Making Do With What You’ve Got

Improving Your Collections Storage Now

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Photographing: Supplies

- Dry erase board
- Dry erase marker
- White muslin or cotton sheets for background
- Cardboard with photo locations written on it
- Dimension Scales
Photographing: Supplies

- Whatever else you’ve got!
  - Book stands
  - Plexi rack cards
  - Hangers
  - Doll stands
  - Rolls of tape
  - Erasers
  - Tissue
Photographing: Studio Set ups

Stearns History Museum
Photographing: Studio Set ups

Carver and Chaska
Photographing: Studio Set ups

Hennepin History Museum
Photographing: Studio Set ups

Getting Creative!
Photographing: Studio Set ups

Getting Creative!
Photographing: What Have You Got?
Storing: Small Objects

- **Backing boards**
  - Cut scrap blue board a little larger than object
  - Secure object with twill tape, scrap of polyethylene sheet, etc
  - Write number on board to reduce handling
  - Provides stability and support to artifact during transport
Storing: Small Objects

- Office supplies
  - Make sure anything you use is acid-free
  - Plastics to use include polyethylene, polyester, polypropylene
Storing: Small Objects

- Pool Noodles
  - Can be found at the dollar store (in season), but if using a really cheap one, don’t use if it will be touching/surrounding object

- Make box trays
  - Cut board to size
  - Cut noodle into pieces
  - Hot glue to board
  - Twill ties for objects
Storing: Fragile Objects

- Ethafoam pouches
  - Pad out object with tissue
  - Wrap in ethafoam scrap
  - Masking tape (or linen tape)
Storing: Fragile Objects

- Foam blocks inside a box
  - Could use acid free tissue to buffer the glass
  - Place under curves to support
  - Limit movement of piece during storage and transport
- Place in boxes to protect
- Wrapping in tissue paper
- Place on shelf with lip on edge to prevent from sliding off
- Include artifact tag or write number on outside of box so you know what the artifact is
Storing: Clothing

- Hang
  - Make your own padded hangers
  - Cover garment racks in muslin
Storing: Clothing

- Textile Boxes
  - Cut tissue larger than garment so you can pick up without touching garment
  - Use tissue rolls to pad out folds
  - Multiple pieces of clothing per box
    - Place tissue in between
Storing: Not Clothing

- Textile Boxes for...everything else.
- Tissue paper
  - Millinery feather containment field
  - Use tissue paper inside of hats to support their structure and keep their shape
Storing: Not Clothing

- Textile Boxes for...lions.
  - Rolled him up and pad out his little face
- E-Flute Single Face
  - Talas product
  - Blue board on one side of corrugation so it rolls.
  - Tubes in corners hold up lid
Storing: Not Clothing

- More E-Flute Single Face
  - I can’t get enough!
  - Ensured lid of box didn’t rest on artifact
- Padded sleeves for garment display
  - Wrapped around artifact
Storing: Boxes

- Got two textile box lids?
  - Tear off the metal edge (wear gloves!)
  - Cut a wedge out of either side of corner flaps
  - Retape (keep duct tape out of inside if objects will be stored loose in box)
Storing: Reuse

- Repurpose furniture from county/municipal government agencies
  - Map cabinets
  - Book shelves
  - Metal racks
Storing: What Have You Got?
Organizing: Object Tags

- Instead of paying $30 for 100 tags from Gaylord, make your own!
  - Get acid-free 100% cotton paper and lightweight kite string
  - Enlist your volunteers and coworkers to tie string
  - HHM will save about $1,500!
Organizing: Box labels

- Tag boxes with location
  - Pendaflex card holders
  - Number written on back of a Post-it (underneath sticky strip) and stuck to inside of plastic
  - Label lid AND base!
- Change index card color to show status of box
Organizing: Supplies

- Garment rack = tissue rack!
  - Poly wrapped around base holds the tissue in
  - Photo clips over top rail stops the tissue from sliding off
Organizing: What Have You Got?
Exhibiting: Display Cases

- Add strip lighting to a dark display case
  - Adhesive LED strips are <$20
  - Added up side and across top, then covered unneeded part with electrical tape
Exhibiting: What Have You Got?
Thanks!

Please contact us if you have questions:
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Link to our presentation:
https://link.mnsu.edu/7ry