

Arctos Issues Meeting

2025-04-03 11:00 AM PST

Meeting Detail

[Zoom Meeting Details](https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/92544859519) - <https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/92544859519>

[Shared Arctos Google Calendar](#) (made public so anyone can view)

Next Meeting - Monthly First Thursday 04/24/2025

[AWG Issues Project](#)

Meeting Etiquette: We welcome everyone to Arctos events, and we value all perspectives; we follow the [Arctos Code of Conduct](#) to ensure respectful communication.

For Zoom meetings:

- Please add your institution and/or collection codes to your name on Zoom!
- Turning on your Video is recommended to help build community but not required (whatever you are comfortable with!)
- Meetings are meant to be useful for YOU; please add agenda items that you want discussed at any time. If we run out of time, it will be prioritized at the next opportunity.
- Zoom meetings may be recorded in part or entirely for archiving and internal reference

Please add issues for the meeting in [Community Member Issues](#) below

Welcome to the Arctos Issues Meeting!

Sign in: Michell K (MVZ), Beth W (UWYMV), Carla C (MVZ), Ainsley D (OGL), Dusty M (Arctos), Emily B (UCM), Erica K (Arctos), Hannah AM (OGL), Jessica W (ChAS), Lee F (OGL), Lindsey F (NMMNHS), Rosie P (OGL), Brooke B (ALMNH), Angeal H (Bell), Gabor R (UNSM), Mariel C (MSB), Carol Spencer(MVZ), Jessica T (CRCM),

REGRETS:

New people- Introduce yourself!

1.

Announcements

[Entity Collection Header](#) -> New logo and new colors. Feedback If you have suggestions or thoughts.

New page with links to Tableau: <https://arctosdb.org/data-dashboard/>

The team is writing up documentation and will post on their Arctos github repo; they will join us 24 April meeting for demo and feedback on their assistive chatbot for Arctos.

Help with [flat field matrix](#) definitions and mapping?

- They will probably do one more round of data upload.
 - Pulling from filtered flat.
 - This will update the Tableau.
 - Need to shore up/clean up resources in Arctos to do an upload more frequently.
 - At the moment it is uploaded by request
 - Request that maybe it could be uploaded and updated on a monthly basis?
 - How long does it take to do? It is a while because it is all manual.
- Documentation is coming
- Chatbot -> idea is to type in a natural language query => chatbot would know where to put the terms in the right field and create a link from the search results.
- They could use help with the flat field matrix definitions and mapping -> probably will go to the Code Table committee, but everyone is welcome to help out. See link above to find the matrix.
 - Looking for example queries that could be asked the Chatbot. Think of examples!
 -
- Share the Tableau with people to find recreations and uses.
- Lee F (OGL) asks if they might be able to get the data because they know how to use Tableau.
 - Michelle says will contact them later - email (<mailto:Fenuccio.a@northeastern.edu>)
 - Raw data: <https://web.corral.tacc.utexas.edu/arctos/data/>

Reminder that Arctos committees and open office hours are posted here:

<https://arctosdb.org/calendar/>

- Feel free to use meeting time for office hours, so if you have something you need to work through, please come!

Arctos Priorities:

1. Review/Wrap-up: Where you can make data private or restricted to collection-level only vs public data (visible to all).

The following are private to collection access only:

- a. Accession- “curatorial remarks” are restricted to collection and never public
 - i. Even if you make your Accns public this field will still be private.
- b. Record Attributes - use “restricted data” for most things except:
 - i. “NAGPRA category”
 1. It is its own private Record Attribute
 - ii. “Value” (monetary value)
 1. It is its own private Record Attribute
 - iii. To view it is a combination of Cold Fusion user and the specific collection operator access (e.g. MVZ:Bird)
 - iv. Remember to add the Record Attribute “Restricted Data” to your collection record attributes.
- c. Locality Attributes - use “locality access” and set to your specific collection; users without management permissions will not be able to see the entire place and time information
- d. Agents: fields that are Operators only:
 - i. Correspondence
 - ii. Curatorial Remarks
 - iii. Email
 - iv. Github (but shows up in collection details if you are a admin or data quality contact)
 - v. Home address
 - vi. Notification email
 - vii. Phone (any)
 - viii. Shipping address
 - ix. Volunteer of
 - x. Birthdate
 1. Not private yet, but will be soon.

The only encumbrance function now is masking of the entire record (excludes from filtered flat and all exports).

- It is the first step for taking deleting records as well.
- Encumbrances will only mask the entire record.
- Encumbrances are a burden to Arctos through data use.
- If you are using the Encumbrances to Delete a Record, then the Encumbrance should be temporary.

- Anyone with Encumbrance Permissions can Delete an Encumbrance
- But what about the Encumbrances that are on going?
 - For you notes when creating an Encumbrance -> it is helpful to put a time frame an purpose for the Encumbrance.

Question: about enforcing expiration dates?

Potential Proposal: How would you feel if we remove expiration date, then charge a per record fee for encumbered data (eg 1 cent / record)? (encumbrances are not 'free'; would motivate people to not forget them, would require a compelling justification to encumber.)

Other ideas?

- Is there another way to keep data from being published to GBIF or aggregators, but it can be available on Arctos without using Encumbrances?
- Should we require remarks or some information.
 - Justification for the length of the Encumbrance
 - Reason why it is Encumbrances
 - Maybe have some code table options for the reasons.
 - Add this topic to the Code Table committee agenda.
 - Discuss more required fields for encumbrances
 - Maybe enforcing expiration dates
 - Exploring exclusion from IPT
 - Exploring idea of fees
 - What do with deaccessions? At the moment deaccessioned objects are encumbered, but what else should we do with them?
 - Ideas:
 - Create a "dead collection to move them to"
 - Do they really need to be hidden
 - Could we put them in a loan and with a note that not there anymore
 - Could we put a note or big "X" in the header to signify that the record is not there anymore.
 - What about how keeping the records may affect fees?

•

Demos

- Request for a Redirect and Object Delete Demo
 - Michelle is showing a bit right now.
 - It is a Tool under the Tool Directory
 - Insert a text file and there is a batch redirect tool.
 - Very straight forward to do, but not everyone may have the access to do that.

- Collections can manage their redirects

Community Member Issues

Please add your issues here:

1. Mariel: Entity Committee -> if have interest please contact her. Request also to tag Michelle for her to attend.
 - a. Would like to have another regular meeting.
 - b. Would relate to SPNHC meeting and ZooMu work.
 - c. Monday 3:30pm MDT is the proposed time.
 - d. Anyone is welcome to come.
 - e. Request to put it on the Arctos calendar so people can have a reminder.
2. **Discussion (continued): Arsenic** - we don't need to discuss the merits of tracking this information but rather how. Currently we have more than one way to do so:
 - Currently there are many different ways Arsenic is being recorded in Arctos. Does this need to be cleaned up? How should it be cleaned up?
 - What are the best practises that the AWG community can come up with to record the presence of Arctos in a collection object. Can we come up with some?
 -
 - a. part attributes,
https://arctos.database.museum/info/ctDocumentation.cfm?table=ctpart_attribute_type#preservation
 - Here we are looking at parts specifically.
 - Need a correction with the Part Preservation Code Table for arsenic -> allows it be marked as Is a Tissue. Instead allow it have the arsenic preservation to be added, but it is a Tissue
 - b. https://arctos.database.museum/info/ctDocumentation.cfm?table=ctpart_preservation#description
 - c. part remarks,
 - d. and now proposed as a code table value in [examined/detected code table](#):
(<https://github.com/ArctosDB/arctos/issues/8406>)
 - Speaking about arsenic in museum objects and used as a preservative. Not use arsenic as a specific museum object itself.
 - Request to try and keep track of arsenic exposure or detection of arsenic in a collection.
 - Could be a method that is used to keep track of other types of preservatives as well.

- Maybe this isn't the best place for this type of info. The Examined/Detected Record Attribute is for research type data collected on the object.
- It might be a good idea to separate the Curatorial concerns and notes in a different section. Not in the same section as research data for the collection object.
 - It may be confusing to mix the two types of data, and harder to find.
- e. Angie says that they use Condition Report for Part Attributes in the UAM-EH collection.
 - Example:
 - <https://arctos.database.museum/guid/UAM:EH:UA85-003-0022>

Merits of adding as a examined/detected code table vs part attributes?

Too many ways leads to confusion and discoverability issues—

- Is it better in the record level or in the part attribute level? Debate going back and forth. Which is easier to search, which will be easier to use?
- Could there be a flag that could be added that comes up if it is selected for part preservation?
 - Something that is could be flagged to say that something has a dangerous material present in the part.

3. **Agents** <https://github.com/ArctosDB/arctos/issues/7649> guardrails for creating Persons

- a. Set of rules for the different agent types? See list of agent-persons who are not.
- b. Role of verbatim?
- How do we want to restrict or not restrict the creation of Agents for different people?
- Thoughts and ideas about creating Agents?
 - What would be positive steps for making the frustrations going away and keep the bad data from drifting?
 - Could something be required when a new Agent is being controlled that makes the creator need to certify that these are different people or groups.
 - Could something be done with verification status?
 - Maybe move all the classes -> an Organization level
 - Maybe have a flag on the collection that operator who first created an Agent, so a collection can see all of the Agents were created in association with them.
 - Something to help with tracking collection bulkload agents.
 - Maybe an agreement to not change or get rid of relationships or Metadata from Agents that you did not create. Just add new data, not take out old data.
- Suggestion to replicate the agent check demo again.

- Demo: how to manage agents, especially merge duplicates– possibly file a new proposal to streamline function directly from the agent page
- Draft of agent creation guidelines and expectation

Committees:

Object Tracking Working Group

- Aim: Provide guidance and assist the community in managing object tracking in Arctos.
- Lead: Hannah, Rosie
- Meets the Fourth Friday of the month at 10AM Pacific
- [Working Agenda](#)

Geography Committee

- Aim: Provide guidance and assist the community in managing and developing the vocabulary and spatial profiles for higher geography in Arctos.
- Lead: Genna Anderegg
- Meets on the 1st Monday of the month at noon Pacific time
- [Working Agenda](#)

Encumbrance Committee

- Aim: Provide guidance and assist the community in managing and using encumbrances in Arctos.
- Lead: Angie
- Meets last Friday of the month at 11:00 Alaska time (12 PDT/1 MDT/2 CDT/3 EDT)
 - On hold until further notice (public/private flag taking care of many concerns)
- [Working Agenda](#)
 - Need help establishing [functional requirements document](#)

Entity Committee

- Aim: Provide guidance and assist the community in managing and using Arctos entities.
- Every second Monday at 2:30pm PDT
- [Working Agenda](#)

Agents Committee Issues

- Aim: Provide guidance and assist the community in creating useful agent profiles and managing information related to people and organizations in Arctos.
- Lead: Beth
- Meets when need and issue comes up in the [Arctos Zoom Room](#)
- [Working Agenda](#)

Code Table Committee Issues

- Aim: to implement new code table requests
- Lead: MK
- Meets every other week at 1PM PST in the [Arctos Zoom Room](#)
- [Working Agenda](#)
 - [Age Class](#) - proposed list and need review and approval!

Taxonomy Committee

- Aim: Provide guidance and assist the community in creating useful taxon name lists and associated classifications in Arctos.
- Lead: Genna Anderegg
- Meets the 2nd Thursday every other month at 10AM PST in the [Arctos Zoom Room](#)
- [Working Agenda](#)

UI Development Committee

- Aim: Provide guidance and assist the community in development of the Arctos user interface.
- Lead: MK (Hannah, Emily)
- Ad Hoc - no set meeting schedule
- [Working Agenda](#)

Media Committee

- Meets second Tuesday of the month at 10AM PST in the [Arctos Zoom Room](#)
- Lead: Carla
- [Working Agenda](#)
- [Functional Requirements for Media](#)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

- Aim: Provide guidance and assist the community in creating appropriate policies and procedures for ensuring that Arctos is welcoming to everyone.
- Lead: Beth
- Meetings canceled until an issue or topics is brought up ([Arctos Zoom Room](#))
- [Working Agenda](#)
- Next meeting to be announced

Parasite/Pathology Committee

- Aim: Provide guidance and assist the community in managing parasite and pathology data in Arctos.
- Lead: Mariel (?)
- Ad Hoc - no set meeting schedule
- [Working Agenda](#)

Arctos Genomic Resource Collections Working Group

- Meets second Friday of the month at 10AM PST in the [Arctos Zoom Room](#)
- Lead: Hannah/Rosie
- [Working Agenda](#)
- Next meeting: August 9 at 1 PM EST

Arctos Cultural Collections Working Group

- Meets third Friday of the month at 10:00 AkST (11:00 PST/12:00 MST/1:00 CST/2:00 EST)
- Lead: Angie, Della
- [Working Agenda](#)
- Next meeting Friday February 21 at 10:00

Documentation Committee

- Aim: Keeping Arctos documentation up-to-date.
- Lead: Emily Braker
- Meets: Last Wednesday of the month at 1 pm MT
- Please join if you would like!

Chat transcript