Discussing the Hopi Ethnobotanical Collections at the University of Michigan

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Museum Anthropology course learning goals

- changing relationships: museums and “source communities”
- hands on experience with museum collections

Course project:
1935 Hopi Crop Survey collection
Sharing information about the collection: creating the digital archive

open source content management system: Omeka.net

role of student teams

digital archive: http://ummaahopiplants.omeka.net/

course blog: https://ummuseumanthro.wordpress.com/
Learning about the cultural context of the collections: connecting with “source” community members

Susan Secakuku: community liaison

videoconferencing with contemporary Hopi farmers
What I learned:

• using local resources for global learning
• utilizing UM resources
• preparing the students for the conversations
• building intercultural partnerships
Student responses:

Video conferencing with Hopi farmers truly brought a new perspective to the Museum seed collection.

I was initially worried that video conferencing would feel impersonal, but instead we felt a personal connection with the farmers we spoke to, and learning about the current use of the seeds truly brought the collection to life.