

Materials contributed by Candace Greene

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These materials are from a course that I teach as Adjunct Faculty for the Anthropology Department of George Washington University. This is a graduate seminar that meets once a week for two hours. In addition to grad students from Anthropology, there are usually students from Museum Studies and sometimes from Museum Education. Enrollment is usually 12-18 students. Almost all of the students express a goal of museum employment in collections management, registration, exhibit development, or other public programs. Only a few are preparing for a research career and planning to continue their education past the MA. My goal for the course is to contribute to a museum work force that brings anthropological thinking to all aspects of the job.

The collections used for the Assignment are in the Smithsonian's Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History. However, I have also assembled additional materials for use in a classroom setting. These are **not** accessioned and are not of much monetary value; most were purchased recently from souvenir shops or thrift stores. Classwork with these objects is designed to prepare students to successfully carry out an assignment using real museum collections.

The assignment included here is a semester-long research project on various aspects of a historical accession in the Dept. of Anthropology's collections. These are real accessions that I do not research in advance. You never know what information students will come up with, but it always seems to work out. Students find it rewarding to work on real collections and to know that the information they assemble will be added to museum records. The assignment results in a valued product as well as serving as a useful learning process.

Students get a total of two hours in individual direct engagement with objects in the collection, an hour each at two different points in the semester. This is the only that requires staff oversight. I manage this through the use of a TA, usually a former collections intern, whom the Collections Manager has OK'd to take visitors into storage. I accompany students on one of these visits to provide individual guidance in how to look at objects. Students also visit various archives where they have the same access and services provided to any researcher. No other museum staff time is required. At the conclusion of the semester, useful reports (usually all of them) are added to our database as pdfs by either myself or the TA. Sometimes I also extract information to correct or enhance particular data fields. Students are justifiably proud of their contributions.

MATERIALS POSTED

Syllabus with topics and readings

Assignment,
Instructions on resources to check

Materials for individual lessons

Exercise for students to assemble information – the *kuspak*
Key Terms and Concepts (originally a Powerpoint)
Handout of information flow relating to museum catalog information
Collecting Factors (assembled from class discussion)

Useful Reference Things Provided to Students

How to Cite Collection Records (SI oriented but could be applied widely)
Guide to Collection Records (Smithsonian specific)
Tool Kit #1 (biographical research on donors/collectors)
Tool Kit #2 (literature on material objects)
Tool Kit #3 (some major online databases for anthropology)

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George Washington University
Anthropology 6201.01
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Candace Greene
Wed. 6:10 – 8:00, NMNH

ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE MUSEUM

Week 1 Jan. 17 Getting acquainted; goals and core concepts of the course

Ulrich, L.T., I. Gaskell, S. J. Schechner, and S.A. Carter
2015 Selections from, *Tangible Things: Making History Through Objects*. Oxford:
Oxford University Press.
[demonstration of ways we'll think about objects through the course]

HOW COLLECTIONS TAKE SHAPE IN THE PAST...

Week 2 Jan. 24 Just what is a museum anyway?

Banks, Marcus
2001 Reading Pictures. In *Visual Methods in Social Research*, by Marcus Banks. Pp.
1-12. Sage Publications Limited.
[consider the evident surface of objects against evidence of their history]

Gosden, Chris and Frances Larson
2007 What is a Museum? In *Knowing Things: Exploring the Collections
at the Pitt Rivers Museum, 1884-1945*, by Chris Gosden and Frances Larson. Pp. 1-13.
Oxford: Oxford University Press.
[think about museums as sets of networks among people]

Pearce, Susan M.
1994 Introduction. In *Interpreting Objects and Collections*. S. Pearce, ed. Pp. 1-
6. New York: Routledge.
[think about all the things out there in the world, and the sub-set in the museum]

Thomas, Nicholas
2010 The Museum as Method. *Museum Anthropology* 33(1): 6-10. (Available for
download through Aladin)
[consider alternative perspectives of moving from questions to objects, or from
objects to questions]

Week 3 Jan. 31 Says who? Documentation and Attribution

Greene, Candace S.

1992 Attribution, Documentation, and the Ideal Type. In *Art and Artifacts: Essays in Material Culture and Museum Studies in Honor of Jane Powell Dwyer*. H. Juli, ed. Pp. 9-17. Brown University Research Papers in Anthropology, 5. Providence: Brown University.

[focus on the concepts bound up in attribution and documentation]

Sturtevant, William C.

1966 Ethnographic Collections and Curatorial Records. *Museum News* 44(7): 16-19.

[consider what issues computerization has and hasn't resolved in 50+ years]

Guide to Collections Records, Ethnology and Archaeology Collections. Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Anthropology.

[read this one carefully; keep it for continual reference]

Week 4 Feb. 7 Surely there must be more...: Enhancing Museum Records

Grafe, Steven

2001 Walking in Strange Gardens: Early Floral Design in the Columbia River Plateau, by Steven Grafe. In *Painters, Patrons, and Identity: Essays in Native American Art to Honor J.J. Brody*. Joyce M. Szabo, ed. Pp. 263-280. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.

[look at how he gathered information, how he used it to construct collection history]

Hollinger, Eric R.

2003 Inventory and Assessment of Human Remains and Funerary Objects Potentially Affiliated with the Menominee Tribe in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Unpublished report, Repatriation Office, NMNH.

[Focus on pages 21-47. Make a list of the types of sources used – with awesome results]

Norcini, Marilyn

2008 Frederick Johnson's 'River Desert Algonquin' Materials at the University of Pennsylvania Museum: A Collection History, by Marilyn Norcini. *Museum Anthropology* 31(2):122-147. (available for download through Aladin)

[look at types of information gathered to support an intellectual history]

Week 5 Feb. 14 How did they end up here? Building Context of Collecting

O'Hanlon, Michael.

2000 Introduction. In *Hunting the Gatherers: Ethnographic Collectors, Agents, and Agency in Melanesia, 1870s-1930s*. Michael O'Hanlon and Robert Welsch, eds. Pp. 1-34. New York: Berghahn Books.

[think about how collecting was influenced – before, during, after “the scene”]

Van der Grijp, Paul

2014 The Sacred Gift: Donations from Private Collectors to Public Museums. *Museum Anthropology Review*, 8(1): 22-44.

[read this for a focus on donors as major agents]

Bell, Joshua A.

2013 "The Sorcery of Sweetness: Intersecting Agencies and Materialities of the 1928 USDA Sugarcane Expedition to New Guinea," pp. 117-141. In, *Reassembling the Collection: Ethnographic Museums and Indigenous Agency*, ed. R. Harrison, S. Byrne, and A. Clarke. School for Advanced Research Press. Santa Fe.

[read this for a focus on members of the source community as major agents]

Morphy, Howard

2015 *The Displaced Local: Multiple Agency in the Building of Museums' Ethnographic Collections*. Pp. 365-387. *The International Handbooks of Museum Studies: Museum Theory*. Wiley; London.

[the subtitle says it all – multiple agency]

Week 6 Feb. 21 Artifacts at Home: Understanding Context of Production and Use

Banerjee, Mukulika and Daniel Miller

2003 *Mina's Story*. In *The Sari*, by Mukulika Banerjee and Daniel Miller. Pp. 11-19. New York: Berg.

[think about the complex sentiments of a person **using** an object]

Rhoads, Bernadine, Herwona Toyebo and Beatrice Ahpehtone Doyah Smith

2000 *Gifts of Pride and Love: Kiowa and Comanche Cradles*. B. Hail, ed. *Selections: Keintaddle*, pp. 88-93; *My Grandmother Guohaddle*, pp. 52-57. Bristol: Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, Brown University.

[think about the types of information people can provide about heritage objects]

Ettawageshik, Frank

1999 *My Father's Business*. In *Unpacking Cultures: Art and Commodity in Colonial and Postcolonial Worlds*. Phillips and Steiner, eds. Pp. 20-31. Berkeley: University of California Press.

[think about whether tourist goods are lesser goods, or just different goods]

Week 7 Feb. 28 Learning to Look (and look up)

Greene, Candace S.

1992 Attribution, Documentation, and the Ideal Type. In *Art and Artifacts: Essays in Material Culture and Museum Studies in Honor of Jane Powell Dwyer*. H. Juli, ed. Pp. 9-17. *Brown University Research Papers in Anthropology*, 5. Providence: Brown University.

[revisit this article from Wk. 3, focusing here on the process of attribution]

Greene, Candace S.

1992 Soft Cradles of the Central Plains. *Plains Anthropologist* 37 (139): 95-113.
[look at steps in identification, examining construction and embellishment]

Hooper, Steven

2005 On Looking at a Tahitian God House. *Journal of Museum Ethnography* 17: 89-100.

[another systematic process of learning from close and serious observation]

Week 8 Mar. 7 Connected Lives: Chaîne opératoire

Martinón-Torres, Marcos

2002 'Chaîne opératoire.' The concept and its applications within the study of technology. *Gallaecia* 21: 29-43.

[Good introduction to chaîne opératoire; use this as a way to think about the method and how it might be applied to your own objects of study]

Coupaye, Ludovic

2009 Ways of Enchanting: Chaînes Opératoires and Yam Cultivation in Nyamikum Village, Maprik, Papua New Guinea. *Journal of Material Culture* 14 (4): 433–458.

[Further discussion of the method within an ethnographic frame]

Munn, Nancy D.

1977 The spatiotemporal transformations of Gawa canoes. *Journal de la Société des Océanistes* 33: 39-51.

[OPTIONAL BACKGROUND: Semiotic and structural analysis of a canoe that usefully points outward from the object into the world]

-----**Mar. 14: SPRING BREAK**-----

Week 9 Mar. 21 Collections Visits – No Class Meeting

...AND CARRY MEANING IN THE PRESENT

Week 10 Mar. 28 Record Systems: Putting Things Into Boxes

Turner, Hannah

2016 Critical Histories of Museum Catalogues. *Museum Anthropology* 39: 102-110.
(Available for download through Aladin)

[new thinking about the power of infrastructure to shape our thinking]

Newell, Jenny

2012 Old Objects, new media: Historical collections, digitization and affect. *Journal of Material Culture* 17(3): 287-306.

[use this article to think through the place of online images as surrogates]

Phillips, Ruth and Christopher Steiner

1999 Art, Authenticity, and the Baggage of Cultural Encounter. In *Unpacking Cultures: Art and Commodity in Colonial and Postcolonial Worlds*. Phillips and Steiner, eds. Pp. 3-19. Berkeley: University of California Press.

[the biggest issue of “fit” – consider what gets into what type of museum]

Pearce, Susan M.

1994 Introduction. In *Interpreting Objects and Collections*. S. Pearce, ed. Pp. 1-6. New York: Routledge.

[revisit this one from Wk 2, think again about all the things out there in the world, and the sub-set in the museum]

Banks, Marcus

2001 Reading Pictures. In *Visual Methods in Social Research*, by Marcus Banks. Pp. 1-12. Sage Publications Limited.

[revisit this one from Wk 2, now considering image versus object]

Week 11 April 4 Repatriation: Applying Knowledge to NAGPRA

Hollinger, Eric R., Betsy Bruemmer and Anne-Marie Victor-Howe

2005 Assessment of Tlingit Objects Requested for Repatriation as Objects of Cultural Patrimony and Sacred Objects in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Unpublished report, Repatriation Office, NMNH.

This will be provided in hard copy. Focus on pages 1-25.

[look esp. at complexity of determining communal property and right of possession]

NAGPRA, law and regulations, available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/>

Week 12 April 11 Who Cares? Identity, Ownership, & “Museumification”

Ames, Michael

1992 Cannibal Tours, Glass Boxes, and the Politics of Interpretation. In *Cannibal Tours and Glass Boxes: The Anthropology of Museums*, by M. Ames. Pp. 139-150. Vancouver, BC: UBC Press.

[an early wakeup call on the politics of representing “others”]

Leopold, Robert

2013 Articulating Culturally Sensitive Knowledge Online: A Cherokee Case Study. *Museum Anthropology Review* 7(1-2): 85-104.

[issues and challenges in the domain of cultural privacy]

McMullen, Ann

2008 The Currency of Consultation and Collaboration. *Museum Anthropology Review* 3(2): 54-87.

[on-the-ground examination of cultural politics of “doing the right thing”]

Week 13 April 18 Visiting with the Dead: Physical Anthropology

Week 14 April 25 Student Presentations

FINAL REPORTS DUE: MAY 4

Anthropology in the Museum

COLLECTIONS ASSIGNMENT

Each student will select an accession that will be the basis for an ongoing assignment over the course of the semester, with interim reports due periodically.

Week 1 January 18 Select a collection from the list of options.

Schedule an appointment with the teaching assistant to go to the Museum Support Center to examine your collection. Register your visit, using the online visitor request system, available at <http://anthropology.si.edu>.

Week 2 January 25 Due: Written homework

Using two commonly accessible reference sources, locate basic, preliminary information on the cultural designation under which material in your collection is cataloged. Establish the general geographic location; identify alternate names that may have been applied to this culture. Consider who lives in that location now.

- * Prepare a one-paragraph written summary, citing sources used.
- * Include a regional map with the collecting location marked. Choose a scale appropriate to the locality to be indicated.

Week 4 February 8 Due: Interim Report #1

Assemble all associated information in Smithsonian records.

Check for: accession files; parts of the accession that may have been dispersed among Smithsonian units; other accessions from the same donor or collector; museum annual reports. Check across SI databases for field notes, correspondence files, or photographs in various SI archives. When viewing your collection, look for tags or writing on objects. Make copies of relevant documents for continued reference.

- * Prepare a narrative summary of the information, citing all sources.
- * Conclude the summary with an assessment of whether the catalog information is based on **documentation** received with the collection or **attribution** assigned by the museum.

Week 7 March 1 By this week, select an item from your accession for further research to be presented in Interim #3. Schedule an appointment with the professor to examine it and to look at comparative material.

- * Use the online databases to assemble a list of other things you would like to examine for comparative purposes.
- * Provide a list of identifying numbers and a statement of what search parameters you used.

Week 8 March 8 Due: Interim Report #2
Part I.

Enhance the documentation through research and analyze it. Prepare a report of your findings including these elements:

- * Trace the provenance of both objects and information;
 - * Assemble information on the donor, collector, and any others involved;
 - * Assess their knowledge and intellectual perspective.
-
- * Evaluate the reliability of the original documentation based on new information that you have found.

Part II.

Enhance understanding of the collection by examining the context of collecting.

- * Assemble information on the place of origin at that time period.
- * Describe the cultural, economic, and political framework within which the collection was assembled, taking into account the perspectives of both the source community and the collectors.
- * Consider how these factors might have shaped the collection.

Week 11 April 5 Due: Interim Report #3

Prepare information about the object itself. Become familiar with the materials, techniques, and designs.

Locate comparative information about similar objects, using published sources, online museum catalogs, and on-site visits to Smithsonian collections.

- * Analyze how your object compares to these.

Research the meaning of the object within the culture of origin, using anthropological source materials.

- * Explain the cultural context of objects of this type.
- * Indicate if this has changed over time.

Evaluate museum records about the collection based on your research.

- * Assess if your findings challenge or support the catalog record.
- * Consider both ethnic identification and function.

Week 12 April 12 Due: Interim Report #4

NAGPRA applies only to Native American materials from the U.S. However, the issues that the law requires museums to address in considering repatriation claims are relevant for understanding collections from anywhere in the world.

For your collection or a selected item, apply the research **you have already done** to address three critical issues:

- * cultural affiliation (who could assert a cultural connection?)
- * cultural context (does the collection contain human remains; funerary objects; objects of cultural patrimony; or sacred objects, **as defined by NAGPRA?**)

* right of possession (was title legally transferred? are there other legal or ethical issues?)

If you do not have enough information to fully address all issues, indicate what more you would need to know and how you would go about finding it out.

Week 13 April 19 Due: Interim Report #5

Develop two different idea statements (1-2 pages each) for thought-provoking exhibits that could include one or more objects from your selected collection. Show how these relate to concepts that have been addressed in this course.

Week 15 May 5 Due: Final Collections Report

The final report will be a compilation of the five interim assignments from the semester. Students are encouraged to revise their previous work to take advantage of additional information discovered, comments on earlier submissions, and their increased understanding of issues in museum anthropology.

In addition, prepare two short summaries based on your research to be added to the collections database, using the format provided. One will be a biographical sketch of the donor and/or collector; the other will be a short history of the accession.

Guidelines and Instructions for Collections Assignment

These are real collections! Results may vary!

I have not researched these in advance, so I don't know how hard or easy different parts of the assignment will be. Students will have varying success in finding information. This may make particular parts of the assignment more or less fun, but it will not affect your grade as long as you can fully document the strategies that you developed to seek information and the sources that you consulted. Even negative information can be useful to future researchers, and should be included in the formal collection report.

The information that you assemble for assignments 1 through 3 will be added to the museum's permanent records. Write for posterity. Your name is going to be on this for a long time.

- think of it as a professional report, not a school paper
- report results; save comments on your research experiences to share in class
- use clear, simple language
- provide complete information: complete citations for published works; full designations for repositories, and clear citations for unpublished material; full names and position titles for individuals; no acronyms without full explanations.
- check spellings and correct typographical errors.
- internet sources can be unstable; identify the source clearly in addition to giving the URL and the date accessed. If there is a physical edition, cite that first, noting that you consulted an electronic edition.
- think about someone reading this decades from now. Will it still make sense?

Interim reports: Submit interim reports in hard copy and also electronically as an email attachment. Include a cover sheet with the accession number and your name, email address, and date on each interim. Give your report page numbers. For assignments 1 and 2, include copies of key documentation for review. Interim reports will be graded and marked with suggestions for improvement if needed. I will return them in time for revisions to be incorporated into the final Collection Report. I prefer text files in Word; if you wish to use another program, check with me regarding format.

Final reports: Submit final reports in hard copy as well as in electronic form. Material must be submitted in a form that will facilitate inclusion into museum records.

Electronic versions: Submit through Blackboard. Assignments #4 and 5 should be clearly separated.

Hard copy versions: Clean copies on good quality standard paper are required; use paper clips if necessary but do not staple. Every page should be clearly marked with the accession number and other designations as needed to retain their order.

Material in assignments #1 - 3 of the final Collection Report may be added to the Department of Anthropology collection files. It also may be added to the online collections database. **Your name will be included as the source of information unless other arrangements are made with the instructor.**

Smithsonian Sources for Collection Information

Information on collections may be dispersed among different parts of the Smithsonian, each with its own database and appointment system. Here's a list of some key resources with information on how to find information about what they have and how to arrange a visit.

Dept. of Anthropology – Collections Section

Website The collections website (<http://anthropology.si.edu/cm/index.htm>) provides links to the online catalog and to a useful *Guide to Collection Records*. You can access the Visitor Request system from here to make appointments, and can view various exhibits that may relate to your collection. Explore this one!

Online Catalog EMu is the database for the Anthropology object catalog. A public version is accessible at <http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/>. It provides access to some but not all of the catalog data, and little of the accession data. For Interim #1, the TA will check the non-public database for other relevant information and will send any information found. You will use the online database as a major resource to locate comparative material for Interim #3.

Vertical files Recent information contributed by researchers about accessions or objects may be available in paper files kept by the Collections Management section. (This is where paper copies of your reports will be filed.) The TA will check this source for you or you can do so yourself when you are at MSC.

In Person Visits to the collection are week days by appointment, scheduled through the online Visitor Request system. The TA will handle visits for students enrolled in the course. Almost all of the archaeology and ethnology collections of the Department of Anthropology are held at the Museum Support Center in Suitland, Maryland, accessible via a free Smithsonian shuttle. A small number of items are in the Natural History Museum on the Mall, either on exhibit or adjacent to curatorial offices.

Dept. of Anthropology - National Anthropological Archives (NAA)

Online catalog SIRIS is the online catalog for all Smithsonian archives as well as Smithsonian libraries. It is available at <http://www.siris.si.edu>. NAA listings are under the heading for Archival, Manuscript, and Photographic Collections. You can restrict searches to just the NAA or search all participating Smithsonian archives. The NAA has extensive photographic collections in addition to manuscript materials. Lots of great documentation and contextual photos here.

Website The NAA website includes a number of finding aids to the collection and may include information that is not available in SIRIS. It is available at <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/>.

In person The collections of the archives are available by appointment only Tuesday-Friday from 9 to 4:30. Appointments are made separately from the object collection; schedule through the NAA's online request system. The NAA is located in the Museum Support Center in Suitland, Maryland, the same building as the object collection. Information is available on the website.

Smithsonian Institution Archives

Accession files Original accession records (prior to 1958) are available in the SI Archives. The SI Archives also has indices to correspondence files and other holdings that may relate to collections. It is located just off the Mall in the Capitol Gallery building (next to L'Enfant Metro stop) and is open 9-5 M-F. You should contact them in advance for an appointment. E-mail is osiaref@si.edu. See their website for further information - <http://www.si.edu/archives>.

Other resources The SI Archives maintains extensive collections of manuscript material relating to Smithsonian history, which may include information on donors. Various finding aids and databases are available online; see listings on their website, including links to SIRIS, the archive and library database.

National Museum of Natural History – Office of the Registrar

Accession files Original accession records (and additions) since 1958 are maintained in this office. Records for accessions prior to that date are available on microfilm. Card indexes of donor names are available. This office is located in the Natural History Museum on the Mall, and researcher space is very limited. Records are available by appointment only - telephone 202-633-1630.

Smithsonian Collections Search Center

This system searches across all of the Smithsonian databases that are online. It is available at <http://collections.si.edu>. It can be a great way to find unexpected resources. Be certain to expand the left sidebar entry for **Catalog Record Source** to see which Smithsonian repositories are represented and to filter your results. Some resources, such as the National Museum of the American Indian, do not have all their records online. Even when there is an online record, no repository includes all information in those online records.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

The Smithsonian has many specialized libraries with extensive holdings that may be of value in your research. If you cannot find a book at GW, you can consult the library section of

SIRIS to see what is available at the SI. Collections are open to anyone week days by appointment for on-site use, but materials can be checked out only by staff. Information on the library system is available at <http://www.sil.si.edu>.

The reference staff of the Anthropology Branch of the SI Library is specially trained in this field, highly knowledgeable, and very helpful. If you are having trouble locating books or articles on your topic, they will be glad to provide assistance. The Anthropology Branch is one of the best places anywhere for literature about objects!

YIKES – SO MANY SOURCES!

Indeed, the Smithsonian is big and can be confusing. Check out the exhibit we developed to help researchers - Accessing Anthropology: Online Databases and Other Resources – available at <http://anthropology.si.edu/accessinganthropology/understanding/index.html>.

I use this exercise at the start of a course to introduce a range of ideas and skills and to encourage discussion.

Kuspak Exercise



Course goals reminder:

- become familiar with the nature of collections and their history
- develop research skills (finding information)
- develop analytical skills (evaluating information)
- become familiar with issues (museums as politicized sites)

Start by quickly assembling info that might be in an accession file;

- interview the donor (me); (introduce terms: *donor/collector*)
- look at the object/collection;
- secure any written documents

INTERVIEW – SECURING BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT ACQUISITION

Amazingly fortunate to be able to interview field collector and to get such a well documented object. (encourage questions to elicit following information)

Acquired in Alaska in Oct 2007, in shop with Native crafts on Edgerton Highway, Copper River area; Ahtna are the Native group in area

I was told: maker is probably Eskimo (some uncertainty), lives in Wasilla
I observed similar for sale in tourist shops, also Native Health Center

Why did I get one? Why this one? tell about transaction
(*issues of cost; transportation*)

Assess my reliability, my motivations, my understanding
why there? my level of knowledge?
how long ago – issue of memory, or written receipt?

RESEARCH SKILLS – ASSEMBLING MORE INFORMATION

Move on to catalog – or use for interpretation, research – good to have more

Three or four working groups to research various aspects:
set up, then give suggested questions below

- 1) *MAKER* – Aggie Bostrom, as ID'd on sewn in tag
 - her ethnic affiliations
 - where does she live, what does that tell us
 - her relationship to the market; what she's "selling" (culture)

- 2) *OBJECT* – kuspak, as ID'd on sales receipt
 - cultural context
 - community use or tourist item only
 - tied to a given ethnicity; gender; age?
 - everyday wear, special occasion, symbol of ethnicity (national dress)

- 3) *PLACE* –based on location of shop, based on receipt
 - who's there, who else is there, useful for catalog ID?
 - Copper River area; Wasilla; Tonsina co-op address

- place -> ethnicity (Ahtna? Eskimo?)
- fixed map vs mobility/modernity

4) *ETHNIC ORIGINS* – Ahtna, based on map; or Eskimo, as told to me

- different Native groups in Alaska (Indian, Eskimo, Aleut)
- issues with ethnonyms (Eskimo vs Inuit or Inupiat and Yupik)
- Alaskan usage vs Canadian usage

ANALYTICAL SKILLS, RECOGNITION OF POLITICAL ISSUES

Reports from groups:

- summary of info followed by discussion of issues raised

-

discussion of:

- best sources of info: scholarly, popular, Native voice
- mobility of people and objects and styles
- commodification of culture
- politics of terminology
- questions of cultural appropriation

OVERVIEW OF KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS

SAYS WHO?

Interrogating Records

PROVENIENCE PROVENANCE

PROVENIENCE

PROVENANCE

- **Anthropology/Archaeology**
- **Art History/ Art Market**

PROVENIENCE

- **Anthropology/Archaeology**
- where collected
- identified to a group
- document of culture
- “authenticity”

PROVENANCE

- **Art History/ Art Market**
- chain of ownership
- artist who made it
- value as a commodity
- “authenticity”

DOCUMENTATION

ATTRIBUTION

DOCUMENTATION

External evidence

ATTRIBUTION

Internal evidence

DOCUMENTATION

Examples of External evidence

- Letter from collector
- Field notes
- Sales receipt
- Oral tradition

ATTRIBUTION

Examples of Internal evidence

- Inscription
- Distinctive motif
- Stylistic elements
- Technical traits

DOCUMENTATION

External evidence

- Letter from collector
- Field notes
- Sales receipt
- Oral tradition

ATTRIBUTION

Internal evidence

- Inscription
- Distinctive motif
- Stylistic elements
- Technical traits

**NOT THE MUSEUM
CATALOG!**

ASSUMPTIONS BEHIND EACH METHOD

DOCUMENTATION

Point in it's life :
where acquired

Makers and users are same

Objects don't travel

Over-reliance:
false picture of diversity

ATTRIBUTION

Point in it's life:
where made

Cultural conformity
(everyone thinks the same)

Cultures are bounded

Over-reliance:
deny diversity, change

DOCUMENTATION SKILLS

- NAVIGATING MUSEUM RECORDS: putting it back together again
- ENHANCING RECORDS: researching collectors
- CRITICAL EVALUATION

ATTRIBUTION SKILLS

- LEARNING TO LOOK
- FINDING COMPARATIVE MATERIAL
- TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

WHERE ARE ALL THE PEOPLE?

LOOKING FOR PEOPLE, IN
THE RELATIONAL MUSEUM

OBJECT(S)



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OBJECT

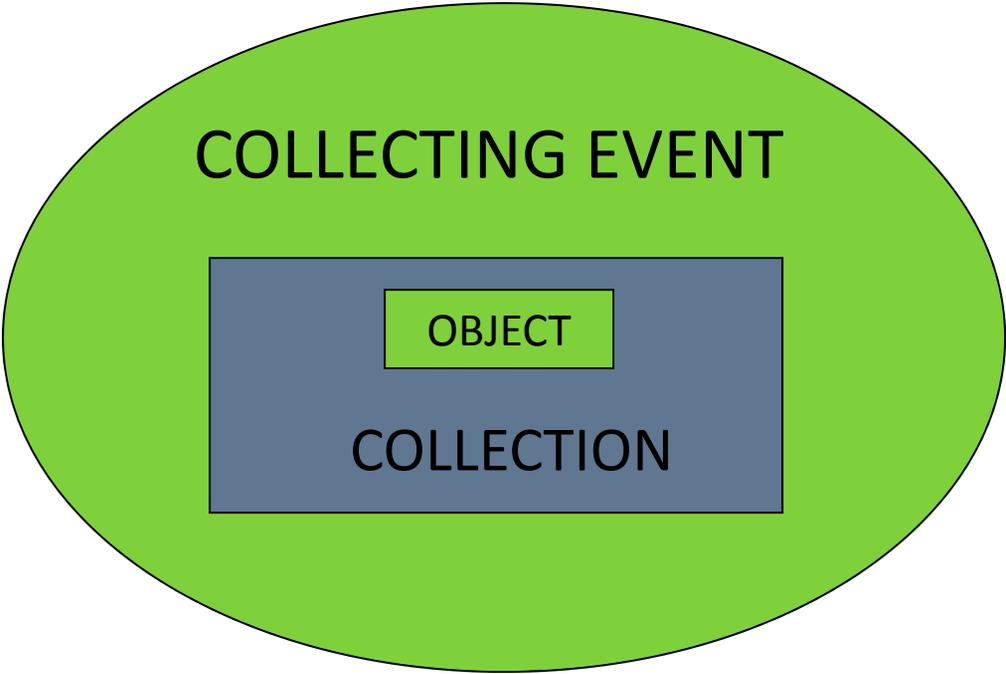
COLLECTION

OBJECT

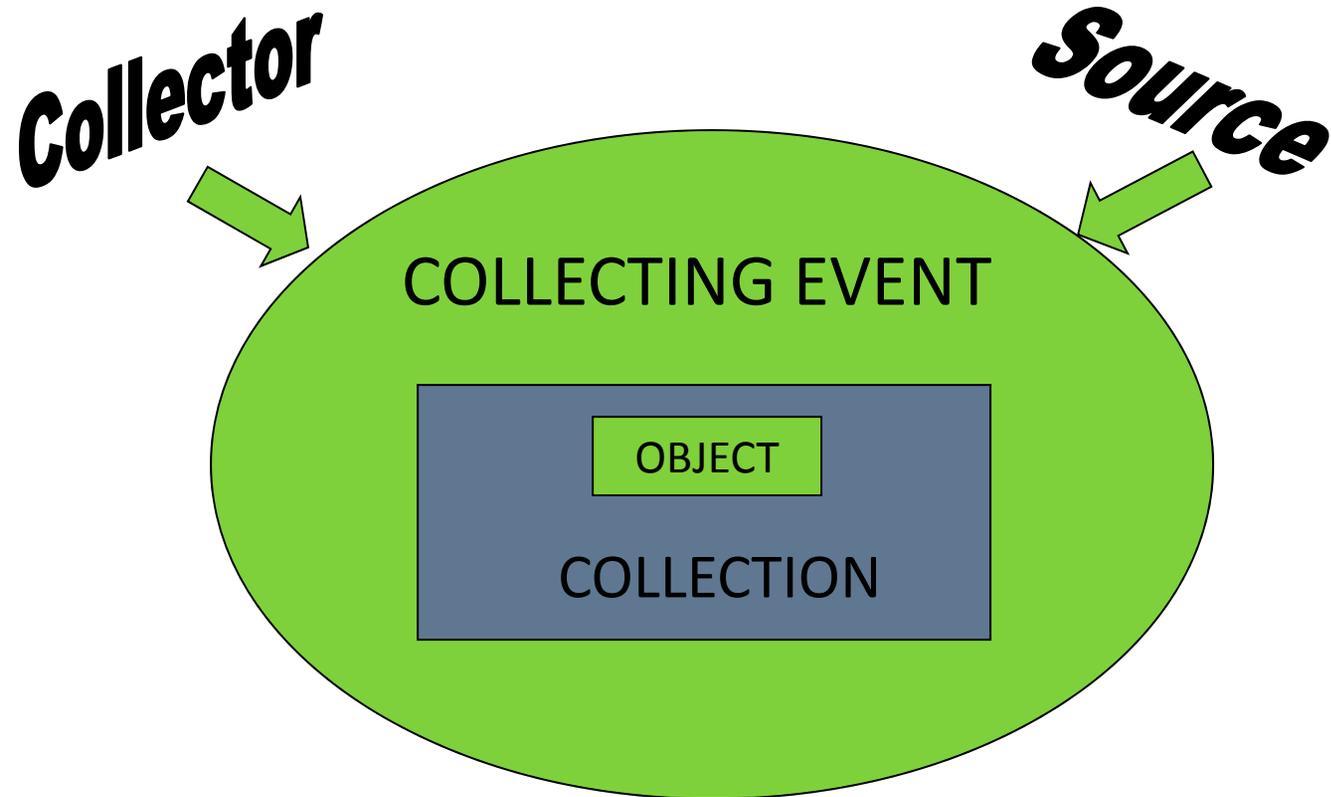
Catalog level info

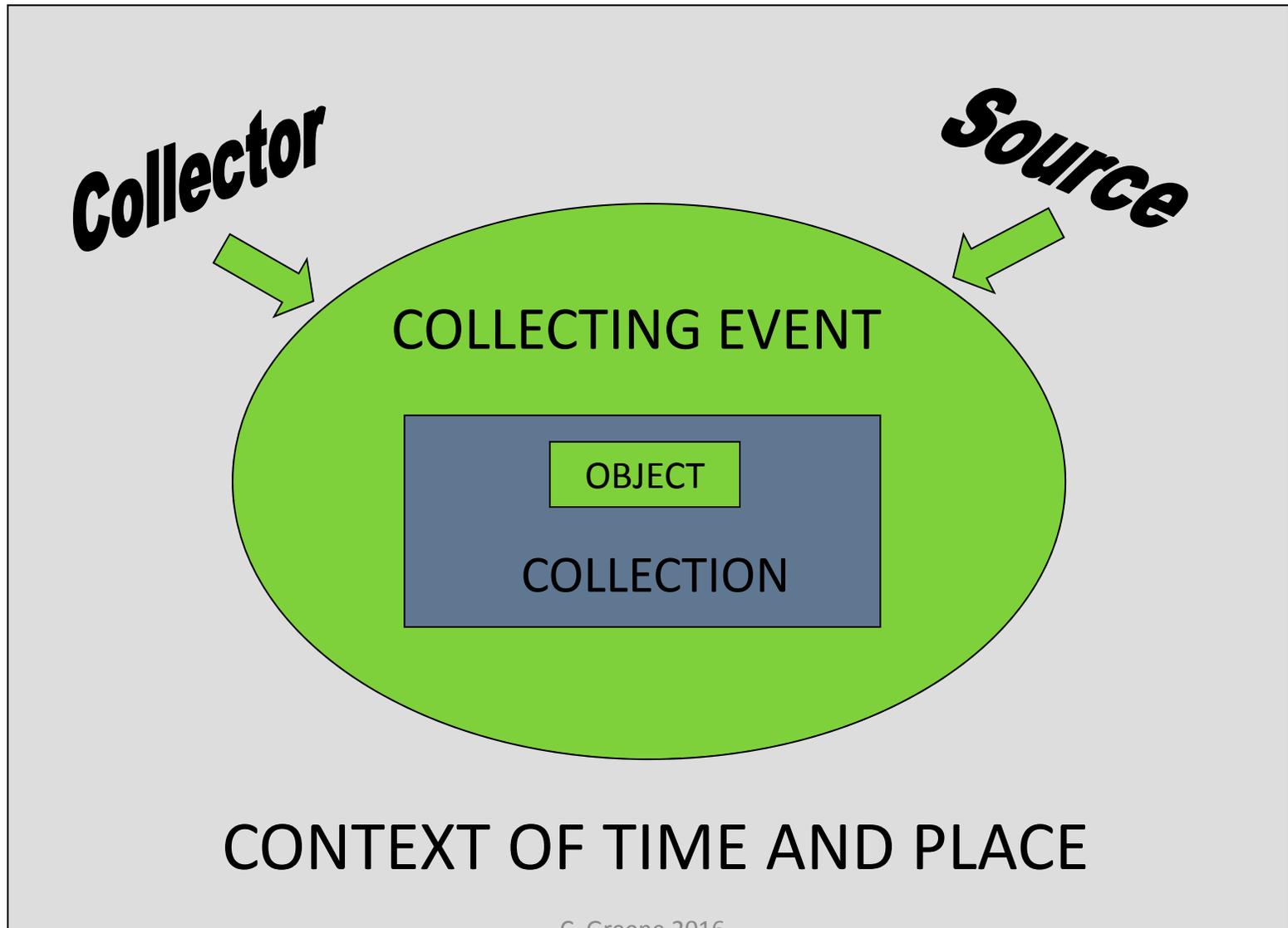
COLLECTION

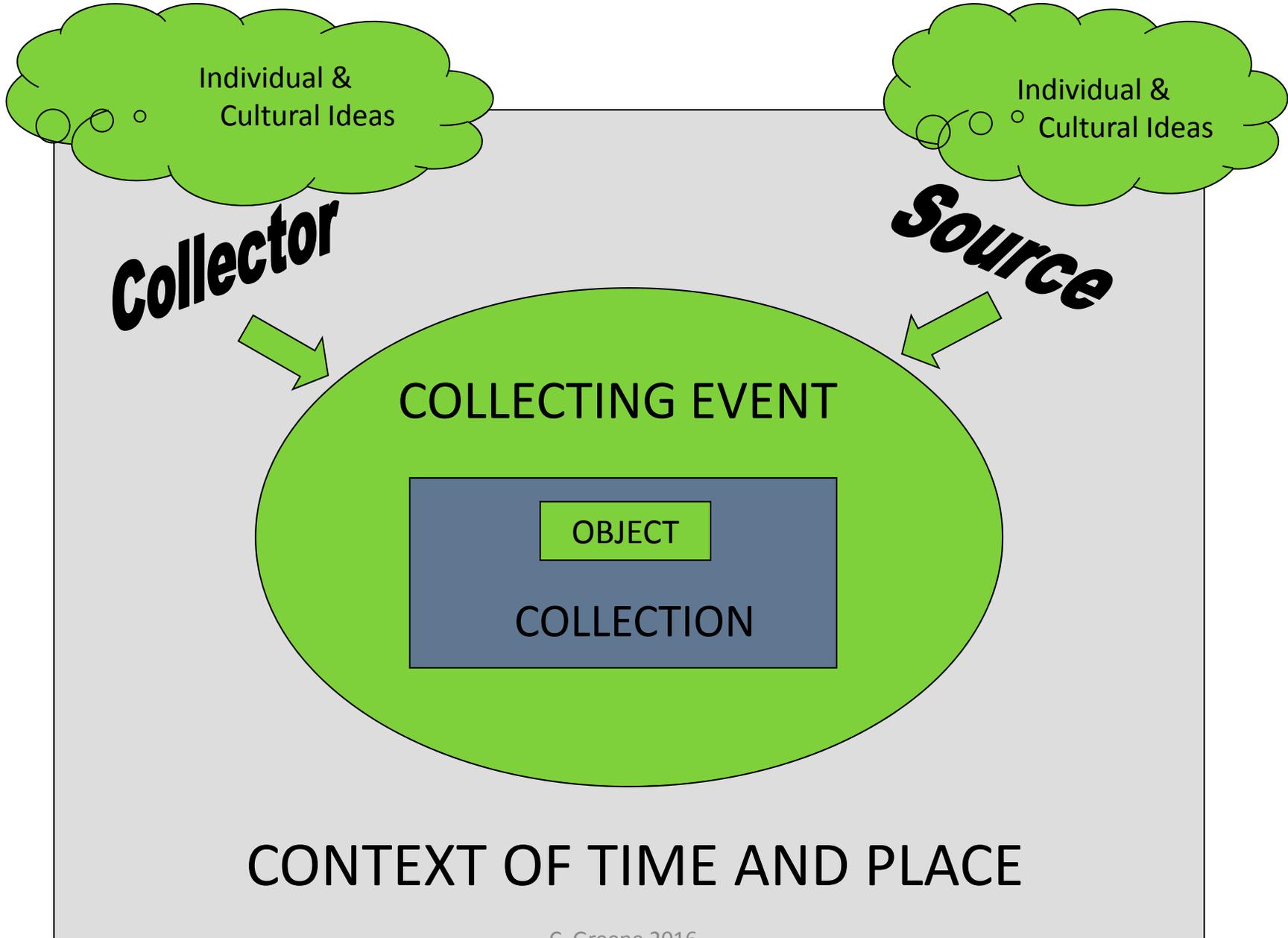
Accession level info

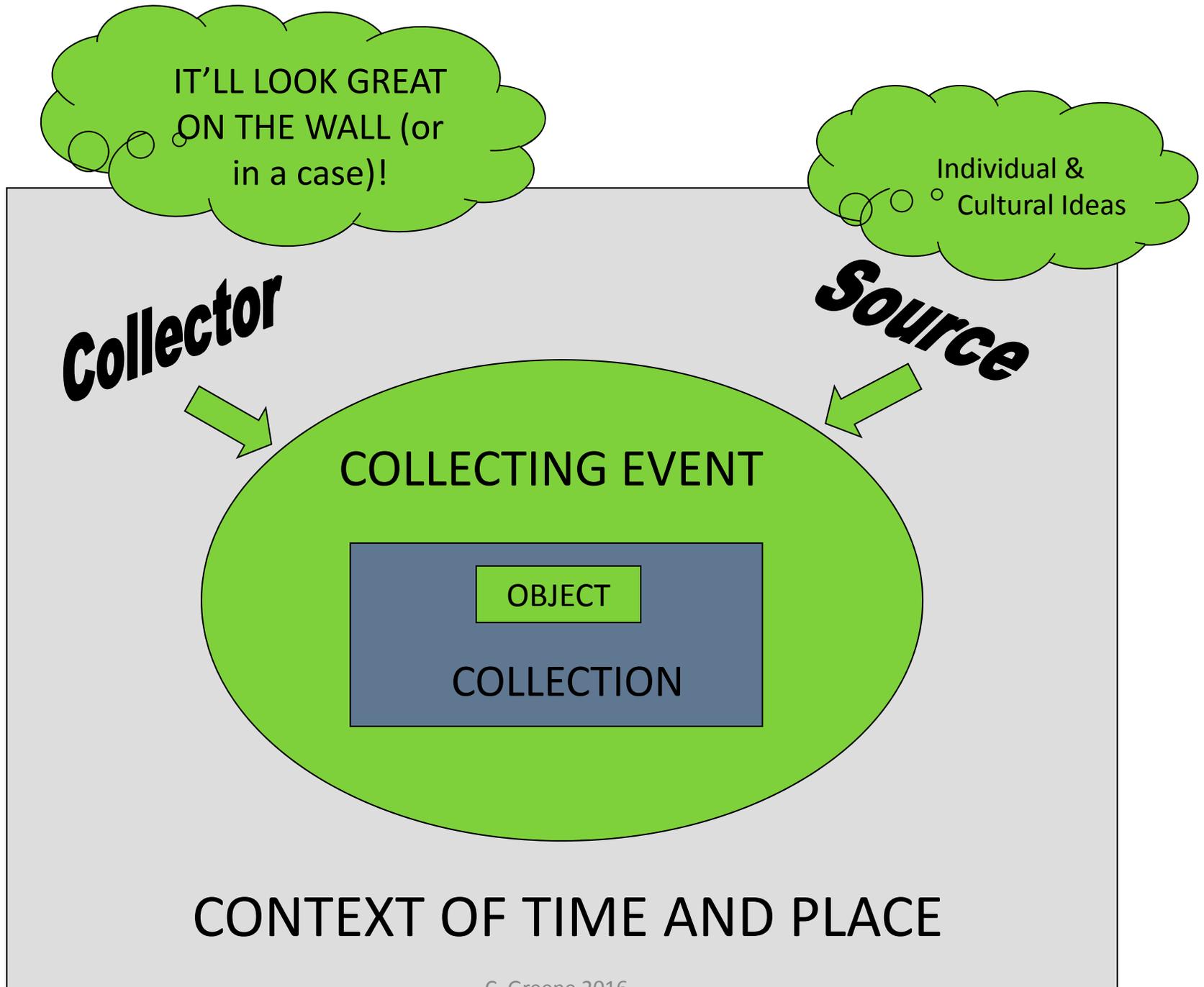


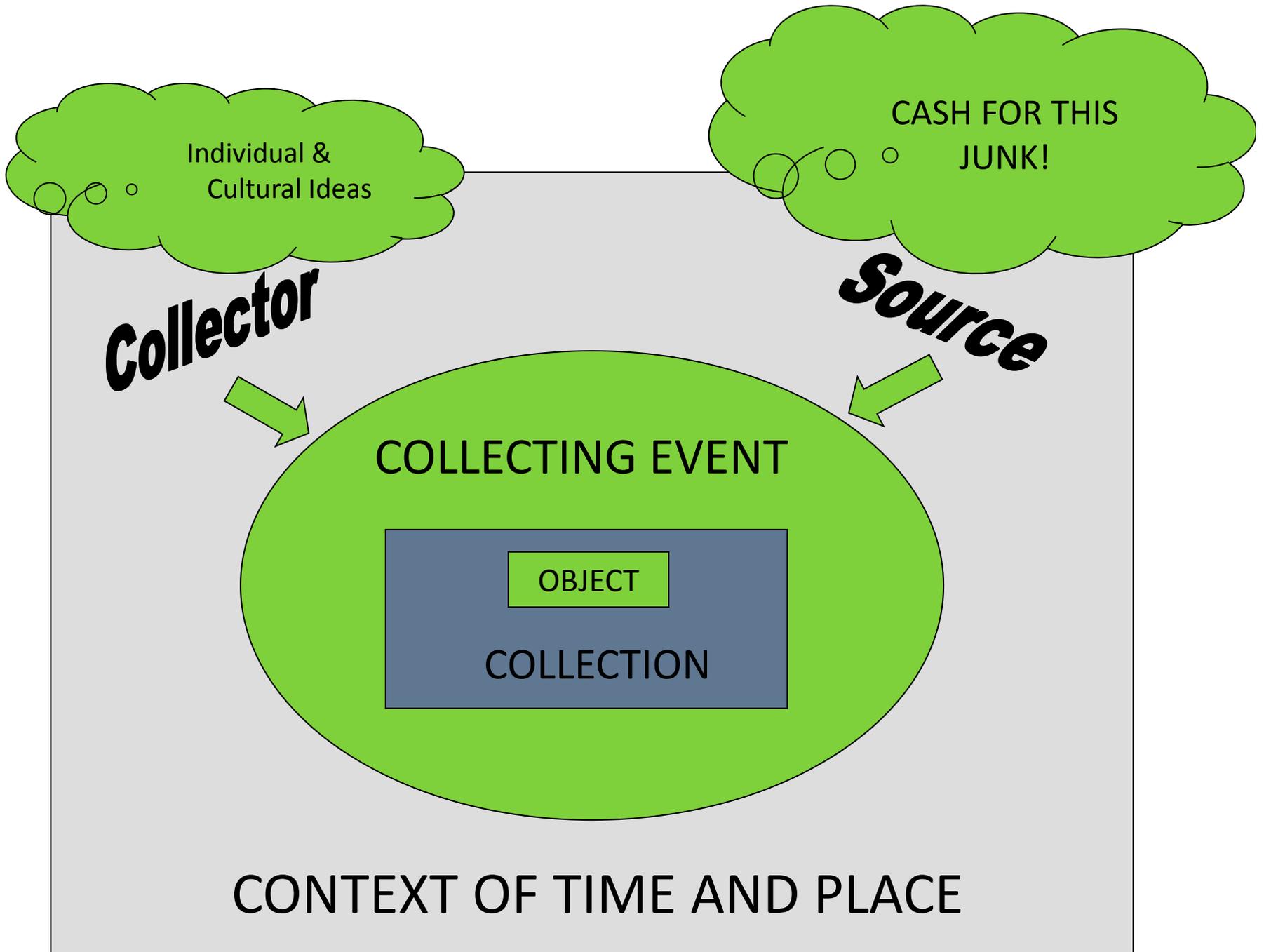
ENTER THE PEOPLE

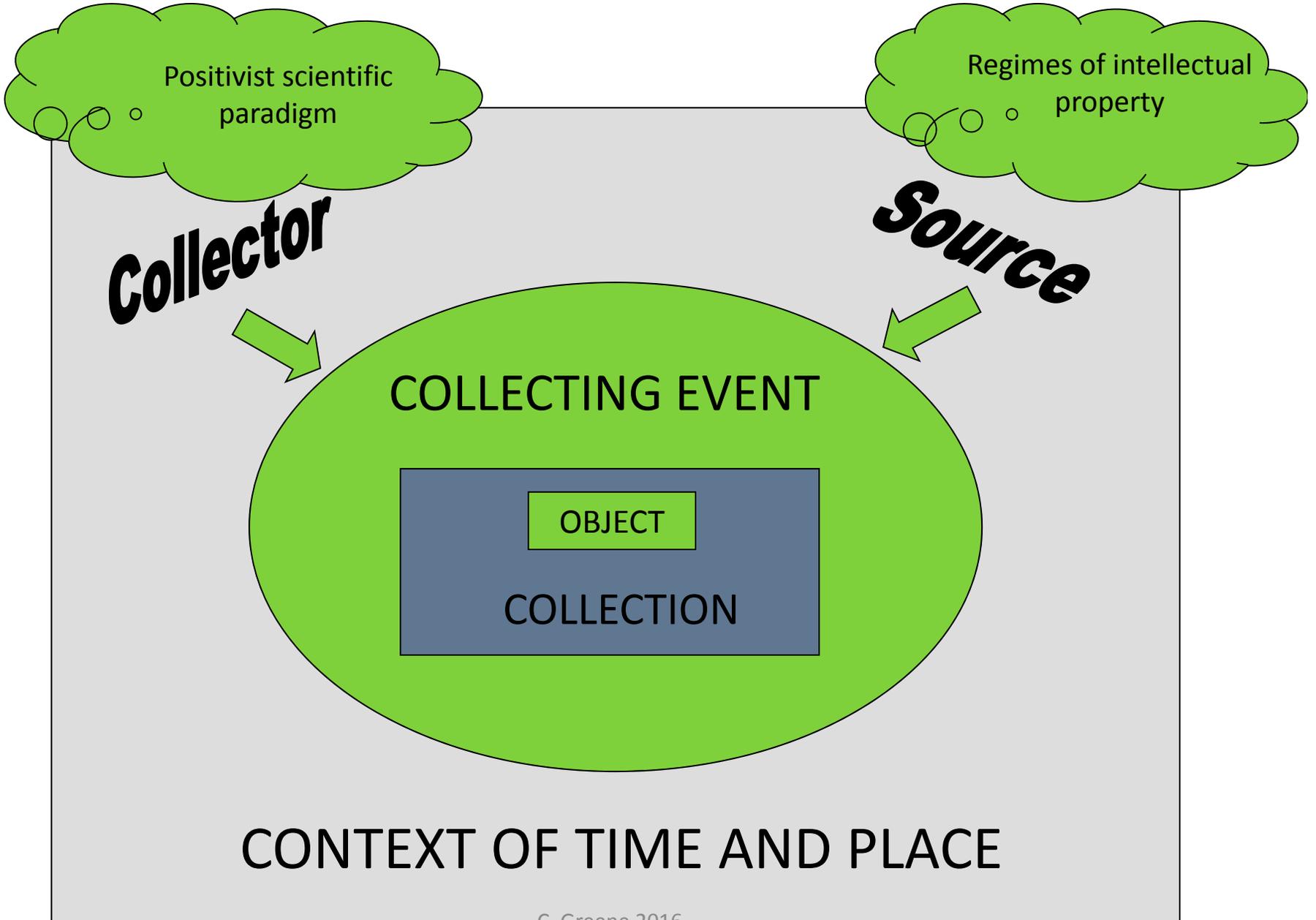












ADD TIME DIMENSION

DAYS OF ~~OUR~~ ITS LIFE

AFTER THE COLLECTING EVENT

THE **BIG** COLLECTING EVENT

BEFORE THE COLLECTING EVENT

ADD TIME DIMENSION

DAYS OF ~~OUR~~ ITS LIFE

Collector to museum donor

AFTER THE COLLECTING EVENT

Source meets Collector

THE **BIG** COLLECTING EVENT

Source person or
community

BEFORE THE COLLECTING EVENT

DAYS OF ITS LIFE

AFTER THE COLLECTING EVENT



THE **BIG** COLLECTING EVENT



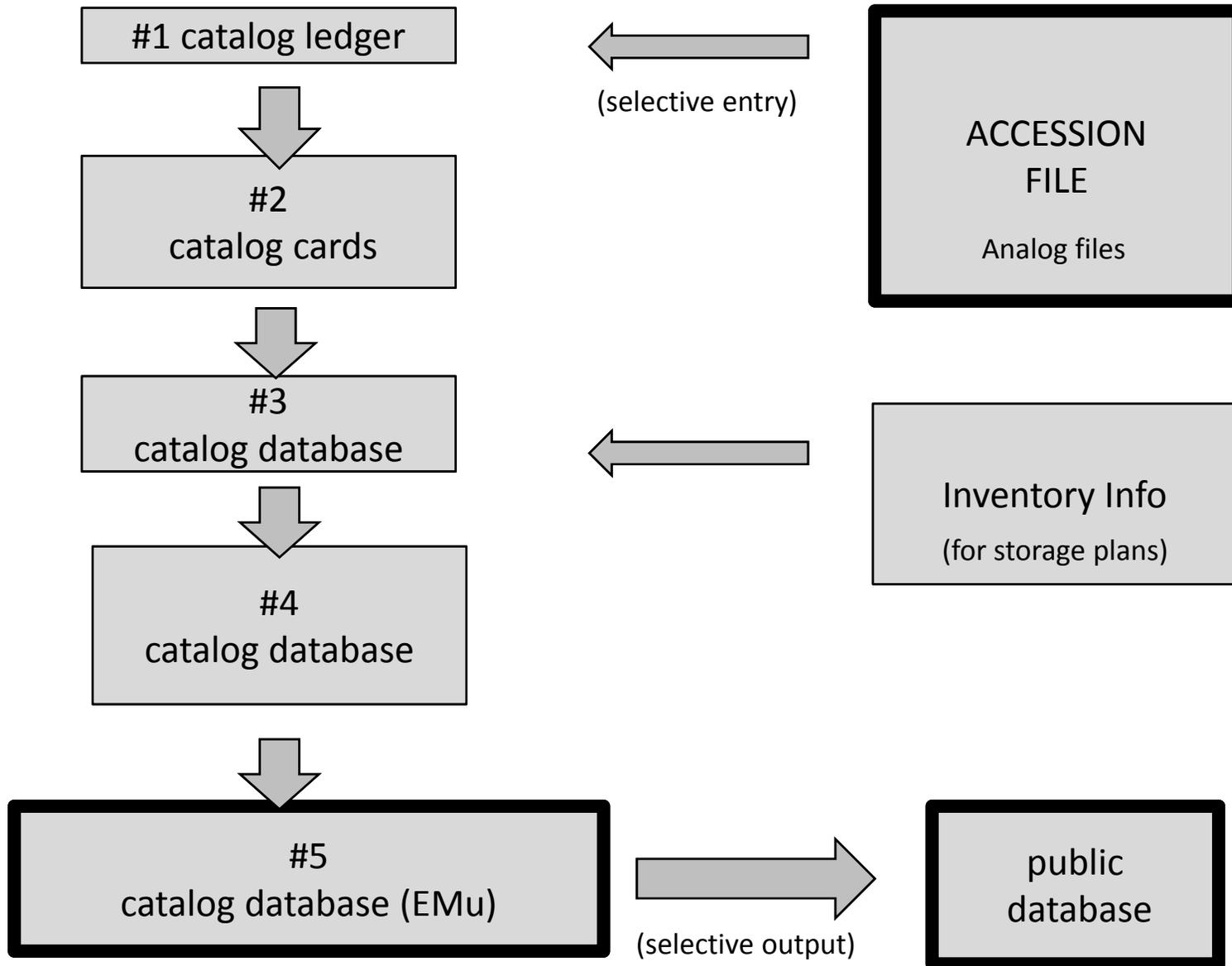
BEFORE THE COLLECTING EVENT



Snap Review

- Provenience and Provenance
- Documentation and Attribution
- Object and Collection
- Catalog and Accession
- Donor and Collector
- Collector and Source

HISTORY OF THE ANTHROPOLOGY CATALOG

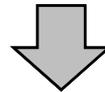


SMITHSONIAN DATABASES

ANTHROPOLOGY
catalog database (EMu)
Staff access only



ANTHROPOLOGY
public database
collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/anth/



COLLECTIONS SEARCH CENTER
collections.si.edu



SIRIS
(NAA, SIA, LIBRARIES)
siris.si.edu



NMAI
public database (partial)
nmai.si.edu/searchcollections/

Week 5 How Did They End Up Here? - Notes from Class Discussions

CONTEXT OF COLLECTING
Motivations: How People Shape a Collection

| COLLECTOR | SOURCE |
|--|--|
| Trade as form of cultural contact and exchange (inc. gift exchange) | Trade as form of cultural contact and exchange (inc. gift exchange) |
| Exotic goods - souvenir | Exchange for exotic goods |
| Academic/scientific Salvage ethnography | Preservation of heritage materials |
| Evidence of conversion (missionary success) | Proof of one's conversion to Christianity (or other religion) |
| Trophy of conquest | Tragic loss |
| Curiosity about others | Curiosity about others |
| Aesthetic appeal of "specimen" To gain personal prestige/status in home community | Aesthetic appeal of trade goods To gain personal prestige/status in home community |
| Advance national prestige (political competition) | Advance national prestige (ethnic pride) (competition w others for control of trade) |
| Gain control over people economically | Gain control over people magically |
| Competition with other collectors | Competition with other sellers/traders |

Week 5 How Did They End Up Here? - Notes from Class Discussions

\$\$\$\$\$\$ economic incentive

\$\$\$\$\$\$ economic incentive

Ritual disposal (“riddance”)

Economic disposal of discarded goods
“modernization”

To acquire better technology

Forced into exchange or acceptance of
collecting practices

Week 5 How Did They End Up Here? - Notes from Class Discussions

In this exercise in class discussion following up on readings, students are asked to suggest things that might have motivated either a collector or the person from whom material was received. These are noted on the board under two columns (clever students might demand more columns). Discussion of an item in either column can trigger consideration of what might go into the other one.

These notes, requested by students for later reference, provide a cleaned-up record of ideas brought up in class.

Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History
Department of Anthropology

HOW TO CITE COLLECTION OBJECTS AND RECORDS

The Anthropology Collection was one of the earliest Smithsonian collections, dating to the establishment of the United States National Museum (USNM) in 1858. For an overview of records systems, see the Guide to Collection Records. These systems all began as paper files. Many are now available in electronic or microfilm form, which can make citation confusing. These are some guidelines to help with citations.

Citations should always indicate that the material is in the National Museum of Natural History (once the USNM) Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution.

OBJECTS

Objects should be referenced by individual catalog number prefaced by the letter A, E, or P to identify whether it is in the Archaeology, Ethnology, or Physical Anthropology division. Numbers range from 1 to almost 600,000; many are duplicated across the divisions, making the prefix important. The electronic database uses leading zeroes as necessary to reach six digits, and does not accept the commas that are used in the paper records. Many items have attached tags with an extension after the catalog number, such as -0 or -2. These extensions are for internal management purposes and may change over time. They should not usually be included in citations.

CATALOG RECORDS

The catalog exists in three forms: original ledger books, catalog cards, and an electronic database, which includes images of many of the cards. Cite the source from which you obtained information. The paper forms are stable and can be cited without noting the date they were viewed. The database is frequently changed and updated, making it important to include the date it was consulted.

Examples:

Catalog ledger entry for E154,064, Dept of Anthropology , NMNH, Smithsonian.

Catalog card for E154,064, Dept of Anthropology, NMNH, Smithsonian.

If you view the card online, add: Accessed online 1/15/2013.

Catalog database entry for E154064, Dept of Anthropology, NMNH, Smithsonian.
Accessed 1/15/13.

ACCESSION FILES

These records exist in three forms: original paper files, duplicate microfilm copies in multiple repositories, and selected information in the online database. Cite the source consulted. Paper accession files in the SI Archives should be cited by their Record Unit number (RU305) plus reference to the accession number of the particular file consulted. This is a stable unit of information and date accessed need not be cited. More recent accession files are active and changing; the citation should include the repository, the accession number, and the date of access. The microfilm, wherever viewed, is a duplicate of the SIA originals; reference to place and date of access is not needed. The electronic database is a unique and changing source of information; note the source and the date accessed.

Examples:

[original file] Accession 1267, Papers of the USNM Office of the Registrar, RU 305, Smithsonian Institution Archives.

[microfilm of original file] Accession 1267, Papers of the USNM Office of the Registrar, RU 305, Smithsonian Institution Archives. Accessed on microfilm.

[original file] Accession 235,607. Office of the Registrar, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution. Accessed 1/15/13.

[online database] Accession 235067, Dept of Anthropology, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution. Accessed online 1/15/13.

[database report provided by Collections Management] Accession 001267, Dept of Anthropology, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution. Report provided by Dept of Anthropology, dated 1/15/13.

OTHER FILES

Miscellaneous information received by Collections Management is kept in vertical files organized by accession number. Cite unique material, such as original tags, by this source. Cite published and duplicate material by original source.

Example:

Catalog E154,064. Original collector's tag. Located in vertical file for accession 235,067, Collections Management records, Dept of Anthropology, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution.

Guide to Collections Records

The research value of the collections is enhanced by a wealth of supporting documentation assembled over 150 years by numerous donors, collectors, and staff. This information is dispersed among several locations and much can be accessed only in person. Most Anthropology collections are located at the Museum Support Center (MSC) in Suitland, Maryland, where key records are available in the Collections Records Room. However, some records are kept in other Smithsonian units, including facilities in downtown Washington, DC. This Guide is intended to show researchers what is available and how to access it, so that they can better plan their travel and make appropriate appointments in advance.



Access to collections and collection records at MSC is [by appointment only](#).

Catalog Records

The catalog is the primary source of information on individual objects in the collection. Information on early collections was originally recorded in catalog ledger books before being copied to catalog cards. They are the original catalog for early collections and may contain information not recorded elsewhere. Some of the early ledger books even contain small drawings of the artifacts. Collections staff can provide access to the original catalog ledgers and catalog cards in the Collections Records Room during scheduled research visits.

The collections database contains information copied from the card catalog, as well as more recent additions. Not all information on the catalog cards has been copied into the database. However, all cataloged objects are represented in the database with at least a basic catalog record. A printout of any subset of catalog records is available by emailing our [data manager](#).

An [online version of the database](#) provides public access to the most commonly requested fields of information for 99% of active ethnology and archaeology records. It includes the scanned catalog cards for the ethnology collection, as well as about 111,000 digital images of the objects. More information and images are added as they become available.



[Catalog Card \(click to enlarge\)](#)



[Ledger Book](#)
[Detail 1](#)
[Detail 2 \(different page\)](#)

Accession Records

Accession files, which document a group of material received from a single source at one time, are the primary source of information on how a collection was acquired. Each accession is identified by a unique number, which is distinct from the catalog numbers of the objects contained in the accession. Accession files may include information from donors or collectors that is not recorded in the catalog, such as the collector's original notes or correspondence discussing the history of the material.

Brief accession histories based on these files, as well as biographical information on some donors and collectors, may be included in the main collections database, but are not available in the public online version. It is useful to check for other accessions from the same donor or collector, as each file may contain information about their locations and collecting practices.

Accession files since 1990 are available in the Collections Records Room at MSC. Files for accessions dated 1958-1989 are maintained in the Registrar's Office of the National Museum of Natural History, located on the Washington Mall. They are accessible by appointment by calling the Registrar's Office at 202-633-1630.

Accession files prior to 1958 are available on microfilm. Anthropology staff can provide access to the microfilm in the Collections Records Room during scheduled research visits at MSC. Another copy is available in the Registrar's Office.

The microfilm duplicates the original accession files, which are located in the [Smithsonian Institution Archives \(SIA\)](#), as part of Record Unit 305, papers of the United States National Museum (which became the National Museum of Natural History.) The SIA is located in the Capital Gallery Building, near the Mall in downtown Washington. Advance appointments are recommended but not required. Contact osiaref@si.edu.

Other Records

The [National Anthropological Archives \(NAA\)](#) may contain manuscripts, photographs, or field notes associated with the object collections. Visit their home page and select "Guides to the Collection" for a variety of search options, including access to SIRIS, the online catalog for the Smithsonian library and archival collections. The NAA is located in the Museum Support Center, the same building as the object collections. Appointments to use the archives must be made separately from appointments to use the artifact collection.



The [Smithsonian Institution Archives](#) maintains extensive collections relating to the history of the institution, including the papers of some donors and collectors represented in the Anthropology collections. In addition to Record Unit 305 (accession files), RU 192 (USNM Administrative Files, 1877-1975) may be particularly useful. Visit their home page and select "Research and Resources" for a variety of reference tools. The SIA is located in the Capital Gallery Building, near the Mall in downtown Washington. Advance appointments are recommended but not required, though it is best to check in advance on the availability of records, since some are stored off-site. Contact osiaref@si.edu.

Published Information

Information on acquisitions was regularly reported in the Annual Reports of the U.S. National Museum, which began publication in 1884. For earlier collections, consult the [Smithsonian Annual Reports](#).

A number of other Smithsonian publication series are available in digital form through the [Biodiversity Heritage Library](#). They include:

- [Bulletins of the U.S. National Museum](#)
- [Bureau of Ethnology Bulletins No. 1 - 24](#)
- [Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletins No. 25 - 200](#)
- [Proceedings of the U.S. National Museum](#)
- [Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections](#)
- [Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge](#)
- [Contributions to North American ethnology](#). Vol. I-VII, IX. [Ed. by J.W. Powell]

The [Smithsonian Contributions to Anthropology](#) is a continuing series started in 1965, and highlights anthropological research at the Smithsonian, including research on the collections.

Much American Indian material was collected by individuals associated with the Smithsonian's Bureau of American Ethnology. The [BAE Annual Reports](#) (available via [Gallica](#)) may include information on their work.

The [Smithsonian Institution Libraries](#), particularly the [Anthropology branch library](#), may be of assistance in locating additional published materials. Advance appointments are recommended but not required for the Anthropology Library. Their phone number is 202-633-1640.



[Collector's tag on object](#)



[Old label attached to object](#)

In the Collections

Collecting information is sometimes written directly on objects, and original collector's tags may remain attached to objects. Tags that have been removed are preserved in the Collections Records Room, filed by accession number.

The ethnology collection is organized in storage by region (Africa, Asia, Oceania etc.), culture area or country, and culture. Objects lacking a specific cultural designation may be stored in a general section for a wider region, or they may be placed near similar items to facilitate access. The storage location is a matter of convenience and should not be considered an alternative to consulting catalog data.

The archaeology collection is organized geographically. Within the United States it is stored by state, county and site.

TOOL KIT #1

HOW TO FIND 'EM: GOING BEYOND GOOGLE

STARTING POINT

Organize the information you have, with dates:

NAME and TITLE

ADDRESS

OCCUPATION

COLLECTING LOCALE

Develop a search strategy. Google (or your favorite search engine) is a good starting point – but don't stop there. Use available online resources as a tool to locate sources, many of which must be reviewed in person. Here are some further suggestions.

US NATIONAL MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORTS

Available through Biodiversity Heritage Library:

<http://biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/7964#/summary>

GENERAL BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

Gelman Research Guides

<http://libguides.gwu.edu/browse.php>

See Biography Guide for sources and tips

<http://libguides.gwu.edu/bio>

Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online

<http://www.biographi.ca/index-e.html>

GENERAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES

National Archives and Records Administration

www.archives.gov/research/arc/index.html

NARA non-electronic sources

U.S. Census Data (by date and location)

(available online by subscription services such as www.ancestry.com
or free at http://archive.org/details/us_census)

Applications for government employment

Pension records

Military employment records

Dept of State records on diplomatic corps employees

Dept of Indian Affairs records on employees

Library of Congress (archives as well as published material)

<http://catalog.loc.gov/>

DIPLOMATS

Principle Officers of the Department [of State] and U.S. Chiefs of Mission [1778-2005]

<https://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/people/principals-chiefs>

The Political Graveyard: A Database of Historic Cemeteries

and much, much more regarding politicians, judges, and diplomats

<http://politicalgraveyard.com/>

MILITARY SOURCES

Great resources available onsite at the Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard.

National Archives Military Records: <http://www.archives.gov/research/military/>

Callahan, Edward W.

List of officers of the Navy of the United States and of the Marine Corps, from 1775 to 1900, comprising a complete register of all present and former commissioned, warranted, and appointed officers of the United States Navy, and of the Marine Corps, regular and volunteer. Comp. from the official records of the Navy Department. New York, L.R. Hamersly & Co., 1901.

[Available online at www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/NHC/Callahan/index.htm]

Hamersley, Lewis Randolph

The records of living officers of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Comp. from official sources by Lewis Randolph Hamersley, 1847 -1910. New York, L. R. Hamersly & Co., various editions, 1870-1910.

[Multiple editions available online

1884 edition: <http://www.archive.org/details/recordsoflivingo01hame>]

Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships

<http://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs.html>

Heitman, Francis B.

Historical register and dictionary of the United States Army, from its organization, September 29, 1789, to March 2, 1903. Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1903.

[various editions available – be sure to select the right period of time.

Available online: <http://www.archive.org/>]

Cullum, George Washington

Biographical register of the officers and graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, 1891; Cambridge [Mass.]: Printed at the Riverside Press, 1901-.

[Several editions and supplements covering different periods of time. Volume 1, 3rd ed., and Supplement, Volume 4 are available at <http://www.archive.org/>.

Others, including the 3rd edition, revised and extended, are available online through Google Books.]

MISSIONARY SOURCES

Papers of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Available on microfilm at the Library of Congress.

Archives Guide to Papers of American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Houghton Library, Harvard University

<http://oasis.lib.harvard.edu/oasis/deliver/~hou01467>

Sources for Research: Missions and World Christianity (Yale Univ. links to many sites)

http://guides.library.yale.edu/missions_resources

Selected other archives with material of interest (Wheaton College links to many sites)

www.wheaton.edu/bgc/archives/nonwarch.html

Mission Periodicals Database (British publications only)

<http://divdl.library.yale.edu/missionperiodicals/>

Other likely sources:

Reference librarians at universities with strong religious affiliation

LOCAL SOURCES

Newspapers

ALADIN - See entry for News Sources under General Interest and Reference

New York Times (1851-2006)

Washington Post (1877-1993)

Chicago Defender (1910-1975)

Early American Newspapers (1690-1889)

Library of Congress historical newspapers, 1836-1922

Searchable access to over 800 newspaper from around the country:

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

State historical societies:

Look for archives and publications

Look for newspaper resources

Look for links to other public records

Local historical societies, museums, libraries:

Find them with the *Museum Directory* of the American Association of Museums.

For Washington, DC, try the *Washingtoniana Division* at the M.L. King Public Library, <http://dclibrary.org/node/35928>.

City Directories:

Local guidebooks, in which anybody who was anybody provided information about themselves – their family, church, occupation, clubs. Some are online, others available only in libraries.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Medical – *History of Medicine section*, National Library of Medicine, NIH

includes archives (with biographical material) and links to state archives

www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/

ALMA MATERS

Many colleges and universities maintain files on alums, either in the Alumni Office or in the university archives.

ANECDOTAL SOURCES

Published memoirs by people who might have known the collector, either through their place of residence or encountering them at the collecting locale. These are often chatty, unprofessional, and provide incredibly rich context. They are hard to find through targeted scholarly searches; approach them through time and place.

GENEOLOGICAL SOURCES

Many great resources available online. Ask the reference librarian at your local public library for assistance. (Or don't you have a great aunt or second cousin who's into this?)

Free:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/> Useful for connecting with surnames and has a message board. Also has some locality sites: county or city.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/> This site is available to the public but has associated fees for certain searches (such as social security birth/death info). It also is tied to Ancestry.com so can be accessed at a library.

<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/> (haven't tried this one much)

<http://usgenweb.org/> Can get the researcher to many local/regional sites.

As an example, for the Eastern Shore of Virginia, the Eastern Shore Public Library has a great site at: <http://www.espl.org>

Another source for New York is: <http://www.fultonhistory.com/>. This site has scanned newspapers that can be searched easily – has ability to do Boolean searches, too.

Cost:

These can be accessed for free at your local public library:

<http://www.ancestry.com/> Has numerous useful records: census, military, birth, death, marriage, city directories, newspapers and family trees. Usually available at a library.

<http://www.newspaperarchive.com/> Has many online newspapers from various states. Allows a variety of searches to be made.

DESCENDANTS

Obituaries of your donor/collector may identify descendants then living. You can search for people of the same name, if sufficiently distinctive, especially if living in the same city or region. Local property tax records may help to locate family, if the property stayed in the family.

TOOL KIT #2: ***FINDING LITERATURE ON MATERIAL CULTURE***

Even when you know how to use library resources pretty well, finding discussions of material culture can be particularly challenging.

General thoughts:

- Find a general ethnography about the culture and look over the bibliography section.
- Once upon a time, ethnographies were expected to include material culture as a part of the description of a culture – look for older literature, esp. pre-1940.
- Beginning in the 1970s, art history discovered non-Western material and called it art! Look for more recent literature in this domain.

FINDING JOURNAL ARTICLES

ANTHROPOLOGY PLUS (*Aladin*)

This database indexes journal articles, as well as including monographs. It is a combination of the databases that index the holdings of two major anthropological libraries, Anthropological Index Online (British Museum) and Anthropological Literature (Peabody Museum, Harvard).

ANTHROSOURCE (*Aladin*)

This database includes full text articles from various journals, overlapping articles available through JSTOR. For several journals, such as the *American Anthropologist* and *Museum Anthropology*, it includes more recent materials than are available in JSTOR.

ART ABSTRACTS (*Aladin*)

Index and abstracts to art and art history journals since 1984, some linked to full-text articles.

ART INDEX RETROSPECTIVE (*Aladin*)

Index and abstracts to art and art history journals 1929 – 1984.

SIRIS (publicly accessible Smithsonian database)

For literature, search the Libraries section, **not** the Archives section. Journal articles are generally not indexed, the exception being articles and various ephemera in the library of the National Museum of African Art.

GOOGLE SCHOLAR

<http://scholar.google.com/>

Using the Scholar filter will tighten your Google search to journal articles – and patents, if you wish...

FINDING BOOKS

In spite of all the great databases and finding aids now available, shelf browsing is still one of the most productive strategies. Find the call number for a group of books relating to the culture of interest, go to the shelves, pull things off and browse tables of contents, bibliographies, and especially indexes. Gelman is not a good source for literature on material culture. Look in the SI Libraries online catalog to get started, then make an appointment to come in and browse.

An old strategy is to find one useful book, see what subject headings it is cataloged under, and search for other sources with the same subject heading.

MUSEUM LITERATURE

Museums are closely connected to material culture. Scholarly museum publication series are a prime source of information if you are willing to browse (many are not well indexed). Published collection catalogs are a rich source, as are exhibition catalogs. Word of caution: the former are often the result of careful restudy of a collection; the latter usually rely on extant catalog information.

SMITHSONIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANTHROPOLOGY

<http://www.sil.si.edu/smithsoniancontributions/>

Full-text monographs published by the Smithsonian. World-wide in scope.

BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY ANNUAL REPORTS

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/37968#/summary>

Full-text monographs from an era when material culture was often described. American coverage only, but includes archaeology as well as ethnology.

BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY BULLETINS

<http://www.sil.si.edu/DigitalCollections/BAE/Bulletin200/200title.htm>

Index to titles and authors of all BAE publications.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

<http://digitallibrary.amnh.org/dspace/>

Full-text monographs from an era when material culture was often described. World-wide coverage in fields of archaeology, ethnology, and physical anthropology.

BULLETIN OF THE PUBLIC MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE

The full texts of volumes 1-3 (1911-1919) are available online through the HathiTrust Digital Library. Check the library for physical holdings and reprints.

FIELDIANA

A great publication series from the Field Museum of Natural History, with many issues devoted to description of collections, including cultural context. Many issues are available online through the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

RES: JOURNAL OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND AESTHETICS

Joint publication of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology and the Harvard Art Museum. Browse titles at:

<https://www.peabody.harvard.edu/res-journal>

OTHER USEFUL SOURCES (Google will find many but not all of these resources)

ONLINE BOOKS

<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/>

One of my favorites! A database of books available in full-text online, with links to the sites where they are available. A great resource for access to old literature that is often now available only in rare book and other non-circulating library resources. And once you are directed to the site hosting the on-line edition, you can often run full text searches.

INTERNET ARCHIVE

<http://archive.org>

A great resource for text searchable online books – plus the definitive guide to The Grateful Dead.

HATHI TRUST DIGITAL LIBRARY

<http://hathitrust.org>

A consortium of university libraries, so the literature is good for research purposes. GWU is not a partner so you cannot download books, but you can search and read online.

GOOGLE BOOKS

<http://books.google.com>

The book section is huge and can be overwhelming with gems hidden among lots of non-scholarly sources. Shape your search carefully.

CONSERVATION INFORMATION NETWORK

<http://www.bcin.ca/>

This is a database of citations and abstracts to articles about the conservation of museum specimens. You can search under materials and geographic regions. Many articles provide basic background information about the objects undergoing treatment.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON GUIDE TO ANTHROPOLOGICAL MATERIAL

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/library/subject-support/guides/anthropology>

A British orientation that sometimes leads to sources not included in American services.

BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE LIBRARY

<http://biodiversitylibrary.org>

Don't be fooled by the title. Includes some anthropological literature as well, esp. museum-related.

TOOL KIT #3: *ONLINE ARTIFACT DATABASES*

ONLINE DATABASES WITH IMAGES OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL OBJECTS

American Museum of Natural History

<http://anthro.amnh.org/>

Autry National Center (Native American material)

<http://collections.theautry.org>

Bishop Museum (Honolulu; primarily Pacific material)

<http://www.bishopmuseum.org/collections-3/archaeology/>

<http://www.bishopmuseum.org/collections-3/ethnology/>

British Museum

<http://www.britishmuseum.org/collection>

Burke Museum, University of Washington

<http://www.burkemuseum.org/research-and-collections/collections-databases>

California Academy of Science

<http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/anthropology/collections/index.asp>

Canadian Museum of History

<http://collections.civilization.ca/>

Field Museum of Natural History (good coverage of Pacific material)

<http://fieldmuseum.org/explore/department/anthropology/collections>

Metropolitan Museum of Art

<http://www.metmuseum.org/collections>

Musée de Quai Branly (Great world coverage – my new favorite site!)

<http://collections.quaibrantly.fr/>

Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia

<http://collection-online.moa.ubc.ca/>

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (Some non-Western materials included)

<http://www.mfa.org/collections>

National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden (Netherlands)

<http://collectie.wereldculturen.nl/default.aspx?lang=en>

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (World coverage, including photographs)
<http://pmem.unix.fas.harvard.edu:8080/peabody/>

Phoebe Apperson Hearst Museum, Berkeley
<http://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu/collections/overview>

Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford
<http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/collections.html>

Smithsonian Institution, Collections Search Center (pay attention to “catalog record source”)
<http://collections.si.edu>

V&A (formerly known as Victoria and Albert Museum – how stuffy!)
<http://images.vam.ac.uk/indexplus/page/Home.html>

Yale Peabody Museum
<http://peabody.yale.edu/collections/search-collections?ant>