Revisiting and Reinvigorating: Examining NAGPRA's Shortcomings and the Renewed Push for Repatriation

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What is NAGPRA?

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 became federal law on November 16, 1990





Historical Problems Leading to Delays

- Legislative ambiguities, particularly with:
 - "Cultural affiliation"
 - "Consultation"
- Institutional Resistance
- Systemic Barriers
 - Non-recognition of Native American traditional knowledge

REGULATIONS

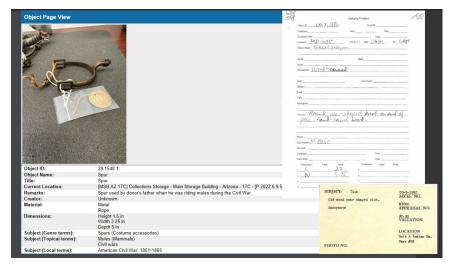
- In 2010 and 2024 the regulations underwent transformations
- New regulations implemented in January 2024





Case Study: The Henry Ford (THF)

- Collecting was founder-led
- No professional museum staff until the 1980s
- Unstructured recordkeeping history
- Compliance & working in the spirit of the law
- My experience preparing a NAGPRA summary for THF



Evolution of collection catalog records at THF

Thank you!

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