

Small Collections Network
Saving Orphan Collections Webinar
Paul Valentich-Scott
19 February 2015
Chat box entries

Elizabeth Wommack:How do you deal with permit transfers for orphaned collections?

Ron:Sounds like I should start shopping around for an eventual home for my collection?

Molly Phillips:Do you keep a list of alternative homes for orphaned collections? I think it would be useful to make a list for collection managers to refer to when they get requests that they do not want due to data issues.

Andy Bentley:One of the things that has always occurred to me is whether we should not have a more collective community approach solution to orphan collections? Do we always know that the institution that takes on such a collection is the best fitted to be taking that collection.? Should we not have a communitiy "swap shop" kind of experience to try and find the best suited institution - taking such factors as resources, space, taxonomic scope etc. into consideration?

Lisa Zander:Working on getting bird permits now after a transfer without any documentation, US Fish and Wildlife have been understanding and helpful.

Andy Bentley:For instance, should SPNHC be taking a more leading role in this kind of thing?

Elizabeth Wommack:Lisa - does that also handle eagles?

Molly Phillips:We have gifted material to local artists as well.

Emily Smith:We recently acquired a small bird collection from the daughter of NG illustrator Walter Weber. The permits had not been renewed in some time since Weber died in 1979. We made an inventory of the birds and submitted this provisional list to the DGIF (Virginia) prior to acquiring. The birds were formally added when we renewed our permit this January.

Andy Bentley:Also, here at KU we have a formal gift and orphan collection acquisition policy. I would be happy to share these documents if anyone would be interested.

Nick VanAcker:What's your policy on compensating collectors? Like say, if an individual had a collection of huge scientific merit, data included, but they insisted on being paid for it, as opposed to donation?

Erica Clites:Andy, that sounds great, could those be posted on iDigBio somewhere?

Lisa Zander:Emily: Eagles are another matter, I did not receive any.

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/baldeagle.htm>

Emily Smith:Do you ever recommend appraisers for a collection if a donor wants a tax credit?

Laura Abraczinskas:Hi Elizabeth and Lisa, we (MSU Museum) received a large transfer of birds from the MSU Kellogg Bird Sanctuary. As with Lisa, USFWS permits staff were very helpful. They also assisted with the transfer of an eagle and new permits for that.

Andy Bentley:Our policy contains a formal mechanism for assessing bothe the worth of the collection and costs associated with subsuming it. We then puit together an ad hod committee that looks at all the materials and makes am formal recommendation to the director as to whether the museum should accept it.

Molly Phillips:During the cataloging process I assume you assign a new catalog number. Do you keep the old institution's catalog numbers in your database? If so, which field do you store that information in?

Elizabeth Wommack:Molly - ARCTOS can handle the old catalog number. I think it is important to keep the old number in case they have old referrals to the collection in papers and research

Lisa Zander:The Darwin Core field is otherCatalogNumbers.

Andy Bentley:Molly, yes, we keep all old numbers for numerous reasons (material may have been published on under old number etc.). In Specify we use the Alternate catalog number field on the collection object form

Jamie Smith, NCSM:We do too. We record all previous numbers. It helps with documentation in papers. We also record all field numbers.

Andy Bentley:I do know however that entomology collections do not. They keep the old number. The question I always have about this is how they know that specimen is theirs if it goes out on loan

Robin Delapena:In KE EMu there's a field called Lot Other Number. We definitely record previous owners numbers.

Andy Bentley:Our ento folks say that it is too onerous for them to assign new numbers to ALL the material they get gifted so they just keep the old number

Andy Bentley:Yes, just the sheer scale of what they have to deal with

Andy Bentley:BUT, when you loan the specimen out and the researcher only gets to sending that specimen back 10 years later, how do they remember to send it back to KU and not the original institution? I would argue that there is huge value to assigning unique numbers to that material that identifies it as yours. GUIDS can always be used to then keep these in sync

Heather Hendrickson-Bell Museum:The University of Minnesota Insect Collection keeps the old numbers and assigns a new one. I believe this is true of a number of other insect collections, as well (Ohio State). UMN assigns a new number which is added to the pin.

Ron:How do I find potential recipients for future donation?

Gil Nelson:scnet.acis.ufl.edu

Ron:No - I am donating

Ron:Sounds like I need to find the right place

Andy Bentley:Thatnks Paul

Laura Abraczinskas:Thank you very much Paul

Emily Smith:Thank you!

Parvaneh A.:Thank you!

Laura Vietti: Wyoming Vert Paleo Collecitons:Thank you!

Jamie Smith, NCSM:Thank you

Meredith Mahoney:thank you, very interesting!

Nick VanAcker:Thanks so much Paul! Great talk!

Erica Clites:Thanks, Paul!

Heather Hendrickson-Bell Museum:Thumbs up!)

Molly Phillips:Thank you Paul!

Amy Henrici:Thanks Paul!

Ron:Really good topic for me. Thanks

Paul VS:See you all soon. Come visit us in Santa Barbara

Jamie Smith, NCSM:Ron, a lot of museum etc will give tours so that you are comfortable with a collections new home....we do

Mary Beth:Thanks, Paul!

Lisa Zander:thanks!