



Rediscover the Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery Archives

A 2015 MLIS Capstone Project by Senteara M. Orwig

Project Description

This project began with a simple rumor: the renowned Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery has a room full of historical material pertaining to the winery. I made a cold call to the winery and told them how I could provide a consulting service. The conversation evolved into uncovering the archival room information needs, as follows:

- ❖ Very few people at the company know what is in the Archive Room, what type of material is available for them.
- ❖ Various departments could find value in the material: Marketing, Guest Services, Creative & Communications.
- ❖ Items in the Archive Room needed to be indexed, cataloged, and on an accessible platform for the company.



Methods & Process

The overarching goal for this project was to transform the Archive Room into a valuable asset, one worth funding and sustainable curation. This project laid down the first step by:

- ❖ Utilizing Value Sensitive Design to figure out company structure, stakeholder values & needs, and apply knowledge to design process for an accessible platform that visually displays archival content.
- ❖ Index & catalog items into Excel spreadsheets.
- ❖ SharePoint Team Site developed as the accessible platform containing excel spreadsheets, and mini collections with images attached with basic metadata.



Outcomes

Developing an accessible platform ran into its challenges but resourceful work a rounds were utilized. Most of the challenges came with value tensions between sustainability, preservation, and usability. As a result, the project became a stepping stone for the Archive Rooms visibility.

Deliverables:

- ❖ Items in the Archive Room now have a record for their existence, stored in Excel sheets and on SharePoint Team Site.
- ❖ An accessible web platform, the SharePoint Team Site, was developed for employees to visually see and search for items in the room. Promotes the Archive Room as a resource and increases awareness about the history and heritage of the winery.



Impact & Outlook

The Archive Room is a space to store artifacts for the heritage of the winery and the Washington Wine Industry. The company can utilize it as a resource and hopefully see value in the room to take the next steps need.

Next Steps:

- ❖ Hire full time archivist to maintain content, collection development, circulation practices, reference services to company and general public, outreach and advocacy.
- ❖ Secure budget to further develop value of Archive Room and educational workshops for employees to learn about the heritage of winery, the foundations of the wine industry.

