RECORDS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH: A HISTORICAL CASE STUDY EXAMINING THE MANDATES OF CHANGE IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDKEEPING IN THE UNITED STATES

Brian M. Cumer
School of Information Sciences
University of Pittsburgh

August 23, 2011
Society of American Archivists
Introduction
Significance

1. Will provide a narrative chronology of archaeological recordkeeping.

2. Will describe in detail the external mandates that lead to evolutionary changes in practices for recording archaeological research.

3. Will help to provide a context for archaeologists and records professionals who are dealing with the current changes occurring in archaeological record keeping and records use.
Research

How have changes in the recordkeeping mandates of technology and policy during the 20th and 21st Centuries influenced the nature of archaeological recordkeeping in the United States?
Technology
Policy

SAA

NAGPRA
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

RPA
Register of Professional Archaeologists

NHPA
Celebrating 40 Years of Preservation
Units of Study

• Archival Materials – the Records of Archaeology
  • Focus on historical archaeology in the U.S.
  • Archaeologists with long careers
  • Long-term archaeological projects

• Interviews
  • Archaeologists with long careers/associated with long-term projects
Phase one: John Cotter
Thanks:

Society of American Archivists

Richard Cox, Bernadette Callery, Kip Currier, Kathy Linduff

University of Pennsylvania Museum