

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION

## Background

Although the curation of federal archaeological collections is clearly mandated by various pieces of legislation and the NPS regulation 36 CFR Part 79, the lack of uniform standards and funding has prevented most federal collections identified from attaining compliance with these laws. Most federal cultural resource managers are aware of this problem and have recently begun to address their concerns at the agency level.

## Legislative Authorities for Curation

- Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431, 432, 433)
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa-470mm)
- 36 CFR Part 79 Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections 1991



Many older collections have not been properly prepared for long-term curation.

## Collections Rehabilitation Center (CRC) Capabilities

Because of its in-depth knowledge of the location, condition, and composition of many federal collections, the CRC, an element of the St. Louis District Army Corps of Engineers Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections, is in a unique position to offer its assistance to such managers with regards to rehousing and rehabilitation of these collections.



During rehabilitation, objects are placed in appropriate containers, labeled, cataloged and described, and prepared for long-term storage.



The CRC has a fully operational rehabilitation/rehousing laboratory with staff who are dedicated to collections rehabilitation tasks. We believe that a full-time staff devoted to and experienced with many approaches to collections management tasks far supercedes any service offered by current institutions. The CRC offers curation and collections management experience that is compliant with the best museum practices:

- a diverse staff of professionals (archaeologists, physical anthropologists, collections managers, museum personnel, and database managers)
- unique experience with national collections management policies and practices
- rehabilitation resources that include retrieval, rehabilitation, database design and development, and deposition of collections in a designated repository
- established protocols for accomplishing work
- knowledge of federal laws and regulations as well as individual agency regulations for curation
- competitive rates for curation services.

Once collections have been rehabilitated, they are then much easier to use for research, displays, and education.



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## CRC Services

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### Artifact Collections Assessment and Rehousing Services

- Detailed condition assessments of collections that ensure efficient use of available funds for rehabilitation
- Coalescence of collections for rehabilitation
- Creation of artifact catalogs and databases for access to the collections
- Complete artifact stabilization and repackaging
- Transport of the collections to a repository

### Long-Term Collections Management Services

- Assistance in the identification of repositories that the installation could partner with for long-term storage
- Assistance in the development and implementation of long-term curation agreements between repositories and federal agencies

### Condition and Collections Management Training Services

- General overviews of curation issues
- Basic object rehousing and packaging
- Conducting a condition assessment
- Creating catalog and database systems
- Developing a long-term collections management program

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## CRC Past and Current Customers

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Yuma Proving Ground  
Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Fort Lewis  
Fort Benning

### For more information, please contact:

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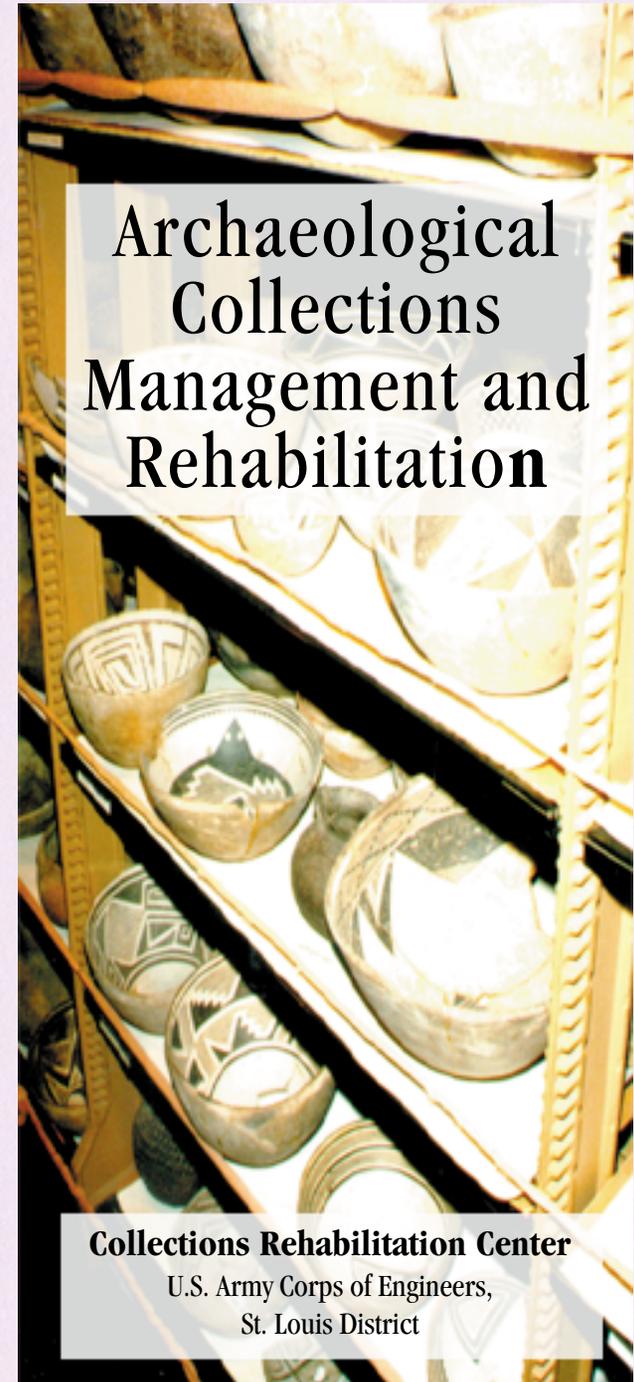
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of Engineers®



## Archaeological Collections Management and Rehabilitation

### Collections Rehabilitation Center

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
St. Louis District