HOW IS INFORMATION ABOUT THE MUSEUMS’ COLLECTIONS CREATED AND MAINTAINED?

- Objects in the database: 117,545*
  - 21 collections staff (registrars, curators) across all 6 museums
  - That’s an average of 5,597 objects per person
- About 100 hours/year of IT support at Five Colleges
  - That’s about 2 hours of support per collections staff person per year

WHO DECIDES ABOUT COLLECTIONS INFORMATION NOW?

- Each museum decides what information it records about objects in its collection, then creates, manages and maintains that information on its own
- Five Colleges, Inc., stewards the data and database system, but it is up to each museum to input, manage, and maintain their own information
- 1 collection manager from each museum makes up a database committee
- That committee makes most decisions about what categories of information are available to the public

WHO MIGHT DECIDE ABOUT THE COLLECTIONS INFORMATION IN THE FUTURE?

- More museum staff including curators and educators
- End users like students and faculty
- People with academic knowledge or lived experience in specific cultures
- Groups of museum professionals, librarians, and others sharing data openly on the web

*As of August 2021

Amherst College | Hampshire College | Mount Holyoke College
Smith College | University of Massachusetts Amherst | Historic Deerfield