

Collection Forum

Fall 1993, Volume 9, Number 2

PAPERS

FLOOR LOADING CONSIDERATIONS IN A PALAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION

JANET WADDINGTON

Department of Invertebrate Palaeontology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100
Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C6

Abstract - The Royal Ontario Museum, Department of Invertebrate Palaeontology, has developed procedural controls to avoid exceeding floor loading capacity in its collection storage room. Floor loading capacity is a critical factor in planning space-efficient storage for palaeontological collections. Fossil collections are comparable to library stacks in weight. It is essential that a structural engineer be consulted when planning storage on any but a grade level.

PACKING FLUID-PRESERVED HERPETOLOGICAL SPECIMENS FOR SHIPMENT

C. J. McCoy

Section of Amphibians and Reptiles, Carnegie Museum of Natural History,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Abstract - The theory and practice of packing fluid-preserved herpetological specimens for shipment are reviewed. Specimens are wrapped in moist cloth and sealed inside plastic bags for shipment. Bagged specimens should be well-padded and shipped by a reliable courier.

A DATABASE FOR FROZEN TISSUES AND KARYOTYPE SLIDES

SUSAN M. WOODWARD AND WENDY E. HLYWKA

Mammalogy, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto,
Ontario, Canada M5S 2C6

Abstract - A database system was designed to manage a frozen tissue and karyotype slide collection of approximately 5,000 specimens. This menu-driven system permits the user to produce a variety of printouts routinely used to respond to information inquiries, crossreference the database with voucher specimens, edit data, and assist with documentation of karyotype slides. This database system can function independently without modification of any of the programs and is applicable to any taxon. A two-tier database system was also developed to integrate this ancillary material database with an existing voucher specimen database and to deal with the immediate information needs of ongoing research projects in-house.

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING POLICIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CARE OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

PAISLEY S. CATO AND STEPHEN L. WILLIAMS

Virginia Museum of Natural History, 1001 Douglas Avenue, Martinsville,
Virginia 24112-4717 (PSC); Natural Science Research Laboratory,

Museum of Texas Tech University, Box 43191, Lubbock, Texas 79409-3191 (SLW)

Abstract - Written collection management and care policies affect the long-term direction and activities associated with natural history collections. Although the use of such documents is beneficial for beginning as well as established collections, it is often difficult to start and to maintain a document that fulfills the needs of the collection and its staff in a concise and effective form. For this reason, a set of guidelines is provided to address major issues that affect most natural history collections. The issues addressed in this contribution include ethics, documentation, acquisition, preventive conservation, access, loans, sampling, treatment, pest control, health and safety, emergency preparedness, and deaccessioning.

SANDBLASTED PLASTIC BOXES FOR PROCESSING SPECIMENS IN DERMISTID COLONIES

Frederick J. Jannett, Jr. and John G. Davies.

(no abstract available)

Reviews

- Guidelines and standards for fossil vertebrate databases, by S. D. Blum
- Guide to the curation of archaeozoological collections, by E. Henry, ed.
- Controlled wildlife volume 1: federal permit procedures second edition, by Richard Littell