

BOX 6.2 ARTIFACTS IN CRISIS: ORPHANED AND NEGLECTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

One of the most pressing challenges facing archaeologists in the twenty-first century is known as the **curation crisis** (Lipe 1974; Marquardt, Montet-White, and Scholtz 1982; Childs 1995). The curation crisis refers to the constantly growing number of archaeological collections that are neglected, ignored, and/or lack a permanent or safe storage location. The rise of contract archaeology in the United States,

UK, and Canada, along with the growth of archaeology departments at academic institutions, have contributed to this problem (Karrow 2017). Though federal legislation and professional organizations have established guidelines to curtail the growth of **orphaned collections** (in the United States, 36 CFR Part 79, legislation that outlines how archaeological collections are to be handled and curated, is an