Pre-digitisation curation:
Getting collections ready for digitisation - Insects

Biological Collections Digitisation in the Pacific, Symposium II: March 2014

Nicole Fisher
Section 1:

Introduction:

Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC)
Section 1: Introduction

Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC)

• ANIC is the world's largest collection of Australian insects and related groups (mites, spiders, earthworms, nematodes & centipedes).

• A research collection, not a museum!

• 12 million insect specimens! .... and grows at a rate of 100,000 per year
Section 1: Introduction

Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC)

~ 2,000 cabinets
(10 drawers per cabinets)
= 20,000 drawers
Section 2:

Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation
Section 2: Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

- **Accepting & accessioning material**
  - Data entry at time of field collecting
  - Providing standard label templates/formats for incoming material
  - Standard storage: vials, drawers, unit trays
  - Can databasing happen before material is lodged at a museum?

- **Workflow**
  - How will you manage drawer images which are out-of-date once curation occurs?
  - Maintain list of drawers that have ‘changed’ due to sorting, curation, changes to agreed taxonomy etc.
  - Barcodes / QR codes on unit trays, drawers, specimens to link images with metadata?

- **Metadata capture and handling**
  - Linking images with specimens: filenames, GUID, location code ...
  - Interacting with & annotating images
  - Extra labelling
Section 2: Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

Imaging single pinned specimen

✓ attach labels to indicate an image has been captured
Section 2: Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

Creating more space in collection drawers for labels

- attachment of database labels
- attachment of QR codes
Section 2: Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

Filename of the image?

- will the filename be the database number?
- if so, does time need to be spent databasing before imaging?
Section 2: Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

Labelling for when specimens are not present
Section 2: Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

Duplication of drawer and unit tray labels (dependent on imaging systems)

✓ can all labels be seen in the final image (header labels of unit trays)
Section 2: Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

Duplication of drawer and unit tray labels
(dependent on imaging systems)

✓ can all labels be seen in the final image (header labels of unit trays)
Section 2: Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

Labelling of cabinets, compactus, rows etc

✓ Number cabinets?
✓ Label cabinets with their digitisation status?
Section 2: Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

Labelling of drawers

- Does the drawer need labeling before removing from the collection?
- Location code for the drawer = filename of the image
- Human readable or machine readable label?

A08_0175_05

A08_0175_06
Section 2: Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

**Colour control sample** – where to place it?
Do you need to make space for it in the drawer?
Section 2: Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

Any further advertising?

- Endowment/donation funds
- Public engagement
- Outreach/education programs

NCSU drawer with further information captured in the unit tray when imaging a drawer.
Mahalo

Thank you

Australian National Insect Collection
Nicole Fisher

t  +61 2 6246 4261
e  nicole.fisher@csiro.au
w  www.csiro.au/anic