

CONNECTING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT: AFRICAN COLLECTIONS AT THE PENN MUSEUM



HART B420: Museum Studies Fieldwork



WHAT IS COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT?

Collections management for museums involves the care, documentation, and organization of a museum's collection of objects or artworks. It's a comprehensive process that ensures the preservation, accessibility, and legal compliance of the items within a museum's holdings.



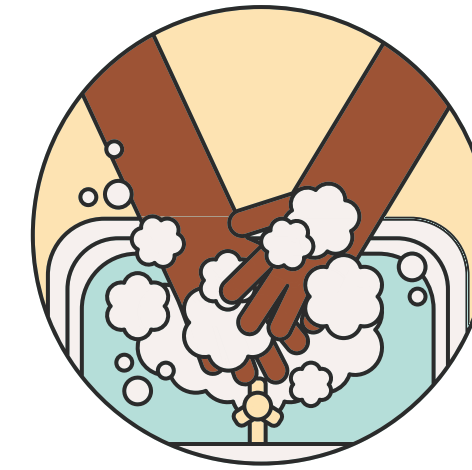
WORKING WITH ADINKRA SYMBOLS

One of my primary projects was to organize Ghanaian objects in the collection that featured Adinkra symbols. . These symbols originated from Ghana and can represent concepts and character traits. Many are found on fabrics, goldweights, and pottery.



RESEARCHING MOROCCAN JEWELRY MAKING

I researched traditional Moroccan jewelry-making techniques to help reconstruct what a necklace in the collections would have looked like. I had never worked with jewelry before, so I loved the experience of handling the pendants and beads to piece it back together.



OBJECT HANDLING

On my second day, I received object-handling training from one of the conservators, Molly Gleeson. She walked us through the proper protocol for carefully unpacking, repacking, and moving different types of objects



MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

I am so grateful for my internship experience at the Penn Museum! It's been a great place to enhance my research skills and capabilities while learning about African collections through objects. I've made amazing connections here that I'm excited to stay in touch with as I dive into new research opportunities.



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