

Joint Meeting of RBMS Collection Development Discussion Group and Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group Meeting

ALA Annual Meeting 2019, Washington, D. C.

Saturday, June 22, 1-2 pm

Washington Hilton, Room Gunston

The Ethics of Collecting

- I. Brief presentation of Flair Symposium at the Harry Ransom Center
 - a. Day in a half intensive workshop.
 - <https://shop.hrc.utexas.edu/product-p/flair19.htm>
 - Series of discussions between professions in libraries and archives
 - b. *Ethical Challenges in Cultural Stewardship*
 - c. Questions posed at the Symposium
 - Where does a collection belong? Who decides?
 - What happens when ethical questions in the present call for researchers and institutions to reexamine approaches to existing collections?
 - How should ethics inform decisions about deaccessioning, repatriation, change in mission, and collection development?
 - How should institutions and communities responsibly collect, curate, conserve, and provide access to records of oppression, hate, and violence?
 - How should institutions and communities confront and rectify exclusionary practices?
 - d. Discussion
 - CARE technique- clarify the question; assess the environment, audience; re-contextualize, and elevate conversation.
 - e. Videos may be available online and discussion findable on Twitter.
- II. Questions posted after the presentation

- a. Where does a collection belong and who decides? List of topics brought up through the discussion:

Regional materials and other scopes

What is the mission of the receiving location?

Research where the collection might go.

Example is the Kafka collection belonging to the Bodleian and a German Library.

What is best for the researchers and users?

Is it ethical to collect and not process?

Mention of RBMS 2019 session on “The Limits of Growth” panel

Sharing collections with storage spaces, facility, and monetarily.

Example: Painting that was stolen by the Third Reich and ended up at U of

Oklahoma

Cooperative cataloging of materials- will send you materials for you to cataloging

How is it sustainable? To ship? To use other staff time?

Henry Kissinger Papers.

Post custodial cataloging- Digitize and archive Guatemalan National Police

archive- free labor for communities.

Voice of the owner and the creators

Need for provenance information

Responsibility of libraries and archives to provide access and process

Must take the collection because of exterior forces- Administration, foundation

Repatriation— no examples so far

Arabic materials example- purchased materials sold by someone in the family.

Family member contested the purchase, but a visitor said to have the institution keep them because they were being better cared for the items.

b. Native American Materials

Conservation techniques in the past have damaged the materials spiritually and physically.

Legal procedures- In the U.S. and Canada, what are the laws that hold us to these rules?

c. Sealed papers- Recent ruling on the University of Michigan V. Hassan Ahmad about the John Tanton Papers, but the courts pointed to the Library's mission of access.

Why are you making that donor agreement? What is the rationale for sealing the papers? What will you do with that information?

Unsealed for everyone or for the person requesting the unsealing

Discourage donors from donating to public institutions.

In the deed of gift should explicitly state restrictions?

Student and medical record restrictions--

d. Different levels of restrictions and some of it is based on the donor's wishes

Access restricted- curatorial approval

e. Documenting the history of the donation and the discussion

Having the conversation about what will happen after the donor death.

III. Collecting Materials

a. Donation vs. purchasing donations from living donors.

- b. Financial situation of the donor
- c. De-accessioning policies

Collection scope fit

Resource impact

- d. ALA Resources-

<http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit/controversial>

IV. Collection Development topics for ALA Midwinter- Philadelphia

- a. Topic for next time- discussion of de-accession policies.

V. Manuscript and Other Formats topics for ALA Midwinter- Philadelphia

- a. Post custodial archives and community archives