

Confidentiality: Your Responsibilities

The MAP and Accreditation programs are most successful when museum staff are open and honest.


To preserve the integrity of the programs, the museum's disclosure of private information also must be handled discreetly by the peer reviewer. Treat all activities and information acquired through the process as privileged. Do not talk or write about the proceedings, your conclusions, or any other information about the museum to anyone but review team members and MAP or Accreditation program staff, as appropriate.

After the review is complete, your report is received and accepted, self-study materials have been returned to the appropriate party, and your commitment is ended, destroy any notes and copies of the report in your possession. (See also Wrapping Up.) Your responsibility of confidentiality continues after the review. You may not use your knowledge about an institution to gain an advantage in future business decisions, such as consulting assignments or to pursue employment.

All information about a museum's accreditation is protected; this includes its application, status in the review process, accreditation history and dates, and the information contained in its self-study and Visiting Committee narrative report. However, the list of currently accredited museums is considered public information and is available from the AAM Web site: www.aam-us.org/accred.

You may not identify the specific museums you have visited, but you can and should include your participation as an AAM peer reviewer on your resume. Refer only to the time period of participation and the types of visits:

- Accreditation
- Collections Management Assessment
- Governance Assessment
- Institutional Assessment
- Public Dimension Assessment

 *Reviewer maintained confidentiality in all communications and treated all information appropriately to maintain rapport and trust with participants.*