



de Stolfe Journal Candid

November 2013

Issue 2.11

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Happy Thanksgiving

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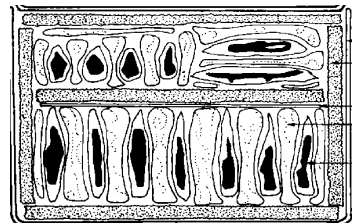
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As We Close In on a Year



Master's Graduation

Ten years ago in early December, I graduated with my Master degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Now ten years later, I have come to understand quite painfully clear that having a Master degree does not automatically mean you can get a job of any kind, let alone one in the field you studied! While the education I got was wonderful and gave me the additional understanding I was looking for, it is deeply grieving that 10 years has passed and I'm no better off than when I graduated! I've found that companies and organizations really don't care about your education or what degrees you have as long as you can benefit them, or if you give them some sort of political impact. I've seen many times over that people get hired based on the political benefit to the company or organization rather than by the best qualifications. People also seem to change jobs as often as they eat at difference restaurants! They stay at a job from 6 months to two years then are off to a different job! (Think about it:

how many jobs have you had or others you know had in the past 10 years?)

Thanksgiving

During this season, the best thing we can do is to be thankful for what we have and to strive and make purposeful decisions to grow and treat people better, including ourselves. Painful truth be told, we as a people generally treat others like crap, especially family more than anyone, and especially this time of year! We don't treat people kindly, we don't act like other people even have feelings, we expect everyone to serve us to our exact

expectations and if someone falls short, we rip them to shreds! Some people are so particular and picky about everything that their selfishness frustrates and repels people from even wanting to be around them. Now that we are in the Christmas season, we cannot lose focus that family, friends, kindness, and Love are the most important, not shopping, Christmas parties, football, presents, and perfection! Once we can get past that superficial junk, we can then truly enjoy the holidays for what they are meant to be in its essence!

Happy Thanksgiving!



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Word for Life

Leviticus 22:27

"And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord, offer it of your own free will."

Samuel 22:50

"Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord... and sing praises to Your name."

1 Chronicles 16:34

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

Psalm 6:5

"For in death there is no remembrance of You; in the grave who will give You thanks? "

Psalm 18:49

"Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord... and sing praises to Your name."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

"...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Psalm 117

"1 Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!
 Laud Him, all you peoples!
 2 For His merciful kindness is great toward us,
 And the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord!"

Saddle Break Reads

I See A Pattern

How's this for a great pattern! At this point, it was 11.12.13 14:15:16!



A Little Hay

I was at a restaurant eating lunch in late October when I spotted this big load of hay going down this very busy main road. The hay itself looked very good. Based on the direction it was going in, I think I knew where it was going: to a feed store that is a few blocks from where I live.



Taco Olé!

Okay, let's go back about 30 years. It was the early 80s. Down the road a ways from my house on Bird Road was a restaurant. The restaurant was called Taco Olé, a

Mexican restaurant, the only one I knew of at the time. Mom and I would sometimes go there, but mostly I would go with my baby sitter; one specific one, actually. While I probably was not supposed to leave the house, she would often take me there when she was the sitter. (Mom, you might or might not have known this!) The logo above seems familiar, but might or might not be the actual logo or even the same restaurant from the time. I don't remember much about the tacos or burritos, but I do remember the taco sauce bar! The bar had squeeze bottles of somewhere around 7 to 10 varieties of taco sauce from very mild to very hot.



Cold days in mid-late November!



Winter Green

I got a great end of season sale at Lowe's of some 4" pots of pansies for 10¢ each! So, I bought ten of them and planted them in a small vacant patch of one of my planting areas. Pansies are fairly cold hardy and should last for a while. The pansies I planted in the spring are still blooming!



<http://www.facebook.com/rg.destolfe>



<http://myworld.ebay.com/cowbovrg>

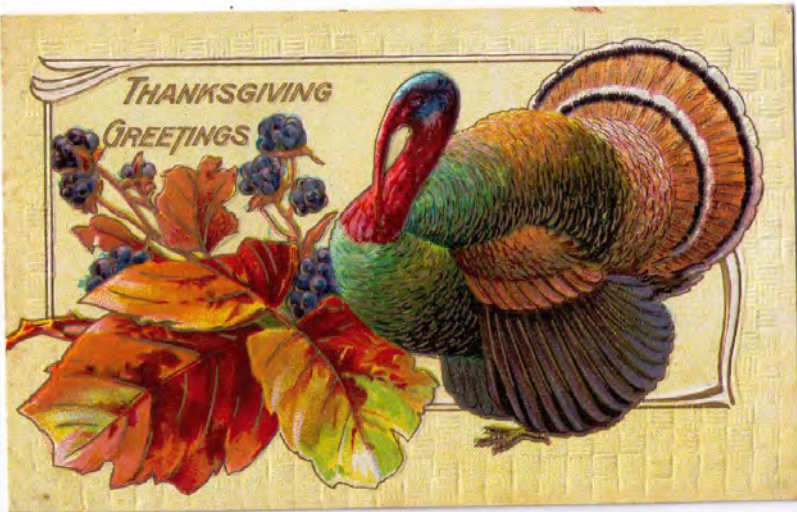


<http://pinterest.com/cowbovrg>

Vintage Thanksgiving Postcards

Apparently, one hundred years ago people commonly sent Thanksgiving postcards. At that time, it's obvious that Thanksgiving was about spending time with family, having a great meal, and being appreciative about things in your life. Today, however, the concept of Thanksgiving cards or postcards seem to have long been thrown under the bus, along with appreciation and giving thanks! It seems that Thanksgiving has become a shallow event that's all about food, watching football, and vain Christmas shopping! However, we can still hope by throwing that trash aside and return to the holiday's original purpose!.

I picked out these cards mostly from a design perspective, because something in the design I liked. (and who doesn't like a plump turkey, a big pumpkin, or tasty looking corn!)





Small Business Saturday

Saturday, November 30, 2013

This Saturday after Thanksgiving is Small Business Saturday as designated by American Express. Use this day to support small businesses by purchasing their goods and services. We CAN support the citizens of the United States by putting money in the hands of the people who most benefit from it!

I have an array of items that would make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers for your entire family, even your cats!

See my available items for sale on the next page.

Christmas Made Easy



I have for sale an array of handmade items, many are one of a kind! Most items are under \$10 and are great for tree ornaments, gifts, stocking stuffers, or jus cus! For a more complete list, go to my Pinterest page:

www.pinterest.com/cowboyrg/cows-chewin-cud

Note: Some items I make upon ordering (if not already made), but some items are in limited quantities and when gone, they're gone! (Until I can get more supplies and/or the right tools to make more.)

Shipping is in addition. I can take cash, PayPal, and credit cards. Just contact me to make an order!



Rein snap ring, \$4.00



Red



Green



Copper

Horse nail Cross ring, \$6.00 each
Color choices: red, green, blue, purple, yellow, gold, silver, copper, or bronze



Color Choices

Brown Ombre

Jazz Stripe

Red-White-Blue

Nightwatch

Cat toy, Turkish yarn, 1 / \$3.50, 2 / \$6.50, 3 / \$9.00, and 4 / \$12.00
5 colors: high sierra, jazz stripe, red-white-blue, nightwatch, cranberry



Chap leather Crosses, double sided colors, \$8.00

saddle Cross-rowel, \$10.00



Barbed fish, \$6.00



Barbed star redesign, \$7.50



Riding bells, designs vary, \$10.00



Hair-on Cross—brindle, \$5.50



Hair-on Cross—longhorn, \$5.50



Saddle Cross, \$10.00

Christmas Bible Reading Plan

In the week before Christmas, a very good idea is to read select passages in the Bible every day before Christmas. I've done this for a couple of years now and really puts the Christmas holiday in the correct perspective. Feel free to use this daily guide yourself!

December 13: Luke 1-4

December 14: John 1:1-18, Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 9:2, 40:5, 49:6

December 15: Matthew 1:1-17, Genesis 22:18, Luke 3:23-38

December 16: Luke 1:1-25

December 17: Luke 1:26-38, Isaiah 7:14

December 18: Luke 1:39-56

December 19: Luke 1:57-80

December 20: Matthew 1:18-25, Isaiah 49:1, 5

December 21: Luke 2:1-7, Micah 5:2

December 22: Luke 2:8-14, Isaiah 9:6

December 23: Luke 2:15-21

December 24: Luke 2:22-38

December 25: Matthew 2:1-12, Numbers 24:17

December 26: Matthew 2:13-18, Hosea 11:1

December 27: Matthew 2:19-23, Luke 2:39

December 28: Luke 2:40-52

More Culinary Quests

~I mentioned in the September issue that I made the angel flake biscuits as posted in Western Horseman by Kent Rollins, but did not make the Hodge Podge recipe. Well, I finally did make it because it sounded really good. And in fact, it was really good!

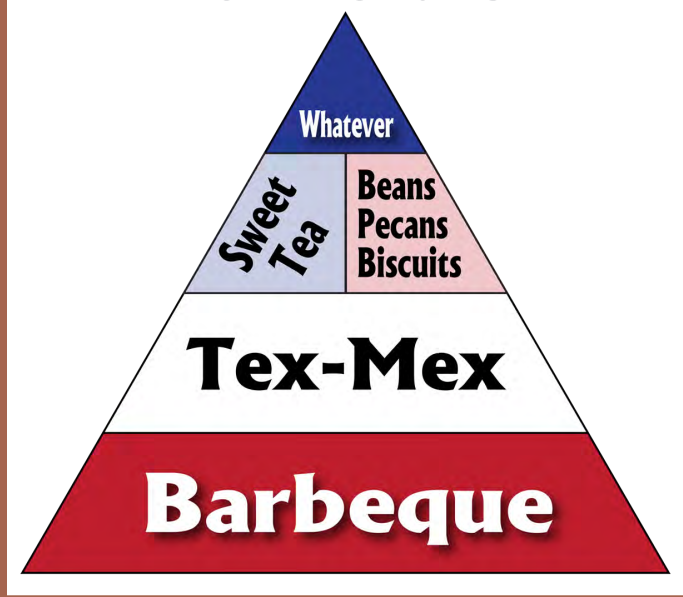


~I tried my hand at another new recipe, one I found online by King Arthur Flour. It is a cinnamon-streusel coffeecake. This was a somewhat elaborate coffeecake in that I had to make three separate parts: the cake, filling, and streusel topping. The cake had sour cream in it, which made it very moist and delicious!



~I also tried another biscuit recipe. It was a very simple recipe by Miss Kay (of Duck Dynasty) from her new cookbook. All that's in it are biscuit mix, sour cream, butter, and a little Sprite. I didn't have any, so I used milk, which worked just fine.

Food Pyramid for Texans



Squirrel Report

A quadrangle of squirrels



November 6, 2013

A triangle of squirrels



November 12, 2013



The Gelding's vs The Mare's Diary

Gelding's Diary

- 7:00 AM *Breakfast, my favorite thing!*
- 8:00 AM *Turnout, my favorite thing!*
- 9:00 AM *Grazing with friends, my favorite thing!*
- 10:00 AM *Sniffed a mare, my favorite thing!*
- 11:00 AM *Human came, my favorite thing!*
- Noon *Got ridden, my favorite thing!*
- 1:00 PM *Bath, my favorite thing!*
- 2:00 PM *Rolled, my favorite thing!*
- 3:00 PM *Put in stall, my favorite thing!*
- 4:00 PM *Dinner, my favorite thing!*

Mare's Dairy

Dear diary,

The humans continue to tease and demean me, taunting me while I'm stuck in this awful place. I am fed dry stalks of "hay" and hard tasteless pellets of a sort of rough grain. Even though I make my discontent with this known by dragging the small creatures to lush green pastures, they only tell me I'm "naughty" and return me to my prison. However, I must eat to keep up my strength, though I am only given the small ration twice a day, barely enough to stay alive. These humans humiliate me, especially in front of the other horses. They've done something to brainwash the geldings, who only stare at me and sniff me. I make it well known that I do not wish to become one of them by aiming a kick or squealing at this, but it only makes the humans laugh at me as having a "crush". To make everything worse, the humans sit astride me with spurs and whips, intent on making me "go into a frame" and jump. Occasionally, this seems fun, until I realize again that this is only a way for the humans to show their power. Then I stop enjoying myself and give a hard buck or refuse to hop over the small fences. This makes them frustrated at my "moodiness".

Tomorrow, I will find out what "being lame" means and how to use it to my advantage.



Back Page Literature

Late fall 2013 marks ten years since I graduated Texas Tech University with my Master degree! From August 2001 through December 2003, I took classes to eventually get a Master degree in Museum Science. And so “What is Museum Science?” you say? Most people would assume (only partially correctly) that it would have something to do with being a curator. For some reason, that’s all people think exists in a museum! That couldn’t be further from reality! I certainly got the WELL rounded education as to how and why that assumption people make is false! The first point to understand about museums is that many levels of employment exist

within many departments in a museum environment. The three broadest sections are Administration, Education, and Curation. What specific part within one of these many a person studies is the focus for each student. While all the students got exposed to most of the parts in a general sense, each person chose additional classes and student jobs to learn about the specific area of interest. In my case, I focused more in the realm of exhibitions and education, with more emphasis in exhibitions. All students have to do one of three areas as a “capstone experience”: master’s thesis, internship, or a special project (usually involving

some sort of research). I did the internship option for I was not interested in doing huge quantities of research and writing! Personally, I had no interest in trying to prove to people my opinions about a topic. My opinions are my opinions and they need no evidence or support to get other people’s approval! I really don’t care!

Anyway, back on subject. I am expanding the back page literature this month to include various writings and partial writings of my Master degree ride.

“Photosynthate and Apical Meristems”

In the Fall of 2002, I took a class called Physiological Basis for Grazing Management. This class was not part of my degree but one I thought would be interesting to take as a different perspective to the Animal Science classes I took. Well, this was quite the different perspective and a class that really showed how little I knew about the subject! Anyway, here is a sampling of my answers to the take home midterm test we had.

3. Mature leaves are in the fully developed stage. They provide the most photosynthesis of all parts of the plant. The size of the leaf is determined by the size of the cells that make up the leaf. Because of this, the mature leaf tends to be tougher and sometimes less palatable (especially with woody plants). The mature leaf will provide the most nutrients until the plant reaches reproductive mode and starts to die back. When the range is full of mature plants, this point is usually considered to be the forage climax, meaning the full potential of plant matter from an ungrazed pasture. If needing to kill a plant with herbicides, the best time is just before the plant starts going into its dormant stage when plant nutrients are sinking back down to the roots, and thus the herbicides along with it.
4. Young, growing leaves do not export photosynthate for two probable reasons. First, because the leaves are still growing, they are actively using the food they are producing. Second, the photosynthate producing regions of the growing leaves are not fully developed to export the photosynthate. The leaves are actually also requiring more photosynthate than they can produce.
6. Carbohydrates are restored at different rates by different types of similar plants. When a plant is defoliated, some of the carbohydrate is used to regrow the plant. After regrowth, the plant can then restore carbohydrate. The rate that this occurs has more to do with how much and what parts of the plant were defoliated. Eaten leaves will be restored faster than if the apical meristems were eaten, since an axillary bud would need to grow which requires more energy than a new leaf. Short shoot plants will most likely restore carbohydrates faster than long shoot plants for the same reasons stated above.
12. Distribution of animals is an important concept regarding forage potential. In theory, the stocking rate is determined by how much forage a piece of land can produce less the desired reserve and the amount of forage that an animal needs. The forage itself is relatively evenly distributed and thus the animals would spread out evenly to eat the forage. However in reality, herding (huddling) animals like cattle, horses, and goats generally stay together and therefore relatively eat together (and often in competition with each other). This causes a problem because the animals will stomp out any areas of plants that are near supplemental feed spots, salt/mineral locations, and water sources. Also, the denser the plant areas, the less an animal will eat through that area. In other words, the more accessible areas are eaten first and therefore are often grazed out while other areas may not even get touched causing extreme spottiness in the pasture. A way to at least partially counteract these problems is to better understand the animals’ grazing habits and use them to force a more even distribution or to perhaps have smaller groups by having multiple water spots, etc.
14. Bunchgrasses are by their very name grasses found in bunches. If they are considered annuals, they will die after one season. However, not the whole bunch will die, but rather the particular shoots of that year. The grasses form new tillers, by way of the axillary buds, will create the next year’s shoots, and the previous year’s shoots will then die. This creates a clump where the middle is old, dead shoots and the new shoots form a ring around it. These “wolf plants” continue growing in this manner, so the individual tillers die annually, but the plant as a whole continues to exist.

Back Page Literature

In March 2002, I was taking a class called Preventive Conservation. In essence, the class taught about how to minimize or eliminate the potential of damage to museum objects through various techniques and preventive measures. As with all Master level classes, we had to do many writings. One particular writing I did was called Ceramics in the Museum. I did this writing in outline form with supporting images. Here's a sampling.

Ceramics in the Museum (partial)

VI. Deterioration Problems of Ceramics

- A. From creation, manufacture
 1. Cracking
 2. Explosion, break from air bubbles
 3. Glaze defects from firing
 - crazing, crawling, beading
 - dripping, running (glaze too thick)
 4. Lead (in clay, a hazard if used)
- B. From Age and Use
 1. Mechanical damage
 - impact
 - abrasion
 - thermal shock
 - plant roots
 - unintentional fire damage
 - crumbling
 - inappropriate & traditional repairs
 2. Glaze defects from age
 - chipping
 - cracking
 - staining
 3. Chemical damage
 - salt efflorescence (leaching)
 - encrustations (calcium deposits)
 - mold (more for unglazed pottery)

VII. Handling

- A. Use cotton gloves
- B. Use physical support to hold
- C. If fragile, handle as little as possible
- D. Keep work area clean and uncluttered

VIII. Storage

- A. Standard conditions
 - 70°C, 50% RH (or cooler)
- B. HVAC system
- C. Physical support
- D. Plenty of padding and cushion
- E. Standard no light conditions

IX. Display Recommendations

- A. Light levels not to exceed 300 lux
- B. Full base support
- C. Stable, firm anchors if on wall
- D. Covered cases/vitrines recommended

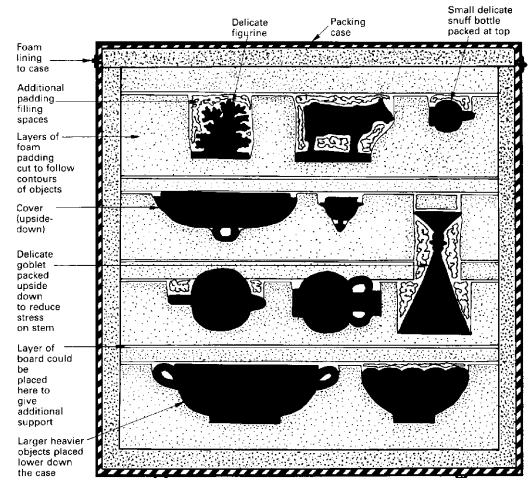
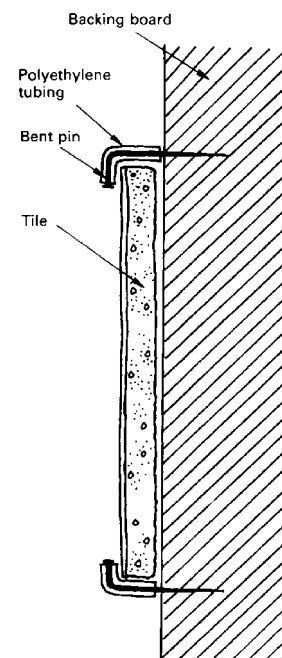
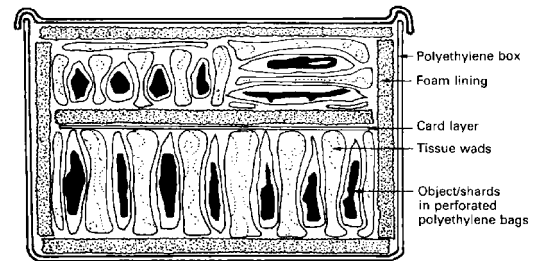


Figure 3.10 (General packing for all types of ceramic (in sections). The diagram shows a range of different objects packed in layers of polyethylene foam that has been cut to fit the contours of the objects. Alternatively tissue wads could be used in a similar manner.



Example of a tile attached to wall for display

Back Page Literature

As part of my final final of my degree program, I had comps. Comps was the culmination of all the classes, studies, and internship. Near the end of my last term (in this case, fall 2003), I had three days in October where I had these final writings, one day for each of my committee members (I had three people on my committee). They submitted questions for me to answer fully. I was in the computer lab and had two hours (I think) to type up my responses, then submit them on disk (flash drives were very new technology at that time).

Here is one question and my answer from one committee members. I picked this particular question to show you in how the dated, but still relevant, response can apply to today's museums.

Question Submitted by A Committee Member

Question 4

At a mid-1990s AAM convention, futurist Peter Bishop stated that dominant or "lead" technologies guide how societies develop, including cultural institutions, and industrial and economic structures. He stated that those institutions that best adapt to lead technologies survive, whereas those that fail to do so are doomed to extinction.

His premise is that in the 20th century there were three lead technologies: the railroad, petroleum (hydrocarbon technology), and the microprocessor/ fiber optics. A significant characteristic of any lead technology is its eventual assimilation into the culture so that it becomes "invisible" or "transparent" to the average individual; that is, unnoticeable at a conscious level.

Bishop proposed that the currently developing lead technology of the microprocessor/fiber optics will result in societal attitudes that: regard "virtual" presentations as preferable to "real"; consider physical location as being irrelevant; see "smaller and smarter" as preferable to "bigger and better"; and he opines that the machinery of technology will disappear from view—become transparent (i.e., taken for granted) within society.

- Do you agree with Bishop's predictions? Why or why not?
- Using Bishop's scenario, in the next 20 to 50 years, how do you see museums adapting to the lead technology mainstream?
- If they do adapt, how can museums integrate the new technologies into their basic mission to collect and preserve "real" objects?

My Written Response

4. Peter Bishop's Lead Technologies

a.

The current lead technologies of microprocessors and fiber optics have certainly revolutionized the way that the world works and specifically in the area of communication and automation. I would have to say that I mostly agree that these technologies when accepted is taken for granted and expected. In a sense, the technology is transparent or unnoticed until it breaks and is not available for a period of time. Many people's reactions at that time is unacceptance of the failure and disgust of its presence (either of the failure or of the technology). In a way, a person's thinking is that if a particular technology becomes unavailable for a period of time, that person's progress comes to a screeching halt. This is because of such dependence on that technology that the person is unaware of the alternatives or unwilling to do the alternatives. I would have to disagree however about the virtual presentation aspect. Sure that virtual presentations can be more convenient and easier to make, but I really think that people would much rather see the real thing instead of something representing it. I have heard of a museum in Japan that has a theatre with a large screen that projects images of paintings and sculptures instead of actually showing the paintings and sculptures. For many people, that might be a technological wonder, but I do think that people get more out of seeing the real item than by just seeing an image of it. Not to mention that many aspects of an item cannot be seen with a mere image, such as brush strokes in a painting or how they change with different light angles. Or how the texture of a sculpture or ceramic piece looks up close and at different points of view. Because of these subtle, but important details, people will tend to go back to realness even after experiencing the virtualness.

b.

In reference to Bishop's assimilation scenario, museums would be best advantaged if they try to incorporate lead technologies. Many people's ideas of a museum still are based on ideas of it being an old, stuffy place where things collect dust and the people are hard to understand or are weird. With "keeping up" with the world, a museum can really keep people interested and change the misguided opinions that a museum is a place of the past. Also, the use of lead technology will make preservation easier, communication more varied, and give the museum more options in how to present exhibitions and information. In short, lead technologies can help make the museum more flexible and more varied in how it does its job.

c.

If a museum were to adapt to the ever changing lead technologies, the museum can easily use the technology to help preserve real objects. I can see the use of microprocessors and fiber optics to automate environmental controlling and monitoring. This automation could constantly monitor the environment and instantly make adjustments based on presets if the environment changes. We are close now, but don't have the full automation (or can't afford full automation) to where it is self running and self governing. For collecting objects, the internet alone has really helped with communication and with reference to where a person can simply do a search and find heaps of web sites containing information relating to the search. Also, many websites are set up in a way where objects can be traded or sold or even just to link people together based on "one who wants" and "one who has".