

Repatriation 1: Discussion Summary

We looked at repatriation in two aspects—native communities and also the idea of repatriation of foreign countries wanting their cultural heritage back.

Two triggers

- Community/entity request
- Institutional initiative

Tried also to do a little on the administrative side

- Request
- Evaluation of request/Considerations
 - conservation might be included, is it actually an artifact or an artifice
 - Many of the same considerations as in treatment. Including review of treatment history. In the form of text, photography – wide range of materials
- Request Approved or disapproved
 - Cyclical thing if they say no there may be some other agreement, may become a long term loan (paper documentation there)
- Conservation may involved in developing handling rules
- May also have initiation of deaccession

Request comes through

- Conversation: Curator, Conservator, Registrar
- Pulling of records and creation of “object dossier”
 - including: past history of treatment, past history in collection
- New condition report and evaluation
- New photography
- Some sort of analysis, or last ditch effort to get everything from object before it leaves (text, photography, 3d scanning)
- Possible lock up of all that information
 - sensitive nature, desire of institution not to assist others in making similar claims
- Issue of treatment, or deal with either remediation of pesticide, which would generate treatment documentation
- Generation of narrative or suggested handlings (a lot like with loans) so when object goes back, as an ethical mandate, we always provide that information—generation of packing and storage materials

Supporting Documentation

Native American Protocols which offers a range of actions consultation, refusal to preserve certain collections, and then a range of actions in terms of who may access and handle collections (culture, affinity, age). Repatriation is one of the work flows that falls within that document. The SAA chose not to endorse that

document. Originated by a self-identified group to approach the repositories to see here's how you should react. Entirely Native American.

- These protocols relate to conservator in terms of who can handle the works when and when can you not do any sort of treatment at all.

Questions about documentation

- Where are access rules currently stored? The general policy is not stored in an object record.
- The over-riding mission statement or compliance with cultural affinities and guidelines within your institution, usually rests with board, director, curatorial.