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The WWW

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Collections Managers on Line

<http://biology.unm.edu/~herb/about/cmo.htm>

This is a searchable database of world collections managers with addresses (including e-mail) and their specialisation.

Cornucopia

<http://www.cornucopia.org.uk/home.html>

Discovering UK Collections is a new project from the Museums and Galleries Commission. It will give a complete picture of the wealth of UK museum collections through a comprehensive database available on this website.

This pilot website provides information on the 50 museums in England with Designated collections. Designation celebrates pre-eminent museum collections outside the National Museums and now covers a wide-ranging group of outstanding collections in museums throughout England. The importance of Designated collections has been recognised by Government with a £15m Challenge Fund over the next three years.

FENSCORE: The Federation for Natural Sciences Collections Research
<http://fenscore.man.ac.uk/>

The Federation for Natural Sciences Collections Research is an *ad hoc* body set up in 1980 to co-ordinate the activities of regional groups of curators in the UK who then were beginning to survey natural science collections [Botany, Geology, Zoology] in their areas. After nearly two decades a great deal of information has been gathered and published, and this Website has been set up to provide both a searchable national database of collection information, and to provide current and archive information about collections research in the British Isles.

Geological Curators Group

<http://www.man.ac.uk/Geology/geocurgp/gcghome.html>

Includes links to museums with geological collections, information on the society, and a calendar of relevant events.

The Museums Association

<http://www.museumsassociation.org/>

A resource for people working in museums, including lists of suppliers in a searchable database format.

The Museum Professional

<http://www.sirius.com/~robinson/musprof.html>

This site was designed as a navigation tool for museum professionals and anyone interested in museums. It was created by Harold Robinson at the John F. Kennedy University Department of Museum Studies in Orinda, California, as part of a master's project on museums and the Internet. This home page is a basic starting point for the many listings and resources available online in the area of museums

NHCOLL-L.

<http://www.peabody.yale.edu/other/nhcoll/>

The Natural History Collections List server, or NHCOLL-L, is a general purpose electronic forum for those with an interest in the care, management, computerization, conservation and use of natural history collections. NHCOLL-L is co-sponsored by the Association for Systematic Collections (ASC) and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC). The NHCOLL-L FAQ Sheet contains comprehensive information not covered on this web page.

The University of New Mexico Herbarium Links Page
<http://biology.unm.edu/~herb/herblink.htm#Section3>

The Internet Directory for Botany maintains a list of herbaria, botanical museums and natural history museums listed by country or just those in the USA in alphabetic order.

Directories of Collection Managers, Herbaria and Plant Taxonomists. Herbaria Online, is a searchable database.



Book Announcement

Nurturing Conservators: The Early Careers Paths of Conservation Graduates

N. Jagger & J. Aston

Report 362, January 2000, 1-85184-291-8, pp. xii+72 £17.50

The increasing levels of self employment amongst conservators is changing the skills and attributes required for professional development. Internships provided an important head-start for conservators' careers, with the acquisition of valuable hands-on experience as well as a range of useful contacts and the imprimatur of the host institution. Despite relatively low wages and great career uncertainty there is a striking commitment amongst these graduates to conserving the nation's heritage. This report presents the results of a comprehensive study undertaken for the Museums & Galleries Commission.

The report may be purchased from Grantham Book Services Ltd, Isaac Newton Way, Alma Park Industrial Estate, Grantham NG31 9SD. Tel. 01476 541080, Fax 01476 541061.

Website: <http://www.employment-studies.co.uk/pubs/362.html>

Anoxic Environments, Oxygen Scavengers and Barrier Films

29th – 30th November 1999 at the Museum of Welsh Life.

Julian Carter, National Museum and Galleries of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NP

This two-day conference was hosted by the National Museum and Galleries of Wales in co-operation with the Geological Conservation Unit Cambridge, the British Library and Conservation by Design. The conference explored the developing field of using inert atmospheres to aid in pest control and artefact conservation, with talks covering both theory and practise.

The conference was given a good start by Dr Ian Fallis (Cardiff University) who gave an excellent talk covering the chemical principles of oxidation. David Howell (Textile Conservation Scientist) further illustrated the effects of oxidation and light on textile pigments, and David Pinniger (Consultant Entomologist) spoke about the potential uses of anoxia in insect control. The conference then went on to explore some of the practical elements in setting up anoxic systems such as nitrogen generators; oxygen scavengers; types of barrier film available; and the types of oxygen analysers that are available.

On the second day of the conference talks and demonstrations were held by a number of companies and museum conservators on projects using anoxic atmospheres. This included the use of the Rentokil Bubble, the anoxic/heat system of Thermo Lignum and the Archipress system marketed by Conservation by Design. Conservator based projects included storing pyritised fossils, colour photographs and papyrus scroll fragments. In addition, a talk on the use of inert atmospheres in fire control was presented by Alan Elder (ADT Fire and Safety) who covered the use of a developed gas called Inergen to replace the Halon based fire systems.

Dr Brian Davies (Consultant Chemist) gave one of the last talks of the conference. This was an excellent presentation that covered the role of