Curation of Archaeological Collections

Original Implementation: April 20, 2010
Last Revision: July 23, 2019

The Anthropology and Archaeology Lab (AAL) is a scientific research facility operated by the Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology. The laboratory is certified by the Texas Historical Commission and is therefore eligible to charge for the curation of held in trust (HIT) archaeological collections. If accepted for curation, collections remain the property of the state of Texas, but Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) agrees to care for them as stipulated by Texas Historical Commission guidelines. The AAL shall maintain a Collections Management Policy as defined in Rule 29.9 of the Texas Administrative Code. Collections must be prepared, recorded, and described according to the AAL's Collections Management Policy.

Eligible Collections

To be eligible for curation, a collection must be consistent with the mission statement of the AAL as filed with the Texas Historical Commission. Specifically, collections must be either pre-historic or historic in nature and must be important to the East Texas area. The university reserves the right to refuse any collection for curation. All accepted collections shall be accompanied by an approved deed of conveyance or other appropriate agreement.

Curation Fees

The AAL will publish a schedule of curation fees and reserves the right to amend these fees based upon the unique requirements of each collection. Curation fees shall be used by the AAL to offset laboratory expenses and to fund capital expenditures. The fee schedule shall be subject to approval by the provost and vice president for academic affairs and the vice president for finance and administration.

Revenue Sharing

SFA shall negotiate and maintain a revenue sharing agreement for HIT collections housed at the annex Mission Dolores Visitors Center in San Augustine, Texas. Collections existing prior to the execution of the revenue sharing are not eligible for revenue sharing under this policy. The terms and conditions of any revenue sharing agreement must be approved by the provost and vice president for academic affairs and signed by the president.


Responsible for Implementation: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Contact for Revision: Chair of the Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology

Forms: None

Board Committee Assignment: Academic and Student Affairs