

Newport Museum- How We Sort Books

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Relevant as of 9/4/24

Forward

As an associate of the Freedonian Historical Society, all Newport Museum and FHS staff members are encouraged to prioritize the collection (and public distribution) of written books above all other forms of collectibles. Unlike the various 'artifacts' the staff churn out when they get bored, written books tell our shared history, sometimes filling in missing gaps in knowledge or perspective that would have been otherwise lost to time. I hope all who come after me share my passion for the archival of these works, no matter their content or authors.

Fieldwork

Perhaps the greatest concern for this project is security, as a double chest carelessly left unlocked could result in 54 written books lost to time at the hands of some thief. As such, it is important that we take pre-emptive measures to ensure our archives are always safe and recoverable in case of emergency. This is why we keep a backup collection of copyable books in the highest condition we own them in (Original Books and Copy of Original Books). This 'backup archive' is the heart of staff operations, as we can use it to make new copies of lost/stolen pieces in our front-end/display collection, as well as create new copies for the public upon their requests.

All copies of copies will be kept with the front-end collection, as they are unable to be copied further. After the server updates past 1.12.2, this display collection will be set onto lecterns, so that the public may access them without our assistance (granted they can be locked). **FRONT END COPIES ARE NOT TO BE GIVEN OUT**, only copied (when applicable) or borrowed for temporary reading (Only if the player is a trusted member of the MCO community).

As of September 2024, the archives are currently located in the Newport Museum library, where they are being sorted & processed for their shipment to the collection's final home, the Library Tower Vault of Babylonia, a massive structure that will have an individual space for every author, each space carved out into our vault's walls and expanded upon as we obtain more books from them. This will both encourage individual authors to contribute more of their work, as well as making specific books a lot easier to find for everyone involved.

While our backup archive is currently unsorted beyond book conditions (We keep originals and copies of originals separately within the backups), the front-end collection on the other hand is sorted alphabetically (This step is currently being managed by Daata, who formatted our entire current collection up to now). Books in the front-end collection can be in any condition, from copy-of-a-copies to originals (granted at least one other book of the highest available condition is already existing within the backup archives).

Due to Daata's monumental aid in sorting the front-end collection, it's essential that other museum workers do not disturb his line of work. Previously, staff were instructed to put front-end copies in the chests with the first letter of the author's name. Now that these chests have been further sorted alphabetically, staff are asked to put new (& processed for front end) books we acquire into a separate set of chests instead, marked and located nearby. As stated earlier, this does not apply to the copy that will end up in the backup archives, as they are currently not processed in the same way.

Public Access

While our archive allows books to be privately archived separately from the main gallery when the writer/donor wishes it to be away from the public eye, **every** other book in our collection should be readily available for public access, as that has been my intent since the day I started collecting written books. Do not deny a book request made in good faith to us, even when the book or the requesting player are disagreeable in nature. The only exception to this is if a player requests a large amount of books that would take a significant amount of time to be copied, as your time is valuable too; and you are not expected to treat this position like some paid job. As long as we can afford to do so, the copied books we give out should be made with our own materials, as not everyone has the patience to track down half a dozen crafting ingredients to make a book & quill of their own.