

Register of Professional Archaeologists CPE Program Certification Application

1. **Educational Focus:** *List the program's learning objectives. Explain how the program's format, length, venue, and manner of teaching are appropriate for the subject matter.*

Orphaned collections are groups of objects and/or associated records with unclear ownership that have been abandoned. Some may have been left with limited documentation upon retirement in academia; others are the result of unclear ownership at the start of a CRM project or due to closure or mergers of CRM firms; yet others may result from a museum shutting its doors or an agency that does not know it is the rightful owner of a particular collection. Whatever the case, orphaned collections affect every sector of archaeology. This seminar will provide guidance for working through the process of remedying orphaned collections by offering a framework by which to understand what they are, and how they became orphaned, so as to prevent similar circumstances in the future. A resource guide is offered to participants, outlining specific criteria and procedures for determining appropriate methods to resolve issues associated with orphaned collections.

This two-hour online seminar is intended for students who are nearing graduation, entering the professional world of archaeology, and are considering a job managing archaeological collections; CRM firm employees including management who bid on, supervise, and provide oversight of archaeological projects as well as those who are specifically charged with managing collections after excavation; individuals who manage collections in museums, universities, and other curatorial facilities; and government/agency personnel who are tasked with oversight of collections in both Federal and non-Federal repositories.

The three main goals of the seminar are to:

- a. Provide attendees with a framework by which to understand, discuss, and remedy problems associated with orphaned archaeological collections.
- b. Teach participants about their roles, responsibilities, and rights as they relate to orphaned collections.
- c. Offer solutions and resources to those who would like to resolve issues and concerns associated with orphaned collections.

After participating in the online seminar, participants will:

- a. Have a strong understanding of what orphaned collections are, how collections become orphaned, and what steps to take to effectively manage them.
- b. More fully understand their roles, responsibilities, and rights as they relate to orphaned collections.
- c. Be able to apply the seminar concepts, solutions, and resources to successfully address issues and concerns relating to orphaned collections in their places of work.

Course Outline:

1. Orphaned Collections overview 25 minutes

- An outline and discussion of the problem.
- What orphaned collections are, and how they've become orphaned.
- Common reasons for orphaned collections in different sectors of archaeology.

2. Roles, Responsibilities, and Rights relating to orphaned collections 25 minutes

- Abandoned property laws and legal responsibilities relating to clear title (ownership).
- Cost considerations and funding for rehabilitating or accepting orphaned collections.
- Preparing orphaned collections for a 'new home.'
- Networking and professional support for managing orphaned collections.

3. Orphaned Collections Case Studies 30 minutes

- An example from academia.
- An example from CRM.
- An example from a curatorial facility.

--5-10 minute break--

4. Solutions and Methods for remedying the problem 20 minutes

- Provide a step-by-step process for working through how to manage and/or find a new home for orphaned collections.
- Offer insights and suggestions from related fields of study (how natural history and museum personnel and organizations like the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections are dealing with orphaned collections).
- Importance of planning ahead can ensure new collections won't be orphaned. (e.g., in academic, planning for what happens to collections before retirement; clear title and ownership before an archaeological project is undertaken; policy development for what happens to collections in the event of a CRM closure or merger, etc.)

5. Overview of Electronic Resources Guidebook, Question and Answer Session 15 minutes

2. ***Expert Instructors:*** *All instructors must be subject matter experts. An expert is defined by the Register as a professional who has mastery of the method and theory of the subject matter as demonstrated in practice, teaching, research, or publication. Instructors must also demonstrate proficiency in the specific principles of the activity being taught. In team-taught programs, instructors must be subject matter experts in the field(s) for which they are responsible.*

Danielle Benden is the Senior Curator in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition to managing and providing access to the anthropological collections, she teaches Archaeological Curation and Field Methods courses to undergraduates, and conducts her own archaeological research in southwestern Wisconsin. She received a Bachelor of Science in Archaeology from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and a Master of Science in Museum and Field Studies with an archaeology emphasis from the University of Colorado-Boulder.

Ms. Benden is actively involved in the entire process of archaeology, from pre-field planning, to fieldwork, and curation of collections. She currently serves as Chair of SAA's Committee on

Museums, Collections, and Curation and co-Chair of the Task Force on Data Access and Archiving. This work puts her at the forefront of the current issues involving archaeological curation, including how to address orphaned collections.

3. CPE Credit: CPE programs may range from short courses completed in hours, to intensive field, class, or laboratory training that take days or weeks to finish. The Register recognizes the value of documenting both successful CPE completion and the program scope and intensity. One hour of CPE credit will be given for each hour of program training, up to a maximum of eight hours per day and 40 hours per week. Successful completion of the program will be recognized with a certificate of completion.

Two hour, two CPE credits.