Community-based Archaeology

What to Do When the Community Has Limited Facilities?

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Most Arctic archaeology takes place in an area used by residents of a particular community.
Excavating Ipiutak house in Point Hope
Excavating Ipiutak house in Point Hope
Nuvuk Archaeological Project

Wednesday, December 7, 11
Often it is not practical to house the artifacts and data in the nearest community.
Exhibit on house in IHC, Barrow
Curation facilities are often lacking, forcing a choice to be made between caring for the archaeological materials and making them accessible.
Inupiat Heritage Center
Ipiutak artifacts in office
Even preliminary lab work may take place in laboratories remote from the community, either due to class schedules or issues with finding space and using hazardous chemicals.
Nuvuk Project Lab
Lab in Point Hope
Lab in Alak School Shop
Such projects often generate a considerable amount of ethnographic or traditional knowledge documentation as well, in the form of audio and video recordings and maps.
Media in Inupiat Heritage Center
A variety of solutions are developing to deal with large quantities of digital archaeological data (e.g. tDAR), but they are designed for research use, and may not meet the needs of community members.
Pie in the Sky, or Throw Money at it

- Have archaeologists do lab work in the community
- Lab in a shipping container
- Build museums/heritage centers everywhere
Some more doable ideas

- More value placed on outreach
- Digital Geographic Library
  - Georeferenced data
- Virtual Museums
  - 3-D scans
- Public-friendly user interface for tDAR
- ??????
Thanks to:

- Glenn Sheehan
- Barrow Arctic Science Consortium
- Ukpeaġvik Inupiat Corporation
- National Science Foundation
- Christopher Kroot
- Inupiat Heritage Center