

Collections Communique

TAM Collection Managers Committee Newsletter

Spring 2020

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UPCOMING WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Online Course: *Collections Management*

March 2—April 26

\$195—\$295

AASLH

Workshop: *ARCS Courier*

March 12—March 13

\$75—\$180

Fort Worth

ARCS

Online Course: *Materials for Exhibit, Moving, & Storage*

March 2

\$400

Museum Study

Greetings once again!

I hope 2020 is off to a great start for everyone! With the arrival of a new year and a new decade, this is the perfect time to think about reorganizing difficult-to-store items like large textiles. Appropriately storing cumbersome objects such as wool rugs and heavy antique quilts has long been an issue for many museums, further complicated by the limits of physical storage space, as well as the expense



of professionally manufactured storage systems. The solution that some of my fellow museum staff members have developed over the years: finding creative and affordable ways to put together do-it-yourself textile racks!

Thanks to the talents of a variety of museum personnel, two collections that I've had the pleasure to work with have been the beneficiaries of both wood and metal textile racks that were made in-house. The greatest advantage of constructing your own textile storage system is not only the huge financial savings that you will reap, but the fact that it can be customized to fit a specific storage space. So, if you or someone you know is longing for rolled textile storage, here is a handy do-it-yourself guide to constructing your own wooden textile rack, courtesy of Robert Field, the Maintenance Supervisor at Fulton Mansion State Historic Site.

Estimated Supplies (*This rack is 58" high x 99.75" long and holds four 8.5" diameter tubes. There are 9 5/8" between each tube support. Supports are 9.75" long.*):

10 ft 2 x 4s: Qty - 3

These three boards are for the width and height of the rack. Two boards will be used to make long top and long bottom rails. The third will be cut in half to make the rack's two sides.

8 ft 2 x 4s: Qty - 2

These two boards are for the tube supports and feet of the rack. There will be two supports per tube and two feet for the rack. One support foot will be on each side of the rack.

Instructions:

Continued on next page!

**Webinar: Appraising & Insuring
Historical Treasures**
March 3, 2pm CST
FREE
THC, Museum Services

**Online Course: Introduction to
Pest Management**
April 6
\$400
Museum Study

**Online Course: Moving Museum
Collections**
April 6 or August 31
\$400
Museum Study

**Online Course: Assessing Risk
to Cultural Property 1**
April 6
\$400
Museum Study

**Workshop: Collections Camp:
Textiles**
April 27-28
\$300—\$425
San Diego, CA
AASLH

**Online Course: Rights &
Reproductions 1: Intro to IP and
Licensing Best Practices**
May 4
\$400
Museum Study

**Online Course: Storage
Techniques**
May 4
\$400
Museum Study

Figure 1: Cut this profile out with a jigsaw.
Use the tube to mark the profile.



Figure 2: The 2x4 tube support should
be 2" wider than the tube itself.

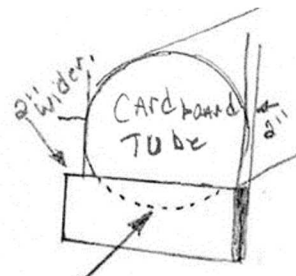


Figure 3: The rack base should be 1" longer than the tubes it will be holding. Allow
for 1/2" on each side of tube

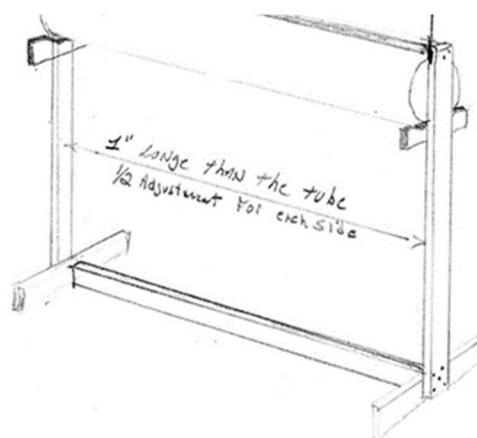
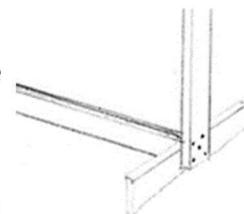


Figure 4: Support feet on each end of the base can be
any length, but no less than 24." The feet will need to be
longer the taller the rack is built.



* The height of the rack is dependent on the number of
tubes on the rack, plus their thickness once they are
wrapped.

If you or your construction-savvy friends need any additional information on this project, do not hesitate to contact me at angela.pfeifer@thc.texas.gov or at 979-345-4656 x23.

Does your institution have a safe and creative way to store textiles? Feel free to share your tips and ideas on the CMC Facebook page or in our next newsletter!

Best wishes for the New Year,

Angela Pfeiffer

CONSERVATION CORNER

Removing Original Fasteners from Archival Documents

When archival files are placed in permanent storage, any original fasteners should usually be removed except when doing so would damage the documents. This is especially important when metal fasteners are corroded, when the attachments distort the shape of the documents, or when research use can result in damage to the documents.

Paper Clips. If the paper clip has not rusted to the paper, and the paper is sturdy, insert fingernails under the clip ends on both front and back, pry the clip open, and lift it off. If the clip has rusted to the paper, lay the sheets flat on a table and loosen the clip by scraping very gently with the tip of a microspatula through the rust layer between the paper and the clip. If the paper is brittle or weak, use the flat side of the microspatula to hold the clip's larger curve flat against the table, and gently pry up on the smaller curve. Lift the clip off.

Staples. Do not use a staple remover. If the paper is sturdy, staples can often be gently removed by hand. If the paper is brittle, lay the sheets flat on a table. Insert the tip of a microspatula between the paper and the folded-over prongs of the staple. Unbend one prong at a time with the microspatula, holding the staple shank steady and flat against the table by the other prong. If the paper is very fragile, slip a strip of polyester (e.g., Mylar®) between the paper and the double prongs to prevent cracking of the paper by the microspatula. When both prongs have been pried open, insert the microspatula between the staple and the paper on the other side of the paper, then carefully pull the prongs out of the paper.

String Ties and Rubber Bands. Cut the tie or band and lift it off. Do not pull it over the ends of a document. If the rubber band has dried and adhered to the paper, gently chip it off with a microspatula. Watch for any cracking or abrading of the paper. If the band is soft and sticky, do not use solvents. Excess sticky residue can be gently scraped off with a microspatula. If the residue does not readily come off, interleave the sheets with silicone release paper to keep them from sticking together.

Straight Pins. If the pin has rusted to the paper, gently scrape through the rust layer using the tip of a microspatula, before attempting to pull the pin through the paper.

Grommets. Usually grommets, heavy staples, or other tightly affixed metal fasteners should be left in place. Attempting to remove them can cause irreversible damage to the documents.

Adhesives. Do not attempt to remove without a conservator's advice.

Source: Conserve O Gram, "Removing Original Fasteners from Archival Documents," July 1993, Number 19/5

TAM Connects

Are you interested in connecting with other TAM members through the power of video? TAM Connects are short informational videos (from three to ten minutes in length) on a variety of topics that relate to the museum field. If you have an idea, program, or collection that you would like to share with TAM Executive Director Alex Freeman and the TAM community, please contact Angela Pfeiffer at angela.pfeiffer@thc.texas.gov or 979-345-4656 x23.

PROCLAMATION
COLLECTIONS MANAGERS COMMITTEE

WANTED
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING KITS
(EMKs)



BY SHERIFF STEPHANIE ALLEN-GIVENS
stephaniea @ jfk.org, 214-389-3063

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

March 4-7, Humanities Education and Research Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

March 4-6, Building Museums 2020, Chicago, IL

April 13-16, Texas Association of Museums Annual Meeting, Bryan/College Station, TX

May 17-20, American Alliance of Museums, San Francisco, CA

September 23-26, American Association of State and Local History Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV

October 19, Annual Meeting Southeastern Museums Conference, Louisville, KY

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



Registration Rates until February 28:

Complete Package (non-member): \$575

Complete Package (TAM Individual Member): \$500

Complete Package (TAM Institutional Member): \$475

Complete Package (TAM Student Member): \$350

Conference Session Registration (Non-Member): \$400

Conference Session Registration (TAM Individual): \$300

Conference Session Registration (TAM Institutional): \$250

Conference Session Registration (TAM Student): \$140

One Day Rate: \$125

One Day Rate Non-Member: \$175

CMC Committees

Membership Committee

Are you interested in expanding the membership of CMC and helping members stay in touch and up-to-date?

Contact Kathleen Wilson at Kathleen.Wilson@ttu.edu

Technology Committee

Are you interested in helping to develop the CMC website and exploring ways for CMC to use social media?

Contact Leslie Ochoa at leslieochoa@wittemuseum.org.

FREE RESOURCES

Texas State Historical Commission, Museum Services:

-<https://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/museum-services>

-Offers training, resources, consultations, and communications at no cost.

-Offers free webinars and has an archive of past webinars and workshops.

Storage Techniques for Art, Science, and History:

-<http://stashc.com/>

-Provides articles and tools for institutions of all types, sizes, and resource levels to learn how to create safe and appropriate storage solutions.

American Association for State and Local History:

-<https://learn.aaslh.org/free-resources>

-Archive of webinars and technical leaflets on a variety of topics

FAIC Connecting to Collections Care:

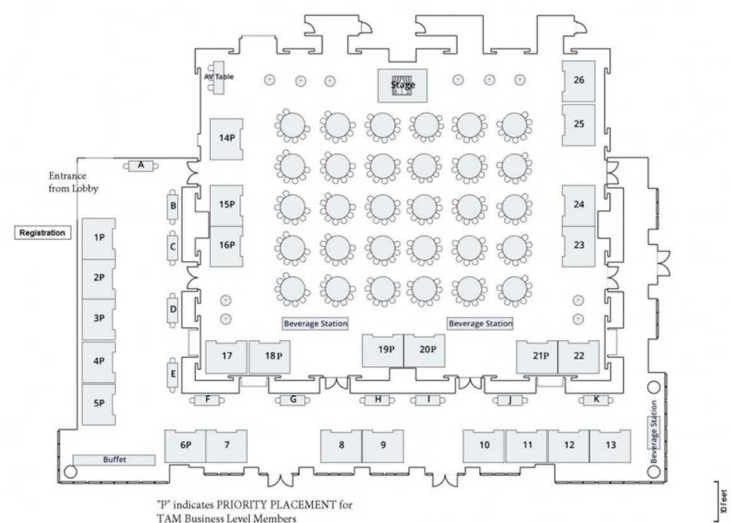
-<https://www.connectingtocollections.org/>

-Provides a variety of free resources like archived webinars.

Do you know of other free resources that should be included on this list? Let Elizabeth know at eneucere@twu.edu!

CMC Booth at TAM

The TAM 2020 Annual Conference is right around the corner, and this year the Collections Managers Committee will have its own exhibit hall booth! Located at Booth E, this exhibit space will give the CMC a chance to connect with potential new members and share our mission with TAM members and non-members alike. If you are interested in helping staff the booth for a short time during the meeting to hand out information, answer questions, and connect with those interested in the CMC's mission, please contact Angela Pfeiffer at angela.pfeiffer@thc.texas.gov or 979-345-4656 x23.



Available Grants and Funding

National Endowment for the Humanities

Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants: The mission of this Challenge Grants program is to strengthen the institutional base of the humanities by enabling infrastructure development and capacity building. Awards aim to help institutions secure long-term support for their core activities and expand efforts to preserve and create access to outstanding humanities materials. Applications are welcome from colleges and universities, museums, public libraries, research institutions, historical societies and historic sites, scholarly associations, state humanities councils, and other public and nonprofit humanities entities. Programs that involve collaboration among multiple institutions are eligible as well, but one institution must serve as the lead applicant of record that will be legally, programmatically, and fiscally responsible for the award.

Application available: March 16, 2020 with maximum grant award of \$750,000

Humanities Collections and Reference Resources: The Humanities Collections and Reference Resources (HCRR) program supports projects that provide an essential underpinning for scholarship, education, and public programming in the humanities. Thousands of libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations across the country maintain important collections of books and manuscripts, photographs, sound recordings and moving images, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, art and material culture, and digital objects. Funding from this program strengthens efforts to extend the life of such materials and make their intellectual content widely accessible, often through the use of digital technology. Awards are also made to create various reference resources that facilitate use of cultural materials, from works that provide basic information quickly to tools that synthesize and codify knowledge of a subject for in-depth investigation.

Application available: May 15, 2020 with maximum grant award of \$350,000

National Archives, National Historical Publications & Records Commission

Publishing Historical Records in Documentary Editions: The National Historical Publications and Records Commission seeks proposals to publish documentary editions of historical records. Projects may focus on broad historical movements in U.S. history, such as politics, law (including the social and cultural history of the law), social reform, business, military, the arts, and other aspects of the national experience, or may be centered on the papers of major figures from American history. Whether conceived as a thematic or a biographical edition, the historical value of the records and their expected usefulness to broad audiences must justify the costs of the project.

Draft Application Due: April 1, 2020 with matching grant of up to \$175,00 for one year.

AASLH SURVEYS

National Visitation Survey

AASLH is calling on all history organizations to complete the 2020 National Visitation Survey. Your response is critical for helping the history community better understand national and regional trends. Better data on national trends will help all history institutions as we advance advocacy, fundraising, strategic planning, and other work critical to the health of the field. Last year AASLH received responses over 1,200 institutions. Texas alone has over 950 history museums, and we would love to see more of them represented in this important data. The questionnaire should take about five minutes to complete, and you can access it here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Visitation2020>

Cultural Heritage Organization Survey

AASLH is also conducting a national survey to gather more information about museums and cultural organizations, how they are structured, and the ways in which they utilize their and other states' Field Services Office (in Texas, that is the THC's Museum Services. This survey will both help show the impact that THC Museum Services has on the organizations they work with and aid them in continuing to provide support, training, and resources to our museum colleagues. You can access the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B7NBKCS>

Who's Who

Are you a new member to CMC or even a long-time member? We love to meet our colleagues!

If you'd like to be featured in the "Who's Who" email Elizabeth at eneucere@twu.edu and you may be in the next newsletter!