

Ext/Int Events

# Repatriation

Documents

Trigger eg.  
A Claim, internal or external  
that an object is owned or  
should live somewhere else.  
Could be from a community  
or an institution

INFLUENCE :  
Legal Obligations,  
Political Pressure

Legal Time  
Frame?

Analysis

Photography,  
Documentation

Influence: Board  
and Public

Treatment

Analysis,  
Photography (Last  
ditch information  
gathering)

Loan

Movement

Possible lock up of  
Information

If no  
Deaccession

Authentication

Claim

Object

Physical  
Examination

Analytical  
Examination

Documentation  
Examination

Report

Decision on  
Ownership

Conservation  
Treatment

Repatriate?

Packing and  
Transport

Location Remains  
unchanged or  
potential loan?

Handover of  
Documentation

Copy /  
Virtualisation  
( owner or  
Institution)

Archive  
documentaiton  
and reports

Letter copy or Oral  
conversation re:  
claim, Electronic  
communication

Accompanying  
documentation,  
treatment history,  
text photography

'Object  
Dossier'

Condition  
Report

Written Reports  
and images -PDF,  
JPEG, TIFF,  
WORD, Standard  
images....

Treatment  
Records

Narrative and  
Handling  
Recommendations  
(like Loan) for  
return

Condition of  
returns and  
installation – Long  
term care

Copy

Standard  
Documentaion  
and metadata

Possible for  
Both

Yes

No

Yes

No



## 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.

# REPATRIATION

INTERNAL / EXTERNAL CLAIM AN OBJECT BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE

OFFICIAL LETTER / CONVERSATION / EMAIL + DOCUMENTATION

SHORT TERM LEGAL LIMITS OR LONG TERM OPENENESS

LEGAL INFLUENCES POLITICAL

AUTHENTICATION OF CLAIM

AUTHENTICATION OF OBJECT

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

ANALYTICAL EXAMINATION

DOCUMENTATION EXAMINATION

POSSIBLE Public Notice Legal Time Frame

REPORT

WRITTEN DOC IMAGES

WORD P PDF JPEG TIFF = STANDARD IMAGE

ARCHIVE DOCUMENTATION + REPORTS

Decision

CONSERVATION TREATMENT

TIME AS RESOURCES ALLOW

PRODUCTION OF COPY COPY

LOCATION REMAINS UNCHANGED (STAYS)

PACKING & TRANSPORT

HANDOVER OF DOCUMENTATION

CONDITIONS OF RETURN + INSTALLATION LONG TERM CARE

RECOMMENDING CARE/WIDE LAWS LONG TERM

STANDARD DOCUMENTATION + META DATA

INSTITUTION owner



## Repatriation 2: Discussion Summary

Yellow= influence

Red=process

Blue= outputs

Trigger: Internal/external claim that an object belongs to someone else

Conservation department would be notified formally or informally

This would set parallel processes

- authentication of claim
- authentication of object

Legal and political ramifications

Output—written documentation with images, user of that information would need quite a high level of interpretation, free text

Neutral report would be developed and a decision taken

If a decision could not be taken clearly there might be a reevaluation

If decision = yes

- that might prompt a number of elements
- treatment
- packing and transportation
- etc.

If decision = no

- you would end up with an archive report on the process.

Outputs: Even if the decision is yes there is no assumption that the object is going to be returned—there might be an ongoing duty of care

Timeframe—there might be legal limits to time of process

All based on allocation of resources and priority of project/decision within an institution

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# BPMN Repatriation

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Photography,  
Documentation

Influence: Board  
and Public

Treatment

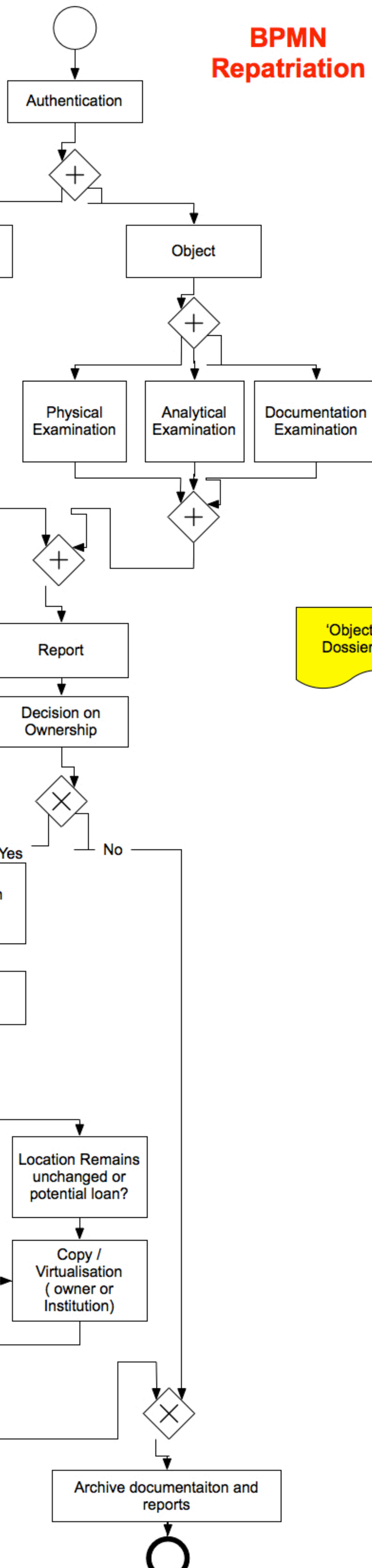
Analysis,  
Photography (Last  
ditch information  
gathering)

Loan

Movement

Possible lock up of  
Information

If no  
Deaccession, Movement  
and handover of  
documentation



Accompanying  
documentation,  
treatment history,  
text photography

'Object  
Dossier'

Condition  
Report

Written Reports  
and images -PDF,  
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Treatment  
Records

Narrative and  
Handling  
Recommendations  
(like Loan) for  
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Condition of  
returns and  
installation - Long  
term care

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Standard  
Documentaion  
and metadata