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Collections Policy for Skidmore Archaeological Collection
Skidmore College Department of Anthropology
First prepared by Edward V. Curtin, Archaeological Consultant, in consultation with Susan J.
Bender, Associate Professor of Anthropology, 1993-1994

Revised and updated 2021 Siobhan Hart, Associate Professor of Anthropology

Old policy: https://www.skidmore.edu/anthropology/lab/curation.php

Introduction
This policy was initially prepared and adopted in 1994 in the form of the scope of collection
statement recommended in the National Park Service Museum Handbook, Part 1 (2:1-14). This
format recognizes the comprehensive, institutional, fiduciary responsibility attendant to the
curation of archaeological collections, while providing a logical structure to consider the issues,
procedures, and protocols contained in the policy. The policy was revised in 2021 following the
scope of collections management policies recommended in the Museum Registration Methods,
5th edition and American Alliance of Museums with updates to the range of responsibilities and
revisions to conform to current ethical, fiduciary, and legal standards.

This policy aligns with the mission of Skidmore College and the Anthropology Department. The
primary focus is on the education of Skidmore College students. Skidmore College seeks to
prepare liberally-educated undergraduates in their quests for knowledge and prepare them to
make the choices required of informed, responsible citizens. This includes hands-on learning
and practical training in

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Objects under consideration for deaccession may be of insufficient educational or
archaeological interest, meaning incapable of providing scientific or humanistic understandings
of past human behavior, cultural adaptation, and related topics. Material that lacks
provenience may be of reduced archaeological interest but may still retain educational value
and should be evaluated accordingly.

Further, deaccessioning may occur when objects are overly redundant and not useful for
research or teaching.

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Information disclosing s ite locations will be provided upon req uest to appropriate agencies,

consultants, or individuals in order to reduce the potential of archaeological site destruction as

a result of economic development, looting, or other threat.

The use of Skidmore's archaeological collections, records, photographs, archaeological

databases, and reports of research (including contract reports) must be acknowledged. Reports

and publications must be referenced acco rding to author, title, and date, and for unpubli sh ed

works, o rigin at Skidmore College. Further, acknowledgemen t of Skidmore College as repository

is necessary in schol arship (print or di gi tal), or other ways of sharing research with the public.

Photos, maps, and journals generated in courses, independent studies, or collaborative

research experiences belong to the SAC archive. Print or digital reports, publications or other

products created with the SAC must be p rovided to the SAC curator for inclusion in the SAC

archive. Commercial use of the SAC is not permitted.

Triennial Review

This plan should be reviewed by the SAC committee every three years and revised as necessary

to account for changes which may occur in college programs or the specific co nditions of

archaeological collections curation.