

**List of Best Practices for the Stewardship and Discovery of Artefacts**

This list is adapted and modified from the Policy on Professional Conduct by the American Schools of Oriental Research as well as the Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Standards by the Archaeological Institute of America.

**Stewardship**

- (i) Researchers should consider appropriate site protection, artefact storage and data management in initial research designs and funding plans; so that approaches and methods that require a minimum of damage to the archaeological record could be chosen and that all archaeological materials, records, and archives are properly and adequately stored and curated.
  - (a) In the case of site excavation, which is an irreversible process, such plans include the protection of sites after the conclusion of research, taking into consideration the natural conditions affecting the site and the demands of multiple uses.
  - (b) In the case of artefact studies, exhibits, and surveys, such plans consider the environment and security of future display and / or storage.
- (ii) Researchers should avoid alteration of archaeological heritage and cultural property which is intended to conceal or destroy cultural, historical or scientific evidence.
- (iii) Researchers should not engage in activities that contribute directly or indirectly to the illicit markets for antiquities and to the value of artefacts in such markets through their publication, authentication, or exhibition.

**Discovery**

- (i) Researchers should support and encourage efforts to document the archaeological heritage through surveys, inventories, display and study of artefacts.
- (ii) Researchers should ensure that all individuals participating in the excavation, survey, study or other research shall be fully qualified to carry out their responsibilities or, in the case of apprentice team members, that they be appropriately supervised.
- (iii) Researchers should develop a research design and include, where relevant, a curation plan for excavated objects and a conservation plan, prior to the start of research, and inform colleagues of their role in the overall project.
- (iv) Recovered objects must be looked after following a curation plan to maintain standards of best practice. Team members must be aware of the curation plan for effective conservation of objects including first aid administered to finds in the field.