

SPNHC NEWSLETTER

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SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

**Society for the Preservation
of Natural History Collections**

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Opportunities to Engage Students: Vertebrate Collections Internship

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This article is based on a presentation given by Mireia at the 2013 SPNHC meeting and is in partial fulfillment of her Fitzgerald travel grant award requirements.

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..... and much more!

At the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER), located at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) campus, we were awarded a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to complete the Vertebrate Collections Management Project, consisting of the digitization, cataloging, documentation and curation of our vertebrate collections (~31,400 specimens). The length of the grant was two years (from August 2011 to July 2013).

In order to accomplish the goals of the project within the established timeframe, we hired a curatorial assistant to work exclusively on the project. However, we decided that this would also be an excellent opportunity to offer university students a unique learning experience by letting them become participants in the project through the Vertebrate Collections Internship.

A WIN-WIN SITUATION

There were several objectives we wanted to accomplish through the implementation of the internship, and each of them had its own benefits. First, the program was a useful resource for students. They learned how to curate and maintain collections, thus developing new skills and gaining experience that will be positive for their professional development and that will be helpful to them when looking for employment in the future. At the same time, the internship exposed students to a new field and possibly encouraged them to discover a passion for a profession they did not know existed.

The natural history collections community also benefited from this program. We used the internship as an opportunity to increase awareness among students of the importance of natural history collections. We addressed topics such as the origin and value of collections, and eliminated misconceptions that people unfamiliar with collections frequently have.

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Opportunities to Engage Students

Finally, the internship was useful for local institutions of a similar nature. We decided to partner with two neighboring museums: the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WFVZ) and the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (SBMNH). Members of their staff participated in the instruction for some of the sessions, and we also organized field trips to show students how these other institutions operate.

The WFVZ and the SBMNH staff had a chance to display and explain their work, as well as to promote and advertise their institutions. Collaboration and partnership among institutions that house and take care of natural history collections is key for a healthy and prosperous growth of the field.

STRUCTURE

The academic year at the University of California is structured in quarters. We chose to hold the Vertebrate Collections Internship during the fall quarter. In this manner, students would have the opportunity to continue assisting during the subsequent quarters if they wished. The first internship took place in the fall of 2011, and was offered again in the fall of 2012.

The course consisted of three hours of class per week and the topics covered were: importance of collections, data collection and preservation methods, specimen preparation, storage, labeling, cataloging and data security, and careers in museum work. The classes consisted of lectures, hands-on training and field trips.

The Curator of Herpetology at UCSB, Sam Sweet, and the Executive Director of the WFVZ, Linnea Hall, were the lead professors. René Corado, Collections Manager at the WFVZ, and Paul Collins, Curator of Vertebrates at the SBMNH, also participated. Students earned one unit of academic credit to participate in the internship.

RESULTS

Three students enrolled in the internship in the fall of 2011. Two of them and two additional students continued assisting with the collections after the end of the program. The following year, the number of students enrolled increased more than 100%. A total of seven interns participated in the program in 2012, six of whom decided to stay with us after the internship. As had happened the previous year two students

This space could be yours.....

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley (abentley@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2014.

who had not taken part in the internship, due to schedule conflicts, assisted with the vertebrate collections as well.



At the end of each internship we gave the students an evaluation form so that they could grade the program, express their opinions, and suggest possible modifications. All the evaluations were positive and demonstrated that the internship had been a useful experience for the students. As one of them wrote, "It helped me define my future goals further".

CONCLUSION

We were pleased with the results, but there are some aspects that should be considered before implementing a program like this one. First, it is necessary to develop an effective advertising strategy. You need to know what type of people would be interested in interning at your institution, locate them, and select the best means to reach them.

Second, keep in mind that an initial investment is required, whether it is monetary or in the form of time. You will need money to pay for instructors (or use part of your work time if you prefer to do it yourself) and, possibly, a few extra supplies that interns may need. However, the major investment is the time needed to plan and design the content of the course. Nonetheless, once it is done, the same format and content can be used over again with minor adjustments.

Having said that, I recommend other institutions embark on a similar project. Despite the initial effort, the benefits outweigh the costs. For the interns, this experience represents a unique opportunity to learn first-hand what natural collections are and how to curate them. For your institution, this program can become a promotion tool. If interns enjoy what they do and feel appreciated and respected, they will talk about it with their family and friends, and word-of-mouth is one of the most effective advertising strategies.

In the end, it is the collections that benefit the most from this project. Any institution aimed at the wellbeing and preservation of natural history collections should consider starting an internship program.

Presidential Report

Christopher Norris

Background

I've been visiting museums for most of my life and I did my PhD (in zoology) in a museum, but I didn't start out working for one. In fact, I was an administrator; I began my career working for a UK government agency, followed by a number of years in university administration. I always maintained my links with the museum world and about 15 years ago I got the opportunity to go back as collections specialist, which is what I've been ever since. Nonetheless, those early years were valuable. Sometimes, life in a museum collection can get a little rarified; it's important to remember that there's a bigger world out there.



Involvement with SPNHC

Since joining SPNHC back in 1998, I've been fortunate enough to work on a number of major initiatives, chairing committees on Long Range Planning, Conferences, Mentorship, Federal Collections, Publicity and Outreach, and the future of our journal, *Collection Forum*, and serving as a member of the Best Practices, Finance, and Membership Committees. I can testify first-hand to the energy and enthusiasm of the Society members who participate in these activities and I would urge all members of the Society to get involved in its running by joining a committee.

Summer flies by and it already seems a long time since we were meeting in Rapid City. Sally Shelton and her colleagues at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology put together an excellent program of talks and workshops for more than 220 people who attended the meeting. They came from as far away as Canada, Germany, South Africa, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, and from 30 U.S. states, including Alaska and Hawaii. Many of them were attending their first SPNHC meeting and Rapid City provided a great introduction to the Society.

This was all the more commendable because they were forced to make major changes to their program at the 11th hour. As you may recall, this was originally intended to be a joint meeting with the Conference on Fossil Resources (CFR). That part of the meeting had to be cancelled because of the impact of the recent funding sequestration that resulted in a near-total ban on travel funding across a number of U.S. Federal agencies. Despite this, our colleagues at CFR allowed the Rapid City Local Organizing Committee to use the funds they had set aside for the joint meeting, an act of extraordinary generosity under the circumstances, for which they deserve our very grateful thanks.

Another act of great generosity was made by the Local Organizing Committee of last year's meeting. I can congratulate co-chairs Tim White and Susan Butts and all the members of the Committee with a clear conscience, because although we are colleagues at Yale, their exceptional performance was done with little more than moral support from me. It was, by any and all measures, an extremely successful meeting, and earlier this year the Local Committee made a donation of \$35K to the Society, an act of great generosity that will provide vital support to us at a time of considerable demands on our finances.

Many of these arise from the impetus given to our work by the new Strategic Plan, which was formally accepted by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting in Rapid City. The plan has four goals; by now you're probably very familiar with them, but they bear repeating.

The first goal is for the Society to show leadership in defining and developing the profession of natural history collections care. One activity already underway is to increase the pool of potential leaders within the Society. Our Fitzgerald travel

Continued on page 4



The **Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections** was formed in 1985 and is recognized as a non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] in the United States. SPNHC members receive *Collection Forum*, a biannual journal of reviewed technical information, and two issues of the *SPNHC Newsletter* each year. The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is a multidisciplinary organization composed of individuals who are interested in development and preservation of natural history collections. Natural history collections include specimens and supporting documentation, such as audio-visual materials, labels, library materials, field data, and similar archives. The Society actively encourages the participation of individuals involved with all aspects of natural history collections.

The **SPNHC Newsletter** (ISSN 1071-2887) is published twice a year, March and September, by the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, c/o Division of Ichthyology, Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas, Dyche Hall, 1345 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, KS 66045-7593, USA.

Changes of address should be directed to SPNHC Treasurer, Planetarium Station, PO Box 526, New York, NY 10024-0526, USA.

Submissions are welcome. Please forward announcements, articles and notes to the Newsletter Editors by mail or email.

Deadline for the next Newsletter is February 1, 2014.

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.....Presidential Report*

grants are an important mechanism for nurturing people at an early stage in their relationship with SPNHC, and this year we were able to work in partnership with the National Science Foundation-supported Collections Web network to increase the number of grants awarded, supporting eight awardees. We're grateful to Collections Web and its principal investigators, Alan Prather and Hank Bart, for their support. And with the help of one of this year's awardees, Kari Harris, we've been able to add another facet to our leadership mentoring activities, with the creation of the SPNHC Emerging Professionals Group. You can read more about this, and this year's Fitzgerald recipients, elsewhere in the Newsletter, but if you're new to SPNHC and looking for a way to get involved, I encourage you to get in touch with Kari (kari.panhorst@smail.astate.edu).

In the wider collections community, we continue to act via the NHCOLL-L and Permit-L listserves to harness and disseminate the expertise of our membership. We have taken a lead in the development of best practices for the profession, sponsoring conference sessions on topics as diverse as archives, cryo-collections, and fish and herpetology collections. Over the course of the last twelve months we have advocated for a number of threatened collections worldwide and – sadly – this role is likely to increase as we continue to see and suffer the long-term effects of the last decade's financial meltdown.

We are also participating in the implementation activities for the Networked Integrated Biocollections Alliance (NIBA), which is a plan to digitize all the biocollections of the United States, and are in discussion with our colleagues from NSCA, AIBS, and iDigBio regarding a cooperative approach to managing this program. We see our role in NIBA as representing the workforce needed to digitize collections; SPNHC is as much about people as it is collections. Attendees at this year's meeting got to hear a lot more about NIBA and digitization and SPNHC and the other stakeholder organizations have been hard at work this summer laying the foundations for future work in this area.

The second goal of the plan is to communicate the activities of the Society to its membership, stakeholders, and the general public. Here again, we have made significant progress in the past year. Arrangements are now well in-hand to shift to digital publication and dissemination of Collection Forum and the SPNHC Newsletter. With enhanced search capabilities, color images, greater accessibility, and features like RSS feeds, keyword alerts, and author alerts, digital publication will vastly increase the accessibility and reach of the Society's published works. We're currently on track to transition from print to digital in 2014, although those of you who still want hard copies of our publications will have an option to purchase these when you renew your membership.

Planning work continues for the replacement to the Stor-

age of Natural History Collections book. This scope of this new volume far exceeds that of its predecessor. Working in partnership with the American Institute of Conservation and the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, our editorial board intends to produce a book that will cover all aspects of preventive conservation in museum collections. This cross-disciplinary approach will enable us to reach a whole new audience of collections professionals.

Cooperation and collaboration with societies whose interests compliment our own is another aspect of communication. I have already mentioned our work on NIBA and the collaborations underpinning the preventive conservation book project. In the area of best practices, we have sponsored a joint session at last year's American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) meeting and sent our conference booth and resources display to the annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. The reports from society representatives, set out elsewhere in the meeting papers, provide even more evidence of our willingness to work with organizations in the field.

The third goal of the plan is to make more efficient use of our financial resources. We reluctantly raised our dues again last year, and it has greatly benefitted the overall state of the Society's finances. We continue to work hard to attract new members, while at the same time looking for ways to streamline our activities and cut costs. The primary driver of our move to e-publication was the need to expand the reach of the journal and newsletter, but it will have the added effect of cutting production and distribution costs. We're working to rebuild our money market account, which was significantly impacted by recent projects, and over the next two years we will be developing a business plan to ensure that our future activities are adequately supported. We have changed our financial planning mechanisms, moving to a five-year budget cycle for Council and committees, making individual committees responsible for developing a five-year plan and individual budgets on an annual planning cycle, and simplifying and clarifying the presentation of the Society's budget to Council and the membership.

Efficiency is not just measured in dollars and cents. We also need to make better use of our member's limited time. To this end, a Sessional Committee on Governance was convened last year, chaired by past president Suzanne McLaren. The Committee is charged with reviewing our existing committees and other governance mechanisms and assessing their suitability for delivering the goals set out in the Strategic Plan. Members of Council will be aware of one change that has already been made – this year, Council met only once; most of the committee planning and budget work has been done beforehand, allowing Council to spend its limited meeting time focusing on the major challenges facing the Society.

Finally, our strategic plan calls for us to work internationally to further the goals of the Society. Last year saw a second sessional committee, on International Relations, begin work

on tackling the challenges of providing a better service to our worldwide membership. Chaired by Suzanne Ryder, the Committee has been gathering information, with aim of reporting to the Society at its next international meeting, which will be take place in Cardiff in 2014. In advance of that meeting, we are collaborating with our colleagues in NatSCA and the Geological Curators Group to explore how our societies can work together more effectively, not just in developing a program for Cardiff, but in the long term as well. With an invitation in-hand for a prospective SPNHC meeting in Berlin in 2016, the time is ripe for bridge-building.

All of these efforts are dependent on the hard work put in by those members who give up their time to participate in running the Society. So with that in mind, it seemed only right and proper to end with some thanks; to Clare Valentine and Jessica Cundiff, who have completed their term of service as Members at Large; Linda Ford and Richard Sabin, who are stepping down as, respectively, chair of the Sessional Committee on Ethics and Co-chair of the Professional Development Committee; and Greg Watkins-Colwell, who earlier this year retired from his role as manager of the NHCOLL-L listserv. We're very grateful to all of them for their work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives Committee

BACKGROUND

The Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) houses the archives of SPNHC. From 1993 to 2007, SPNHC deposited 16 groups of material totaling 23.5 cubic feet and spanning the years from 1981 through 2007. Examples of this material include Collection Forum, SPNHC newsletters, documentation of annual meetings, financial files, election ballots, member-at-large files, various committee files, videos, CDs, and photographs.

PROCEDURE

The committee receives, lists, and transfers material to the Smithsonian Institution Archives when sufficient quantities accumulate. All material that is deposited within a fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) is assigned the same accession number and housed in the same storage box/unit. Some SPNHC archives need to be rehoused in archival materials prior to transfer to SIA. All material that has been received since the last deposit is being held by the committee.

CURRENT WORK

Archival supplies have been obtained (via purchase or gift) to properly house the material now being held by the committee. The chair has discussed the deposition of digital archives with

Membership

Membership dues for the 2014 membership year, effective October 15, 2013, are as follows:

Individuals (US\$45)
 Student, certified (US\$20)
 Subscription or library (US\$55)
 Corporate/Commercial (US\$350)
 Institutional (US\$75)

Applications to join or renew membership may be processed at:

<http://spnhc.org/13/become-a-member>

Payment online via PayPal using either credit card or PayPal account. While online applications and payments are preferred, a membership application/renewal form in PDF format is available at <http://spnhc.org/members/signup>. If using this form, payments may be submitted by check to:

*SPNHC Treasurer
 Planetarium Station
 P.O. Box 526
 New York, NY 10024-0526
 USA*

Life Membership

The SPNHC Life Membership is a special membership category for those interested in the long-term financial stability of our organization. Life membership monies are invested towards the future goals of the Society. SPNHC life memberships are available for US\$1,125. The fee is 25 times the Individual Membership rate, currently US\$45. Life Memberships may be paid in one of three ways:

- (1) one-time payment of US\$1,125;
- (2) two-year installments of US\$610/1st year and US\$515/2nd year;
- (3) three-year installments of US\$560/1st year, US\$375/2nd year and US\$190/3rd year.

Please contact the Treasurer should you require further information about life memberships.

Treasurer

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.....Committee Reports*

SIA since the last committee report. As per SIA protocols, both electronic and physical materials are being prepared for deposit in SIA.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hollenberg, Chair

Best Practices Committee

At our 2012 annual meeting we held multiple best practices sessions including the management of archives and cryo-collections, preventative conservation and sustainable preservation, and databasing and digitization. Multiple discussions have continued over the past year and we are looking to continue our collaborations with AIC, iDigBio and other institutions on the promotion of best practices within the natural history and museum community.

In August 2012 SPNHC co-sponsored a symposium at ASIH that focused on BP for Fish and Herp collections: Emerging Technology and Innovations. Discussions are continuing with a couple groups but if anyone is interested in organizing a "Best Practices Session" at a discipline meeting please touch base with James Macklin or Tim White.

A SPNHC 2012 initiative is the ongoing development of best practices and case studies for managing collections and collection facilities. Discussions are continuing with the Council for Library and Information Resources (CLIR), iDigBio, the Yale Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, and multiple museums about the use of original source documentation and the development of a best practices for archive and special collections. A workshop is planned with iDigBio on Original Source Documentation for the spring 2014, and discussions are underway with the SPNHC 2015 local organizing committee for a workshop on archives and special collections. Another area of interest is the practices associated with cryo-collections and frozen tissues.

This year we will be setting up a wiki service or blog to discuss best practices and institutional case studies of specific topical areas. If you have areas of interest you would like to pursue and lead a discussion please contact Tim or James.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim White and James Macklin, Co-chairs

Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee is responsible for the continued development of the Society Bylaws as needed, monitoring Society activities to ensure agreement with the Bylaws, and for periodic updates to the Leadership Manual of the Society.

Bylaws: No new issues were brought to the attention of the

committee this year.

Leadership Manual: The committee is responsible for keeping the Leadership Manual current. The revision of the Leadership Manual is progressing well this year, with a deadline of September 2013 to receive all updated sections. The Committee hopes to keep this document current, with recurrent tasks expressed in a timeline, and the text circulated to committee chairs for annual review. It will also synchronize the text of the Leadership Manual kept by the secretary and the version displayed on the website.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean-Marc Gagnon, Chair

Conference Committee

At the annual meeting in Rapid City, all future Local Organizing Committees (LOCs) met to discuss plans for their upcoming meetings. LOCs from Cardiff, Wales (2014), Gainesville, FL (2015), and a potential LOC for 2017 met to discuss plans and progress for these future meetings. The only LOC missing was that for Berlin, Germany (2016), but a report was submitted indicating that substantial progress is being made. As some of you are aware, the 2014 meeting has a Facebook page where all updates on the meeting are being posted until the webpage becomes available in the near future. Plans are coming together nicely for this meeting and it looks like an interesting, fun meeting is in the works. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more details about the meeting.

A mailing list of all future and recent LOC members was created to facilitate the sharing of planning information, event ideas and workshops as well as continuity and consistency between meetings. The LOCs will be in regular contact and are offering feedback on a document providing guidelines for successfully hosting a meeting.

Anyone interested in hosting a SPNHC annual meeting should contact the chair for further details.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Bentley, Chair

Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee had a lively discussion during the annual meeting at Rapid City. The meeting was well attended, and included new SPNHC members. The Committee is refocusing and placing priorities on sub-committee projects.

The top priority is to update the Conservation Committee section of the Leadership Manual. Co-chair Gretchen Anderson is currently working on a draft describing the function and goals of the Committee. She plans to send a draft to committee members for review in October. This will include

an updated description of the committee, status of the sub-committees, and an updated list membership with contact information. Many thanks to Kelly Sendall and Armando Mendez for their contributions.

Highlights at the meeting were updates for two Sub-Committee projects:

The Resource Display Unit: In 2013 Cindy Ramotnik retired, and with her retirement the US RDU lost its home. Annette Van Aken, Peabody Museum at Yale University, has graciously offered to take over the management of the US unit. The Conservation Committee wishes to thank Cindy for her many years of service. Kelly Sendall will continue to manage the Canadian Unit. The US Unit was completely overhauled and digitized at the Peabody. We are moving forward in updating the supply and vendors list and looking to improve the web presence. If you are interested renting the RDU please contact Annette (annette.vanaken@yale.edu) or Kelly (ksendall@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca).

Risk Assessment: Standards for relating change in state of specimen to loss in value. Sub-committee co-chairs Armando Mendez (a.mendez@nhm.ac.uk), Robert Waller (rw@protectheritage.com), along with co-authors Emma Sherlock, Elizabeth Nunan, Louise Tomsett, and Roberto Portela Miguez, presented a poster to kick start the damage and value loss in natural history objects web portal at the 2013 SPNHC meeting. They are looking to collect feed-back. Look for more on this project in the near future.

Progress is also being made on the Food Standards in Museums sub-committee. Co-chairs Beth Palumbo and Rebecca Newberry have been joined by new SPNHC member Fran Ritchie and efforts are being renewed to make progress on this project.

We are looking forward to a productive year!

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Anderson, Chair

Documentation Committee

The Documentation Committee met at the annual SPNHC meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota, on June 18th, 2013. During this meeting, the committee members discussed our overarching goals and short vs. long-term priorities.

As for the committee's larger goals/direction, it became apparent quickly during the conversation that a line of communication between other SPNHC committees is paramount in producing and disseminating documents that reflect the Society's current needs. Since many of the Documentation Committee members have a wide range of interest and many are already members of other committees, we have asked these members to report the activities of our committee to the others and vice versa. In this way, the Documen-

tation Committee will be better able to modify its projects to reflect the needs of other committees (and thus the Society as a whole), as well as diminishing the chance that two committees are working on the same or similar projects. We are also asking these members to stress the assistance the Documentation Committee is able to provide: when another committee (or any member of the Society) pulls together information that can be modified into a document to distribute to the Society, the Documentation Committee is an available resource to review, edit, and format that document for distribution.

The other big issue that is arising is the issue of distant communication regarding committee projects between committee members throughout the year. It is time consuming for one committee member to distribute a document to the committee, receive comments, compile them together into another draft to distribute, etc. Over the past year, the idea of wikis has been discussed throughout many SPNHC committees. Since a big part of the Documentation Committee's directive is to provide documentation to distribute to the Society, a framework for adding content through the web should be our current focus.

Action Item: As a result of the above discussions, the Documentation Committee has decided to focus this year on researching more into wikis and/or Goggle Docs. By September, Marcy and Liz will have a test site up and running. We will use this coming year to test the functions and capabilities to edit, comment, and format the documents we currently have (in limbo), including, if needed, inviting specialists from outside the committee to join in on the discussion. Once complete, we will be able to submit these documents to the Web Committee for publication/distribution on the SPNHC web site.

Action Item: This coming year the Citations Subcommittee will be working to increase our international input for the Citations list/database. Any input would help. Please submit citations to Margaret Landis at any time (no need to be a member of the Citations Subcommittee).

The Documentation Committee would like to remind all SPNHC members and committees that our projects are intended to reflect the needs of the Society and that we are available to serve as a liaison and/or resource in developing documents. If you have a topic that you would like to see more information on (or if you have completed a project and need help producing a document), please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Documentation Committee for assistance.

The Documentation Committee is always looking for new members.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Revelez and Liz Leith, Co-chairs

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.....Committee Reports

Election Committee

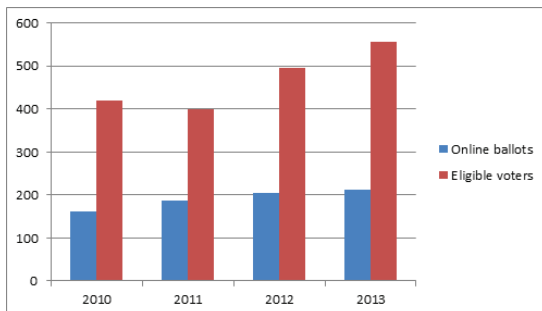
Elections Online (<http://www.electionsonline.us/>) was used exclusively this year. The fee from Elections Online was CAD\$382.95.

Positions filled last cycle are two Members-at-Large. The successful candidates are:

MEMBER-AT-LARGE - Rob Huxley, Head of Botanical Collections, Department of Life Sciences, NHM, London.
MEMBER-AT-LARGE - Kelly Sendall, Manager, Natural History, Royal BC Museum, Victoria, Canada.

There were 13 nominations received from 8 different members. Two of the members nominated declined to stand.

The election started with an email message sent to all members on a 'voting list' (provided to Elections Online based on the Treasurer's most recent membership list as of July 2012). A few weeks later a reminder email was sent to all members that had not yet voted online. At the close of the election on November 30, 2012, the total number of returned ballots was 213, or 38.6% of the eligible members – a decrease of 3.4% from the previous year. The table below outlines the trends over the last 4 elections.



This election was the 5th in which members could vote online. Although there was a significant increase in the number of eligible voters last year (495 in 2012 to 557 in 2013), the percentage of returned ballots decreased. This is possibly due to the problem of incorrect or out-of-date email addresses for some members. If you did not receive an email at the start of the election please check the member directory on the SPNHC site to be sure your information is correct. We also need to find new methods of encouraging our members to vote.

This year we have elections for President-Elect, Secretary and 2 Members-at-large. The list of standing nominees is being assembled and elections should open in November. Watch your email and please vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Bethany Palumbo, Chair

Legislation and Regulation Committee

The Legislation and Regulations Committee continues to produce and moderate the PERMIT-L list. We are asking SPNHC members and other natural history collections community members to keep using PERMIT-L as a venue for all scientific permits-related questions and issues, and to make sure that permit-related postings on NHCOLL-L are copied to PERMIT-L. Over the next two years (in time for the 2015 meeting), PERMIT-L will migrate to webpage and Facebook status. Your feedback and advice on this is much appreciated, as are suggestions of the most contentious or persistent permit issues that you encounter. PERMIT-L is managed with the support of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and is a moderated listserv hosting discussions concerning all scientific collecting permits, whether biological, paleontological or geological. It is intended to serve as a forum for museums, universities, permitting agencies, and related institutions charged with the care, legal authority, and study of scientific specimens.

Subscription and posting information can be found at <http://gold.sdsmt.edu/mailman/listinfo/permit-l>.

The strategic plan priorities identified by Legislation and Regulations as key goals are the following:

Make better use of SPNHC meetings as a showcase for the Society

(a) Grow the Society's annual meetings

Build on the established success and high community profile of the Society's annual meeting by increasing attendance and attracting stakeholders from related professional communities.

- Short term: develop a plan to increase meeting attendance and work more closely with local organizing committees to implement this. Hold more joint meetings, targeted at particular societies and coordinated with SPNHC's professional outreach activities.
- Medium term: explore the potential for regional meetings at all levels (nationally, internationally).

Improve Networking

(a) With other societies

Reach out to discipline-based professional societies to promote best practices, attract new members, and raise the profile of SPNHC.

(b) With stakeholder organizations

Strengthen SPNHC's partnerships with other organizations active in the field of museums and collections care.

- Short term: review existing relationships and identify opportunities to expand/strengthen. Explore and develop partnerships with museum studies and other courses
- Medium term: build international partnerships with other organizations. Review sponsor/donor relationships as part of overall review of development.

With those in mind, our leading initiatives are:

Have a strong presence at the 2014 meeting of the Conference on Fossil Resources to help moderate discussions on the parameters and implantation of the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, and use this as a springboard for discussion of SPNHC's role as a resource for defining standards and best practices for accrediting natural history collections repositories.

Work with the 2015 SPNHC meeting to create a workshop on permits and border issues for the transport of scientific specimens, involving Federal and international agency representatives as the first step in creating a working group to seek resolution strategies.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Shelton, Chair

Long Range Planning Committee

The final step in the initial Strategic planning process was completed at the annual business meeting (ABM) of the annual meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota with the unanimous vote by attending membership to accept the Strategic Plan. However, this document is a living document that needs to adapt to the evolving goals and aspirations of the society and its surrounding community. The strategic plan will be revisited every four years but any comments, suggestions or edits to the existing plan (printed in the last newsletter and available on the website) are still welcome. Please send any such material to the co-chair, Andrew Bentley, at abentley@ku.edu.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Bentley and Clare Valentine, Co-chairs

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee will continue to investigate ways to increase and retain membership, including international membership, and encourage life membership and gift membership subscriptions. We will liaise with organizers of



Museum labels for wet collections

A material long used in the harsh world of chemical drum labeling has properties that are beneficial to the way collections are tagged and identified. Alpha Systems has brought this exciting material to the museum environment. Now collection tags can be printed on demand and submerged in ethanol, methanol, formaldehyde, and other chemicals for an indefinite period of time. The image is excellent quality plus the tag itself is extremely durable – temperature, chemical, tear, scratch and smear resistant. Alpha Systems provides the complete collection package of thermal transfer printer, preservation tag stock and ribbon.

**Alpha Systems, 13509 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, Virginia 23112**

Tel: (804) 744-9870

Email: info@alphasystemsva.com

On the web at <http://www.alphasystemsva.com>

forthcoming SPNHC annual meetings to develop local synergies and target potential new members. We will monitor appropriate societies for dues increases, dues structures, and reciprocal membership arrangements to keep in line with community expectations. The Membership Committee will collaborate with the Conservation Committee to display the updated Resources Display Unit alongside, or in conjunction with, the SPNHC membership booth to provide cost-effectiveness and better opportunities for SPNHC members to interact with booth visitors. Thanks to all committee members for continuing to work on these projects, Greg Watkins-Colwell for organizing booth shipping, and Ann Pinzl for contributing membership profiles to the newsletter.

We are happy to hear from SPNHC members who are willing to volunteer time at the membership booth, during future conferences, to talk with visitors about the benefits of joining our Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Adrain, Chair



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

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..... Committee Reports*

Professional Development Committee

Amanda Neill of the BRIT Herbarium in Fort Worth, Texas, has agreed to serve as the Professional Development Committee Co-chair. Amanda will be an outstanding addition to this committee and has already shown a great deal of her leadership abilities in recent years. We would like to thank Richard Sabin of The Natural History Museum of London for his contributions over the past two years in this post and wish him the best.

DemoCamp

At the SPNHC Conference in Rapid City, South Dakota, Amanda Neill led another outstanding DemoCamp with live demonstrations and information on web-based data and collections management systems. For the fourth year in a row, DemoCamp sessions promoted new technological advancements for natural history collection research, curation, and digitization. DemoCamp was sponsored in part this year by iDigBio, the National Resource for Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC), funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation.

The 2013 program included the new specimen label transcription technologies Notes From Nature and ScioTR/ScioQualis, recent developments in Specify Software for collections management, a demonstration of the Arthropod Easy Capture specimen and host-interaction database, and an update on Kepler workflows in the FilteredPush network. Paleocollections were the focus of Active Images for high-resolution image analysis and PrediCtoR software for DNA recovery. Rounding out the session was an update on iDigBio's national biocollections portal and preview of the soon-to-be-released enhanced version. The session was blessed with high attendance and relatively few technical difficulties, which are always a risk when only live demonstrations are allowed.

Amanda Neill received a SPNHC Special Service Award at the annual business meeting for "her innovative approach in the development and establishment of the annual DemoCamp."

Committee

The Professional Development Committee met in Rapid City, South Dakota during the SPNHC Conference. We were able to report some progress, had good discussions, and started planning a reasonable work schedule for the committee for the next year.

We discussed recruiting new Professional Development

Committee members. The members of the PDC all agreed to take on projects or parts of projects that we are planning, but we can still use some help from interested members of SPNHC who would like to volunteer some time, get involved, and assist with professional development for new and continuing members and colleagues. Two new members of SPNHC joined the PDC at the Rapid City conference: Amanda Lawrence and Jennifer Strotman, both from the Smithsonian. We welcome both of these enthusiastic first timers!

Workshops

At last year's SPNHC conference in New Haven two surveys were conducted, one of members attending the ABM and one of new members to SPNHC. A common question in both surveys asked members to suggest topics for future workshops at conferences.

The PDC looked at the results of both surveys, together with the recent history of workshop topics, and would suggest a series of five general topics which bear repeating in a cycle for the members' benefit.

These are (not ranked):

- Shipping: Any and/or all aspects.
- Security: Aspects relating to collections, valuation, responsibility of collections staff, theft.
- Moving: Any and/or all aspects.
- Health and Safety: Aspects relating to collections staff, volunteers, visitors.
- Disaster: Aspects relating to preparedness and/or recovery.

Another topic is Environmental Standards and Sustainability.

The PDC began a discussion on moving toward organizing the evaluation of existing, repeating, and new workshops. This discussion will continue this year.

"How To..."

The "How to..." Leaflet Series is ready to launch with the "How to Pack Herbarium Specimens for a Loan" by Lindsay Woodruff of the University of Texas, Austin. This series will continue with numbers on packing invertebrate fluid collections, mammal and bird study skins, fossils, and others. PDC members will be soliciting authors for upcoming topics. These are peer-reviewed, and intended to serve as a resource tool for collections managers in encouraging best practices for borrowers of our loaned specimens. If you have a suggestion for a topic, or would like to be an author, please let someone on the PDC know. Some authors have already signed on for this series, but there are plenty of opportunities; in addition to the packing specimens for a loan, another series idea is collecting techniques for best stewardship. Please see the SPNHC website for examples of the leaflets.

Mentorship

The PDC helped the Mentorship Committee partner eight SPNHC mentors with this year's Fitzgerald Travel Grant awardees.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Stephenson and Amanda Neill, Co-chairs

Publications Committee

Collection Forum will go digital starting in 2014! Our current publisher, Allen Press, offers a service for e-publication with enhanced search capabilities, greater accessibility, color figures, and features like RSS feeds, linked references, keyword alerts, and author alerts. SPNHC Members will be notified by email when new issues are available. It will be necessary to register to use the site. Members working at museums and universities with Institutional/Library Subscriptions will also be able to access it through their library's web site. All volumes, excluding the current volume, are (and will continue to be) publically available on the society's web page (www.spnhc.org) as PDFs.

Print subscriptions will still be available for purchase for \$25. You can order the print subscription when you renew your membership. Life members will be automatically enrolled for access to the e-journal. Life members, please send a completed Membership Form (available on the spnhc.org website) to the Treasurer (oleary@amnh.org) if you wish to get a print subscription.

SPNHC is on amazon.com! Health and Safety for Museum Professionals, Storage of Natural History Collections: A Preventive Conservation Approach, and Museum Studies are available and other books will be listed soon. Among the many benefits, Amazon allows us to sell globally, will recommend our book to browsers of books in related subjects, and purchases will qualify for free supersaver shipping.

You can also find us at the Copyright Clearance Center. If you are using SPNHC figures, Collection Forum articles, book chapters, or charts (electronic or print) for educational or business use, please register for a license on copyright.com. This allows SPNHC to keep track of what materials are being utilized for these purposes. The fees are very low (around \$1.75 per article or \$4 per book chapter) and SPNHC sees most of the profits.

SPNHC is collaborating with the American Institute of Conservation (AIC) and the Smithsonian Institution on a new book on Preventive Conservation in collections (natural history and beyond!). Lisa Elkin is serving as the Special Publications Editor for this book along with a team of editors.

We have posted a new "SPNHC Leaflet" on SPNHC web page and have a couple more in progress. The latest Leaflet describes a quick, easy, and safe method for distinguishing

between ethanol and isopropanol in fluid collections. If you would like to submit or discuss a Leaflet idea, please contact our Leaflet Editor, Leslie Skibinski (LSkibinski@delmnh.org).

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Butts, Chair

Recognition and Grants Committee

The R & G Committee is charged with promoting and reviewing the annual recognition awards that the Society can confer as well as the Faber Research Grant.

We received and reviewed three nominations for a Special Service Award; there were no nominations for the President's Award and the Carolyn Rose Award. The committee's recommendations for the three Special Service Awards were passed to Council where they received unanimous consent. The awards were announced at the Annual Business Meeting in Rapid City:

Amanda Neill, for her innovative approach in the development and establishment of the annual Demo Camp; which has now been successfully delivered and has become a significant draw at the Annual Meeting for four years.

Greg Watkins-Colwell, for his dedication and hard work taking care of the NHColl listserv for nine years, including the transition to a new platform last year.

The 2013 Local Organizing Committee, for supporting SPNHC's mission by providing an annual venue for all members and other participants to interact, exchange knowledge and share experiences.

The R&G Committee also received two applications for the Faber Research Grant in 2013. Following a review by the committee with support from an external conservator, one proposal was recommended for funding to Council, where it received unanimous consent. The funded project is entitled "Materials Testing for Natural History Collections – an Interdisciplinary Approach," by Gail Gali Beiner, Miriam Lavi, Hadas Seri, Rivka Rabinovich, Ovadia Lev and Jenny Gun. This multidisciplinary team is located in Israel.

A successful collaborative effort between R&G, Mentorship, Professional Development and the Local Organizing Committee, along with additional funding from the CollectionWeb Project, resulted in a very successful Fitzgerald Travel Grant program this year, with eight grant recipients. Each grantee was matched with a mentor to make her conference attendance and experience as productive as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean-Marc Gagnon, Chair

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..... Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report

In 2012, the Society's total net assets decreased to \$181,501 from a total of \$194,287 the previous year. Liabilities and net assets for 2012 totaled \$193,361. Operating income was generated from two sources: membership dues, and publication sales. A total of \$25,673 in membership dues was received. Sales of our six publications brought in \$12,799. A total of \$105 in donations was received.

Fifty-seven subscribers and 369 individuals, institutional, corporate and student members renewed their membership for the year 2012. Of the 571 active SPNHC members in 2012, 117 joined for the first time.

Major expenses for the Society in 2012 were \$8,780 for two issues of the SPNHC Newsletter, \$15,314 for Collection Forum 26 (1&2), \$3,179 for membership booth space rental and shipping to professional meetings, \$5,500 for the travel grant and \$8,701 for the Strategic Planning meeting at Yale in February.

Additional expenses include \$150 for annual dues in Heritage Preservation, a \$250 donation to American Alliance of Museums in support of Museum Advocacy Day, \$598 for Richard Rabeler to represent SPNHC at a meeting with the National Park Service in Washington, DC, and \$651 for reprinting the Preventative volume. The Treasurer's Office incurred the following expenses: \$3,215 for insurance, \$94 for P.O. Box rental, \$1,126 in merchant fees, and \$4,500 for the 2011 financial review, tax preparation and filing.

Long-term investment funds were consistent with the market; SPNHC investments saw a market value gain of \$6,906 while the money market account earned \$2,130 in dividends. The CD account earned approximately \$58 in interest in the thirteen-month period ending in December 2012.

The first part of 2013 has seen good income activity. By April 30, approximately \$23,395 has been received from membership dues, including deferred dues paid in 2012. As of April 30, 2013 we have 522 active members, including Life members.

Membership renewals included 2 Life, 23 student, 322 individual, 59 library/subscriptions, 30 institutional and 4 corporate renewals. As of April 30, 47 new members have joined in 2013, of which 16 are student memberships, one is institutional and the remainder are individual. One hundred and thirty-nine members who paid in 2012 have yet to renew in 2013.

Please pay your dues on time.

In the first quarter of 2013 sales of all our publications total \$1,330. We have received \$35,055 in unrestricted do-

nations, \$35,000 of which was generously donated by the 2012 Annual Meeting Local Organizing Committee at Yale. A sincere thank you to all.

Expenses incurred in FY2013 as of April 30 include \$1,054 for reprinting the Museum Studies and Preventative volumes, \$300 for membership booth space rental, \$500 for website hosting, \$396 for 2012 election costs, \$150 for Heritage Preservation dues, \$96 for P.O. Box rental, and approximately \$258 in merchant fees. At the time of writing, the financial review was being performed. SPNHC has paid \$1,500 as a retainer to The Burdette Smith Group. The Society anticipates expenses related to the financial review, publications, web redesign, the trade show booth and 2013 online election.

Please contact the SPNHC Treasurer for further details.

For their help throughout the year, I would like to extend thanks to Susan Butts and Chris Norris (Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History), Lisa Palmer (Smithsonian Institution), Judith Price (Canadian Museum of Nature), and especially Barbara Brown (American Museum of Natural History) who provided a tremendous amount of support, assistance and advice during my first year as Treasurer. The American Museum of Natural History, Division of Paleontology provided general office support for the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth O'Leary, Treasurer

Web Committee

The web continues to develop with input from several new directions. We have begun the task of developing social media and have links on the web pages to Facebook and Twitter. Thank you to Moe Flannery and Katie Anderson. Tim White and Lynn Jones are investigating content guidelines for the various social media options and also developing a wiki page that committees will be able to work within. We hope to have a test up and running soon. Links to these media options will always be available on the website.

As always please let us know if you see errors or wish to add material to our SPNHC webpage, and send any newsworthy items or job opportunities to Ann Molineux, anm@austin.utexas.edu.

Respectfully submitted
Ann Molineux, Chair



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

SESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Governance

This Sessional Committee was established by President Chris Norris in the 2012-2013 annual cycle to review the functioning of SPNHC committees and other entities that report to SPNHC Council and membership. Committee membership includes Suzanne B. McLaren (Chair), Laura Abraczinskas, Lori Benson, Jessica Cundiff, and Richard Rabeler. The intention of this work is to ensure that each committee or other group is functioning as well as possible, maximizing the skills of its members, and achieving its goals. Furthermore, by reviewing existing documentation across the spectrum of the Society's activities over the course of 4 years, it is hoped that this Committee's input can facilitate synergy among committees with closely aligned objectives while helping to eliminate redundant efforts.

To that end, the Committee's five members have reviewed the following documents:

The 2010, 2011, and 2012 ABM packages, Minutes from the 2012 ABM and from both the 2011 and 2012 Council Meetings, the Leadership Manual, the SPNHC 2013 Strategic Plan, the SPNHC website and assorted documents produced by individual committees, such as the Conference Guidelines. After extensive review of these resources, Committee members shared their independent observations by email. The content of these observations was massaged into several documents that were used as the basis for discussion during a Committee meeting that included President Chris Norris, President-Elect Andrew Bentley and Secretary Judith Price during the 2013 SPNHC Meetings in Rapid City, South Dakota. President Chris Norris has indicated that he wants to extend the life of this Sessional Committee through the 2013-2014 annual cycle in order to address additional tasks that fit this committee's mission.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne B. McLaren, Chair

International Relations

The sessional committee has largely focused on gathering information this year. After at least six months of emails with little cooperation or progress Suzanne Ryder chaired a meeting at the NHM, London on the 10th January to discuss the international ambition of the Society. This full day meeting was very useful in gathering information and viewpoints from people from varied backgrounds and perspectives.

Participants:

Clare Valentine - Natural History Museum, London
Maggie Reilly - University of Glasgow, The Hunterian Museum and Members Secretary for NatSCA
Claire Messenger - The British Museum and Leader of the International Programme Training
Peter Wing - Natural History Museum, London - Volunteer
Kristie Short-Traxler - Bodleian Library, Oxford
Val Blythe - Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Contributor:

Christiane Quaisser - Museum fur Naturkunde, Berlin
Darren Mann - Hope Museum, Oxford
Any Crossman - English Heritage
Andy Holbrook - Imperial War Museum

An agenda was set as a guide but the day was intended to be an opportunity for free discussion about the international ambitions and hopes of the Society. A questionnaire was also sent out to participants and those who could not attend the meeting contributed by answering the questionnaire.

There were a number of action points from the day that Sue Ryder will follow up during the year: send the questionnaire further afield; look at other similar organisations more closely to see if translations have been useful or not, what membership bundles are on offer and if they are taken up or an administrative burden; and work closely with the SPNHC international nodes as there are likely to be areas of common interest.

SPNHC Annual meeting 2013 - Rapid City, South Dakota

As Suzanne was essentially the only representative of the International sub-committee it was decided that it would be more productive to discuss business at the Long Range Planning committee meeting.

The key points were:

- The international sessional committee should work closely with those working on the SPNHC nodes project.
- Meetings are key in promoting the society and should be used to expand our International membership by offering the expertise we already have.
- It was suggested that for each country or region we could chose an ambassador to represent that country by being the key point of contact for the society.
- Suggested areas to target were South America and South Africa to tie in with the SPNHC nodes but also the Middle East is an area of exciting change and expansion. Several individual members have already been approached for expert advice on collections care and conservation so perhaps this is an area to investigate or approach.
- Although expanding Internationally seems to be generally accepted as a positive move for the society, the

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.....*Sessional Committee Reports*

point was made that it has a very good grounding with a large North America backing so does this successful society want to completely change its U.S. emphasis?

One very exciting prospect for International collaborations is the 2014 SPNHC meeting that is going to be held in Cardiff. This is a great opportunity to promote the society to a wider audience. One way we hope to do this is by having a joint meeting with the equivalent society in the U.K., Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA).

Since the meeting in South Dakota the President of SPNHC has been in touch with both the organising committee in Cardiff and the Chair of NatSCA to make the 2014 meeting a joint event. Suzanne will represent SPNHC at NatSCA's next committee meeting in Manchester in October to promote the joint meeting and also to discuss a possible Memorandum of Understanding between the two societies so we can enjoy greater links.

At the end of the SPNHC meeting in South Dakota, Skip Skidmore, a member from the Life Sciences Museum at Brigham Young University, Utah, kindly offered his services to the International sessional committee for which we are very grateful. His participation will be of great help.

The aim is to complete the information gathering by the end of 2013 so a report of findings with recommendations can be presented at the SPNHC annual conference in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Ryder, Chair

Mentorship

Once again this year at the SPNHC annual conference in Rapid City, South Dakota, we had a very successful Fitzgerald Travel Grant program. With the generous contribution of \$10,000 from the CollectionsWeb RCN (care of Alan Prather) we were able to fund eight awards to deserving Emerging Professionals and students (see biographies of all awardees in this newsletter). As always, they were a very enthusiastic group, which culminated in the creation of an Emerging Professionals group of SPNHC, headed by one of the awardees, Kari Harris. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a call for participation and ideas for this group from Kari. The Mentorship committee chair is overseeing this group.

As for the other charges of this committee, our discussions centered on the international node system and how best we could move this forward. Given the initial outlay of funds necessary to revamp the website to facilitate these nodes, we decided that a proof of concept was probably in every-

one's best interest. To this end, the committee would like to hear from any of our international members who may be interested in serving as an international representative or ambassador of the Society for particular regions – Africa, South America, Oceania, Asia, etc. Initially we would like this representative to feed information back to the Society (in the form of a brief newsletter piece twice a year) about collections activities in your region but also to begin to engage the collections professionals in that region to create a community. Additionally, we would be interested in hearing from any members as to what it is you think SPNHC could offer these international members above and beyond the basic benefits of membership. Some of the ideas presented already include region-specific Facebook pages that would feed into the main page together with activity (conferences, courses, events), member and vendor lists for that region. Anyone interested in acting as a representative or providing information should contact the chair at abentley@ku.edu. An email will be sent to all non-US members in the near future providing more information and a call for participation.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Bentley, Chair



Emerging Professionals Group



After discussion at SPNHC 2013 this year, a new group has been started to encourage students and emerging members of the natural history collections management community to become involved with SPNHC. This group targets students and emerging professionals but is open to all willing to share in and contribute to the aims of the group.

Our aims are to research new ideas of importance to emerging professionals and direct these to the existing committees and tackle a number of key initiatives within the group. We will be nominating members of the group to sit on existing committees and relay ideas from the group to the committees. This way, rather than some of the committees getting ideas from some of the emerging professionals, all of the committees will have access to our collective ideas and opinions.

Through this group we are hoping to provide ideas that will bring about greater student involvement in the society and offer more opportunities for connections, mentorship, and professional development targeted at emerging professionals. Already we have linked up over 20 SPNHC members and we hope this effort will continue to grow. We will also be organising various events at the SPNHC 2014 meeting, so look out for those.

If you would like to join or contribute to this group please contact Kari Harris at kari.panhorst@smail.astate.edu.

SPNHC REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

James Macklin

Using 'big data' to help conserve life on Earth

Launch of overhauled portal from Global Biodiversity Information Facility

A meeting in Berlin (October 2013) witnesses the unveiling of a new tool making it much easier for researchers and policy makers to discover and use vast quantities of data about the diversity of life on Earth.

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) will use the 20th meeting of its Governing Board to launch a new version of its global web portal, providing greatly enhanced access to the world's largest database of documented evidence for the distribution of species across the planet.

The meeting will also demonstrate how researchers in many countries have used the data mobilized through GBIF's network of data publishers and Participants to tackle questions critical to reducing the loss of biodiversity and the services the network provides.

The enhanced portal marks a new phase in GBIF's mission to support governments, scientists and wider society by:

- developing the tools, skills and human networks to build the best possible picture of where every species has been found, bringing together data from natural history collections, field researchers, remote-sensing tools, citizen scientists and other sources;
- offering national agencies a cost-effective infrastructure to share and exchange fundamental biodiversity data, supporting a broad range of policy decisions including control of pests and diseases, promoting food security, priorities for wildlife protection and responding to climate change;
- providing a critical information component to global efforts to reduce the pressures leading to biodiversity loss, for example through the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the new Intergovernmental Science-Policy Interface for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- supporting a growing body of data-driven scientific publications from around the world, with more than 20 peer-reviewed publications per month now citing use of GBIF-mediated data.

What's new??

- **Greater visibility for national GBIF Participants**
 - Before: Information on the data and news from the countries involved in GBIF was dispersed across different platforms and often difficult to interpret.
 - New portal: Country pages for each GBIF Participant present clear and comprehensive information about data published from and relating to the country, contact details and news including research uses of data.
- **Greater visibility for institutions sharing data**
 - Before: The large and growing community of data publishers who provide the underlying data served through GBIF were not sufficiently visible to users of the portal.
 - New portal: Enables strong branding of the contributing data publishers, including display of logos and richer attribution of all those involved in curating and sharing data.
- **Speed of data indexing and availability**
 - Before: Publishers sharing data through GBIF often had to wait months before their changes or additions were visible on the portal or available through web services.
 - New portal: When data modifications are made using GBIF's free publishing tools, those changes will be harvested in real time thanks to a scalable data-crawling infrastructure and will be visible on the portal and via web services within hours or minutes. Such responsiveness of the system should encourage data quality issues to be corrected quickly, and paves the way for services alerting users to new data meeting specified criteria.
- **Improved search and mapping**
 - Before: Finding and visualizing data through the GBIF data portal was limited, making it difficult to understand data characteristics (size, biases, coverage, etc.) before downloading.
 - New portal: Species occurrence records, species-level information and taxonomy, metadata about datasets and publishing institutions are easily searchable through a wide range of filters. Improved data metrics (multi-dimensional) and high-resolution maps provide better means for users to assess content before downloading, and to report on data quality issues.
- **Removal of download limits and access to verbatim data**
 - Before: Users wishing to download more than 250,000 records could not do so using the portal, but had to request special assistance from GBIF and sign letters of agreement regarding access to verbatim data as supplied by data publishers.
 - New portal: Thanks to greatly improved processing capacity, users can freely download datasets of any quantity and also have access to verbatim data through the portal. Improving the transparency of processing by exposing the content at each stage allows those working with data quality to understand

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issues better.

- **Making it easier for others to build on the GBIF portal**
 - Before: Web services deployed with the data portal in 2007 have degraded in responsiveness with increased data volumes. The formats used have also become somewhat dated.
 - New portal: The portal is itself built on a new open web services platform. By making use of modern 'Big Data' technologies for processing and search, the web services are designed to scale with increasing data volumes and access, positioning the portal as a robust component to build upon.
- **Linkages to data use cases, news and associated tools and resources**
 - Before: GBIF's data, communication and networking activities were scattered across different platforms, making it difficult to communicate GBIF's combined functions and services.
 - New portal: Data search and communication are combined into a single platform, enabling users to discover and access examples of research uses, tools, methodologies and national activities – thus helping to demonstrate GBIF's value to all stakeholders.

Heritage Preservation Cathy Hawks

The Great NorthEast ShakeOut

If you live in one of the six New England states or New York, New Jersey, or Pennsylvania, mark your calendars! Join millions of people who will Drop, Cover, and Hold On at 10:17 AM on October 17. The Great NorthEast ShakeOut (<http://www.shakeout.org/northeast/index.html>), a regional opportunity to practice how to be safer during big earthquakes, is organized to encourage you, your community, and your organization to review and update emergency preparedness plans and supplies and to secure your space in order to prevent damage and injuries.

The website has a wealth of resources and planning documents, including a ShakeOut Drill Manual (http://www.shakeout.org/downloads/ShakeOutDrillManualNonProfitOrgs_v2.pdf) for non-profits and other organizations. Participate and prepare!

This space could be yours.....

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley (abentley@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2014.

COLLECTION FORUM

Manuscripts Needed!!

Collection Forum, the official journal of SPNHC, is seeking manuscripts for our upcoming volumes. Collection Forum is the perfect publication to:

- disseminate results from grants and projects,
- expand on a talk at the SPNHC Annual Meeting, or
- describe best practices developed at your institution.

Feel free to contact the managing editor, Susan Butts, at susan.butts@yale.edu or (203) 432-3037 with questions, to discuss your ideas for possible papers, or if you are ready to submit a manuscript. Instructions to authors are available on the SPNHC website.

SPNHC Travel Grant Program

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is pleased to announce the Fitzgerald Travel Grant Program, designed to assist members with the costs of attending the Society's annual meeting. Thanks to a generous contribution from the CollectionsWeb project, eight grants were awarded for the 2013 meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota (see elsewhere in this newsletter for biographical sketches).

Thanks also to the generous contribution of time and expertise from our mentors this year. We are always looking for established members of the society to act as mentors at our annual meetings, not only for travel grant awardees but for other new members. If you are interested in being a mentor at a forthcoming meeting contact the chairs of the Mentorship, Recognition and Grants or Professional Development Committees.

Grants will be available for attendance at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Society in Cardiff, Wales (UK), June 23-28, 2014. A total of \$3,000 has been allocated to the program and grants will be for a minimum of \$750 USD each. The deadline for application is 1 March 2014. Some conditions apply.

See elsewhere in this newsletter for more details on the 2014 Conference. More details will also be available on the conference website as soon as it is up and running. Check back at <http://www.spnhc.org> for updates.



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

SPNHC Membership Profile

Our members play many different roles from collection management and conservation to databasing and informatics to research and education. Most of our members come from a traditional research background while many new members are coming from the museum studies field. Our hope is to introduce our membership to a variety of individuals who are playing very dynamic roles in their museum's activities. We are casting our net broadly and selecting individuals from institutions of all sizes and backgrounds.

SNAPSHOT:

What is your name?

Gabriela M. Hogue

What is your position?

Collections Manager of Fishes

Where do you work?

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (NCSM)

How many years have you served in this capacity?

15 years

When did you join SPNHC?

2008

IN-DEPTH:

What drew you to the natural history field?

I will never forget the day that I went to my undergraduate advisor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and told him that even though all of the other biology majors that I knew were pre-med, I was just not going to do that. For some reason, I felt that I really needed to state my case or else he was going to make me! He laughed and began to ask me what I was interested in. I told him that I had always been interested in aquatic organisms, especially fishes. He suggested that I talk to Dr. Larry Page at the Illinois Natural History Survey about an undergraduate research project. Larry opened the door to research and introduced me to the amazing collection at the Survey. I was hooked and have never looked back!

Describe the nature of the collections you work with.

I work with a large and very diverse research collection of fishes stored in various mediums (ethanol, formalin, frozen, and dry).

What are your responsibilities for them?

I handle all aspects of collections management, care, and conservation.

Describe some of your activities.

My duties include: sorting, identifying, databasing and database management, geo-referencing, labeling, shelving, tagging, prepping skeletal specimens, prepping tissue specimens, handling loan requests and collection-related inquiries, managing technicians and volunteers, leading tours and workshops, and dealing with budgets, grants, and purchasing. I also get to go collecting!



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.....Membership Profile

What do you find most interesting about your work?

The most interesting thing about my work is both the diversity within the management of the collection and the specimens themselves. I can work on completely different things every day of the week. For example, one day I can be databasing minnows from North Carolina and the next tagging sharks from Florida or prepping tissue specimens from Puerto Rico. That really makes it fun!

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

I am really proud of getting the collection to the state of organization and accessibility that it is in today. When I first started working for the Museum, the Fishes Collection was not databased at all and was being stored in various locations, none of which were suited for collections storage (one of the buildings was called "The Mouse House"—that says it all). We moved into a newly-built collections facility and began furiously organizing and databasing. We started with the core NCSM collection, which had been ledger cataloged, and then began incorporating all of the orphaned collections which we had and continue to acquire. In 2007, we launched the collections website and linked ourselves to various global portals. In the years since we moved, it has been fantastic to see the tremendous increase in the use of the collection. That has been my greatest reward.

What do you find most fulfilling about your work?

There are two things that I find very fulfilling about my work. One is seeing tour groups and students in a workshop grasp the importance of natural history collections by making them understand that each specimen is a snapshot in time that can never be repeated and has its own story to tell. The other is taking a collection from disorder to a full state of utility. This aspect of stewardship of my work affords me the ability to ensure the longevity of each specimen which may help us to answer future questions about our natural world.

What have you learned from SPNHC to be particularly helpful? How has SPNHC helped you?

SPNHC has been a wonderful tool that has helped me to stay abreast of all of the latest and greatest collections management tools and techniques. I have been able to get answers to all of my questions (especially shipping regulations!) from other SPNHC members. After every annual meeting, I return to the collection invigorated and ready to tackle new and difficult projects.



CFR 2014 and the PRPA

The 10th Conference on Fossil Resources will be held on May 13-15, 2014, at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, hosted by the Museum of Geology and the Paleontology on Public Lands Association, representing all stakeholders with concerns about the care, management and research use of fossils from Federal, tribal and state lands. A major discussion point of this meeting will be the implementation of the 2009 Paleontological Resources Protection Act. Through the Legislation and Regulations Committee and SPNHC President Chris Norris, SPNHC has expressed its concerns to colleagues at the US Forest Service, and has offered to help moderate and foster productive discussions on the standards for repositories under this law, as well as the definition of benefits to repository institutions. This promises to be a lively and valuable dialogue. All SPNHC members with interests and concerns in this area are invited to attend. For more information, please send messages to Sally.Shelton@sdsmt.edu. A CFR/PPLA website will be up soon, and that site information will be posted to NHCOLL-L and PERMIT-L.



SPNHC Newsletter Advertising

Why Advertise in the SPNHC Newsletter?

Members of SPNHC are the people who use your products and services. They are often the decision makers about products and procedures that will be used in their institutions. These people want to know about products and services that will help them do their jobs more effectively. They are interested in the latest techniques and materials available, as well as educational and travel opportunities, new publications, and events and programs related to natural history and collections.

All advertisements should be submitted as .tif or .pdf files, formatted for a PC. Ads can be placed in one-sixth, quarter, half or full page. It is recommended that image resolution be 300 dpi or better. Electronic files may be e-mailed (abentley@ku.edu) or sent on a disk to the newsletter editor. Any necessary printer's charges will be billed to the advertiser. Payment must accompany the insertion order and newsletter copies will be sent after publication.

There is limited space in each newsletter and space will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. Ad placement is at the discretion of the editor. More information can be found on the SPNHC website - <http://www.spnhc.org>.

Call for 2014 Faber Research Grant Proposals

The Recognition and Grants Committee is inviting proposals for the Faber Research Grant, a cash grant of up to \$1000, to support an innovative project addressing issues on the management, care, conservation, or use of natural history collections.

Applicants for this Grant must be SPNHC members in good standing for at least one year prior to the award date. The successful applicant will be expected to 1) present a final or interim report at the Annual Meeting of the Society, and 2) publish the results, with the understanding that the manuscript will be sent first to the SPNHC Publications Committee for first right of refusal. Each applicant may submit only one proposal per funding period. The cover sheet should include a project title, name(s) of project personnel (including title, address, phone/fax numbers and email), and a single line spaced 100 word abstract describing the proposed project. The proposal text should include a statement of purpose, project plan (e.g., participants, methods, materials, schedule of completion, etc.), and proposed use of funds. The text should have one inch margins, 10-12 characters per inch, and double line spacing. The application, including cover page, should not exceed 10 pages. Curriculum vita of the principal investigator and letters of commitment may be single line spaced and attached as an appendix.

Questions and proposals should be directed to the Chair of the Recognition and Grants Committee, Jean-Marc Gagnon (jmgagnon@mus-nature.ca) and must be submitted by February 1, 2014.

Call for nominations for President's Award, Carolyn L. Rose Awards and Honorary Memberships

The Recognition and Grants Committee is inviting nominations for the President's Award, the Carolyn L. Rose Award, and Honorary Memberships.

- The President's Award is presented to a member, or former member, whose activities have furthered the objectives of the Society through outstanding committee work, prolonged officer roles, or promotion of activities of the Society.
- The Carolyn L. Rose Award is our Society's highest honor and is given to a practitioner (SPNHC membership not required) whose work and efforts have promoted the values and objectives of the Society. Nominations should include a letter of nomination, a current curriculum vitae, and letters of recommendation.

- Honorary Membership can be conferred by Council in recognition of outstanding contributions to natural history collections or to the Society. Honorary Members have all the rights and privileges of regular members.

Questions and nominations should be directed to the Chair of the Recognition and Grants Committee, Jean-Marc Gagnon (jmgagnon@mus-nature.ca) and must be submitted by November 1, 2013.



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

This space could be yours.....

SPNHC Newsletter is looking for articles, news items, etc., for the next edition. Articles of 1000 words or less considered. Contact Andy Bentley (abentley@ku.edu) for information. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is February 1, 2014.

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The AAMG represents all of our nation's academic museums, galleries and collections. AAMG members - now approaching 1000! - come from the fields of anthropology, art, history, natural history, and science, from large research universities and small undergraduate colleges. We are committed to modeling and identifying best practices, professional development, educational activities and advocacy.

Members find value in the information sharing and stimulating conversation on the AAMG list-serv. They recognize that our advocacy efforts on behalf of academic museums, galleries, and collections across the country have supported endangered institutions and colleagues. Members have access to sample documents and templates for accreditation and best practices on the AAMG website, and attend our annual conferences, where critical issues unique to our field are explored and new ideas are generated.

If you are not yet a member of the AAMG, please join. Our membership dues are reasonable -- \$40 for individuals and \$100 for institutions. Student memberships are even less. You can sign up online and enjoy these great benefits:

- Friendly and highly accessible networking contacts with other academic museum professionals
- Access to the AAMG mailing list of academic museums
- Guidance and support on request from board and regional representatives
- The opportunity to support and contribute to the advocacy of our field
- The opportunity to serve in rotation on the AAMG board
- The opportunity to participate in the annual AAMG Conference held in conjunction with the American Association of Museums (AAM) Annual Meeting

For more information on AAMG or to become a member, please visit the website: <http://www.aamg-us.org>.



SPNHC
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Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN) Conference

Biodiversity Biobanking: Building a Trusted Community of Accessible Genomic Collections

NHM London and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew: 30 June - 2 July 2014

The Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN), an international network of biodiversity repositories, will hold the first international conference for members and collaborators on biodiversity repositories. Since GGBN's inception in October 2011, 22 biodiversity biobanks have joined the Network to share community standards and best practices for data and collection management and to make their collections discoverable and accessible for research, while following the spirit of the Nagoya Protocol and Convention on Biological Diversity. We invite you to join us in this important mission. The goals of the conference are to:

- Engage new members and strengthen the community by promoting collaborations among biorepositories
- Advance the field of genomic collections, data management, and accessibility
- Promote international networking compliant with ABS and CBD
- Link people, communities, platforms, and collections

Please join the Global Genome Biodiversity Network in London to communicate ideas, new tools, expertise on biodiversity biobanking, and to encourage natural history collections to make databases of genomic collections public and broadly available for research while respecting the spirit of the Nagoya Protocol.

- **Session 1: GGBN Overview.** This session introduces the Global Genome Biodiversity Network's purpose, goals, and value to the community.
- **Session 2: GGBN Lightning Talks.** GGBN members use an established format to give two-minute pop up talks about their organization's genomic resources to stimulate networking and awareness.
- **Session 3: GGBN Data Portal.** The developer/manager of the Data Portal will demonstrate Portal capabilities and review guidelines for preparing data for inclusion.
- **Session 4: Starting and Managing a Biobank.** This session covers current community best practices for biobanking, aspects to consider, and explores use cases for starting and managing biobanks in the real world.
- **Session 5: Benefits of Good Practice.** This session covers the concepts associated with access and benefit sharing (ABS), reviews how GGBN is dealing with ABS, and provides advice on good practice.
- **Session 6: Data Readiness and Handling.** The GGBN data portal manager and other GGBN data standards experts will guide participants through each

step for making their genomic collection data discoverable through the GGBN Data Portal by providing use cases and demonstrations.

- **Session 7: Legacy/Traditional Collections.** This session covers the importance of legacy and traditional collections for bioarchiving and molecular analysis.
- **Session 8: The Value of Data.** This session covers the benefits of having access to genomic samples, what can be accomplished with the data generated from genomic samples, and what the sample quality expectations are from researchers generating the data.
- **Session 9: Existing and Emerging Networks.** This session covers the benefits of networking and current gaps in existing networks.

All announcements, documents, and information resources will be posted on the Conference Website: GGBN.org/conference (starting 1 November 2013). Please visit the website for the most current conference information.

SPNHC Membership renewal and e-publication

The membership renewal period for 2014 begins in late October

New for 2014 – E-publication of *Collection Forum* and the SPNHC Newsletter

Electronic access to *Collection Forum* and the Newsletter is included in your membership renewal. This edition of the newsletter will be the last print edition. Print copies of the newsletter (and *Collection Forum*) will be at an additional cost to membership as below.

When renewing your membership, please check the accuracy and relevance of the email address we have on file for you as this will be the method by which we alert you to the availability of new volumes. If you wish to receive hard copies of either publication, please select that option when renewing. There is a supplemental cost of \$25 for a hard copy of *Collection Forum* and \$20 for the SPNHC Newsletter. For more information on e-publication, please see the notes at the end of this announcement.

Our preferred method of membership renewal and payment is via the website, where every current member has an account: <http://spnhc.org/members/login>

As a current member of SPNHC, you already have a membership account on the SPNHC website; please don't set up a new account to renew as this will create a duplicate account for you. If you have trouble logging in you can contact the Treasurer at oleary@amnh.org.

You can renew on the SPNHC website and pay via credit card or a PayPal account. This method makes it easier to have up-to-date contact information for members, to process payments and is much less labor-intensive.

Please note that if you are paying via credit card on the website, you need to click on the "Pay now with PayPal" button as PayPal is the vendor which processes the credit card payments. You don't need to have a PayPal account to pay via credit card.

We recognize that for some membership categories and some individuals, payment by check is necessary. If renewing by check, please use the relevant form obtained from the website at <http://www.spnhc.org/members/signup>. Please send payment in US funds only.

Student members: if you are no longer an active student, please change your membership category to Regular before renewing.

Don't forget to renew by 15 February 2014 to avoid the late fee!

Epublication Notes

Collection Forum:

- Access to *Collection Forum* will be via Allen Press (utilizing Pinnacle Systems). You will be notified by email regarding new issues.
- Institutional and Library members will be able to register a range of IPs to allow for institutional access.

SPNHC Newsletter:

- Members will be emailed a PDF (or link) for the Newsletter directly to the email address on file with SPNHC.
- We are currently working on a similar system to the above for institutional and library subscriptions.

Both publications:

- All PDFs, excluding the current volumes are, and will continue to be, publically available on the society's website. Therefore, members will always have access to the online content they have subscribed to, even if they cancel their membership.
- Current volumes of *Collection Forum* and the Newsletter are available to members through their login to the SPNHC website.



SPNHC
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SPNHC 2014

Cardiff, Wales

22-28 June

Historic Collections/ Future Resources

During June 2014, Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales (AC-NMW), in partnership with the Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA), are honoured to be hosting the 29th SPNHC Annual General Meeting in the capital city of Wales, Cardiff.

The meeting will be the usual busy mix of field-trips, technical sessions, workshops and social events run over the course of the week. At its heart will be the two days of talks, trade-show and demonstrations which will be held at the iconic Wales Millennium Centre in the historic Cardiff Bay area of the city.

The overall theme of the 2014 conference will be 'Historic Collections: Future Resource' which will be an opportunity to link the collections at the heart of Natural History Institutions to the demands and uses these collections are meeting in the modern world. A number of themed sessions have started to be developed:

- **Advocacy and Natural History Collections:** This will be a special joint session with NatSCA exploring how to effectively promote the value of our natural science collections and associated expertise to policy makers and society alike.
- **University Museum Challenges:** A session to explore the wealth of collections that are part of our universities and the challenges they face.
- **Historical Insect Collections:** This session will be an opportunity to indulge in things entomological!
- **Managing Cultural Heritage in the 21st Century:** Managing the physical and digital resources of our natural history heritage is a daunting task. This session will explore the issues and how they can be tackled.
- **Access and Outreach:** A session dedicated to exploring the use and value of natural history collections in learning and outreach.
- **Historical Special Collections:** An opportunity to focus on topics around the conservation and management of the historical or artistic collections found in our institutions that offer connections across many sectors of society.

In addition there will be a range of other themed and open sessions developed around the presentations submitted, along with live demonstrations of software, technology and equipment in the 'DemoCamp'.

Workshops are an important part of the SPNHC conference. For 2014 there will be a full workshop on 'Shipping Legislation' and natural history collection material. The legislation that affects how we can ship natural history specimens around the world is complex. This workshop will look at the issues and bring attendees up-to-date with current practise. Other potential workshops are in planning but currently require confirmation. These potentially include various 'Best Practice' workshops, practical workshops on mount preparation and a session on 'Photon Physics' sponsored by Bruker.

A Range of field trips will be on offer, ranging from days out to a few a hours visiting the local area.

- **Big Pit and the Blaenafon World Heritage Site:** Big Pit is a museum dedicated to the history of coal mining in Wales. The museum is part of National Museum Wales and offers the opportunity to take a trip deep underground into the original coal workings. The area itself is now a world heritage site due to its former industrial heritage and now forms a classic postindustrial landscape typical of the South Wales Valleys.
- **The Botanic Garden of Wales:** Situated a little more than an hour's drive away from Cardiff is the National Botanic Gardens of Wales. The day trip will be an opportunity to explore the work of the gardens, the grounds and its architectural centrepiece greenhouse.
- **Glamorgan Heritage Coast:** In the company of our geologists explore the superb coastline of the Heritage Coast and experience the grandeur of the Severn Estuary which has the second highest tidal range in the world – up to 14 meters on a good spring tide!
- **The South Wales Coalfield Geopark Project:** This fieldtrip will explore the coal geology of the region and look at an innovative project to interpret how the pursuit of coal has affected the people and landscape of South Wales.
- **Shorter trips will include trips to a local wetlands for the birding community and some fun local walking tours including an introduction to the Welsh language or a 'Taith laith'!**

Collection tours are always an integral part of the conference. Opportunities to visit the collections will be available on a number of different days. The National Museum Wales is a multidisciplinary museum and we will look to include opportunities to visit the Art and Archaeology collections as well as our large off-site store housing much of the social history and industrial collections.



The meeting prides itself on being an open and welcoming conference. There will be opportunities for people new to the conference to get together and meet the conference regulars with a number of 'newbies' events. The opening social event will be the traditional 'Icebreaker' and this will be held in the Main Hall of the National Museum Wales. This will be an opportunity for faces old and new to get together and get the conference going! The banquet is also booked, and will be held in a central Cardiff hotel, The Park Thistle, which has excellent access and a superb wood-panelled room for the feasting and dancing. The menu will have a Welsh flavour and we'll be aiming to keep the cost as low as possible.

Getting to Cardiff

Flying: Flights to Cardiff via Cardiff Airport are possible but limited. When planning your flights there are a number of options to consider:

- Take a flight to one of the London hub airports such as Heathrow or Gatwick. Cardiff is approximately two hours travel away on road or rail links.
- Bristol and Birmingham Airports have many more carriers operating from them than Cardiff, and this could be an option to some. There are a regular bus/rail link to Cardiff from both airports.
- Flights to Cardiff Airport are very limited, but KLM does operate a Cityhopper link from Schiphol International, Amsterdam. Other international flights link into Cardiff via Dublin.

Rail: The UK does have an extensive rail network, and rail links to Cardiff are very good with trains to/from London every 30 minutes. However it is one of the most expensive networks in Europe and it pays to plan your journey in advance to get cheaper fares. More advice will appear on the conference website. Travel planning is also available via <http://traveline.info> and <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>.

Road: Coach travel is cheaper than rail but again try to book in advance. If on a really tight budget then it is worth checking out 'Megabus'. The journey time is longer but it's possible to get to Cardiff from London for a few pounds! Guidance on public transport is available on <http://traveline.info>.

Cardiff itself has good bus links and is easy to get around. A bike makes a great form of transport!

Accommodation.

We are exploring some deals with local hotels but still find you can get better prices using online search engines. Cardiff has a wide range of accommodation options ranging from budget hostels to very plush hotels, and we will be putting some guidance and recommendations on the conference social feeds and website. Meanwhile <http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/> can be a useful source of information on the different types of accommodation available, as can search engines such as <http://hotels.com/>.

The City and Wales

Cardiff is a cosmopolitan city with a strong cultural scene. There are a range of performance and arts venues offering everything from a local band to a West End musical. The city also has a wide range of decent ale pubs, trendy bars and restaurants of many flavours! Further information can be found at <http://www.visitcardiff.com/>.

The South Wales area has a rich heritage with a wealth of historic heritage sites to visit ranging from classic castles to relics of the industrial revolution. For those wishing to visit the great outdoors, areas such as the Brecon Beacons National Park, the Forest of Dean and the Gower are easily visited. Further tourist information is available at <http://www.visitwales.com/>.

The website will soon be up and running but in the meantime you can follow us on twitter at @SPNHC2014, or on Facebook – search SPNHC2014. The organising committee can also be contacted via julian.carter@museumwales.ac.uk.

We look forward to offering a warm 'Croeso i Gymru' / 'Welcome to Wales' in 2014!

Linking Museum Collections in Wales

Christian Baars

Project Manager, Linking Natural Science Collections in Wales, National Museum Cardiff, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP, UK;
christian.baars@museumwales.ac.uk

Wales may be a small country but more than 100 institutions across Wales hold natural history collections, containing a fantastic record of Welsh (and international) fauna, flora and geology. Many of these collections go back to the early 19th century. They are an irreplaceable resource for public exhibitions, teaching and scientific research. These collections include some real jewels, such as a King Penguin from one of Ernest Shackleton's expeditions to Antarctica, an early Neolithic bone flute, and a 19th century turnspit dog.

Unfortunately, many natural science collections across Wales are at real risk of deterioration. The only remaining subject specialists in Wales are employed by Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales. This means that many museums do not have the knowledge to interpret their collections to their full potential, some collections are neglected entirely and museum visitors do not get to see everything they possibly could.

A new project is now trying to address this issue. The Linking Natural Science Collections in Wales project will review a large part of the Welsh natural history collections and combine collections records in an online database. This means that all the individual collections across Wales can then be treated as pieces of one large natural science collection. The project is therefore crucial for the implementation of the concept of the Distributed National Collection arising from the Museums Strategy for Wales.

The project will conclude after three years with a touring exhibition of spectacular or significant natural science objects from across Wales. There will also be many other benefits, for example training for curators and volunteers in partner museums, who will then be able to better understand and use their collections, and to share their knowledge with museum visitors and users. An emphasis on education will see the development of education resources to enable teachers to make better use of their local museum collections, and a strong Welsh language element will ensure inclusivity for all parts of the community.

News and new developments about the Linking Natural Science Collections in Wales project are published on the project Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/LinkingCollectionsWales>, background information appears on the project blog <http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/blog/?cat=1764>.

A Study of the Amount of Bacteria on Five Museum Study Skins

Timothy McSweeney

Department of Biological Sciences, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX
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A recent test to find the existence of bacteria on specimens within the Mammal collection at the Museum of Texas Tech University, a comparison of levels between the skin and its respective skull and the amount of bacterial colonies on the specimen was performed. The test was also made to see how the museum's current collections care policies are affecting the lifespan of the specimens. There is no way at this point to tell if the bacteria originated from the preparation process, the location of the specimen within the collection (picking up from nearby specimens or the air within the cabinet) or the age of the specimens. However, it provides an idea of where bacteria exist, and shows the effectiveness of the museums handling and storage methods and policies.

To get an initial idea of level of bacteria on a specimen, samples of bacteria were taken from five specimens from around the collection, 1 swab from each skin and 1 swab from each skull, for a total of 10 samples, as well as a sample of the air. The specimens were: *Peromyscus leucopus* (TTU-M 91061, USA: Oklahoma, Biology Station, 23 July 1959); *Baiomys musculus* (TTU-M 82650, Mexico: Chipas, 9 Miles North of Ocozocoaulta, 17 July 2000); *Sciurus niger limitis* (TTU-M 59561, USA: Texas, Menard County, 8 Miles North, 1 Mile East Cleo, 19 May 1991); *Pteropus neohibernicus* (TTU-M 36242, Papua New Guinea: East New Britain, Duke of York Island, Molot, Om, 7 August 1981); and *Cephalopus zebra* (TTU-M 44728, USA: Texas, Bexar County, San Antonio, San Antonio Zoo, Captive Animal, 15 February 1987). After the swabs were taken, the samples were wiped on the petri dishes, which were placed in an oven at 34 degrees Celsius to promote growth.

Soon there was some noticeable growth within the dishes, though initially the growth was minor and slow, with a minimum of 1 bacteria colony in each dish, the maximum being 8 in the *Cephalopus zebra* skin dish. The most bacteria colonies were seen within the skin dishes, while the skull dishes tended to have fewer. As time went on this did change and the sets held an equal amount of bacteria colonies, but there were still some exceptions. In the case of the *Pteropus neohibernicus* there was initially 1 fungus bloom that grew into a larger group of fungi. There were smaller fungi blooms in the other trays, while the air sample tray only had a few bacteria colonies.

This test cannot prove the origins of the bacteria or fungus, but it does show that there are traces of both within the collection. The test also shows that whatever is on the speci-

mens is contained within the individual environment of each individual case, and that the growth of the bacteria colonies is being restrained by the housing and care methods used by the Museum of Texas Tech. Thus, there are traces of both bacteria and fungi on specimens, and though at this time the specific species, origin and nature of these microbes cannot be determined, the current curation methods being used do work to slow the deterioration of specimens.

While it is not possible to identify what microbes are on the specimens without the use of a microscope, the existence of the bacteria and one fungi bloom does mean that there is the possibility of a threat to the collections. The only other way to see how the bacteria are affecting the specimen or what microbes are present would be to remove the specimen from its current environment and into one that would accelerate the growth of the microbes. As there is no significant, or even minimal growth, of the bacteria on the specimens or severe levels of deterioration on the specimens, then the housing methods used by the museum (a dry, low humidity, low light and moderate temperature) have maintained the specimens.

While this experiment was focused on natural history specimens, the tools and methods can be integrated for other collections. The materials can be obtained from home scientific testing websites and educational stores for between twenty to forty dollars a set.



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2013 Fitzgerald Travel Grant Awardees

We are very grateful for the generous contribution of \$10,000 from the CollectionsWeb RCN (care of Alan Prather) which allowed us to fund eight awards to deserving Emerging Professionals and students who attended the Annual Meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota. Thanks also to the mentors who volunteered their time to assist these awardees in all aspects of their planning for the meeting, attendance and publication thereafter.

Katie Anderson

Katie Anderson is the Exhibition Coordinator at Brigham Young University's Museum of Peoples and Cultures. She is finishing up a Masters in Geological Sciences and Museum Practices and expects to graduate December 2013.

Katie is passionate about natural history, science education, and America's geological and cultural heritage. She first considered a career in museums after a brief stint as a volunteer in the Utah Museum of Natural History's (now Natural History Museum of Utah) paleontology lab. She has since volunteered, interned, or worked at four other museums, including the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.



Katie Anderson and mentor, Liz Leith

Evelyn Ayre

Evelyn Ayre was raised in downtown Guelph, Ontario, an environmentally-aware community rich in arts and culture. She completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts with distinction, major Studio Arts, with specialization in Fibres, Print and Dye, from Concordia University, Montréal, QC. Her work as Collection Technician and Curatorial Assistant at the Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory provided her with the opportunity to treat extremely delicate dried Lepidoptera specimens, other dried insects and arthropods. She explored conservation

as a volunteer conservation assistant at the Waterloo Region Museum, under the supervision of Conservator Richard Fuller, before beginning her Master of Art Conservation, Artifacts, at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Her work at the Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory inspired her major research paper, "Calibrated UV Reflectance Photography for Lepidoptera".

Evelyn was fortunate to travel to England last summer to complete her first-year conservation internship at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, in the conservation lab of the Staffordshire Hoard, a fabulous hoard of archaeological gold and silver decorative pieces from Anglo-Saxon arms and armour dating to the 7th century. This summer, she completed her second-year conservation internship at the CCI's Objects lab under the supervision of Objects Conservators Carole Dignard and Janet Mason. While at the CCI, she is pleased to have treated a complex, multi-media object: a Chinese lion dance head. Evelyn is interested in the conservation of a broad range of materials including, but not limited to: fur, bone, metals, and textiles, and types of objects ranging from ethnographic objects, to natural history collections to contemporary art.



Evelyn Ayre and mentor, Jean-Marc Gagnon

Mireia Beas-Moix

I am a biologist with a passion for natural history collections. During my biology studies in Barcelona (Spain), I completed an internship as a Collections Manager Assistant at the Catalan Institute of Paleontology. I enjoyed the experience immensely and I decided that I wanted to become a collections manager. In 2010 I came to the United States to study for a Master's degree in Museum Studies (Natural History track) at the University of Kansas. I graduated in May 2012 and in June 2012, I was hired as a Vertebrate Curatorial Assistant at the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER), at the University of California Santa Barbara, on a grant-funded project aimed to curate their vertebrate collections. After a year working at CCBER, I was promoted to Collections Manager.

With this new position I am managing and curating not only the animal collections, but the plant collections as well. It represents a challenge that I will tackle with joy. As a member of SPNHC, I know that there is a wonderful community of natural history collections enthusiasts I can turn to for advice and guidance.

I really enjoyed my experience at the 2013 SPNHC annual meeting, and I hope this will be the beginning of a beautiful and long-lasting relationship!



Mereia Beas-Moix and mentor, Linda Ford

Kari Harris



Kari Harris and mentor, Elana Benamy

Kari Harris is working towards a Master of Arts degree in Biology at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. As her Master's project, Kari and a team of four undergraduate students are digitizing the Arkansas State University (STAR) herbarium, which contains about 25,000 specimens. She is collaborating with the computer science department to create a website for the herbarium project which would include images and information from the specimens.

Additionally, she is working to raise student interest in natu-

ral history collections. To accomplish this, Kari has started a club at Arkansas State dedicated to the preservation of natural history collections. The club raises money to support the school's collections and encourages student involvement through mentorship and activities.

Kyndall Hildebrandt

Kyndall Hildebrandt is the collection manager for the Genomic Resources collection at University of Alaska Museum of the North (UAM). She began working at UAM as a high school student and continued on as an undergraduate and graduate student.

Prior to taking her current position at UAM, she worked as a technician in the mammal collection at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Her research background has focused on using molecular techniques to explore species limits in North American water shrews and Malagasy tenrecs. Her current position perfectly combines her interest in museum preservation and molecular research.



Kyndall Hildebrandt and mentor, Jeff Stephenson

Amanda Lawrence

I received my Bachelor's Degree in Geobiology with a minor in Marine Science from The Pennsylvania State University. I then attended Texas Tech University where I received a Master's Degree in Museum Science. While attending Texas Tech, I worked at the Natural Science Research Laboratory at the Museum of Texas Tech University working with the mammal and bird collections as well as in the genetic research laboratory.

Currently, I am a Museum Technician at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History. My duties include digitizing specimens and maintaining collections through integrated pest management. My interests include

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Travel Grant Awardee Bios

collections management and preventative conservation for natural history collections. My goal is to work with different types of natural history collections and gain more collections management experience throughout my career.



Amanda Lawrence and mentor, Marcia Revelez

Fran Ritchie



Fran Ritchie and mentor, Gretchen Anderson

Fran Ritchie is an emerging art conservation professional, having recently graduated from the Buffalo State College M.A. program in Art Conservation in Buffalo, NY. Fran specializes in object conservation, with a passion for organic materials. Although her recent experiences involved the ethnographic collection at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts, Fran continues to pursue projects relating to natural science collections. Her conservation journey began at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, where

she earned a double major in Art Conservation and Anthropology in 2006. After working as a Conservation Technician for the Objects Conservation Lab at Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina for two years, she earned her M.A. in Museum Anthropology from Columbia University in New York, NY. While in New York, Fran worked for a year and a half in the Natural Science Conservation Lab at the American Museum of Natural History, an experience that cultivated a love for taxidermy. Fran also completed internships in the Objects/Natural History Conservation Labs at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming, with the Collections Care Department at the Baranov Museum in Kodiak, Alaska, the Archaeological Metals Conservation Lab at the Patronato Panama Viejo in Panama City, Panama, and in the Paintings Conservation Lab at Winterthur Estate and Gardens in Wilmington, Delaware.

Fran is an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Objects Conservation at the Smithsonian National Museum of American Indian, where she plans to continue researching issues related to ethnographic and natural history collections. In her spare time, Fran likes to explore her roots in the mountains of Virginia through brain tanning, taxidermy, and Appalachian music and dancing.

Gretchen Wilbrandt



Gretchen Wilbrandt and mentor, Kelly Sendall

Hailing from a number of states and a collection of diverse experiences, I joined the Water Bug Systematics Laboratory (WBSL) as a PhD student in the Entomology Department at the University of Minnesota in 2012. My primary research examines the subgeneric classification and species complex of the water boatmen genus *Sigara* (Fabricius). Including over 200 species, I am working on making sense of how species are grouped (by morphology and molecules) to understand present day classification, biogeography, and evolutionary divergence on a global scale. Since Fabricius coined *Sigara* in 1775 (and been the root of classification madness for centuries!), a worldwide comprehensive revision has been lacking, so I'm drinking copious amounts of coffee and setting

out on my journey to figure out what is *Sigara*.

My interest in insects extends beyond traditional taxonomy and encompasses digital curation and advancement of technology in collections using a highly interdisciplinary approach. While being involved in the curation of the University of Minnesota Insect Collection (UMSP), a major part of my role is actively participating in the design and development of a digital database.



SPNHC
ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

Publications of Interest

This section is from the Citations Sub-committee of the Conservation Committee and is chaired by Margaret Landis. Citations were submitted by: Stephanie Allen (SA), Lori Benson (LB), Diana Dicus (DD), Mariko Kageyama (MK), Margaret Landis (ML), Rebecca Peters (RP), Ann Pinzl (AP), Marcy Revelez (MR), and Janet Waddington (JW). Contributions, suggestions, and comments may be submitted to Margaret Landis: Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Ave., Norman, OK 73072, USA; (405) 325-8266 (voice); (405) 325-7699 (fax); paleocatstar@ou.edu (e-mail).

Alarcon, T., R. O'Hern and E. Pearlstein. 2012. Case studies in basketry repair: Two Abenaki splint baskets. *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* 51(2):123-143. (DD)

Berendsohn, W. G. and P. Seltmann. 2010. Using geographical and taxonomic metadata to set priorities in specimen digitization. *Biodiversity Informatics* 7(2):120-129. (MK & AP)

Bernucci, A. and E. Verveniotou. 2013. Bibliography for current NHCWG members. <http://www.icom-cc.org/54/document/bibliography-for-current-nhcwg-members/?id=1150> (13 July 2013). (AP)
- Link to bibliography document which is a compilation of Natural History Collections Conservation publications of the current membership of the NHCWG.

Boyle, B., N. Hopkins, Z. Lu, J. A. R. Garay, D. Mozzherin, T. Rees, N. Matasci, M. L. Narro, W. H. Piel, S. J. McKay, S. Lowry, C. Freeland, R. K. Peet and B. J. Enquist. 2013. The taxonomic name resolution service: An online tool for automated standardization of plant names. *BMC Bioinformatics* 14(16):1-14. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2105/14/16> (13 July 2013). (AP)

Brophy, S. S. and E. Wylie. 2013. *The green museum: A primer on environmental practice*. 2nd ed. AltaMira Press, Lanham, Maryland. 320 pp. (MR)

Brown, A. 2013. *Practical digital preservation: A how-to guide for organizations of any size*. Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. 192 pp. (SA)

Budnick, N. 2013. Unpredictable fire accident at Oregon hospital. *ACTS Facts*. (DD)

- Tells about an unexpected source of fire. References The Oregonian article on 22 February 2013: "Hand sanitizer, olive oil to blame in Portland hospital fire that burned 11-year-old girl" (http://www.oregonlive.com/health/index.ssf/2013/02/hand_sanitizer_olive_oil_to_bl.html).

Bullock, V. M. 2012. The marriage of risk assessment and significance assessment: Challenges and opportunities. *Collections* 8(4):307-321. (AP)

Burge, D. and J. Scott. 2012. Resistance of digitally and traditionally printed materials to bleed, delamination, gloss change, and planar distortion during flood. *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* 51(2):145-158. (DD)

Burlison, K. H. 2013. The Louisiana State Museum's loan resolution project history, methodology, and results. *Collections* 9(2):171-180. (AP)

Carmicheal, D. W. 2012. *Organizing archival records: A practical method of arrangement and description for small archives*. 3rd ed. American Association for State and Local History book series. AltaMira Press, Lanham, Maryland. 106 pp. (MR)

Carter, R. 2012. A cost-effective method for constructing magnetic fumicels for herbarium cabinets. *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* 6(2):579-582. (AP)

Casella, L. and M. Tsukada. 2012. Effects of low-oxygen environments in the light fading of six dyes present in the autochrome color screen. *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* 51(2):159-174. (DD)

Catlin-Legutko, C. and S. Klingler, eds. 2013. *Financial resource development and management—Small museum toolkit, book two*. AltaMira Press, Lanham, Maryland. 168 pp. (MR)
- Available as hardback, paperback, and eBook (eBook copyrighted in 2011).

Catlin-Legutko, C. and S. Klingler, eds. 2013. *Interpretation: Education, programs, and exhibits—Small museum toolkit, book five*. AltaMira Press, Lanham, Maryland. 156 pp. (MR)
- Available as hardback, paperback, and eBook (eBook copyrighted in 2011).

Catlin-Legutko, C. and S. Klingler, eds. 2013. *Leadership, mission, and governance—Small museum toolkit, book one*. AltaMira Press, Lanham, Maryland. 168 pp. (MR)
- Available as hardback, paperback, and eBook (eBook copyrighted in 2011).

Catlin-Legutko, C. and S. Klingler, eds. 2013. *Organizational management—Small museum toolkit, book three*. AltaMira Press, Lanham, Maryland. 156 pp. (MR)
- Available as hardback, paperback, and eBook (eBook copyrighted in 2011).

Catlin-Legutko, C. and S. Klingler, eds. 2013. *Reaching and responding to the audience—Small museum toolkit, book four*. AltaMira Press, Lanham, Maryland. 188 pp. (MR)
- Available as hardback, paperback, and eBook (eBook copyrighted in 2011).

Catlin-Legutko, C. and S. Klingler, eds. 2013. *Stewardship: Collections and historic preservation—Small museum toolkit, book six*. AltaMira Press, Lanham, Maryland. 172 pp. (MR)
- Available as hardback, paperback, and eBook (eBook copyrighted in 2011).

Charola, A. E. and R. J. Koestler. 2010. Pesticide mitigation in museum collections: Science in conservation; Proceedings from the MCI Workshop Series. *Smithsonian Contributions to Museum Conservation* 1:1-72. <http://si-ppdr.si.edu/dspace/handle/10088/8829> (11 July 2013). (SA)

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Charola, A. E., C. McNamara and R. J. Koestler. 2011. Pesticide mitigation in museum collections: Science in conservation; Proceedings from the MCI Workshop Series. Smithsonian Contributions to Museum Conservation 2:1-116. <http://si-pddr.si.edu/dspace/handle/10088/16617> (11 July 2013). (SA)

Chien, S.-W., C.-C. Lien, H.-R. Sie and Y.-T. Song. 2012. Disaster risk assessment methods and response plans for cultural heritage in Taiwan. *Collections* 8(4):331-347. (AP)

CHIN (Canadian Heritage Information Network). 2013. CHIN Digital Preservation Toolkit. http://www.pro.rcip-chin.gc.ca/sommaire-summary/outils_preservation_numerique-digital_preservation_toolkit-eng.jsp (24 July 2013). (JW)

- In response to member feedback in the 2011 CHIN Digital Preservation Survey, CHIN has identified and produced a number of easy-to-use tools that help museums assess their own needs for digital preservation, and guide them in the development of digital preservation policy, plans, and procedures. All of these documents (which are organised by chronological order of use) are accessible to museum professionals and volunteers who may have no formal training in the field of digital preservation.

CHIN (Canadian Heritage Information Network). 2013. Digital preservation survey 2011: Preliminary results. http://www.pro.rcip-chin.gc.ca/carrefour-du-savoir-knowledge-exchange/sondage_preservation_2011-preservation_survey_2011-eng.jsp (24 July 2013). (JW)

- Results of a Fall 2011 digital preservation survey conducted by CHIN to collect accurate and timely information about the scope and the state of digital assets held by its member organizations.

Clement, T., W. Hagenmaier and J. L. Knies. 2013. Toward a notion of the archive of the future: Impressions of practice by librarians, archivists, and digital humanities scholars. *The Library Quarterly* 83(2):112-130. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/669550> (01 July 2012). (SA)

Coetzer, W., M. Hamer and F. Parker-Allie. 2012. A new era for specimen databases and biodiversity information management in South Africa. *Biodiversity Informatics* 8(1):1-10. (AP)

Cordero, G. W. and M. Del Carmen Maza. 2011. Human remains in museum collections and their restitution to the communities: Museum of La Plata–Argentina. *University Museums and Collections Journal* 4:47-55. <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj/2011/weisinger-cordero-47/PDF/weisinger-cordero.pdf> (21 January 2013). (MK)

- This volume of the journal also has a title: "University Museums and Collections as Recorders of Cultural and Natural Communities Worldwide—Proceedings of the 10th Conference of the International Committee of ICOM for University Museum and Collections (UMAC), Shanghai, China, 7th–12th November 2010."

Corradini, E. and M. Bukowski. 2012. Proposed European anatomical collections network. *University Museums and Collections Journal* 5:119-132. <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj/2012/corradini-119/PDF/corradini.pdf> (21 January 2013). (MK)

- This volume of the journal also has a title: "University collections and university history and identity—Proceedings of the 11th Conference of the International Committee of ICOM for University Museums and Collections (UMAC), Lisbon, Portugal, 21st–25th September 2011."

Cui, H. 2008. Converting taxonomic descriptions to new digital formats. *Biodiversity Informatics* 2:20-40. (MK & AP)

Dalia, D. A. 2013. Problems, solutions, and policy choices in resolving old artifact loans. *Collections* 9(2):167-170. (AP)

Dignard, C. 2013. Adhesive repairs for leather: Annotated bibliography. http://www.icom-cc.org/54/document/adhesive-repairs-for-leather-annotated-bibliography-may-2013/?action=Site_Downloads_Downloadfile&id=1211 (23 July 2013). (MK)

- International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC) sponsored annotated bibliography on adhesive backing treatments of leath-

ers and skins and not on full treatments providing object, type of leather, condition, repair adhesive, backing material and repair method used with rationales, as well as results of other materials or methods tested. Though leather bookbindings, parchment documents, and natural history specimens were not surveyed it may provide information of use to those who need information on adhesives and leather.

Dignard, C. 2013. Literature survey of repair adhesives, backing materials and application methods for skin and leather treatments. http://www.icom-cc.org/54/document/adhesive-repairs-for-leather-literature-survey-table-may-2013/?action=Site_Downloads_Downloadfile&id=1212 (23 July 2013). (MK)

- International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC) sponsored table on adhesive backing treatments of leathers and skins and not on full treatments providing object, type of leather, condition, repair adhesive, backing material and repair method used with rationales, as well as results of other materials or methods tested. Though leather bookbindings, parchment documents, and natural history specimens were not surveyed it may provide information of use to those who need information on adhesives and leather.

Elkin, L. K., E. Nunan and D. Fenkart-Froeschl. 2013. The "Collections Risk Management" program at the American Museum of Natural History. *Collections* 9(1):125-137. (AP)

Ellis, R. G. and S. M. Gatesy. 2013. A biplanar X-ray method for three-dimensional analysis of track formation. *Palaeontologia Electronica* 16(1):1-16. <http://palaeo-electronica.org/content/2013/371-x-ray-track-analysis> (25 July 2013). (JW)

- Describes a new method for visualizing and quantifying three-dimensional movements of both a morphologically accurate indenter and realistic sediment during track formation using biplanar X-ray imaging.

Endresen, D. T. F. and H. Knüpfper. 2012. The Darwin Core extension for genebanks opens up new opportunities for sharing genebank datasets. *Biodiversity Informatics* 8(1):12-29. (MK & AP)

Estrada-Arevalo, S., V. Michael and A. Simpson. 2011. Turning the museum inside out: The biological sciences at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. *University Museums and Collections Journal* 4:57-63. <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj/2011/estrada-arevalo-57/PDF/estrada-arevalo.pdf> (21 January 2013). (MK)

- This volume of the journal also has a title: "University Museums and Collections as Recorders of Cultural and Natural Communities Worldwide—Proceedings of the 10th Conference of the International Committee of ICOM for University Museum and Collections (UMAC), Shanghai, China, 7th–12th November 2010."

Falkingham, P. L. 2013. Low Cost 3D Scanning using off the shelf video gaming peripherals. *Journal of Paleontological Techniques* 11:1-9. <http://www.jpaleontologicaltechniques.org/pasta3/JPT%20N11/Bulletin.html> (25 July 2013). (JW)

- Discusses the use of gaming technology Microsoft® Kinect™ to digitize specimens of different sizes. The resulting digital models are compared with models produced using photogrammetry. Although the Kinect™ generally records morphology at a lower resolution, and thus captures less detail than photogrammetric techniques, it offers advantages in speed of data acquisition, and generation of a completed mesh in real time at the point of data collection.

Forde, H. and J. Rhys-Lewis. 2013. *Preserving archives*. 2nd ed. Facet Publishing, London. 336 pp. (ML)

Francioni, F. and J. Gordley, eds. 2013. *Enforcing international cultural heritage law*. Oxford University Press, New York, New York. 304 pp. (MR)

- Part of the Cultural heritage law and policy series.

Franks, P. C. 2013. *Records & information management*. Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. 410 pp. (SA)

Franzi, N. M. and D. Thau. 2010. *Biological taxonomy and ontology development: Scope and limitations*. *Biodiversity Informatics* 7(1):45-66. (AP)

- Giesen, M. J., ed. 2013. *Curating human remains: Caring for the dead in the United Kingdom*. Boydell Press, Rochester, New York. 212 pp. (MR)
- Golding, V. 2013. *Museums and communities: Curators, collections and collaboration*. Bloomsbury Academic, New York, New York. 288 pp. (MR)
- Hamill, L. 2012. *Archives for the lay person: a guide to managing cultural collections*. American Association for State and Local History book series AltaMira Press, Lanham, Maryland. 296 pp. (MR)
- Harrison, R., S. Byrne and A. Clarke, eds. 2013. *Reassembling the collection: Ethnographic museums and indigenous agency*. School for Advanced Research Press, Santa Fe, New Mexico. 347 pp. (MR)
- Part of the School for Advanced Research Advanced Seminar series.
- Hawks, C. and R. Waller. 2013. *A tale of two systems: Synergy in managing risks to people and to collections*. *Collections* 9(1):115-124. (AP)
- Keeping both museum workers and collections safe.
- Heineman, A. 2013. *Bibliography: Resolving old loans*. *Collections* 9(2):227-279. (AP)
- Hider, P. 2012. *Information resource description: Creating and managing metadata*. American Library Association, Chicago, Illinois. (SA)
- Also published by Facet Publishing in the United Kingdom with 2012 copy-right.
- Jandl, S. S. and M. S. Gold, eds. 2012. *A handbook for academic museums: Exhibitions and education*. MuseumsEtc Ltd, Cambridge, Massachusetts. 746 pp.
- Jørgensen, C., P. F. Marty and K. Braun. 2012. *Connecting to collections in Florida: Current conditions and critical needs in libraries, archives, and museums*. *The Library Quarterly* 82(4). <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/667437>. (ML)
- Kageyama, M. 2013. *Technical advice and recommendations on the handling and storage of radioactive wildlife specimens collected from Eastern Japan*. *Journal of the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology* 44(2):49-65. (MK)
- In Japanese with English abstract.
- Kakaliouras, A. M. 2012. *An anthropology of repatriation: Contemporary physical anthropological and Native American ontologies of race*. *Current Anthropology* 53(S5):S210-S221. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/662331> (11 July 2013). (SA)
- Kelley, P. 2013. *Lasioderma serricorne Cigarette Beetle. Fumigants & Pheromones* 106:2. (AP)
- Description of symbiotic relationship with yeast-like organisms in beetle's gut.
- King, T. F. 2012. *Cultural resource laws and practice*. 4th ed. Heritage resources management series AltaMira Press, Lanham, Maryland. 458 pp. (SA)
- Ladkin, N., E. Johnson, R. J. Baker and S. Chatterjee. 2010. *The use of collections in research and teaching at the Museum of Texas Tech University*. *University Museums and Collections Journal* 3:127-135. <http://edoc.huberlin.de/umacj/2010/ladkin-127/PDF/ladkin.pdf> (21 January 2013). (MK)
- This volume of the journal also has a title: "University collections and university history and identity—Proceedings of the 9th Conference of the International Committee of ICOM for University Museums and Collections (UMAC), Berkeley, USA, 10th–13th September 2009."
- Lane, A. T. 2013. *Notes from the field: Nonexistent documentation*. *Collections* 9(2):223-225. (AP)
- Lavoie, C. 2013. *Biological collections in an ever changing world: Herbaria as tools for biogeographical and environmental studies*. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 15(1):68-76. (AP)
- Lee, K. and D. Castles. 2013. *Collections risk assessment at the Royal BC Museum and Archives*. *Collections* 9(1):9-27. (AP)
- Lev-Alexander, N. 2012. *Energy savings trial in the Library of Congress John Adams Building Stacks*. *Collections* 8(4):365-376. (AP)
- Linden, J. R., J. M. Reilly and P. H. Herzog. 2012. *Risk analysis and sustainability: Identifying and mitigating risk in mechanical system shutdown research*. *Collections* 8(4):349-364. (AP)
- Malaro, M. C. 2013. *Museum governance: mission, ethics, policy*. Smithsonian Books, Washington D. C. 192 pp. (MR)
- Matassa, F. 2001. *Museum collections management: A handbook*. Facet Publishing, London. 256 pp. (MR)
- McGovern, M. 2013. *Digital asset management: Where to start*. *Curator: The Museum Journal* 56(2):237-254. (JW)
- Proposes a model framework for institutional digital asset management plans, including standards, tasks, and decisions. Each of the elements in the framework is discussed in both general, best-practice terms and also specifically, presenting case studies and lessons learned from Corning Museum of Glass.
- Mecklenburg, M. F., A. E. Charola and R. J. Koestler. 2013. *New insights into the cleaning of paintings: Proceedings from the Cleaning 2010 International Conference*, Universidad Politecnica de Valencia and Museum Conservation Institute. *Smithsonian Contributions to Museum Conservation* 3:1-243. <http://si-pddr.si.edu/dspace/handle/10088/20477> (01 July 2013). (SA)
- Meskell, L. 2013. *UNESCO's World Heritage Convention at 40: Challenging the economic and political order of international heritage conservation*. *Current Anthropology* 54(4):483-494. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/671136> (01 July 2013). (SA)
- Mitchell, E. T. 2012. *Why digital data collections are important*. *Journal of Web Librarianship* 6(3):213-216. (ML)
- Mitchell, E. T. 2013. *Linked data publishing for libraries, archives, and museums: What is the next step?* *Journal of Web Librarianship* 7(2):231-236. (ML)
- Mound, L. A. 2012. *The Natural History Museum re-visited*. *Antenna* 36(3):195-200. (AP)
- Mulkerin, M. S. 2013. *Elephants never forget, but museums do: Investigating under-documented objects in museum collections*. *Collections* 9(2):149-166. (AP)
- Nash, T. H., III. 2012. *Digitizing North American lichen and bryophyte specimens in US institutions*. *Evansia* 29(4):115. (RP)
- Description and status of program to digitize lichen and bryophyte collections of 65 US institutions; focusing on collections from Mexico, Canada and U.S. As of this publication, project is half completed (approx. 2 million records). Searchable data available at <http://lichenportal.org> and <http://bryophyteportal.org>. Goal is for 4.5 million records by YE 2015.
- Newman, J. 2012. *Revisiting archive collections: Developing models for participatory cataloguing*. *Journal of the Society of Archivists* 33(1):57-73. (ML)
- Nyhart, L. K. 2012. *Book Review: The Afterlives of Animals: A Museum Menagerie*, ed. by Samuel J. M. M. Alberti. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2011. *Isis* 103(3):566-567. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/full/10.1086/668967>. (RP)
- A collection of "biographies" of taxidermied animals used in museum displays, contributed for the most part by museum curators.
- Ogden, B. W. 2012. *PRISM: Software for risk assessment and decision-making in libraries*. *Collections* 8(4):323-329. (AP)
- Otero, A. and M. Reguero. 2013. *Dinosaurs (Reptilia, Archosauria) at*

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.....Pubs of Interest

Museo de La Plata, Argentina: Annotated catalogue of the type material and Antarctic specimens. *Palaeontologia Electronica*. <http://palaeo-electronica.org/content/2013-technical/410-museo-de-la-plata-catalogue> (24 July 2013). (JW)

Perry, R., ed. 2010. *Museums in a Digital Age*. Routledge, New York, New York. 496 pp. (MR)

Primary Research Group. 2013. *Museum & library special collection use of major internet sites*. Primary Research Group, Inc., New York, New York. 133 pp. (ML)

- Publication examines how the museums and libraries are using major internet sites such as Pinterest, Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo, Google (Google Drive, Google Translate, Google Docs, Google Scholar, Google Books), Amazon, Bing, Wikipedia, LinkedIn, Flickr, Instagram, Twitter.

Primary Research Group. 2013. *Trends in photography special collections management*. 2013 ed. Primary Research Group, Inc., New York, New York. 70 pp. (ML)

- Using profiles of nine collections the publication examines how the collections are managed, including digitization, social media, cataloging, metadata, copyright/permissions, and staffing.

Pugès, M., L. Fernández, M. Molinas and M. J. Alcayde. 2013. *Atlas of materials pathologies*. *Reviews on Glass* 2:38-43. <http://icom.museum/resources/publications-database/publication/reviews-on-glass-no-2-2013/L/3/> (23 July 2013). (MK)

- Article on the "Atlas of Materials Pathologies" (<http://www.materialspathology.com/en/index.php>). This volume of the journal also has a title: "International Council of Museums (ICOM) International Committee for Museums and Collections of Glass 2011 Meeting in Barcelona, Spain".

Ralph, J. and K. Ralph. 2013. *Introducing Gemdat.org. Rocks & Minerals* 88(3):236-243. (ML)

- Introducing a new online resource for gem information.

Reerink, H. 2012. *A portal to Dutch academic heritage*. *University Museums and Collections Journal* 5:111-118. <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj/2012/reerink-111/PDF/reerink.pdf> (21 January 2013). (MK)

- Article describes development of University Collections and University Museums (UNICUM) portal (www.academischecollecties.nl) for Dutch academic heritage including images and metadata for academic archives, museums, and library collections. This volume of the journal also has a title: "Proceedings of the 11th Conference of the International Committee of ICOM for University Museums and Collections (UMAC), Lisbon, Portugal, 21st–25th September 2011."

Rieppel, L. 2012. *Bringing dinosaurs back to life: Exhibiting prehistory at the American Museum of Natural History*. *Isis* 103(3):460-490. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/667969>. (RP)

- Discusses methods of exhibiting dinosaurs during the first two decades of the 20th century with lessons still applicable regarding interface of public museums with scientific research.

Rossol, M. 2012. *After the disaster: Cleaning up your home, store or studio*. *ACTS Facts* 26(11/12):2-3. (LB)

Rossol, M. 2012. *Can mold toxins penetrate the skin?* *ACTS Facts* 26(11/12):5. (LB)

Rossol, M. 2012. *Labels: GHS pictograms*. *ACTS Facts* 26(9):2-3. (LB)

Rossol, M. 2013. *2-component urethane-isocyanates are OSHA priority*. *ACTS Facts* 27(7):3. (LB & DD)

- Announced by OSHA Press Release on 25 June 2013.

Rossol, M. 2013. *Evidence that carbon dioxide is an indoor air pollutant*. *ACTS Facts* 27(4):1-2. (LB)

Rossol, M. 2013. *Lessons from the Federal Register*. *ACTS Facts* 27(5):1-3. (DD)

Scholten, S. 2010. *New perspectives and audiences for the university collections in Amsterdam*. *University Museums and Collections Journal* 3:31-38. <http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj/2010/scholten-31/PDF/scholten.pdf> (21 January 2013). (MK)

- This volume of the journal also has a title: "University collections and university history and identity - Proceedings of the 9th Conference of the International Committee of ICOM for University Museums and Collections (UMAC), Berkeley, USA, 10th–13th September 2009."

Scoble, M. J. 2010. *Natural history collections digitization: Rationale and value*. *Biodiversity Informatics* 7(2):77-80. (MK & AP)

Sevdalina, N. 2013. *Risk assessment and treatment for the permanent exhibition of the National Archaeological Museum in Bulgaria*. *Collections* 9(1):39-52. (AP)

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- Argument that museums would benefit from a dedicated cataloger position, filled by a person with a library and information science education, in

order to address institutional and public needs for information in an environment marked by the demand for electronic access to collections information beyond the need to document their collections.



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

Calendar of Events

The Calendar of Events is maintained by Christine Chandler of the Documentation Committee. Application deadlines, conferences and symposia relevant to collection management, computerization and conservation of natural history collections are listed. Notices may be submitted to Christine at Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science, 1717 West 12th Street, Davenport, IA 52804; (563) 324-1054 ext. 226; chandler@putnam.org or dinoceras@juno.com.

2013

October 2013

October 7-9, 2013. Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) 2013 Annual Meeting, Savannah, Georgia, USA. For more information, go to <http://www.semcdirect.net/>.

October 9-12, 2013. Western Museums Association's (WMA) 2013 Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Meeting details available at http://www.westmuse.org/conferences/2013_salt_lake_city.html.

October 16-30, 2013. Caring for Yesterday's Treasures - Today webinar course, Caring for Audiovisual Materials (October 16, 21, 23, 28, 30). Go to <http://www.connectingtocollections.org/newcourses/> for details.

October 20-22, 2013. Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums (MAAM) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, USA. Check <http://www.midatlanticmuseums.org/> for details.

October 27-30, 2013. 2013 Geological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting & Exposition, Denver, Colorado, USA. Go to <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2013/> for more information.

November 2013

November 4-14, 2013. Caring for Yesterday's Treasures -

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*Continued from page 33:
.....Calendar of Events*

Today webinar course, Outreach Activities for Collections Care (November 4, 6, 12, 14). Go to <http://www.connectingto-collections.org/newcourses/> for details.

November 13-15, 2013. 2013 New England Museum Association (NEMA) Annual Conference, Newport, Rhode Island, USA. Conference website at <http://www.nemanet.org/conf13/index.htm>.

December 2013

December 2, 2013. Museums for America grant deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

December 2, 2013. National Leadership Grants for Museums grant deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

December 2, 2013. Conservation Assessment Program grant deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

2014

January 2014

January 8, 2014. America's Historical and Cultural Organizations: Planning Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.neh.gov/grants>.

January 8, 2014. America's Historical and Cultural Organizations: Implementation Grants deadline. Details at <http://www.neh.gov/grants>.

February 2014

February 15-18, 2014. 10th North American Paleontological Convention, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, Florida, USA. More information at <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/napc/>.

May 2014

May 1, 2014. Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions deadline. Details at <http://www.neh.gov/grants>.

May 18-21, 2014. 2014 Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo American Alliance of Museums, Seattle, Washington, USA. Go to <http://www.aam-us.org/events/annual-meeting> for more information.

May 21-23, 2014. 2014 Geological Association of Canada–Mineralogical Association of Canada Joint Annual Meeting, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. Go to <http://www.unb.ca/conferences/gacmac2014/> for information.

May 28-31, 2014. American Institute for Conservation of

Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) 42nd Annual Meeting, Conscientious Conservation, Sustainable Choices in Collections Care, San Francisco, California, USA. Visit <http://www.conservation-us.org/> for updates.

June 2014

June 22-28, 2014. The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) 29th Annual Meeting, Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom. Check <http://www.spnhc.org/> for updates.

June 6-10, 2014. 94th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA. Meeting website at <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/mammalogists/2014/>.

July 2014

July 1, 2014. Museum Assessment Program grant deadline. Details at <http://www.imls.gov>.

July 14-17, 2014. 2014 Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, USA. Check out <http://www.midwestmuseums.org/> for updates.

July 26-30, 2014. Botany 2014, Boise, Idaho, USA. For details, go to <http://www.botanyconference.org/>.

July 30-August 3, 2014. American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) Annual Meeting, Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA. For more information go to <http://www.asih.org/meetings>.

September 2014

September 24-27, 2014. Joint meeting of American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, and Society of Canadian Ornithologists / Société des Ornithologistes du Canada, Estes Park, Colorado, USA. See website <http://www.aou.org/meetings/> for updates.

September 15-19, 2014. ICOM-CC, 17th Triennial Conference, Melbourne, Australia. Check <http://www.icom-cc.org/> for updates.

October 2014

October 19-22, 2014. 2014 GSA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Meeting information at <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2014/>.

October 30-November 2, 2014. 73rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP), Los Angeles, California, USA. Meeting website at <http://vertpaleo.org/Annual-Meeting/Annual-Meeting-Home.aspx>.

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