



Hello, Friends!



Wow, time for volume 2 already?! Thank you all for your support as I essentially use this as a creative outlet. Also, I do it as mid-career museum professional who wants to help others in the field. There is a massive amount of resources relevant to the museum field, but I primarily focus on collections care, since that is what I know best. I have also over the course of my career been offered many opportunities for professional development and I'm happy to share what I've learned as I know not everyone has such opportunities. So those are the type of resources you will see here!

I am purposefully keeping this newsletter short and to the point to help keep information easy to understand. Plus I have to store some stuff away for future editions...but I will not run out of information anytime soon. Do not worry! In case it was not clear in the last newsletter, any words bolded throughout this publication is a hyperlink to the resource mentioned. So check those out!

As we approach the one-year anniversary of pandemic closures, I sense the stress across the museum community. I just wanted to take a moment to acknowledge that. Even if you have not suffered much during the last year, you probably know someone who has. Please take care of yourself and reach out to someone for support if needed.

While I have no real solutions for all the problems we are currently facing, I will try to be a light-hearted diversion whilst also providing some information about the field.

Good luck!

Highlighted Webinars



The ICON Collections Care Group will focus on the "positives from covid". A bit of a different look at the challenges we all faced this last year. "Along with the meeting, we will be offering a mix of 20 min webinar presentations as well as several quick how-to/ short 5-minute videos and Pecha kuccha style 5-minute presentations. The aim is to share as many tips and wins as possible."

When: March 25 1pm - 6:30pm GMT/8am - 1:30pm ET

Cost: 5 Pound/Approx \$7

[Register Here!](#)

Other Upcoming Webinars

Ancestors Speaking: Objects and Culture in Native America from ULCA and the Getty looks to be a promising lecture on the objects that connect to an intangible culture. From the announcement: "These pieces are part of peoples' lives, with essences that may be considered kin through time and space. They merge humans together with each other, spirit, and the seen natural world over generations."

When: March 5th at 11am PT/2pm ET

Cost: Free!

Register **HERE!**

Deaccessioning After 2020 from Syracuse University is a 3 day seminar with lawyers, administrators, and funders. There does not seem to be any collections managers or registrars which makes me suspect, but it could still be good.

Especially if you are considering a deaccession project soon. If you take the seminar let me know how it is!

When: March 17th - 19th

Cost: \$50

Register **HERE!**

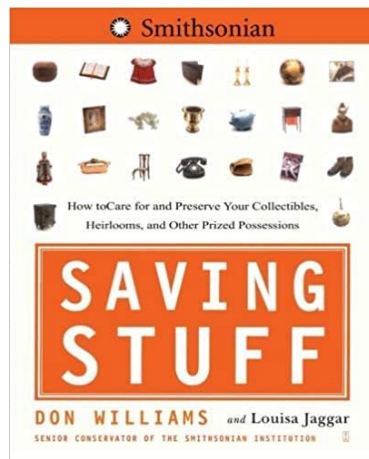
Past Webinars Worth Your Time

Continuity of Operations (COOP) is not just for administrators. Its important to include collections care in your institution's COOP. Don't know what one is or how that works? Check out this panel discussion from ARCS.

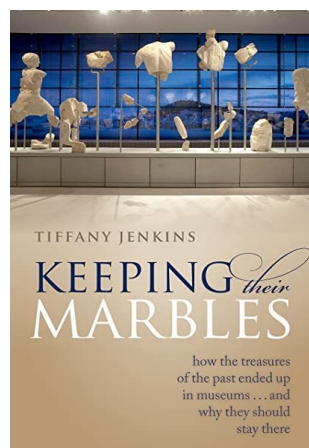
Cost: Free

View **HERE!**

Resources & Publications of Note



Saving Stuff, by Don Williams (2005) is a fantastic publication on simple preservation techniques. Don was a furniture conservator at the **Museum Conservation Institute** for many years until retirement. This book's intended audience is the general public, but the guidance he offers helped me write "Handling and Housekeeping Guidelines" for institutions, as well as answer public inquiries. We just need to convince Don to take a break from retirement to write a second edition! Don was pretty well known for his cheerful and sometimes eclectic suspenders, so its only appropriate his best tips are emphasized with a suspender graphic! It is not being mass published anymore, but a quick online search should help you track down a copy!



Ok, hear me out. This book has gotten a lot of negative reviews because the author openly is anti-repatriation of the Parthenon marbles. What I really like about this book is that it goes into the history of illicit collecting and how institutions use these collecting methods in arguments for or against repatriation. She really only goes into her opinions, which she states clearly are just her opinions in the last chapter. Otherwise her research seems based in fact and i enjoyed her writing style. Available where books are sold!

Curae Collections Care Publications

Fresh off the virtual press: **Identifying and Working with Responders** is a brainstorming document to help identify all types of responders to collections emergencies. Most are familiar with working with First Responders, but now its time to think broader about ALL the people who can help you in an emergency.

Sustainability



Terracycle for Museums

You probably have heard of **Terracycle**! They are a recycling center that collects many materials that are not accepted curbside. They even have boxes specifically to recycle nitrile gloves but they also collect material that otherwise would end up in the trash. You can contact Terracycle to identify the best box for your needs or if you need clarification on what they accept. Last year my business was able to recycle an extra 50 pounds of material thanks to Terracycle! Check out their **YouTube** channel to learn more about their process.



SHOWA Nitrile Gloves

Speaking of gloves, lets talk green alternatives. I have been using and researching **SHOWA** biodegradable nitrile gloves. These are powder-free and 4mil, making them safe for handling collections and chemicals. But is it greenwashing? Actually its not. SHOWA gloves **"are produced using Eco-**

Best Technology (EBT) which accelerates the biodegradation of gloves in biologically active landfills using anaerobic digesters." Meaning they may not biodegrade if placed in trash bag with no oxygen to deteriorate but need other disposal options. They are compostable! I think the future is calling for more museums to be composting (outside of zoo feces and cafeterias)! Based on independent labs, there does not appear to be any lasting micro-plastics following or during deterioration. Thinking about all the gloves we use in our work, imagining how much waste we can reduce with this simple switch! They are also similar in cost to regular nitrile gloves. Available where safety supplies are sold (I get mine from **Northern Safety**)!



Museum Sustainability "Conference"

Trying out a different "conference" method. Join the ICON Environmental Sustainability Network on Twitter [**@icon_esn**](#) to see tips, tricks and solutions for being a sustainable cultural institution. You can also follow [**#esntwitterconference**](#).

When: March 16th, 10:30am - 7:00pm GMT/ 5:30am - 2:00pm ET (obviously just tune into twitter when you have a chance.)

Cost: Free

Learn More **HERE!**

Professional Development



Crucial Conversations

Difficult conversations are crucial to our work, our health, and our relationships. A few years ago *Crucial Conversations* (2011) was recommend to me by a leader in the museum field and I am so thankful. I read this book cover to cover and it has been part of my work library ever since. I have used these tools many times to defuse a situation, broach delicate topics, and communicate with difficult people. Check it out wherever books are sold!

HAZWOPER

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response or **HAZWOPER** is an online (own pace) 40 hour certification through OSHA. While the training is geared towards safety managers, the information is invaluable for anyone working with hazardous collections (especially natural history museums), involved with construction projects, moving oversize collections, or responding to collections emergencies. I completed my HAZWOPER certification a year ago so I'm about to take my 8 hour refresher course to keep my certification current. It took me a few months to complete the first training (40 hours is a long freakin time) but it was worth it! Plus a unique and valuable addition to ones resume. One bad thing is that now you notice when people are being unsafe much more often!!

Collection Care Tools and Ideas



Pipe Insulation Separating Paintings In Storage

Ode to Pipe Insulation

Hands-down my favorite supply for collections care and emergency response is pipe insulation. It is cheap, acid-free, and versatile. It is a closed-cell foam with a small space in the middle and comes pre-slitted! Pipe insulation comes in different sizes, which is the measurement of space diameter. I usually get the 1" diameter and it works for most projects. There are also some that come with adhesive, which you do not want, so look for adhesive free!

For collections care, I use it as a buffer material, especially for paintings as seen in the picture on the right. For emergency response, it is a great salvage tool for padding wet textiles and providing support when handling or air drying on clotheslines. I seriously could talk about this wonder product for a very long time, so if you want to learn more, let me know! Available at home improvement store!



Using Pipe Insulation to Handle Wet Textiles

**Virtual Best,
Becca Kennedy of Curae Collections Care, LLC**

Subscribe to the newsletter, **here!** I will not sell or share your information, nor will I spam you. You can always unsubscribe, which will probably make me sad, but you do you!

While I am happy to share many of these resources for free, please keep in mind I am an independent collections professional who relies on payment for my consultation. Therefore, I am not able to answer all collections care inquiries for free.

I respect the privacy of my clients, so will not be sharing any information related to projects, past or present. So, please do not ask.

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