

Strategies for Advancing Hidden Collections Webinar 5

Overcoming project hurdles: Approaches to identifying and managing collection red flags

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See also: [Scenarios](#)

Notes and Chat History, Dealing With the Past

Notes

Scenario:

Your non-tribal collecting institution has a historic collection of indigenous music recordings. The analog tapes are degrading and there is an opportunity to undertake a mass digitization project for preservation and to provide online access.

Legally, the recordings belong to your institution. However, you know that they were created in the context of colonial extraction and appropriation, and that laws do not provide the means to recognize the indigenous group's rights in relation to the recordings. The recordings may also have cultural, religious, and political meanings that your institution is not aware of.

What ethical questions need to be addressed in relation to this digitization project?

- Copyright and intellectual property rights, privacy issues
- Input from stakeholders
- Sensitive specimen data

What strategies can be employed to proceed with this project in an ethical way?

- if possible, consult with members of the indigenous tribe
- what is the structure of the current tribal authority
- deaccessioned some Native American materials and gave them to an institution that was a better fit for the items

Chat History

Yvonne Ng:What ethical questions need to be addressed in relation to this digitization project?

What strategies can be employed to proceed with this project in an ethical way?

Naomi Steinberger:copyright

Rhodes College:appropriate and accurate representation of content

Robin Grunwald:Input from stakeholders

Melissa Anderson:sensitive specimen data

Joan Naturale:YOU NEED AN ADVISORY GROUP OF INDIGIENOUS COMMUNITY AND GET THEIR INPUT

Dee Gallo:They should be preserved but I think it might be necessary to forego online access

Katharine Rapkin:privacy issues regarding ceremony and sacred materials

Wofford College:if possible, consult with members of the ind
MonaLisa Whitaker:seek guidance from tribal leaders to become more informed about
collection

Allison Young:It would certainly be polite to contact the indigenous group

Karmen Beecroft, Ohio University:If the tribal group is still extant, what is the structure of the
current tribal authority

Amanda Strobel Wise | Rock County Historical Society:Possibly partnership to explore the
meaning of the recordings and returning them

Ricki Moskowitz:Make sure to consult with repository's legal counsel before moving forward
with any reformatting

Samantha Dodd:I worked at a museum where we deaccessioned some native american
materials and gave them to an insitution that was a better fit for the items

MonaLisa Whitaker:it could be an excellent opportunity to establish essential relationships with
tribal community

Allison Young:If the recordings have a sacred aspect, it may not be appropriate for them to be
openly available

Sachiko Iwabuchi:The ownership of the members in the tribe. If one member in the tribe agrees
on preservation while other member disagrees, who decides the right to perserve?

Rhodes College:you might return the materials and offer to jointly work to preserve them and
provide agreed upon access