up with cataloging, both items in the permanent collection and incoming donations, and talking about how to redo some of our exhibits. I'm still working on

updating our Collection Management Policy, but its coming along.

I do have a question about numbering. We tried to order some fluid acryloid B-72 from Gaylord but they said its hazardous and could only send the crystals. Has anyone else run across this problem? 11:25 AM

Scott Carrlee 11:25 AM

Yes this is a problem

The USPS stopped allowing acetone to be shipped by them 11:26 AM

Heather McClain - Seward 11:26 AM

I was afraid of that

Marnie 11:26 AM

I personally don't like the pre-mixed anyway. We had quite an ordeal shipping acetone from Fisher Scientific.

Natalie Wadle 11:27 AM

we were able to get acetone shipped though like Marnie said it was a major pain

Scott Carrlee 11:27 AM

Ellen Carrlee talks about labeling on her blog

but I am not sure she covers how to make B72 for labeling 11:27 AM

<https://ellencarrlee.wordpress.com/2011/11/25/collections-labeling-material-by-material/> 11:27 AM

I can walk you through it. 11:27 AM

You will need to get ahold of some acetone and/or ethanol 11:28 AM

LAM 11:28 AM

She has more on adhesives at
<https://ellencarrlee.wordpress.com/?s=make+b72>

Heather McClain - Seward 11:28 AM

That would be great! I think we can get acetone at the True Value
down in the harbor

Scott Carrlee 11:29 AM

Yeah it will not be as pure as from Fisher but it will do the job.

The link that Daniel just posted in really good so you should 11:29 AM
read through both posts

order the crystals 11:29 AM

and then contact me. 11:30 AM

Marnie 11:30 AM

We finally splurged for the good stuff, because we were having issues
with bubbling, which Ellen said could be because of the other
additives in the hardware store grade. I am not sure about that
though.

Scott Carrlee 11:30 AM

that is true

Heather McClain - Seward 11:31 AM

Scott, should we try and order the Fisher? I will read through blogs.
We actually have crystals now I just need to get the acetone and/or
ethanol

Scott Carrlee 11:31 AM

The hardware stuff is cut with other cheaper solvents and they have
a different evaporation rate

Heather McClain - Seward 11:31 AM

Thanks Marnie, that's good to know!

Ok, so I will talk to Valarie about ordering from Fisher 11:31 AM

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:32 AM

Do we need something special to mix it in?

Scott Carrlee 11:32 AM

If the city or the high school has a contract with Fisher they will ship it, otherwise it can be hard to get them to ship it to you

Acetone is used for nefarious things as well, so they are careful with whom they ship to 11:32 AM

Well you can mix it in just about any glass jar but... 11:32 AM

you want one that has a tight lid 11:33 AM

Then you want something to put it in something that you can apply it with 11:34 AM

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:34 AM

Is it okay to reuse the bottle the liquid solution came in?

Scott Carrlee 11:35 AM

you mean you have an old bottle that ran out?

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:35 AM

Just about to run out, anyway.

Not sure when we got it or how old it is. 11:35 AM

Scott Carrlee 11:35 AM

is that a little bottle with a brush in it?

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:35 AM

Yes.

Heather McClain - Seward 11:35 AM

We have one bottle of fluid B-72 in a labeling kit that looks like it came from ASM

Scott Carrlee 11:36 AM

yes you can reuse that bottle

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:36 AM

Great!

Scott Carrlee 11:36 AM

but you will probably find that you have to make it up in a bigger jar and then transfer a little at a time to the brush bottle

It won't be easy but I can talk you through the tricks 11:36 AM

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:37 AM

Thanks!

Scott Carrlee 11:37 AM

So just find a glass jar like a baby food jar that has been through the dishwasher

Heather McClain - Seward 11:37 AM

right, and that would be great! can you order empty bottles from anywhere?

Scott Carrlee 11:37 AM

Get some acetone and call me

The best bottle or jars come from a company like Fisher 11:37 AM

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum) 11:37 AM

I use a specimen jar that is usually used for wet collections...

Scott Carrlee 11:37 AM

they have teflon seals on the lids so they don't leak

You have to buy them by the case though 11:38 AM

Exactly what Savanna said 11:38 AM

Heather McClain - Seward 11:39 AM

ok, I will start looking. thank you all for your suggestions and tips!!

Scott Carrlee 11:39 AM

That was a great topic

any other questions? 11:39 AM

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum) 11:39 AM

i have one!

Scott Carrlee 11:39 AM

shoot 11:39 AM

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum) 11:39 AM

We have a sort of tricky q at the Pratt regarding the collect of demographic data for funders such as CIRI.\

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum) 11:41 AM

we are looking for best practices or suggestions that may help us to develop a system of collecting that data-- we already collect zip/country codes and visitor numbers, but foundations like CIRI are requesting shareholder info, etc... does anyone have a system in place>?

Scott Carrlee 11:41 AM

First off what is CIRI?

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum) 11:42 AM

Maybe that is pretty cook inlet based...

<http://www.thecirifoundation.org/>

other eggs are NEA, ASCA, Wells Fargo, are asking about ethnicity and demographic numbers 11:43 AM

Marnie 11:43 AM

Gotta get back to the move...see you.

- Marnie left the Main Room. (11:43 AM) -

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum) 11:44 AM

We just don't have a system in place that makes questions like that unobtrusive or not off-putting to visitors...

Scott Carrlee 11:44 AM

So you want to know about collecting data for the funders because the funders want to see it for the grant application?

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum) 11:44 AM

Yes, and for reporting.

Scott Carrlee 11:45 AM

The funders want to know who your visitors are and they seems to want to know more information that you collect or are comfortable collecting?

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum) 11:45 AM

Yes, exactly

Scott Carrlee 11:45 AM

I have often wondered about this.

IMLS would love to know very precisely who our visitors are 11:46 AM
but we don't really give everyone at the door the 3rd degree

We still do seem to quite a bit of data though I am not sure 11:47 AM
where it comes from

Heather McClain - Seward 11:47 AM

Would it be possible to make an admissions survey? Make it optional
and have some demographic questions built in?

Scott Carrlee 11:47 AM

I was just looking on the AAM website for something else and
stumble across their economic impact statements

There are a bunch of examples there from museums across 11:48 AM
the country.

Natalie Wadle 11:48 AM

Interesting stuff, I have to get back to our move bye

- Natalie Wadle left the Main Room. (11:48 AM) -

Scott Carrlee 11:48 AM

Some of them are very specific about where their visitors come from
but I am not sure where they get it

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum) 11:49 AM

We had discussed the possibility of having a sort of section of our
"Guest Book" for specific questions like stakeholders in CIRI, but
other info is a little too specific, maybe? We've had the same luck in
finding sources from AAM, everyone seems to get the info, but they
don't discuss how they got it...

Scott Carrlee 11:49 AM

you might want to start with something like economic development or
the visitors bureau. They should already have a policy or something
in place for figuring out where they come from

LAM 11:49 AM

Looks like IMLS is gearing to do some intensive data gathering later this year. See http://www.imls.gov/research/museums_count.aspx

Heather McClain - Seward 11:49 AM

I think some of those numbers come from membership data

LAM 11:50 AM

AAM Economic Impact Statement page with links to sample statements - <http://www.aam-us.org/advocacy/resources/economic-impact-statement>

Scott Carrlee 11:50 AM

that could be right Heather

we probably have time for one more question 11:51 AM

Tana did you have a specific question? 11:51 AM

Tana-C'ek'aedi Hwnax 11:52 AM

No. I'm learning a lot just listening in.

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:52 AM

This is somewhat related. We have a spreadsheet for recording museum/archive statistics. It includes admission, group visits/counts, research questions, image requests, volunteers and a space for notes. Is there anything else we should consider adding?

Scott Carrlee 11:52 AM

You record that at the front desk when people come in?

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:53 AM

Yeah, when they pay admissions. We have a guest book, but not everyone signs in. We've also considered getting a door counter to see how it compares.

Scott Carrlee 11:54 AM

I think it would very important to somehow separate out of town visitors from locals at the very least

This seems to be a question on many grant forms and other things 11:54 AM

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:54 AM

I did see that somewhere on a report, but couldn't remember where.

Scott Carrlee 11:55 AM
People want to know whether you are just a tourist attraction or are engaging a local audience.

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:55 AM
It would be good for us to know this, too.

Scott Carrlee 11:55 AM
I think what you are collecting seems right

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:56 AM
Great! We'll look into how we might add the local/out of towners to it. Thanks!

Scott Carrlee 11:56 AM
You want to be able to say who you are serving and what services you are providing.

if people won't give you specifics maybe you could just ask for zip codes 11:57 AM

Well this has been another fine chat thanks to some great questions 11:57 AM

The next chat will be a special one on the 28 where I will be doing some sort of session in conjunction with the Champ advocacy fly in 11:58 AM

Valarie Kingsland - Seward 11:58 AM
Thanks for coordinating this chat!

Tana-C'ek'aedi Hwnax 11:58 AM
Thanks all

- Tana-C'ek'aedi Hwnax left the Main Room. (11:58 AM) -

Savanna Bradley (Pratt Museum) 11:58 AM
Thank you, everyone!

Scott Carrlee 11:58 AM
I am hoping to give a chance for people to learn how to advocate better for their museums

Heather McClain - Seward 11:58 AM
Thank you!!

Scott Carrlee

There will be a guest speaker.

So tune in

11:58 AM

11:58 AM

Next Chat Session

January 28, 11 am

Special Session for the CHAMPS advocacy legislative fly in