Specialist competence matrix – museum archaeology

Practitioner (PCIfA)



Knowledge	 Good working knowledge relating to one or more archaeological subject areas and associated material culture. Good working knowledge of fundamental museum procedures. Eg documentation, collections care, display and public outreach, relevant museum standards (eg Spectrum), Codes of ethics, Archive Standards and health and safety. Demonstrates practical and successful application of a range of museum procedures whilst working in a museum with museum archaeological collections for a sustained and regular period of time.
Autonomy	 Working mostly under supervision with frequent direction in a variety of museum tasks. Eg documenting objects, packing objects, organising storage, assisting in exhibitions, and assisting in workshop, activity and learning sessions.
Coping with complexity	 Understanding of how a collection has been accrued, and the historic and contemporary context and environment in which it has developed. Understanding of how a collection is managed and documented. Understanding of how to locate items within the collection.
Perception of professional conduct	 Understanding of how specific collections tasks (e.g. condition monitoring or documentation) combine to facilitate security, care and access. Appreciation of how each person within a project team has specific tasks that lead to a single outcome. Understands the rationale for specific methods and techniques. Demonstrates understanding of the ethical requirements of the <i>Code of Conduct</i> and can apply to own work. Upholds the values of the Institute to work in the public interest.



Knowledge	 High level of working knowledge relating to one or more archaeological subject areas and their associated material cultures. Demonstrates sustained commitment to the undertaking of museum training and CPD. Delivers multiple aspects of curatorial practice whilst working in a museum or with museum archaeological collections. Eg documentation, collections care and access, volunteer recruitment and supervision, exhibition planning and implementation, running outreach events (teaching & learning activities), training other staff, administrative work relating to acquisition/disposal of objects and archives, report writing, income generation and fundraising, partnership working and health and safety. High level knowledge of current museum practice and professional standards including documentation, data entry standards and preventive conservation requirements, archaeological techniques and a variety of interpretation methods Demonstrates ability to write and interpret collections for multiple audiences. Demonstrates ability to apply the Museum Association's Code of Ethics. Understanding of the activities undertaken, and guidelines produced by SMA, or other professional peer groups and special interest societies.
Autonomy	 Working mostly independently, with occasional supervision, on specific museum tasks. Eg documentation of objects/collection, researching wider aspects of collections and their history, administration and physical checking archives, monitoring stores (IPM and preventive conservation activities), condition checking of objects/collections and associated condition reporting, exhibition research, content development and delivery, planning and delivering outreach events (teaching and learning activities), planning and participating in press, publicity and media activities, responding to enquiries, responding to requests for access, identifying objects, and maintaining object/collection history files and database records.





Coping with complexity	 Ability to characterise different parts of a collection according to their history. Ability to read, record and interpret object histories. Ability to extract information from historical and current archaeological archives. Understanding of different methods of historical archaeological archive creation and compilation. Understanding of varying requirements of different people wanting access to collections or galleries e.g. different learning styles, physical and intellectual access levels, and expectations etc. Understanding of ethical issues around museum archaeology / human remains / ethnographic material / museum collecting and disposal. Understanding of legal issues around museum archaeology, acquisition, due diligence and disposal. Understanding and ability to deliver information about archaeological archives and collections using a variety of methods. Understanding and ability to deliver information about archaeological archives and collections using a variety of methods.
Perception of professional conduct	 Understanding of principles of collections care and desired outcomes. Understanding of the principal beneficiaries of museum practice. Works to improve own levels of expertise, e.g. CPD, training. Understands how their work contributes to a variety of internal and external agendas and institutional work programmes. Understands the ethical requirements of the <i>Code of conduct</i> and uses them to guide and review own practice and, where applicable, that of others. Can recognise and resolve potential conflicts of interest within an established framework. Upholds and promotes the values of the Institute to work in the public interest.

through accreditation.

	• Substantial knowledge relating to multiple archaeological subject areas, their associated material cultures and museum collections.
	 Demonstrates successful and sustained commitment to the undertaking of a high level of professional museum training and CPD.
Knowledge	• Demonstrates a substantial level of knowledge and practical application of multiple aspects of curatorial practice whilst working in a museum with museum archaeological collections. Eg methods and approaches to documentation, rationalisation and disposal, requirements of museum collections care (including preventive conservation), issues of access to collections (physical and intellectual), theory and practice of exhibition planning, content development and delivery, and issues around outreach events.
	Understands and applies current museum standards, guidelines and Museum Association's Code of Ethics.
	 Actively involved with the work of the MA, SMA, or other professional peer groups, special interest societies or the wider heritage, arts and museums sector.
	 Successfully provides public access to museum collections and the knowledge associated with these for a variety of purposes and audiences through a variety of methods eg publication, exhibition, presentation, community engagement, media, digitally
	 Has experience of the provision and delivery of training and opportunities for CPD appropriate to the museum context and/or archaeology.
	Working independently with managerial responsibilities relative to museum curatorship. Eg Managing staff and valuntages, the setting of strategic work programmes and performance management, managing hydrots, managing.
Autonomy	volunteers, the setting of strategic work programmes and performance management, managing budgets, managing projects (exhibitions, community outreach and partnerships), developing collections management procedures, applying for funding, developing collections development policies/archaeological deposition policies/procedures, liaising with

senior managers, members and trustees, responsibility for external relationships (ACE, SMA, MA, HLF, PAS), full

awareness of Arts Council accreditation standard and/or experience of taking a museum

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Coping with complexity	 Responsibility for resolving conflicts of interest in collections care and access e.g. in relation to ethical and educational issues, access and preservation etc. Responsibility for the work, ensuring all parties operate effectively within projects e.g. curatorial, design, education and technical or contracted personnel involved in an exhibition. Ensuring application of recognised standards e.g. in collections care; conservation; documentation.
Perception of professional conduct	 Develops policies for collections care, loans, access, funding, outreach, volunteer management, display etc. Manages staff to work effectively towards agreed goals. Engages with wider frameworks of policy, practice, research and funding. Engages with other departments (within a local authority environment/planning departments etc.) Understands how legislative or Health and Safety policy and guidelines fit within museum and collections activities and projects (DDA, Child Protection, etc.) Makes a demonstrable contribution to advocacy for the collection / department / service locally, nationally and internationally. Seeks out and brokers new partnerships and projects and works in conjunction with other national peer group and professional bodies. Demonstrates professional judgement and ethical behaviour across a wide variety of complex situations, supporting and encouraging others to do the same. Can anticipate, recognise, and resolve potential conflicts of interest. Promotes the values of the Institute to work in the public interest with colleagues, clients, and stakeholders.

