

# Curating Angel Mounds

(2018-2022)



**Rehousing 2.3 million artifacts from the collections of the Angel  
Mounds State Historic Site**

**This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services**



INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
**MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY  
AND ANTHROPOLOGY**



INSTITUTE of  
**Museum and Library**  
SERVICES



- The Angel Mounds State Historic Site was the residence of a Mississippian community that occupied the area between AD 1050 and 1450.
- Large scale archaeology - Works Progress Administration projects and later Indiana University Field Schools – conducted between 1939 and 1983
- Over 2.3 million individual artifacts in these legacy collections housed at Indiana University still in original packing crates
- 2018 IMLS / Save America's Treasures grant awarded to rehouse collections into new archival quality bags and boxes, update new detailed catalog records, implement barcoding system and new storage tracking
- Over 50 staff and students contributed to the project between 2018-2022



# Preparations

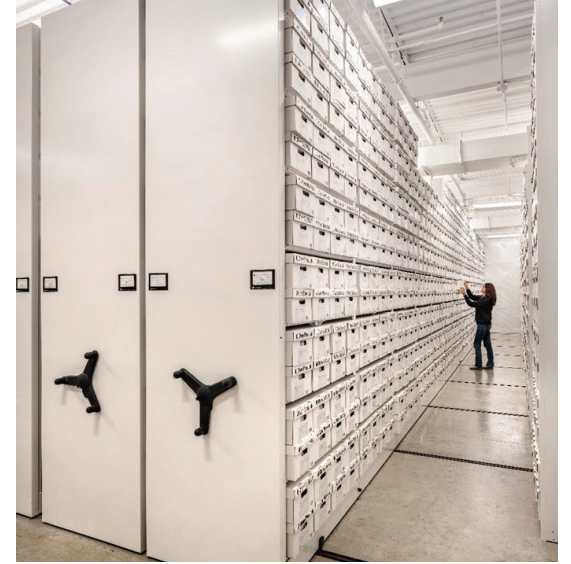


- ☐ How was the collection initially packaged? How will it be rehoused? Where to start?
- ☐ Create database structure and data sheets to capture new information and rehousing steps
- ☐ Clean workspace, set up workstations, create safe work environment, order supplies
- ☐ Assemble pre-printed bag tags for packing crates to be rehoused

# Workflows

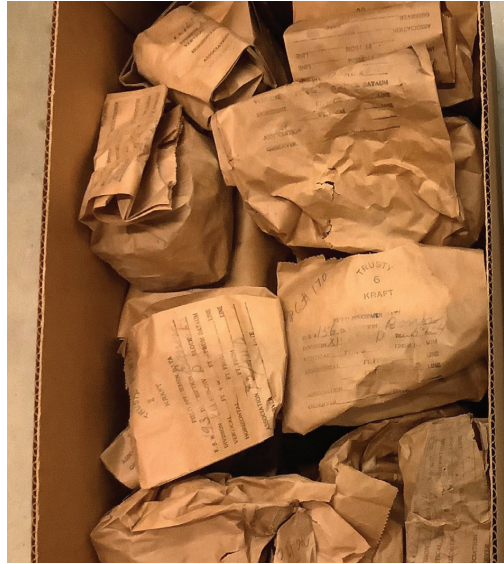
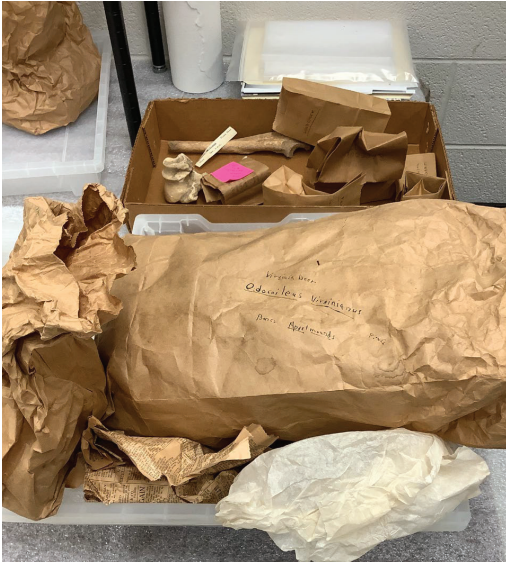


- ☐ Determine how to verify quantity or add new quantities
- ☐ Identify types of mold and determine conservation process for bone with mold spores
- ☐ Assemble records needed to verify provenience or correct recording errors
- ☐ Determine bar coding, box labeling and staging areas for rehoused boxes

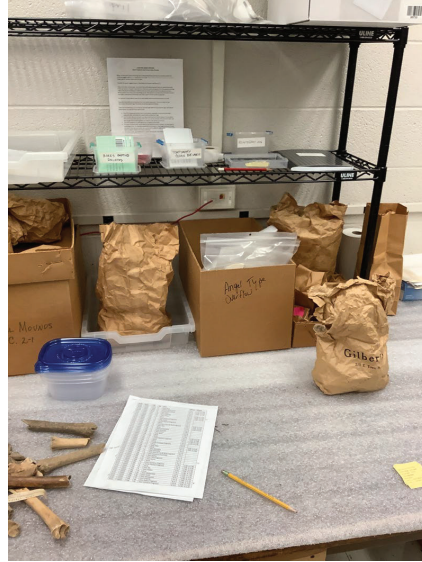


# Evolution of Storage Environments





# Evolution of Box Conditions



# Workspaces

## Documentation – updated catalog records, curation notes, box inventories and labels, barcoding and location tracking

Accession# 13006 DivSubD MDF CurationID Exhibit Theme Curator

Artifact ID 13006-40-0 FS/Cat# 40

Angel ID MDF-40-0 SubCat# 0

Generic Description Bone (Cut)

Artifact Notes

Count 1

Updated Count 1

Count Date 9/5/2019

Weight (g) 45.24

AFO Record# See Record

Hilgeman#

Recon ID See Record

Collection

Type Collection X

Box/Drawer# 04033

Building MAA

Shelf Location R17-A06-T07-L03

TempBox#

Temporary Location

Images Yes

Cataloging Provenience **Storage/Rehousing** Images ExhibitInfo

**Original Storage**

Packing Crate# 555

PC Box # 555-1

Shelf Location R16-A07-T24-L02

Box Description

Location Note

OLD PCs - Temp Box# ALF Shelf Location

**New Storage Container**

Container Barcode # 04033 Go To Container

+ Add new container

Container Type 7.5" Archival Box

Box Weight (lb)

Other container info Bone Tool Type Collection - SAT Project

**New Storage Location**

Building MAA

Shelf Location R17-A06-T07-L03

**Temp Storage**

TempBox#

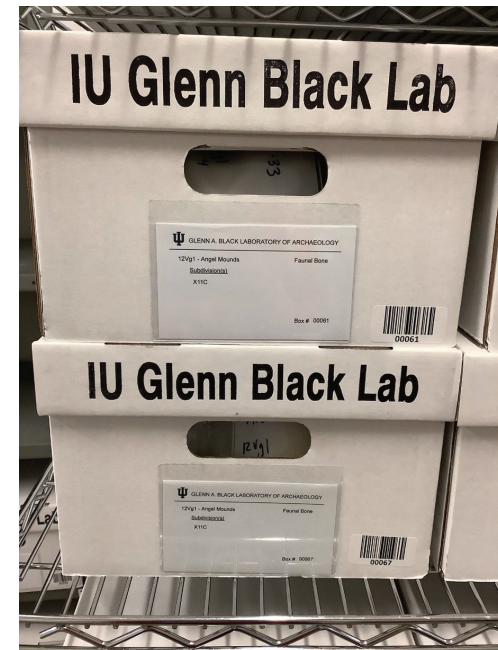
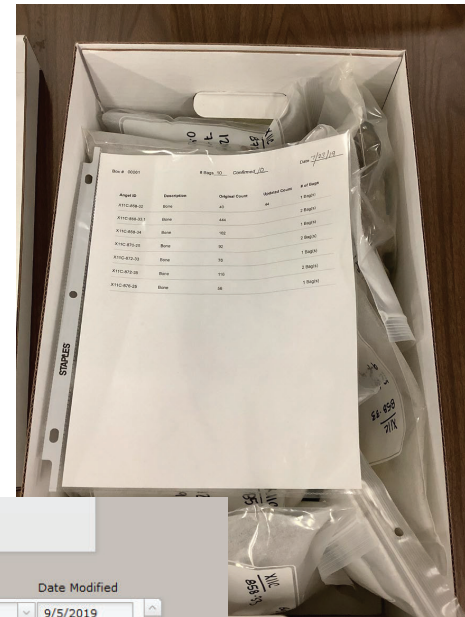
Temp Location

Temp Location Date

**Rehousing Checklist**

- ☒ PC box # recorded
- ☒ Mold assessed
- ☒ Provenience checked
- ☒ Feature Info checked
- ☒ AFO status checked
- ☐ Original label rebagged
- ☒ Original label discarded
- ☒ Item count updated (Tag and DB)
- ☒ Weight recorded (Tag and DB)
- ☒ Container Qty updated
- ☒ Material category updated
- ☐ Type quantities entered
- ☐ Sherd types added to generic descriptor
- ☒ Curation note completed
- ☒ Container barcode entered
- ☒ Rehousing Completed

Hmmm... Am I SURE I did all the things I'm supposed to on this check list?



**CURATION NOTES**

| Date Created | Note ID | Curation Issue         | Note  | Status    | Staff         | Date Modified |
|--------------|---------|------------------------|---|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| 9/5/2019     | 16502   | Rehousing              | SAT   | Completed | Pavot, Amanda | 9/5/2019      |
| 9/5/2019     | 16503   | Mold                   | Moved to tx box for conservation n=1                    | Completed | Pavot, Amanda | 9/5/2019      |
| 9/20/2019    | 18127   | Conservation Treatment | 1 bone treated with 91% isopropyl alcohol for suspected | Completed | Hittson, Anne | 9/20/2019     |
|              |         |                        |   |           |               |               |



## Rehousing Angel – Packing Crate Box Assessment

PC# \_\_\_\_\_

Photograph (AngelBox/PC#\_image#)

- Before unpacking yes/no
- Contents after unpacking yes/no

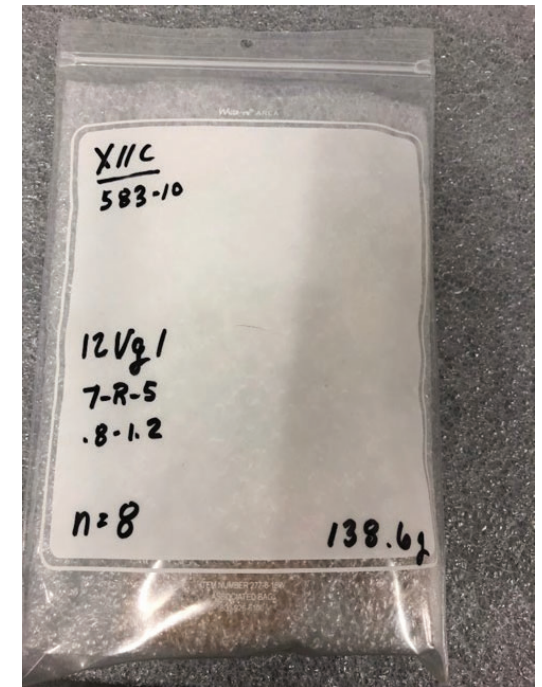
Mold

- On bags yes/no
- On artifacts yes/no
- Moved to fume hood for cleaning
  - Bags yes/no if yes, how many
  - Entire box yes/no

Content Summary:

Rehousing special needs:

Conservation special needs:



# Assessing and rehousing box contents





Identifying & treating mold



Moving finished boxes to offsite storage



Thanks to the many students and staff who worked on the project!!

