MID-ATLANTIC MEGALOPOLIS

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Howard University

Year 5

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MID-ATLANTIC MEGALOPOLIS PROJECT
Achieving a greater scientific understanding of our urban areas, one plant specimen at a time.
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13 institutions, > 1.2 million specimens

Achieving a greater scientific understanding of our urban areas, one plant specimen at a time.
SHORT TERM GOALS

1) Provide a network/resource for herbarium work and the continuation of digitization efforts at all our collaborating institutions

2) Provide the training and imaging equipment needed to help new herbaria in the Mid-Atlantic digitize their collections and join the Consortium.

LONG TERM GOAL

Our long-term goal is to have all herbaria of the Mid-Atlantic fully digitized and in the portal, accessible to researchers and the public.
• Howard University is an HBCU in Washington, DC
• Digitization of Howard University herbarium (HUDC) began in spring 2017 and will be completed in August 2019.
• We imaged every specimen, and sorted post-imaging to complete the digitization process

**Student Training and Outreach**

• 2 graduate students and 10 undergraduate students were trained in the specimen digitization process
• Further outreach completed with Instagram and YouTube training videos
• More than 150 undergraduate students participated in specimen transcription through crowdsourcing events
• **Trust the students!** Overall, transcription from crowdsourcing events was high quality. Many errors consistent, and easy to correct through batch edits.

• Most specimens were able to be georeferenced to county

• Students like handling the physical specimens instead of only working with virtual records

• Digitization provides the opportunity to update and repair, identify damaged specimens

• Small herbaria can provide intensive sampling of local floral areas localities not found in larger herbaria (e.g., H. David Hammond- Wheaton Regional Park in Wheaton, MD)

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Howard University undergraduate students transcribing specimens at a crowdsourcing event on campus.

Thank you!

... Questions?

Email midatlanticherbaria@gmail.com