Using Herbarium Specimen Transcription as Workforce Re-entry Training

Barbara M. Thiers
William and Lynda Herbarium
The New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden Herbarium

- 7.8 million specimens of plants and fungi
- Worldwide, with emphasis on the Americas
- Avg. 50,000 new accessions annually
- Avg. 20,000 specimens sent on loan/year
- Avg. 2000 days worth of scientific visitors/year
- Digitizing on average 400,000 specimens/year







Digitization of Caribbean Plant Specimens











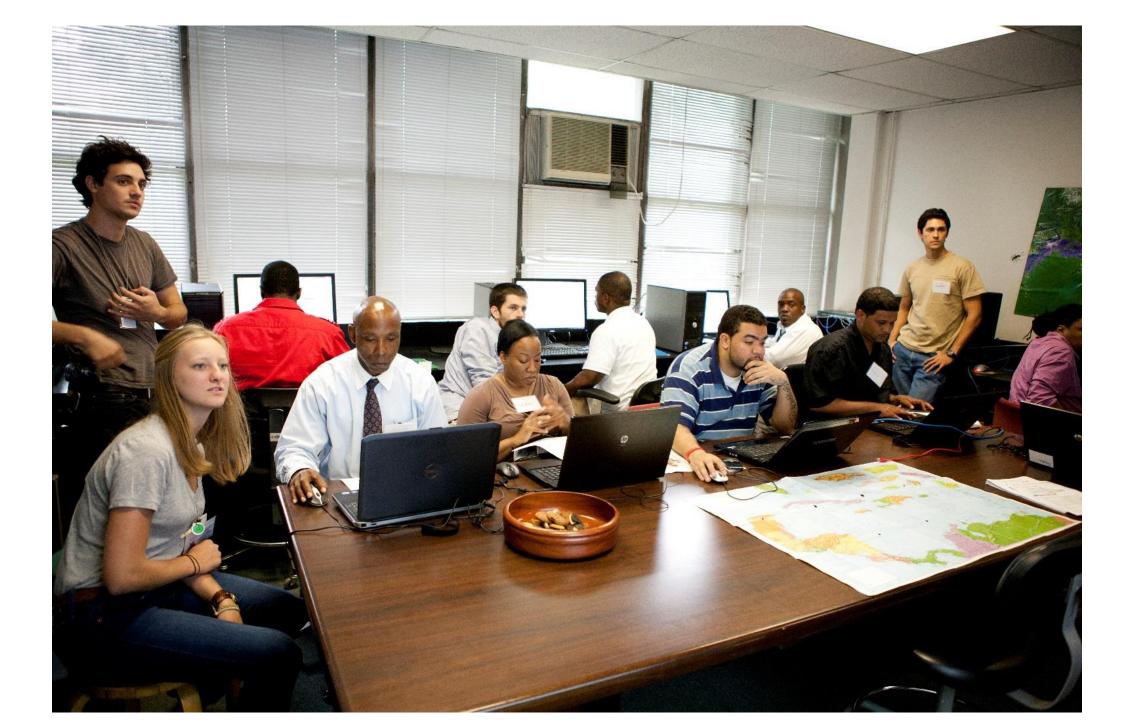


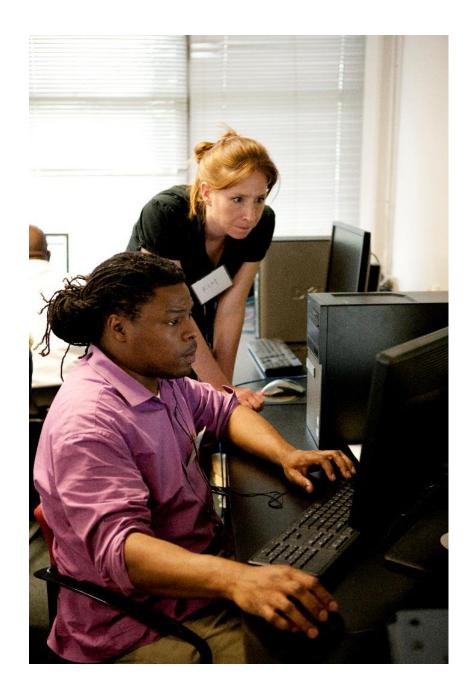
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TRANSFORMING LIVES, COMMUNITIES, AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM















Decipher our collections, discover hidden archives and contribute to knowledge

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Treasures of the New York Botanical Garden He...

Specimens | The New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden is digitizing all of specimens of oak, beech and chest...

Validated

100% Transcribed 2028 Tasks



Operation RED List: Plants of the Caribbean

Specimens New York Botanical Garden - William & Lynda Ste...

What do the Red Panda, the Mangrove Hummingbird, and the Wild Almond have in common?...

Validated

100% Transcribed 3559 Tasks



Nick North

Transcribed 4 items from the Flora of Bhutan - Kew specimens











Join expedition »



Silvia Montesinos

Transcribed 2 items from the Flora of Bhutan - Kew specimens





Join expedition »



Silvia Delitala

Transcribed 16 items from the Flora of Bhutan - Kew specimens













Skip Create Forum Topic View Tutorial



Catalogue No.: E00691749 ? Taxa: Cyperus laevigatus L. 1. Museum details Shrink ? Genus ? Species ? Species Author ? Infraspecific Rank ? Infraspecific Epithet ? Infraspecific Author

Collector(s)
Collected with
Collection Number
Collection Date
Date as given
Cultivated

(to)

				?	3. Location details Country	
					Country as given	
				5	State/Province/Territory	
					Locality	
				?		
				7		
n)	DD	MM	Year	(2)		
	DD	MM	Year		Verbatim Latitude	
	l/e	40.005	51 - 51	?		
				?	Verbatim Longitude	





Lessons Learned

- Learning correct keyboarding skills is a useful outcome of herbarium specimen transcription
- Focus on data elements that are the easiest to interpret, e.g., location, date, collector name, but recognize that even these will present challenges, especially for older specimens with handwritten lables
- Try to have one assistant for every 2-3 transcribers they will need quite a lot of help
- Just as with any transcription project, there are a few people who do the bulk of the work
- Be mindful of concerns about the presence of ex-offenders on your site.
- If the initial session is successful, try to follow up as quickly as possible with a plan for future events.
- Timing is everything!