

Utilizing Existing Infrastructure to Enhance the Archivist/Conservator Relationship

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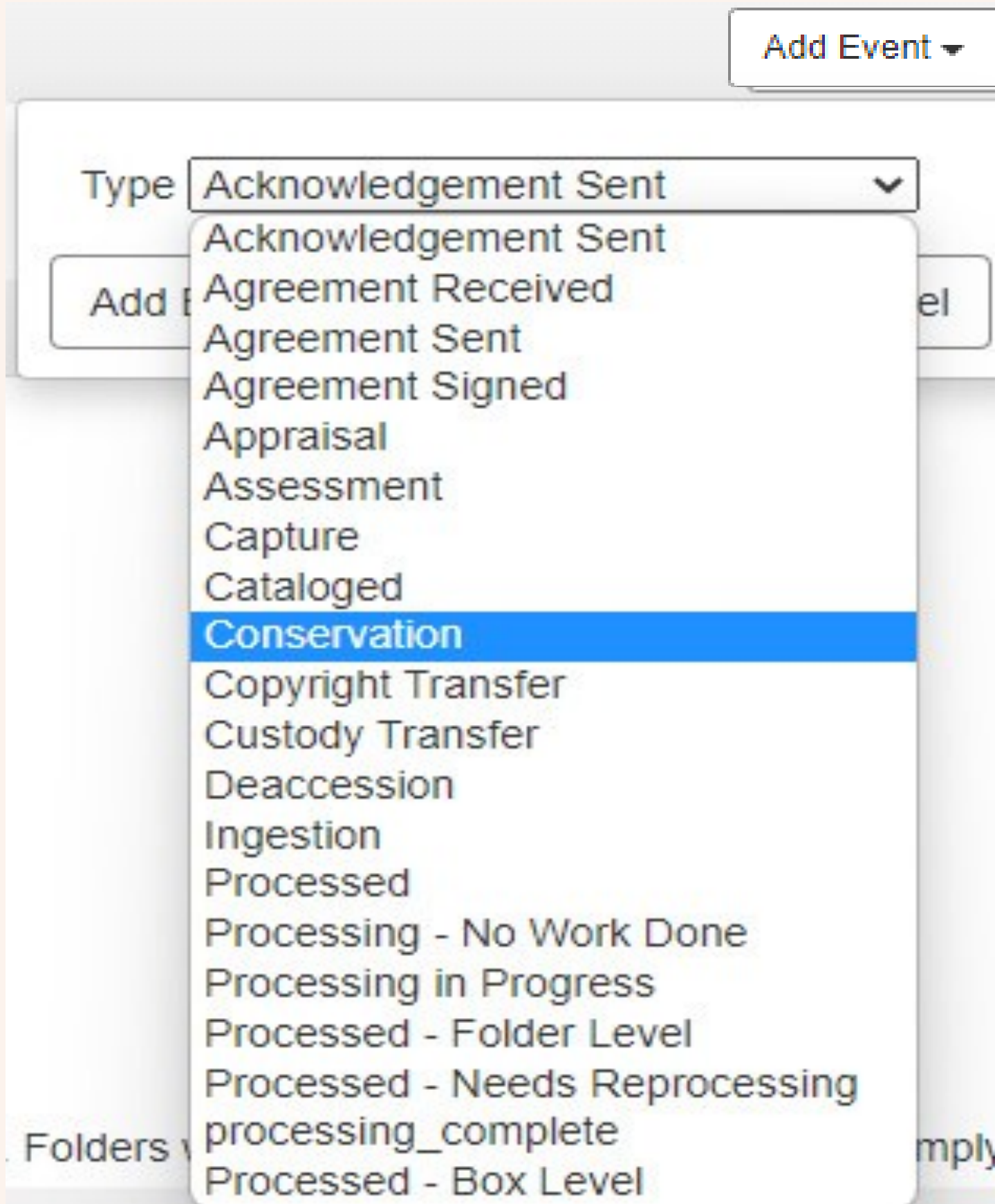
Conservation records are an important part of the life cycle of an archival object. The records can be composed of treatment reports that reflect exactly what was done to an object in the course of conservation intervention and digital images of the before/during/after intervention. This project was conceived as a way to ensure that curators and archivists have immediate access to accurate and detailed conservation records that can be shared with researchers and to be used as a guide for future conservation projects.

In an effort to enhance the communication and relationship between archivists, curators, and conservators utilizing University of Maryland Libraries’ existing infrastructure, UMD Libraries’ Preservation Department and University Archives collaborated to implement guidelines for incorporating conservation documentation in ArchivesSpace records. The solution that was chosen builds on the work of Sharon Fickeissen and her creative approach to documenting conservation projects in ArchivesSpace.¹ This approach uses the Events section of ArchivesSpace records, which allows links to conservation records to be embedded into accession and resource records. Thus, this solution allows digital access to the conservation record without the need for an additional third party software solution.

1. Sharon Fickeissen, “Conservation at Home: What are You Working On? An Interview with Myself,” *Hagley Museum and Library*, May 18, 2020, <https://www.hagley.org/librarynews/what-are-you-working-interview-myself>

Adding Conservation Records to ArchivesSpace:

1. Create a new event in the conserved materials’ accession or resource record .
2. Include the following information in the Conservation event:
 - . The status of the conservation work (Outcome)
 - . Date conservation work was completed (Event Date/Time, Begin)
 - . Name of individual creating the Conservation event (Agent)
 - . Shared link to Google Drive folder containing treatment the report and photographs (External Documents, Location)



New Event Event

Basic Information

Type * Conservation

Outcome

Outcome Note

Event Date/Time

Date/Time specifier * Date Subrecord

Label * Creation

Expression * Describe the date or date range

Type * Select a Type to enter normalized date or date range

Certainty

Era

Calendar

Agent Links

Role * Agents * Type to search available records..

Record Links

Role * Source

Record * Day Books, 1852-1954

External Documents

Title * Location * Publish? ☐

Save Event + Cancel

Completed Conservation Event

translation missing: enumerations.event_event_type.conservaion work completed (20158) Event

Basic Information

Type conservaion work completed

Outcome Fulfilled

Event Date/Time

UTC Timestamp 2018-08-11T00:00:00Z

Agent Links

Agent Links Mark Coulbourne

Record Links

Record Links Day Books, 1852-1954

External Documents

Title Conservation records for Brooke Family Archive Day Books

Location https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/108puB5ZFpFuvlnxQ8E4eJEWEl98NoIf_7usp=sharing

Document Link https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/108puB5ZFpFuvlnxQ8E4eJEWEl98NoIf_7usp=sharing

Publish? False

Events

Type	Outcome	Agent Links	Record Links		
Conservation	Fulfilled	Implementer: Mark Coulbourne	Source: Day Books, 1852-1954	Created by kcoulbou 2022-04-07 17:41:14 +0000 Last Modified by kcoulbou 2022-04-07 17:41:14 +0000	View Edit

Benefits/Impacts:

- Links to the ArchivesSpace records are embedded in a shared spreadsheet making them easy to access
- Conservation images and reports are now shared with curators and staff.
- No additional infrastructure or software was required

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