University of Alberta Museums Annual Report, including the report of the University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee
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1.0 Executive Summary

This report summarizes the activities of the Policy and Planning Committee, with selected collections-based highlights and achievements from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

- All University of Alberta Museums’ collections have been reviewed and assessed in terms of their compliance with basic museum practice; this process is required to qualify for provisional registration status under the University of Alberta Museums and Collections Policy (approved by the Board of Governors on March 28, 2008).

- The Friends of the University of Alberta Museums honoured their 25th anniversary year with a number of special programs, including “Celebrating 25 Years of Friends of the University of Alberta Museums.” This celebration commemorated the accomplishments of the Friends over the past 25 years as well as the strength and breadth of the collections that they have supported.

- The University of Alberta Museums’ Return of Cultural Property Committee continued meeting to aid with a repatriation request related to remains held in trust in the Department of Anthropology since 1965-66.

- Due to a high number of vacant positions (including maternity leaves and retirements), Museums and Collections Services has temporarily discontinued some services and limited access to some collections.

2.0 Report of the University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee:

The University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee met formally on September 17, 2009, November 26, 2009, February 4, 2010, and June 4, 2010. Several issues identified in the last report are ongoing to this academic year.

2.1 Activity One:

University of Alberta Museums and Collections Policy (ongoing activity)

Under the University of Alberta Museums and Collections Policy, all University of Alberta museum collections were reviewed and assessed between April and August 2009 for provisional registration. All registered collections are required to comply with basic museum standards of practice.
• A draft “Guidelines for Undocumented Museum Objects” was created in consultation with legal counsel and the Clothing and Textiles Collection to address objects found in a collection that are not accessioned and for which there is no way to establish a legal title. The Policy and Planning Committee suggested that the Guidelines be further developed, in consultation with a broader representation of curators to include science collections;

• The Dentistry Collection has not been provisionally registered. Museums and Collections Services is undertaking a review of this collection in consultation with the Chair of the Department of Dentistry to decide its future status. No space has been dedicated to this collection in the Edmonton Clinic;

• As a result of the review process, which provided the opportunity to reorganize, rename, or collapse the operations of collections, there are now a total of 28 provisionally registered collections;

• The Policy and Planning Committee approved a draft Acquisitions Strategy document to be piloted as a tool with several collections;

• The committee approved a draft “Art Acquisition and Commissioning Procedure” to take forward through the UAPPOL approval process;

• A survey was conducted of collections employing the MIMSY collections databasing system: the goal was to ensure that adequate resources and tools are in place to fulfill the responsibilities of Museums and Collections Services to support and train MIMSY users.

• Due to staffing shortages, the training program to address key issues/processes related to policy implementation was temporarily placed on hold by Museums and Collections Services.

Collections Digitization: Review of MIMSY XG

Staff of Museums and Collections Services conducted a survey of collections staff who currently use the MIMSY XG digitization software for collections management as part of their policy compliance. The purpose of this survey was to ensure that adequate resources and tools are in place to fulfill the responsibility of Museums and Collections Services to support and train MIMSY users.

This survey identified the following needs for MIMSY users: information sessions on basic MIMSY functions, a training manual, web-based tutorials, and an online toolbox (including videos, manuals, field-use templates, and tip sheets). Further to these identified needs, there is also a need for a simple web-based searching tool for collections that currently lack web interfaces. Staff of Museums and Collections Services are now in the process of addressing these needs.
University of Alberta Museums Website

To further assist with policy compliance, providing access to necessary procedures, forms, processes, documentation, and service information, staff of Museums and Collections Services continued the project of redesigning the University of Alberta Museums website. The new website will also help to promote awareness and understanding of the University of Alberta Museums, in order to provide clarity, increase visibility and access, generate excitement, raise profile, highlight diversity of the collections, and showcase researchers and their discoveries. The new website will assist with progress toward the vision of the curatorial research facility, encouraging interdisciplinarity, while presenting the vision of a unified museum system, which has traditionally been a struggle.

- The University of Alberta Museums’ Web Applications Developer and Information Management Advisor have developed new and exciting features on the database pages. The new features make searching and browsing the collections much easier. Facts are compiled and presented to the user in a dynamic and innovative manner.

- This project has been placed on hold as current staff members have taken on some of the workload of vacant positions within the unit. The site will be launched in early 2011.

Investing in the Next Generation of Inquiring/Inspiring Minds

During the 2009-2010 school year, Museums and Collections Services began the process of redeveloping the Muse Project to ensure that the University of Alberta Museums remain at the forefront of museum education. The Muse Project is a curriculum-linked, educational outreach program for grades 4-9 that engages students in object-based research with University of Alberta Museums collections. More than 700 students participated in 2009-2010, and it is anticipated that the number of participants will double in 2010-11.

The inquiry-based learning foundation of the Muse Project remains unchanged, but the programs now go beyond acquiring content knowledge to cultivate higher-level thinking. Each program contains three elements: an on-campus Discovery Tour, a Discovery Kit with additional resources for the classroom, and a website with lesson plans and further support for educators. By supporting the development of the following skills, we are investing in the next generation of researchers:

- Higher levels of questioning
- Critical thinking
- Visual literacy
- Historical thinking

All of the teachers who attended the Muse Project and completed a survey this year stated that they would return and they also all indicated that they would recommend the programs to other educators. Teachers appreciate the new critical thinking components and have expressed the need for more support in helping their students develop these important skills.
2.2 Activity Two:
Curatorial Research Facility (Ongoing activity)

Part A: Business Plan

The University of Alberta Museums’ Policy and Planning Committee continues to see the urgent need for a Curatorial Research Facility in order for the University of Alberta Museums to be recognized and properly function as a cohesive system. The committee addressed the fact that the challenges and needs for improved museum facilities on campus continue. An ad hoc committee was struck and met on March 18, 2010 to consider strategies to ensure that collection needs including a facility remain priorities of the University of Alberta.

Part B: Graduate Program in Museum Innovation

As the graduate-level museum studies program is largely dependent on a new building – coupled with current staff shortages – this project is currently on hold.

2.3 Activity Three:
Review of Category A Designation (ongoing activity)

The University of Alberta Museums’ Category A Designation by the Department of Canadian Heritage has been under review since 2004/05; this designation will not be renewed until the University of Alberta Museums meet all facility requirements.

Part A: Facilities

There are several new and/or outstanding issues with the various facilities in which different collections are stored across campus:

- The electronic compactor storage unit in the Clothing and Textiles Collection malfunctioned in the spring of 2009. The Department of Human Ecology has been unable to find technical and financial solutions to repair the equipment; therefore, access to the collection is severely hindered. Tours are impossible and entire course lesson plans have had to change to accommodate this restricted access;

- All HVAC systems related to the Art Collection (Print Study Centre, TELUS Centre, Terrace building) continue to be deficient in delivering stable environments;
• Following the move of the Art Collection out of NREF to the Terrace building, additional space is still required for the storage of display and shipping equipment;

• The Bohdan Medwidzky Ukrainian Folklore Archives Collection (Modern Languages and Cultural Studies) was moved for the third time in the summer of 2009 to a renovated space in the Arts Building. The space was rededicated in the spring of 2010 and received significant attention from the Ukrainian media and community;

• The Renewable Resources Natural History Collection moved in the summer of 2009;

• Staff of Museums and Collections Services met with the curator of the Pathology Gross Teaching Collection, the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, and the university planners to determine facility needs in preparation for the collection relocation to the Edmonton Clinic; and

• In July of 2009, a fumehood fire in a lab above the Ethnography Collection storage facility resulted in a water leakage into the collection; no damage was sustained as collection staff had previously covered all artifacts and raised them off the floor in anticipation of such an occurrence.

Part B: Emergency Preparedness Planning

Staff of the University of Alberta Museums completed a draft document in consultation with Emergency Management as well as the University of Alberta Museums Emergency Planning Committee (including collections staff from Anthropology, Biological Sciences, and Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.) Further planning will commence once a Preventive Conservation Manager is hired.

2.4 Activity Four:

NextGen: Canada (new activity)

The Policy and Planning Committee endorsed a new initiative proposed by Museums and Collections Services to collaborate with the Alberta Museums Association and the Getty Leadership Institute at the Claremont Graduate University (GLI@CGU) in California. NextGen: Canada is based on the GLI@CGU’s internationally respected Museum Leaders: The Next Generation program, and will be held from May 9-13, 2011 on the University of Alberta campus.

2.5 Activity Five:

Return of Cultural Property Request (ongoing activity)

The Sharphead repatriation request continues for the return of the remains of 25 individuals and associated funerary objects. Executive Director Janine Andrews and members of the Return of Cultural Property Committee participated in a stakeholders meeting with the Government of Alberta, as well as Band Chiefs,
Elders, and other community members to discuss reburial issues. A blessing ceremony was held in the summer of 2010.

The Government of Alberta remains the lead in negotiating with the bands for an appropriate reburial location. To date, no agreement has been reached.

A Life-Changing University Experience

To recognize the 25th anniversary of the Friends of the University of Alberta Museums, the University of Alberta and the Friends together created a full-time summer University of Alberta Museums internship that commenced in 2010. The Friends have committed to provide partial funding for this internship for five years, to be matched with other sources. Museums and Collections Services is working to strategize sustainable funding for this internship.

Through a competitive selection process, Christina Williamson, a fourth-year honors student in History and Classics, was chosen as the inaugural intern for the summer of 2010. She had the opportunity to work with several collections over the summer, with different subject areas including collections management, curation, museum education, and exhibition creation:

“This internship has been the greatest work experience I have ever received. Looking back through my summer makes me realize just how much I have accomplished and what kind of amazing people work at [the U of A Museums]. I now know for sure that museums is the field I want to dedicate my life to....I have a far better idea of which grad schools I will be applying to and what I want to learn there. This internship is an excellent experience for undergraduates [who can] rarely find meaningful work in the museum field....Having a paid internship opens it up to a lot of people that could not otherwise afford to work in museums unpaid.” – Christina Williamson has applied to graduate studies in the United States for the fall of 2011 in the museum studies field.
2.6 Activity Six:
Appointment of Expert Examiners (ongoing activity)

The appointment of expert examiners (curators from the University of Alberta Museums) to evaluate cultural property export permits for the Department of Canadian Heritage is still in the planning stages.

2.7 Activity Seven:
Funding Needs Adjudication (annual activity)

Adjudication of 2009-2010 Requests:

One of the annual activities of the Policy and Planning Committee is the adjudication of funding requests solicited from the curators of the various University of Alberta museum collections. A new Guidelines and Procedure for Museums Funding was introduced, following the UAPPOL format, to formalize committee practices regarding the annual Funding Needs Assessment.

Several major issues continue to arise out of this annual activity:

- Funding requests are continually related to basic collections care; however, this is not the intended purpose for these funds;
- Funding requests continually exceed available monies.

Although $83,049 was requested in 2009-2010, only $38,112* was distributed based on available monies. (*See Appendix E, Section One for detailed funding information.) Needs were assessed based on merit and recommended for funding through the following limited and/or competitive sources:

- Community Outreach Endowment Fund: a U of A Museums fund which generated approximately $9000 in 2009-2010;
- The Friends of the University of Alberta Museums who raise and donate funds for projects totaling $29,307 in 2009-2010;
- Museum and heritage grant and temporary employment programs including Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations and the Summer Temporary Employment Program, totaling $10,950 in 2009-2010.

There is a continual challenge to care for collections, which are essential to the research of curators and collections staff. In addition to funds designated centrally through the needs assessment, curators or other academic staff in each faculty or department (who undertake responsibilities related to museum collections) are actively involved in research**, much of which relates directly or indirectly to the collections resources.

* * More than $3.8 million in grants was awarded to these researchers between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010, representing a strong imbalance with the less than $40,000 available for collections to help support these and other projects.

** See Appendix E, Section Two for detailed funding information. These figures reflect information provided by the Research Services Office.
The Policy and Planning Committee continues to be concerned with the need to raise more funds and the
difficulty in doing so within the current campus development model. The committee continues to discuss the
need for a larger U of A Museums endowment, and this will remain an ongoing concern until we develop
and implement a plan to address this issue.

Staff of Museums and Collections Services met with several representatives from the Development Office in
the fall of 2009 to determine a strategy to raise additional funds for museums and museum projects. This
strategy is still outstanding.

Celebrating our Supporters

In the fall of 2009, the University of Alberta Museums marked a special celebration honouring all the outstanding supporters of the U of A Museums, including Friends, volunteers, curators, and collections staff. This celebration coincided with the 25th anniversary of the Friends of the U of A Museums, an organization that was formed in 1984 to promote and support the University of Alberta Museums by connecting the university with the broader community.

Chancellor Linda Hughes spoke about the significant contributions the Friends make to the university community, and she honoured longtime members who were involved when the organization was formed 25 years ago and still maintain active membership today. Deputy Provost Dru Marshall brought formal greetings from the university and presented awards to three outstanding museum volunteers from the past year, two current students and one professor emeritus.

The evening included curators and collections staff providing live interpretation of selected specimens and artifacts from various campus museum collections, including a 19th century tea gown, a 403 million-year-old rock from the Northwest Territories, a duck-billed platypus skeleton, and a 19th century Japanese woodblock print. The 40 artworks and artifacts on display had all received some form of financial support (acquisition, research, collections management funding) from the Friends.
Appendices

Appendix A

Policy and Planning Committee Membership

Chair
Mark Wilson
Curator, Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology
Department of Biological Sciences

Ex Officio (voting)
Janine Andrews
Executive Director, Museums and Collections Services

Tom Kieren
President, Friends of the University of Alberta Museums

Mark Wilson
Curator, Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology
Chair, Curators’ Committee

General Faculties Council
Jeremy Mouat
Augustana College

David Jones
Map Library

Curators’ Committee (elected)
Pam Willoughby
Curator, Archaeology Collection
Department of Anthropology

Alison Murray
Curator, Ichthyology Collection
Department of Biological Sciences

Anne Bissonnette
Curator, Clothing and Textiles Collection
Department of Human Ecology

One position vacant

Undergraduate Student Representative
Position vacant

Graduate Students Association Elected Representative
Jason Dombroskie
Department of Biological Sciences

Secretary (non-voting)
Frannie Blandheim
Associate Director, Museums and Collections Services

Appendix B

Directory of the Registered Collections of the University of Alberta Museums

Faculty of Arts

Department of Anthropology
Archaeology Collection
Curator: Pamela Willoughby
Ethnographic Collection
Curator: Pamela Mayne Correia
Fossil Hominid Collection
Curator: Pamela Mayne Correia
Osteology Collection
Curator: Pamela Mayne Correia
Zooarchaeology Reference Collection
Curator: Robert Losey

Department of History and Classics
W.G. Hardy Collection of Ancient Near Eastern and Classical Antiquities
Curator: Jeremy Rossiter

Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies
Bohdan Medwisky Ukrainian Folklore Archives
Curator: Andriy Nahachewsky
Faculty of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences

Devonian Botanic Garden
Devonian Botanic Garden Herbarium
Curator: René Belland

Department of Human Ecology
Clothing and Textiles Collection
Curator: Anne Bissonnette

Department of Renewable Resources
Soil Science Monolith Collection
Curator: Scott Chang
Renewable Resources Natural History Collection (Dendrology and Wildlife)
Curator: John Acorn

Faculty of Medicine

Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
Pathology Gross Teaching Collection
Curator: David Rayner

Faculty of Science

Department of Biological Sciences
Cryptogamic Herbarium
Curator: Catherine La Farge
Vascular Plant Herbarium
Curator: Jocelyn Hall
Paleobotanical Collection
Curator: Ruth A. Stockey
E.H. Strickland Entomological Museum
Curator: Felix Sperling
Freshwater Invertebrate Collection
Curator: Heather Proctor

Jim van Es Marine Invertebrate and Malacology Collection
Curator: Richard Palmer

Museum of Zoology:
Amphibian and Reptile Collection
Curator: Cindy Paszkowski
Ornithology Collection
Curator: Cindy Paszkowski
Ichthyology Collection
Curator: Alison Murray
Mammalogy Collection
Curator: Andrew Derachcer
Parasitology Collection
Curator: Allen Shostak

Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology
Amphibians, Mammals, and Reptile Collection
Curator: Michael Caldwell
Dinosaur and Bird Collection
Curator: Philip Currie
Fossil Fishes Collection
Curator: Mark Wilson

Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Meteorite Collection
Curator: Christopher Herd
Invertebrate Paleontology Collection
Curator: Lindsey Leighton
Mineralogy and Petrology Collection
Curator: Tom Chacko
Drill Core Collection
Curator: John-Paul Zonneveld
Trace Fossil Collection
Curator: Murray Gingras
Appendix C

Museums and Collections Services Staff (continuing)

Janine Andrews
Executive Director *

Frannie Blondheim
Associate Director

Helen Chimirri-Russell
Museums Policy Advisor
(on maternity leave: September 2009-September 2010)

Jim Corrigan
Curator, University of Alberta Art Collection

Ellen Cunningham
Exhibition and Outreach Manager

Chantelle De Martin
Administrative Coordinator * *
(on maternity leave: February 2010-February 2011)

Danielle Gajewski
Collections Assistant

Tom Hunter
Collections Assistant

Jennifer Kuchta
Communications and Marketing Coordinator
(on maternity leave: November 2009-November 2010)

Denis La France
Senior Systems Administrator * *

Gordon Lobay
Collections Management and Museum Planning Advisor

Stephanie Nemcsok
Museum Education Coordinator

Pauline Rennick
Collections Digitization Manager

Kyle Schmidt
Web Applications Developer

Jim Whittome
Information Management Advisor

Marla Zubiak
Administrative Assistant
(Human Resources) * *

Appendix D

Friends of the University of Alberta Museums
Board of Directors: 2009-2010

Tom Kieren
President

Julia Boberg
Past-President

Muriel Nelson
Acting Vice-President
Newsletter Committee Chair

Halfdan (Bud) Baadsgaard
Secretary

Diana Bacon
Treasurer

Adrienne Boender
Programs Committee Chair

Holly Sykora
Casino Committee Chair

Dennis Brooks
Director-at-Large

Caitlin Wells
Director-at-Large

Tovah Yedlin
Director-at-Large

Tai Ziola
Director-at-Large

Donna Zuk
Director-at-Large

* Responsible for Museums and Collections Services, University of Alberta Archives, and Information and Privacy Office
** Administrative team shared with Museums and Collections Services and the University of Alberta Archives
Appendix E
Detailed Funding Report

Section One
The following information provides details of funding acquired by Museums and Collections Services for museum and collection projects between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010:

The Friends of the University of Alberta Museums
$29,307

Anthropology – Archaeology Collection
$2907
Hire technician to continue collection digitization. Small purchase of outreach specimens.

Anthropology – Fossil Hominid Collection
$600
Purchase of casts/replicas.

Anthropology – Osteology Collection
$2500
Purchase of pathological specimens.

Biological Sciences – Vascular Plant Herbarium
$4000
Hire student to database Asteraceae specimens.

Biological Sciences – Museum of Zoology
$4000
Hire student to continue inventory of Ichthyology collection, upgrade collections stored in alcohol, and database specimens.

Earth and Atmospheric Sciences – Paleontology
$3800
Design and installation of a new exhibit on the Ordovician period.

Earth and Atmospheric Sciences – Mineralogy/Petrology Museum
$4000
Design and installation of a renewed Alberta Geology exhibit.

Earth and Atmospheric Sciences – Meteorite Collection
$3500
Purchase of Buzzard Coulee meteorite specimens – funds to match Movable Cultural Property grant.

Human Ecology – Clothing and Textiles Collection
$4000
Purchase of mannequins for historical costumes.

Community Outreach Endowment Fund
$8805

Biological Sciences – Freshwater Invertebrate Collection
$3200
Curation and databasing of new specimens.

Devonian Botanic Garden – DBG Herbarium Collection
$4000
Hire summer student to assist in curation and databasing of the collection with focus on Saskatchewan materials.

Modern Languages – Ukrainian Folklore Archives
$1605
Purchase of mannequins for historical costumes.
**Young Canada Works – Government of Canada**

$8000

Hire summer student gallery assistant for three exhibitions for the University of Alberta Art Collection.

**Summer Temporary Employment Program – Government of Alberta**

$2950

Hire summer student to assist with digitization, data review and image processing for various collections including the Clothing and Textiles Collection, the Vascular Plant Herbarium, the Archaeology Collection, and the Art Collection.

**Section Two**

The following spreadsheet provides details of research grants received by curators and staff of individual museums and collections. This information was supplied directly by the Research Services Office.
<table>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Sponsors</th>
<th>Dept</th>
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<th>Begin Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<td>UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA</td>
<td>Adm/General Internal Startup</td>
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<td>5/1/2008</td>
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<td>Caldwell, Michael</td>
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<td>Biological Sciences</td>
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<td>ConocoPhillips Canada</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>Ecology of grizzly bears in the Mackenzie Delta</td>
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<td>Study of Regulatory Pathways controlling lipid and cholesterol metabolism in Drosophilia</td>
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**Fund Description**: Description of the fund, budget, and allocated amounts. **Sponsors**: The sponsors responsible for the funding. **Dept**: The department or field of study associated with the project. **Description**: A brief description of the project or research. **Long Description**: A detailed description of the project or research. **Begin Date**: The starting date of the project or research. **End Date**: The ending date of the project or research. **Funded Amt**: The amount of funding allocated for the project or research.
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