Storage for Infinity: Part 1

Museum 202, Section 3 Storage Facilities

> presented by Helen Alten



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Course Agenda Section I: Storage Philosophy **Section 2: Agents of Deterioration Section 3: Storage Facilities Section 4: Storage Furniture Section 5: Conclusion**

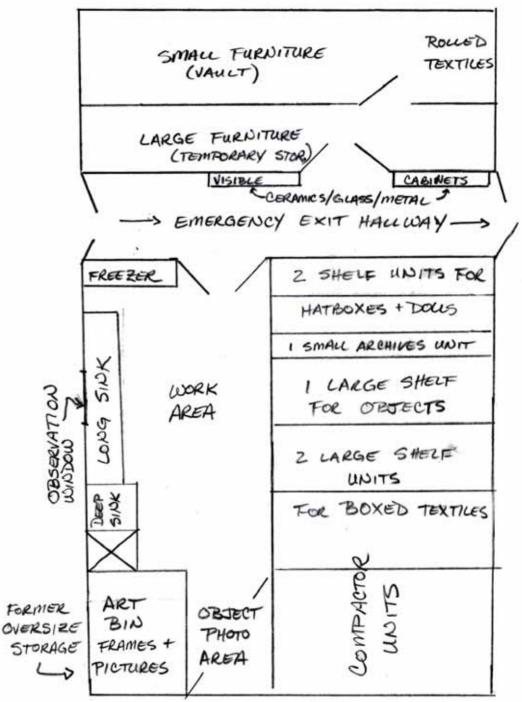
Section 3 Agenda

- **1:** Planning Storage Space
- **2:** Storage Location
- **3:** Construction
- **4: Environmental Controls**
- **5:** Storage Illumination
- **6:** Pollution Control
- 7: Security

Section 3 Agenda (cont.)

8: Emergency Preparedness
9: Housekeeping and Maintenance
10: Building Inspections
11: Pest Control

Planning Storage Spaces



Planning Storage: A team approach

- conservator: preservation guidelines
- curator & researchers: access
- collection manager: storage management and collection use
- registrar: inventory control
- mount maker: supports
- security staff: collection safety

Planning Storage: Consider...

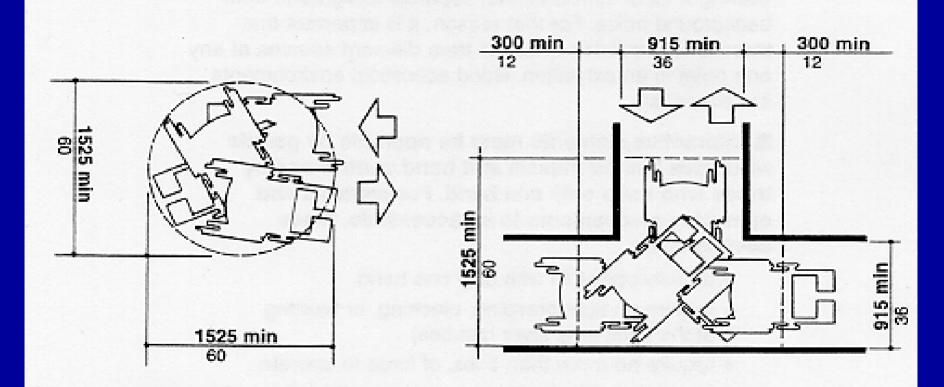
- Environmental Risks
- Artifact Movement
- Maintenance Ease: cleaning under furniture, monitoring
- Security
- Special collection needs: storage during photography, wet collections...

Object Movement

- Avoid bottlenecks
- Adequate ceiling height and wall width in corridors, doors, storage
- Temporary placement tables
- Smooth floors
- No clutter



ADA Corridors & Corners Turning Radius: 60 in. / Corridor: 36 in.



a. 1525-mm (60-in.-) Diameter Space

b. T-shaped Space for 180° Turns

Fig. 20 Wheelchair Turning Space

Planning Storage: Consider...

- Space efficiency
- Use outside professional to suggest different arrangements that could improve space use
- Objects and human safety
- Floor load (350 psf)

Types of Collection Storage Vaults

- Permanent
- Holding Area for Incoming Items
- Temporary/Traveling Shows
- Photography & Conservation (vaults next to labs)
- Research Areas
- Study Storage

Permanent Archives Vault



Wright County Historical Society Buffalo, Minnesota

Other Storage

- Crates
- Exhibit Supports/Mannequins
- Storage Materials
 - -boxes, paper, foam

All can take up a lot of space.

Empty Acid-Free Boxes in Boxes in Collection Storage Area



Planning Storage

- Collection size (numbers & physical): current, in 20 years
- Storage furniture: current needs
 and in 20 years
- Location is critical: (a) staff, public, object movement (b) environmental risks
- Handling: frequency and purpose (exhibits, research)

Not in Permanent Storage

- Maintenance panels
- Holding area for new collections
- Food, animals, dermestid colonies
- Freezer
- Non- Collection Materials:

 Exhibit props, museum store items, publications, cleaning supplies, paints, lumber, trash cans, lawn mowers, gas cans

Maintenance Panels Compromise Storage Security



Determining Space Needs

- Current storage square footage (SF)
- Number of objects in collection (C)
- Average number of yearly donations (D)
 SF / C = Current space per artifact (S)
 D x 20 = projected items in collection (F)
 (F+C)xS = Space needs (no improvements) (NI)
- NI x 2 or 4 = Space needs with improvements

Determining Space Needs

- Current storage (SF) : 5,000
- Nos. of objects (C): 100,000
- Average yearly donations (D): 300
 SF / C = (S) = .05 sq. feet (about 2 1/2 sq. in.)
- $D \times 20 = (F) = 6,000$
- $106,000 \times .05 = (NI) = 5,300$
- NI x 2 or 4 = 21,200 sq. ft. (10 in./artifact)

Useful Planning Tools

- Collection Management Plan
- General Conservation Survey Report
- Self-Assessment Tools (CALIPR)
- Written environmental control parameters
- Written maintenance requirements
- Security plan

Review Written Guidelines How is the space used?

- Integrated Pest Management
- Handling
- Access
- Storage area cleaning and care

Review Written Guidelines How is the space used?

- Recommended Mount Materials & Techniques
- Temporary Storage Guidelines
- Disability Considerations
- Security: People and Collection

Resources

Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Exhibition Design, 1996

Smithsonian Guidelines for Accessible Design for Facilities and Sites

Both available on-line.

Resources

Smithsonian Accessibility Program **Arts and Industries Building Room 1410 MRC 410 Washington, D.C., 20560** 202-786-2942 (voice), 202-786-2414 (TTY), 202-786-2210 (fax), asmem113@sivm.si.edu

Construction



New Construction

- Pre-construction manual listing nonnegotiable areas during later cost-cutting.
- Insulation and vapor barriers in walls, ceiling AND floor. (box within a box)
- Impenetrable walls, ceiling, floors, doors.
- HVAC, elevators and maintenance panels outside storage area.
- Seal cracks and crevices. Hardware cloth in walls and under floors.

Retrofitting Existing Structure

- Insulation and vapor barriers built inside walls, box within a box.
- Seal cracks and crevices. Hardware cloth in walls, ceiling and under floors.
- An elevator for more than one level.
- Build ramps to smooth floor transitions.
- Gutters under pipes and ducts.
- Block windows.

Storage Requirements

- Climate Controls

 temperature/humidity
- Minimize Pollution
 - -gaseous
 - -particulate
- Minimize Light
- Block Pests

Storage Planning Placement of -windows -doors -ventilation ducts -sprinklers -plumbing **Public spaces vs. staff only areas**

Storage Area: Uncovered Windows



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Windows Covered

Storage area has bare tungsten bulb, narrow door, and window shade. Light still enters through shade, causing fading. Need heavier material, sealed on sides.

Storage Area: Water Above Storage



Sewage pipe

Ducts Near Ceiling No Insulation



Insulated Ceiling Ducts



Water Drain Above Cabinet

Leaky drain

Roof and gutter built by museum to protect storage cabinets.



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Ceiling Lower than expected because of suspended items

1. Exit light too low, had to be removed for cabinets to enter storage. 2. Awkward light and sprinkler placement. 3. Low ducts.



Storage Room Door

Problems 1. Hinges on outside. 2. Clutter in front. 3. Visibility blocked. 4. Difficult to open both doors.





Narrow Storage Door

Difficult to enter room with a cart:

- sharp corner
- partially blocked by bookcase
- narrow door.

Clutter limits shelf access



Corridor Width

- Wide enough for a wheel chair (36 inches / 1 m.)
- Provide fire break.
- Easier for object movement.
- Keep clutter free.



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Low Sprinkler Head

Required 20 inch radius makes the top storage shelf barely useable.



Collection Room Sink

- Better if located outside storage.
- Used for cleaning supplies, brushes and coffee cups more than collections.
- Added source of water problems.

Public Examination / Reading Rooms

- Secure area
- Researchers observed
- Pencils, no pens/ink
- Sink nearby for clean hands
- Provide handling tools: gloves, bone folder, microspatula, acid-free paper
- Informational signs

Loading Dock



Security window in small door.

 Easy path to storage area. Needs moveable lift. • Difficult for freight trucks to back up to. • Best if covered, secure area. Security lights

attract pests.

Off-Site Storage



Storage Barn Good "box within a box" candidate





No Regular Housekeeping

Years of accumulated dust/debris
Rat, mice, bird feces

This storage area provides no protection.



Environmental Controls

Stabilizing T & RH

- Put sensitive objects in best conditions
- Do not place next to or over heat or cold sources
 - heat: furnace vents, interior case lights, daylight
 - cold: exterior walls, floors, windows, doors (6 inch rule)

HVAC

- Located outside storage rooms
- Filter incoming and recirculated air to ASHRAE 90-95% level
- Moderately dry environment
- Moderately cool environment

HVAC

Small unit for storage area located on second floor storage balcony.

Area of concern: Air conditioning condensate line.





HVAC Condensate Lines

Detail of A/C condensate lines showing pressure fitted plastic connectors.

Hole in floor to main storage level.

A/C Condensate Line



Yellow liquid is "water" condensing from cooled air. Obviously something else is in the line, too.

A/C Condensate Drain

Liquid corrosive enough to damage copper pipe.

Floor Drain and A/C Condensate Line



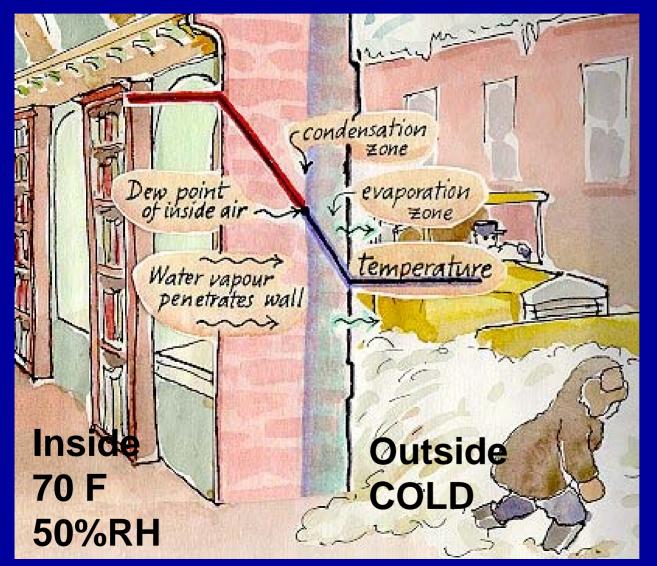
Floor stains show prior water problems. Pipe should turn into drain.

Adding moisture can harm your building

- Moisture freezes in walls
- Ice lenses push off masonry surface
- Moisture causes exterior paint bubbles
- Wood siding will rot

It is better to raise relative humidity by lowering temperature, than by adding water to the air.

Ice Forms in Walls at condensation zone



Need vapor barrier, insulation, and lower RH.

Walls deteriorate without them.

From Tim Padfield

New Construction insulation and vapor barriers help keep moisture out of walls

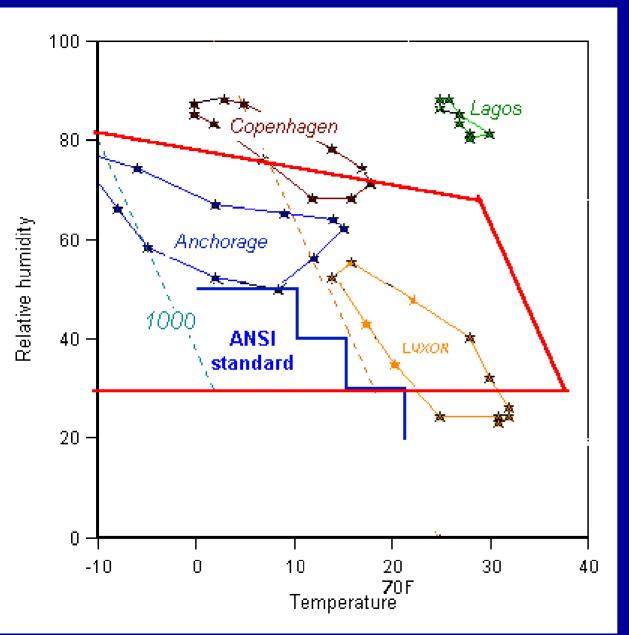


Dry Climates

- Does your outside humidity average 25% year round?
- DO NOT try for 50% inside your building
- You will:
 - Wreck the walls of your building
 - Harm the collection, which is acclimated to 25%

Dry Climates

- Try to stabilize RH at a reasonable level for your climate (25%)
- Do not travel sensitive items outside your region unless they are in sealed, climate-controlled containers.
- Be clear in loan documents that you DO NOT maintain Thomson's 50% RH in your building.



Within the red lines is the nondamaging climate for black and white photographs.

The blue lines are the ANSI standard for safe B&W storage.

The dotted lines are the climate for 1000 years (green) or 100 years (orange) longevity.

http://www.natmus.dk/cons/jsj/arrh2.htm from Tim Padfield

A Suggestion from Tim Padfield

- The ANSI standard requires HVAC
- Equipment life = 20 years
- Instead, adjust your climate slightly to bring it within the red lines.
- Less expensive to install and maintain
- More likely to be possible.
- Note that the longest life occurs below freezing.

Special Note

- Most of the climate storage standards come from photograph preservation
- We have some data, but not enough, about other materials
- Keep your ears open for new developments

Pollutants

Limiting Pollutants

- Avoid
- Block
- Absorb
- Dilute

Avoid Pollutants

- HVAC separate for storage
 no air from the rest of the building
- Wood shops and other pollutant generators in separate structures
- Notice location of air intake and pollutant sources (roads, loading dock)
- Test building materials. Use those designed for allergy sufferers.
- Clean storage with ULPA or HEPA vacuum cleaners.

Block Pollutants

- 90-95% HVAC filtration for particles
- Seal wood cabinets and shelves
 - Aluminum foil
 - Marvelseal
 - Formica laminate
- Seal cement floors and walls
- Caulk and seal crevices
- Silicone gaskets on storage cabinets

Absorb Pollutants

- Activated Charcoal filters (\$)

 HVAC filters
 Inside storage cabinets

 Potassium Permanganate filters (\$\$\$\$)
 - HVAC only

Dilute Pollutants

- Good air circulation within storage
 Avoid dead spaces
 - Open up rooms (lots of cubby holes are harder to climate control)
- Vented storage cabinets
 Filter at vent for dust or fumes

Limiting Environmental Effects

- Building Controls: physical plant
- Portable Fittings: furnishings, portable equipment and supplies
- Procedures: staff training and policies

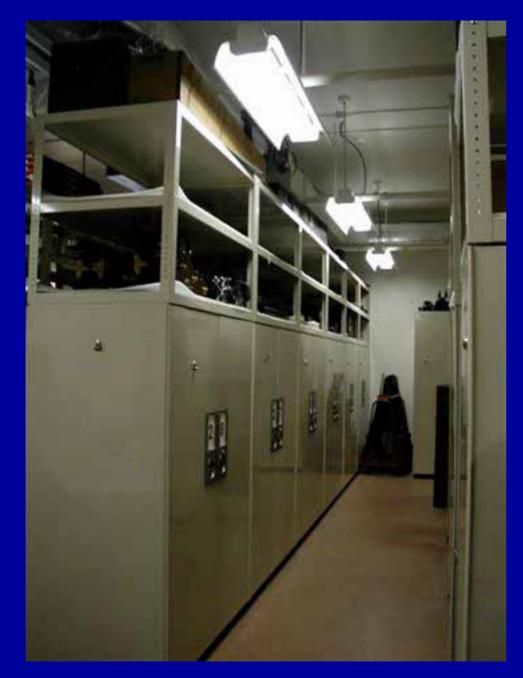
Reducing Contaminants

Test Materials and Cases:

- A-D strips
- lead, silver & copper coupons
- passive samplers (wide variety)
- gas or aerosol dosimeters
- Cure coatings until smell gone (2 weeks?)
- Identify susceptible artifacts

Reducing Contaminants Iimiting the effects of poor storage materials

- Use barriers: Mylar, fabric, aluminum foil, Marvelseal or Aclar
- Place Mylar or polyester felt under objects (barrier / separator)
- Filtered air flow in cases



Storage Illumination

Buffalo Bill Historical Center Cody, Wyoming

Storage Lighting

- Internally UV filtered fluorescent lights with polycarbonate cover best (0 mW/I UV)
- High color rendering index (CRI)
- Bounce indirect light off ceiling/walls
 Titanium dioxide in paint absorbs UV
- Wire sections to separate switches
- Design for maintenance ease
- Design for low-cost operation
- Design for higher lighting during monitoring and cleaning

Lighting is one place where you CAN save money by saving energy.

Lamps / Bulbs

Suitability

- color rendering
- color temperature
- amount of light generated (lumens)
- spectral power distribution (graph of wavelengths)
- lamp life
- fixture
- intensity
- cost (ease of changing & cost of bulb)

Color

Color Temperature

- Warm: 3200 K & lower (1900K = candle flame)
- Cool: 4000 K & higher (5500K = sunlight)
- Color Rendering Index (0-100 scale)
- 100 = no distortion
- 75-80 = OK
- 55-65 = fair/poor
- 0 = total distortion

Lamps / Bulbs

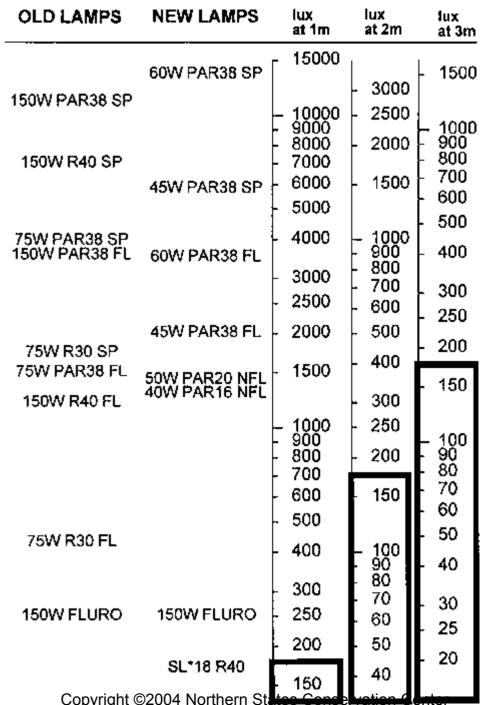
Incandescent (heat, some UV)

- tungsten
- Quartz lamp: tungsten + inert gas Fluorescent (UV)

Fiber Optics (no heat, no UV, not good for general lighting)

High Intensity Discharge (LOTS of UV)

In the U.S., energy conservation resulted in all new light bulbs in the 1990s. This chart shows how old and new lamps compare.



Illuminance

Amount of visible radiation striking a point on a surface from all directions.
Measured as lux or footcandles
Over time, measured as lux hours or footcandle hours (cumulative)

 (Lux hours = exposure time multiplied by illuminance in lux)

Luminance

- Visible radiation reflected or transmitted by a surface in the direction of the viewer.
- It is a product of illuminance and surface reflectance.
- (Ex. 1: same illuminance, glossy surface looks brighter than matte surface)
- (Ex. 2: same illuminance and gloss, light surface looks brighter than dark surface)

Eye Adaptation

- Light to dark adaptation: about 5 minutes
- Dark to light adaptation: seconds

Perception of Brightness

- An individual response with no unit of measure
- Approximately 10x luminance to sense doubled brightness
- Visual noise distractions
- Aging affects adaptation and perception
- Eye is drawn to brightest spot

Visual Noise



- Pattern/Visual Clutter
- Inconsistent illumination



Reducing UV Radiation Eliminate wavelengths below 400 nm

- limit exposure
 - shades, blinds, diffusers
 - sheet films or varnishes
 - rigid plastic sheet (polycarbonate)
- storage design
 - choose low UV bulbs
 - place items in low UV areas
- paint (titanium white)

Reducing Visible Light

- limit exposure
 - boxes
 - cabinets
 - blackout fabric drapes over shelves / large items
 - block windows
- phased lighting
- monitor exposure
 - blue wool fade cards
 - Hobo datalogger
 - light meter or camera
 - CCI light slide rule

Reducing Visible Light light and dust covers



Yellow Lighting

Yellow filters eliminate damaging blue light. However, they are annoying for staff.



Yellow Lighting

Yellow filters make it difficult to:
Identify / examine artifacts
Monitor for pests

Lights Too Close



Accessible Light Levels Disability guidelines

- Ambient: 5-30 fc
- Text panels: 10-30 fc
- Specimens, objects: 10-30 fc
- Ramps, stairs, pathways: 10-30 fc

Directional signage: 20-30 fc

(note: 1 fc is approximately 10 lux)



Building for Security

- Good exterior lighting
- Exterior clear of bushes and debris
- secure windows, doors and skylights
- check that telephone, power and emergency lines are tamper proof
- Solid exterior doors: wood, steel or aluminum alloy
- Door frames, window frames, keyholes, locks resist prying, twisting, or cutting

Building for Security

- Two locks on storage room doors
- Clear sight lines (no hidden entrances)
- Security window in door
- Lighting activated from exterior
- Seal/screen windows to prevent people from dropping materials out
- Locked cabinets, cages, vaults for valuable materials

Security Procedures

- Visitor log / guest book
- Control / limit keys
- Visitors to storage accompanied by a staff member
- Record of movement of objects and people in and out of storage
- Researchers supervised at all times Inventory control
 - catalog the collection, identify valuable materials, conduct regular inventories

Reducing Theft / Vandalism in Storage

- Security cameras with tape backups, motion detectors
- Lock and alarm doors to storage areas.
- Motion detectors inside storage areas.
- Appropriate lighting in all areas
- Research areas outside storage
- Locks on cabinets

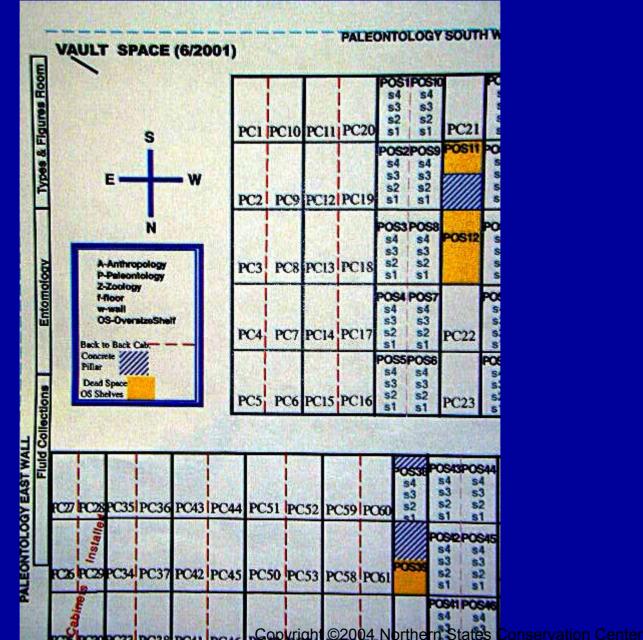
Electronic Access



Reducing Displacement

- Annual inventory or partial inventory
- Sign items in and out
- Maintain a location file
- Place cards in storage spot when item removed
- Clear accession records and clear accession numbers on objects
- Maintain catalog to identify losses

Map for Collections Storage

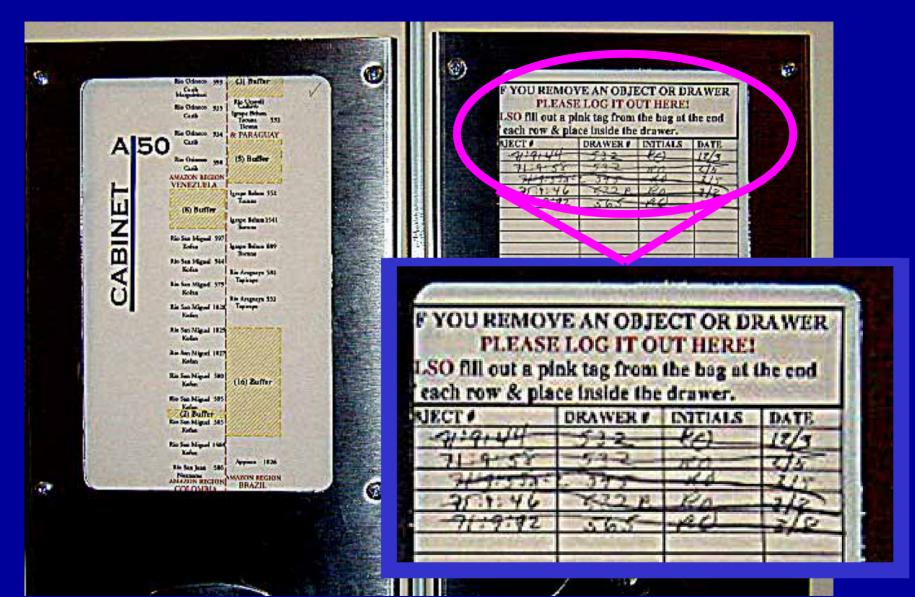


Cabinet Location

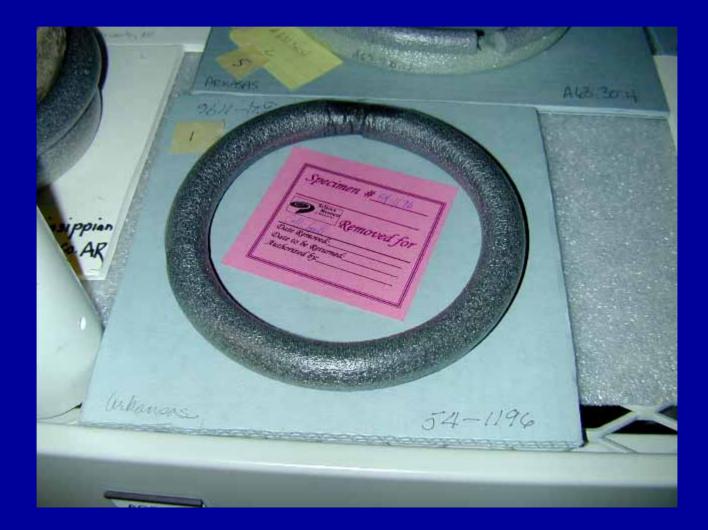
CABINETS A119-A122

ARCHAEOLOGY STATES SW POTTERY WORLD

Artifact Location Record



Object Removal Labels



Maintaining Storage Security

- Log sheets/notebooks at doors or electronic swipe cards
- Storage location plans in room and on each cabinet
- Object movement log forms (tied to location cards or computer record)
- "Object removed" placement cards

Research Area Theft Deterrents

- Staff in area when open
- Visitor log / guest book
- Clear sight lines (no hidden entrances)
- Appropriate lighting in all areas
- Lockers outside room, limit bags

Alarms

- Intrusion detection and alarm sensitive to sound and movement
- Early warning fire detection system tied to local fire or police department
- Water alarms
- Environmental fluctuation alarms

Alarm Placement



Why not line it up with the motion sensor? (pink circle)

Too expensive to change AFTER construction.

Cabinets could not block emergency light. Thus, the corridor is 3 feet wider than necessary.

Alarm Placement



Why not move it up on wall and line it up with motion sensor? (pink circle)

Wall racks could not go up as high as desired because of low emergency light.

Emergency Preparedness: Building Features

Fire Suppression

- Water-based, automatic fire suppression systems with regular maintenance
- Individually active heads
- Mist systems may not be good enough and may not meet fire codes
- NOT gas systems too damaging to collections and staff
- NOT dry pipe ?

Fire Suppression

- Hand-held extinguishers by doors

 inspect annually
- Train staff in their use
- Make sure everyone has a copy of the museum's disaster plan and knows response procedures for fires

Storage Room Wall

Equipment scattered over open wall made it impossible to use it for storage. Cabinets could not block emergency equipment.

Better planning would have consolidated the equipment.



Reducing Electrical Fire Risk

- Wiring in rigid (EMT) or flexible conduit
 - installed/ maintained to National Electrical Code
 - UL listed wiring- National and local Electrical Code
 - grounded conductor identified continuously throughout system

Reducing Electrical Fire Risk

- Electrical Equipment:
 - installed/ maintained to National Electrical Code
 - UL listed wiring and devices,
 - NFPA 70 National Electrical Code

Reducing Electrical Fire Risk

- Extension Cords
 - not a substitute for fixed wiring
 - grounding type
 - internal circuit breaker on multiple outlet cords
 - unplug at the end of the day

Reducing Fire from Construction

- Non-combustible or fire retardent construction materials
 - structural steel: 2 hour fire resistance
 - structural wood: fire retardant and pressure impregnated
 - draperies, bunting: flame resistant, NEPA's Standard NFPA 701

Reducing Fire from Construction

- Regularly inspect and maintain wiring
- Place flammables in proper, labeled storage cabinets far from exit doors, collections and spark or heat sources
- Do not disguise or hide extinguishers and/or hoses
- Design space to stop fire & limit path obstructions
- Vent lights, audiovisual cabinets and other electrical equipment

Reducing Water

- Alarm water areas drains, under pipes
- Water resistant cabinets
- Collections 3-6" off floors, 6" from walls
- Inspect after heavy rain or thaw
- Train janitors to limit water use
- Use packing crates supported by skids (polyethylene donuts) and wrap objects in water resistant packing materials

Housekeeping and Maintenance

Good Housekeeping in Storage

- Reduces damage from abrasion
- Reduces pest habitat
- Opportunity to monitor
- Less mold
- Better impression to visitors
- Models good practices
- Written housekeeping plan
 - regularly performed tasks in detail
 - special instructions for specific materials

Cleaning Storage

- Regular, at least weekly, vacuum cleaning with a high-filtration canister vacuum (ULPA best).
- No wet cleaning unless unavoidable then monitor RH carefully during process
- Vacuum under all storage furniture
- Vacuum room corners, cracks and crevices
- Do not clean collection. (They should be protected from dust.)

Building Inspections

The building is your first line of defense...

Basic Building Maintenance

- Prolongs equipment life
- Maintenance calendar post visibly
- Regular filter changes for HVAC
- Caulk and seal new cracks and crevices
- Remove plants next to building (pest habitat and security risk)

Regular Inspections

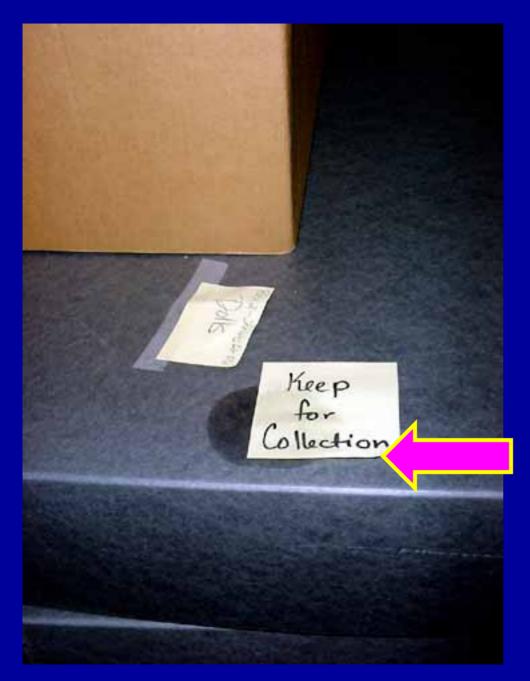
- Quarterly inspections of structure, equipment and grounds
- Inspect collection and exhibit areas monthly
- Use a checklist (see CCI notes)
- Begin at the top of the building and work down.

Regular Inspections

- Check belts, hoses and oil moving parts in HVAC as recommended
- Routine inspections for pipe leaks, voids in seals around duct and pipe chases and other problems.
- Regular inspection of fire protection systems (NFPA)
- Monthly pest monitoring (IPM)

Potential Water Leaks Labeled Pipes in Storage





Water Drips

Moisture on box from condensation dripping off an uninsulated cold water pipe overhead.

Pest Control

Reducing Pests

- Regular inspection
- Avoid wool carpets/ fabric
- Keep building clean and free of food, plants (none at staff desks)
- Caulk and seal cracks and crevices
- Treat construction wood before bringing into building
- Use elevated, insect resistant cabinets

Integrated Pest Management

A Case Study of Risk Management

Analyze Situation

Use CCI Framework for Preservation

 Building
 Portable fittings
 Procedures

Actions

- Avoid
- Block
- Detect
- Respond
- Recover/treat

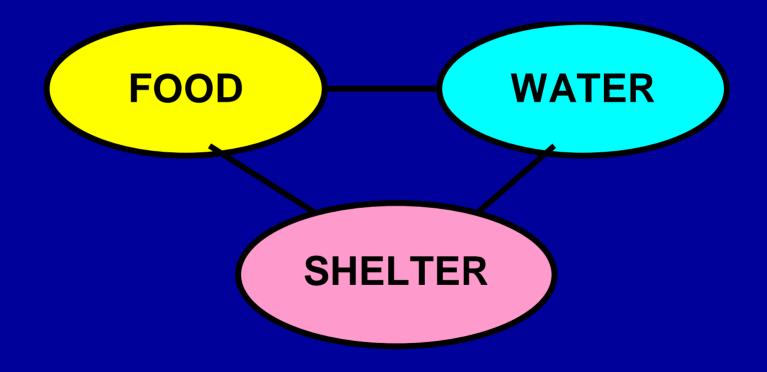
Avoid Problems

- Eliminate attractants

 Pest habitats (plants, cardboard)
 Lighting
 Food (garbage)
 Water

 Establish sanitary perimeters
- Good house keeping

Pest Attractants



Sanitary Perimeter

At least 3 feet of gravel or cement around the building.



Block Problems

- Caulk and seal all holes in building
- Exclude pests from building

 Sticky traps around drains & thresholds
 Quarantine incoming organic items
- Exclude pests with storage furniture
 Use pest resistant materials (metal)
- Pesticide barriers (perimeter pesticides)

Covered Garbage Can



Sticky Trap by Drain



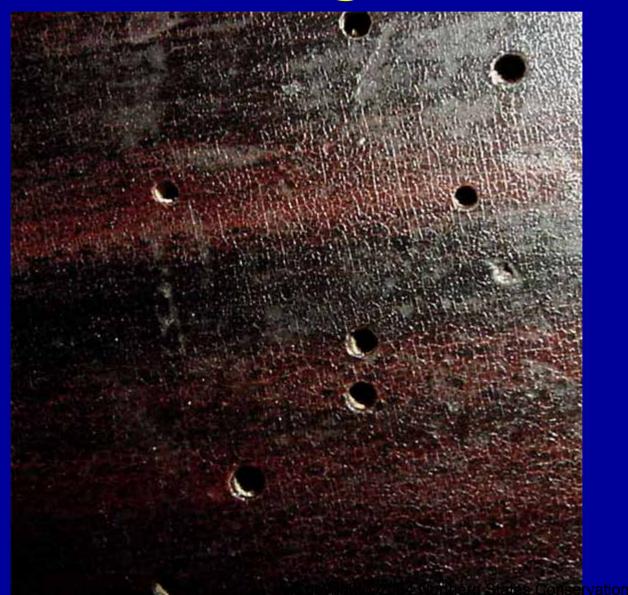
Detect

- Monitor/ Trap
 - Insects: sticky traps, pheromone lures
 - -Vermin: snap traps, box traps
 - -Mold: inspection
- Identify pests
- Regular (monthly) inspections, keep log

Monitor with Sticky Trap



Look for Flight Holes



Respond

- Good house keeping
- Pest Management Team
- Eradication methods
 - -trapping
 - -thermal controls (heat, cold)
 - -controlled atmosphere
 - -pesticide/fumigation
- Mold: Dehumidifiers & fans

Freezing Insect Control



Recovery/Treatment

- Evaluate techniques and procedures
- Improve sanitation
- Improve control methods
- Improve monitoring
- Restore artifacts (irreversible damage)
- Educate staff and public

Procedures Summary

- Establish an IPM
- Remove and control food sources: place lids on garbage cans, keep building clean and free of food or plants
- Regular building inspection and maintenance
 - -maintain seals
- Regular staff training

Responding to Infestations

- Identify pest and reason why present
- Isolate item or area
- Determine effective controls

 (bag and freeze artifact, treat with heat, anoxic treatment or apply perimeter pesticides)
- Clean item and area
- Monitor to ensure problem is resolved

Pest Resources

Bio-Integral Resource Center P.O. Box 7414 Berkeley, CA 94707 Tel: 510-524-2567, Fax: 510-524-1758 U. of Minnesota Extension Service **\$5** Specimen identification

TEL 612-624-4771 or 888-624-4771

Café in Gallery Near Storage

