

ARCHAEOLOGY COLLECTION RESEARCH REQUEST PROCEDURE

The Museum Division will allow access to and use of archaeology collections and collections records for study and examination by individuals for scholarly research and other legitimate purposes. Access will be permitted in a controlled, professional manner that protects the physical and intellectual integrity of the collections and collections records.

The Museum Division requires consultation and approval on collections access and research regarding Native American collections. Requests must be submitted using a completed Research Consultation Form. MDAH will provide all completed forms to federally recognized Tribal partners and serve as liaison for ongoing consultation. Loans or transfers require additional forms which will be administered upon approval of the MDAH Board of Trustees.

The following parameters are encouraged:

1. Research that is respectful to Native Americans and does not include unnecessary research of human remains or burial objects,
2. Research that is collaborative,
3. Research that provides benefit to descendant communities and the history of Mississippi,
4. Research conducted or sponsored by Tribes or Tribal members,
5. Research that is beneficial to Tribal partners.

Acknowledging its responsibility to safeguard the collections, collections records, and archaeological site information, the Museum Division reserves the right to the following:

1. Control access to prevent disclosure of sensitive information regarding human remains, cultural objects, or archaeological site location,
2. Control access resulting in deterioration, mutilation, loss, or theft of objects and/or collections records,
3. Restrict undue interference with the administrative, professional, and technical operations of MDAH,
4. Obtain legal counsel and services regarding access and use of the collections and collections records,
5. Request additional forms, quotes, or documentation for research regarding testing, destructive or otherwise,
6. Refuse access to NAGPRA collections, or areas of NAGPRA collections storage.

Authority for permitting and monitoring access to and use of the collections and collections records is held by the Archaeology Collections Committee (archaeology collections staff, the Museum Division director, and the chief archaeologist) with Tribal consent. Access may be limited by staff availability, by the regulations of NAGPRA, and by damage potential of objects in the collections.

Normally, research and examination of collections and collections records will take place in the Artifact Viewing Room under the supervision of archaeology collections staff. If the object(s) to be examined is not able to be easily and safely moved to the Artifact Viewing Room, the director of archaeology collections may allow no more than two researchers strictly supervised access to the archaeology collections storage area.