

Andrea R. Blaser

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Portfolio: andreablaser.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, Ann Arbor, MI

Collections Manager (Full time, exempt)

January 2020- Present

- Manger of daily care, access, preservation, storage, and documentation for 3 million museum objects, including archaeological, ethnographic/historic, ethnobotanical, faunal, and archival collections.
- Advocate for evolving collections practices, including traditional cultural care methods, an updated human ancestor policy, and transparency for the whole collection.
- Serve as part of the Museum team on collaborative projects, including such projects as seed repatriation and a human remains community consultation committee.
- Act as database manager for CollectiveAccess system, including post-migration clean up protocols, data standardization, and creation of procedures documentation. Plan for public data portal.
- Supervise and train interns for collections projects, typically two to four in a semester.
- Support and train graduate students for their projects involving both field and accessioned collections, including permits, loans, and collections research and curatorial practices.
- Manage storage facility, including environment and pest monitoring, space assessments, tracking, and appropriate organization of cultural material – build storage mounts as needed.
- Communicate as initial point of contact for collections inquiries, collaborations, and project planning
- Perform collections research as needed to appropriately care for objects, answer inquiries, communicate with communities, and support students/interns.
- Manage, document, and make recommendations on all collections activities, including requests for accessions, loans, image publication/copyright, analysis, access, and exhibition.
- Coordinate and manage collections outreach and education, including class visit/use and tours.
- Collaborate with NAGPRA Collections Manager and Coordinator to ensure material has the appropriate status and the correct protocol is followed, and review accessed material for NAGPRA compliance.
- Review, update, and where needed rewrite museum policy and procedures, including adding policy such as Transportation, Faunal Permitting, and Archives Cataloging.
- Budget for supplies, projects, and intern salaries.

Southeastern Archaeological Research Inc. (SEARCH Inc.), Richmond, VA

Senior Collections Technician (Contractor, 40 hours/week)

October 2018-October 2020

- Work with team on “Artifact Baseline Reset” for the US Naval History and Heritage Command collection.
- Identify, inventory, and clean objects coming from a variety of naval settings.
- Digitize naval history objects into Access and EMu, creating new records and object photography.
- Pack collections for long-term storage using archival materials while ensuring proper object handling.
- Coordinate with project team to track status and location of objects and keep project on schedule.
- Create, execute, and improve workflows and protocols with the team to increase productivity.

Pecos National Historical Park (NPS), Pecos, NM

Museum Technician (Seasonal, 40 hours/week)

July-September 2018

- Completed accessions inventory by tracking and updating the required records for 200 accessions.
- Tracked and completed any required missing records, including loan receipts, deeds, and transfers.
- Digitized, archived, and associated several hundred historic park photographs and negatives, wrote SOP.
- Managed investigation into overdue loan objects and contacted institutions to begin return of material.
- Inventoried boxes of uncataloged archaeology and archives, and created a finding aid.
- Executed pieces of the Collections Storage Update Plan, including rehousing ceramics into new cabinets.

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University of Colorado Art Museum, Boulder, CO

Collections and Registration Assistant (Seasonal, 30 hours/week)

June-July 2018

- Designed and built rigid covers for paintings with 3D elements.
- Completed condition reports for 106 pieces coming off exhibit, digital painting and watercolors.
- Imaged and cataloged historic photography collection in ARGUS database.
- Reorganized artwork on hanging racks to better organize and accommodate collections.
- Designed storage solutions for fragile textiles during construction in storage.
- Tracked and relocated objects coming on and off exhibit in ARGUS.
- Built mounts and supports for objects as needed.

University of Colorado Museum of Natural History, Boulder, CO

Graduate Collections Assistant, Invertebrate Paleontology Section (10 hours/week)

August 2017- May 2018

- Labelled and cataloged hundreds of fossil specimens to bring historic lots to current curation standards.
- Designed and built custom archival boxes to protect damaged fossils and store large specimen lots.
- Reconciled database records with historic fields notes to improve intellectual control of the collection.
- Investigated out-of-date loans to begin returns process.

University of Colorado Museum of Natural History, Boulder, CO

Graduate Collections Assistant, Anthropology Section (20 hours/week)

August 2016 – May 2018

- Inventoried 600 objects and created conservation and rehousing priorities list for the next project stage.
- Wrote protocols for database cataloging and standardization after conversion to Re:discovery software.
- Reconciled and modified database records with objects and paper records/archives.
- Processed new accessions, including registration, cleaning, cataloging, and mounting for storage.
- Developed authority values and relational mapping for database modules.
- Tracked and reboxed objects during move and reorganization to accommodate new textile storage.
- Wrote and tested checklist documentation for department procedures, such as loans and accessions.
- Researched collection items, including affiliation, prior to community and repatriation consultation.
- Assisted with removal and rotation of objects on exhibit, including object cleaning and location-tracking.
- Performed condition assessments and wrote reports for ethnographic objects, including digitization.
- Facilitated collections access, research, loan, and image requests and documentation.
- Designed and ran database reports to capture specific information for curators, researchers, and tribes.
- Manage monthly IPM, environmental monitoring and PEM data, and storage housekeeping.

Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver, CO

Anthropology Department Collections Management Intern (40 hours/week)

June-August 2017

- Constructed archival boxes from heritage board, coroplast, and polycarbonate for objects of all sizes.
- Designed and constructed custom cavity mounts for ethnographic objects.
- Tracked and documented object movements for the collections' move into a new building.
- Packed fragile, culturally sensitive materials to be hand-carried long distance for transfer.
- Rolled and tracked Latin American textiles during storage reorganization.
- Photographed objects and created edited reference images for EMu database.
- Reorganized objects in storage to maximize the efficient use of space in the new facility.
- De-installed ethnographic exhibit; inventoried and mounted material for return to storage.
- Processed and cataloged accession of 300-object, exhibit quality lithic collection into the EMu database.
- Moved 27 pallets of archaeological material (900 boxes) into storage using dollies and pallet jacks.
- Supported volunteers and interns and assisted with workshops, tours, and public events.

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Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, Museum Management Division, Harpers Ferry, WV

Museum Collections Management Intern (40 hours/week)

January–July 2016

- Evacuated and relocated historic and archaeology collections from mold-impacted storage facility.
- Developed tracking plans for several thousand evacuated history and archaeology objects.
- Mitigated mold contamination from affected objects, including books, archaeology, and framed art.
- Transported and installed fine art exhibit.
- Designed collections storage layout for new storage facility.
- Assisted in social media campaign “Artifact Showcase,” selecting and researching items for showcase.
- Created new IPM plan for 15 historic structures in park, for both digital and paper formats.
- Inventoried all 100+ Controlled Status objects on exhibit using ICSM Re:discovery.
- Inventoried over 800 archival reports; designed and implemented new storage plan and finding aids.
- Sewed labels into historic and replica clothing and developed inventory of replicas.
- Researched and designed mobile exhibits on local historic college and park history.
- Labeled and inventoried over 200 replica items in historic general store exhibit.

Milwaukee Public Museum, Anthropology Department, Milwaukee, WI

Ethnography and Archaeology Collections Intern (20 hours/week)

September 2015– January 2016

- Rehoused ethnographic and archaeological objects to relieve overcrowding in storage.
- Reorganized and housed fragile African collections after pipe leak.
- Surveyed, photographed, and researched weapons collections in preparation for exhibition.
- Reconciled data between EMu database, ledger books, and catalog cards to correct cataloging errors.
- Inventoried and updated storage locations for 500+ piece Egyptology collection.
- Identified errors in Deaccession Log Books and created a system to track and locate missing objects.
- Trained new Anthropology interns in department standards and lab usage.
- Presented permanent collection and education items at public events.

Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service, Lincoln, NE

Collections Management Intern (40 hours/week)

January–August 2015

- Prepared collections for long-term storage, including labeling, packing, inventory, and mount-building.
- Cataloged 600+ object conservation records into ICMS.
- Inventoried, photographed, and packed over a 900-piece ceramic collection for long-term loan.
- Processed and surveyed archives for cataloging and storage to NPS archival standards.
- Redesigned tracking guidelines for collections and archives to improve control.
- Inventoried all supplies stored in the Center and designed new tracking system for supplies.
- Participated in NPS annual collections and accessions inventory.
- Cataloged three newly accessioned field collections into ICMS, assigned and applied catalog numbers.
- Planned and documented new pest trap program for the center, preparing for full IPM implementation.
- Packed repatriated material for transfer to tribal representatives, confirmed documentation.

Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI

Visitor Services Team Member (20 hours/week)

September–December, 2014

- Provided customer service through various roles: Help Desk staff, gallery attendant, and ticket sales.
- Completed monetary transactions for guests.
- Performed visitor surveys for front-end evaluation of museum renovations.

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Milwaukee Public Museum, Anthropology Department, Milwaukee, WI

North American Archaeology Collections Intern (25 hours/week)

June-December 2014

- Photographed objects, formatted images, and attached photos and metadata to database records.
- Updated storage inventories of Wisconsin archaeology collections, reconciled database records.
- Researched items for identification and improved documentation, and for public inquiry.
- Investigated unlabeled historic object photography for placement in the archives.
- Advised on archaeological object identifications for the public, in-person and via email.
- Guided researchers in utilizing and researching MPM collections and archives.
- Verified inventories and prepared culturally sensitive material for NAGPRA consultation.

British Museum, Learning, Engagement, and Audiences Office, London, Great Britain

Interpretation Department Intern (25 hours/week)

January-April 2014

- Evaluated four galleries through timing and tracking studies.
- Analyzed evaluation data, resulting in recommendations for interpretive changes to the galleries.
- Produced detailed reports and presentations on evaluations.
- Executed in-depth visitor interviews and surveys, including terminology testing and visitor perspective.
- Wrote report on visitor feedback to restructure self-guided museum tours and maps.
- Wrote drafts of text for proposed new panel in the Halicarnassus gallery.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Museum of Natural History

Museum Docent (10 hours/week)

September-December 2013

- Lead educational tours of natural science dioramas for school groups.
- Designed and gave presentations on topics including archaeology, ecology, and fossils.
- Utilized PastPerfect software to track objects used in programming.

Heritage Hill State Historical Park, Green Bay, WI

Historical Interpreter (20 hours/week)

Spring-Summer, 2012-2013

- Interpreted historic buildings from multiple periods of Wisconsin history in period clothing.
- Presented and demonstrated historic objects (replica and period) to engage visitors.
- Managed volunteers in my assigned buildings during events.
- Created inventory and location tracker for period items in historic mansion.

EDUCATION

University of Colorado-Boulder, Boulder, CO

May 2018

Master of Science: Museum and Field Studies, Anthropology Cognate, Collections Management Track

Master's Project: "Space Assessments for Museum Collections Planning"

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI

May 2014

Bachelor of Science: History, Political Science, and Social Sciences [majors]; Anthropology [minor]

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PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- “Tools and Methods for Space Assessments in Museum Collections.” Presented at the Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums Conference. Cheyenne, WY. April 2018.
- “Finding the Right Fit: A Space Assessment Masters Project.” Presented at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History Graduate Student Symposium. Boulder, CO. April 2018.
- “Gaan, NAGPRA, and Power.” Presented at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History Student Curator Talk. Boulder, CO. December 2017.
- “Utilizing IPM; Examples for Applying Pest Management Data.” Presented at the Thought Café Session, Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums Conference. Boulder, CO. April 2017.
- Blaser, Andrea and Dawn Scher Thomaes. “An Overview of the Wisconsin Archaeology Collection at the Milwaukee Public Museum.” *The Wisconsin Archeologist* 96, no. 1 (2015): 61-66.

EXHIBITS

Questions in Culture, CU Museum of Natural History, December 2017-July 2018 (Co-curator, student)

- A collaborative, student-lead project which focused on communicating the research process for an ethnographic exhibit. Selected ethnographic items showcased the different directions research can proceed, and how all of this must be condensed into a cohesive message.

Weapons: Beyond the Blade, Milwaukee Public Museum, October 2017-February 2018 (Intern researcher)

- From the museum’s Anthropology and History departments, this temporary exhibition highlighted examples of weapons from over 50 countries throughout history and explored why weapons are some of the most complicated objects ever created. The research and choices for the exhibition highlighted weapons as more than objects of violence, but symbols of identity, beauty, and power.

GRANTS

- 2017 Denver Greenwood Fund Award (\$1500) on behalf of the Broomfield Depot Museum

COMPUTER SKILLS

Databases

- CollectiveAccess
- Interior Collections Management System
- Re:discovery Proficio
- PastPerfect
- EMu Collections Management Software
- Specify Collections Software

Software/Programs

- Microsoft Office Suite
- Adobe Creative Suite
- eClimate Notebook
- SketchUp 3D Design
- Nikon Camera Control Pro2

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Michigan Museums Association

Association of Midwest Museums

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists

Association of Indigenous Archives, Libraries and Museums

American Alliance of Museums