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**RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- How do ARCs see themselves as culture & knowledge institutions?
- What kind of documentation or archival work is being done in the ARC community and why?
- How is this work being done in the ARC community and why?
- What kind of documentation or archival work is valued by the ARC community?
- How do ARCs see themselves as cultural & knowledge institutions?

**METHODS**

- Unstructured interviews with directors of 9 ARCs in AB and SK
- Interviews discuss current practices, goals, influential factors, & how work is reflective of community
- Grounded theory (constant comparative method) used to analyze the interview data and extant archival projects

**BACKGROUND**

ARCs are important cultural heritage resources. Preservation of their histories and intellectual output benefits artists, researchers, and the public. This project focuses on ARCs in Alberta and Saskatchewan. This research describes how ARCs are making documents, publications, and tacit community knowledge accessible.

**DISCUSSION**

ARCs face many of the same challenges but approach documentation, preservation, and provision of access to information in diverse ways. Theory and practice vary, but successful projects result from: 1. connected communities of engaged culture workers; 2. spontaneous & informal collaborations within and across civic boundaries; 3. necessary responses to scarce resources.

**Preliminary Results**

“a very non-traditional archive”

Acknowledgements

“…have ideas and work come out of (the archive) and for it to be a catalyst for a larger discussion around why do we keep these things and for it to documentation, presentation, and provision of access to information to diverse ways.”

(Director, The New Gallery)