ARCHAEOLOGY AND MUSEUMS
Albright Artifact Collection Inventory Project

Archaeologists in Museums: A Collaborative Model
The W.F. Albright Institute for Archaeological Research, Jerusalem

- “We are an American non-profit research center located in Jerusalem, dedicated since 1900 to the study of the ancient Near East.”
“This summer Kirstin Rose-Bean will be working on helping the Albright inventory the many objects of historical significance that are housed at the Institute. A wide range of objects will be included in this inventory, including artifacts from Albright excavations, items from the history of the AIAR (like the original telephone switchboard), the personal effects of W. F. Albright, and anything else that we find. Kirstin will primarily focus on creating a list with a brief description of these objects and their current locations, marking each with a semi-permanent number for easier reference in the future. If there is time during her five-week stay, she may begin to gather documentation on provenance (potentially re-associating some artifacts with their excavation records) and legal title for the objects and may re-house objects in need of better preservation. Upon her return home, Kirstin will be presenting the results of her work to the faculty of the Museum Studies MA program at Baylor University as a thesis equivalent for her program.”
OBJECTS BELONGING TO THE AIAR

“Partage” gave excavators the right to keep some artifacts from each excavation for study or museum collections.
Objects on Loan

- Excavations conducted on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority
- Near East Jerusalem in 1970
- Carl Graessner, Jr. and James F. Strange
Miscellaneous objects

Objects from Excavations

Small Objects
Archaeologists in Museums: A Collaborative Model

- **Literature Review:** Collaborations between archaeologists and museums
- **Case studies:**
  - The Gault Site and the Bell County Museum
  - The University of West Florida Historic Trust
- **A Simpler Model**
Literature Review

Trends

- Archaeological artifacts in museum collections
- Museums and excavations on the same site
- Archaeological programming

Issues

- Almost all large-scale programs and exhibits
- Usually developed after excavation is complete
- Are not easily updated
Case Study 1: The Gault Site

- Exhibit at the Bell County Museum
- Tours advertised by both Bell County Museum and Williamson Museum

Texas Digs!

Texas is a rich source of archaeological knowledge. All around you is evidence of life and events of the past. Log onto TexasBeyondHistory.net to learn about history and archaeology in Texas. You could also get involved by joining the Texas Archeological Society and the Gault School of Archaeological Research where you can both learn about the past and even take part in excavations! Who knows, your contribution could be the next big find!
Case Study 2: UWF Historic Trust

- Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site
  - Field School
  - Exhibit Space Run by Archaeologists
- Colonial Archaeological Trail Improvements Project

Images courtesy of UWF Historic Trust
A Simple Collaborative Model

The Model

- One case with some explanatory text panels
- The text panels are permanent
- The case updates every other year
- Can include objects from excavation, photos, archaeological tools, etc.
## The Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creates a long-term relationship between the museum and excavation staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smaller commitment of time and finances</td>
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<tr>
<td>Content is always fresh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tell a new story each update</td>
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<td>Can supplement with programs</td>
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Selected Bibliography


Acknowledgments

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- Thanks to my family, friends, and fur babies