

Processing archives from research field stations: cataloging material and digitizing data for integration and visualization with other biotic collection data

Natural History Collections Documents Workshop

August 2, 2016

What do we do?

- Appraisal
- Accession
- Processing
 - Survey
 - Arrange
 - Describe/Catalog
 - Preserve
- Discovery/Delivery



Current Archival Holdings

- Field notes
 - Bound (700 volumes)
 - Unbound (200 volumes)
- Personal papers (500 collections)
- Correspondence (2000 folders)
- Annotated maps (200 each)
- Archived images (15000 prints)
- Reprints (5000 publications)



MVZ Reprint Collection

Joseph Grinnell's Vision



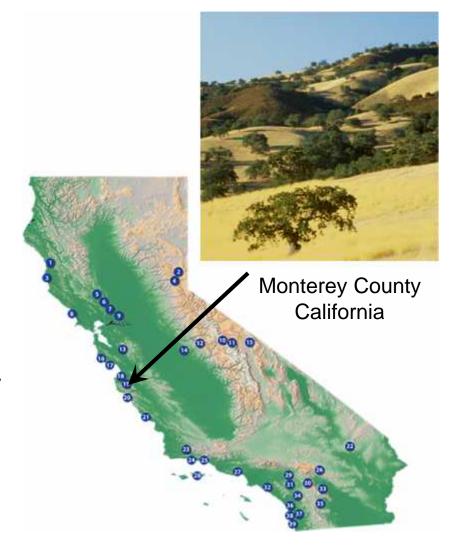


"At this point I wish to emphasize what I believe will ultimately prove to be the greatest value of our museum. This value will not, however, be realized until the lapse of many years, possibly a century, assuming that our materials are safely preserved. And this is that the student of future will have access to the original record of faunal conditions in California and the west, wherever we now work"

- Joseph Grinnell, 1910

Hastings Natural History Reservation

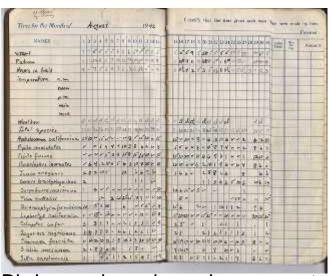
- 1939 UC Regents vote to establish Hastings Natural History Reservation (2 weeks after Joseph Grinnell's death)
- Over 30 long-term ecological data sets have been compiled on plants and animals
- Roughly 50 ongoing research projects ranging from zoology to physics



Archives at Hastings



The "Museum"



Bird records and species accounts 1937 - present



Environmental Problems

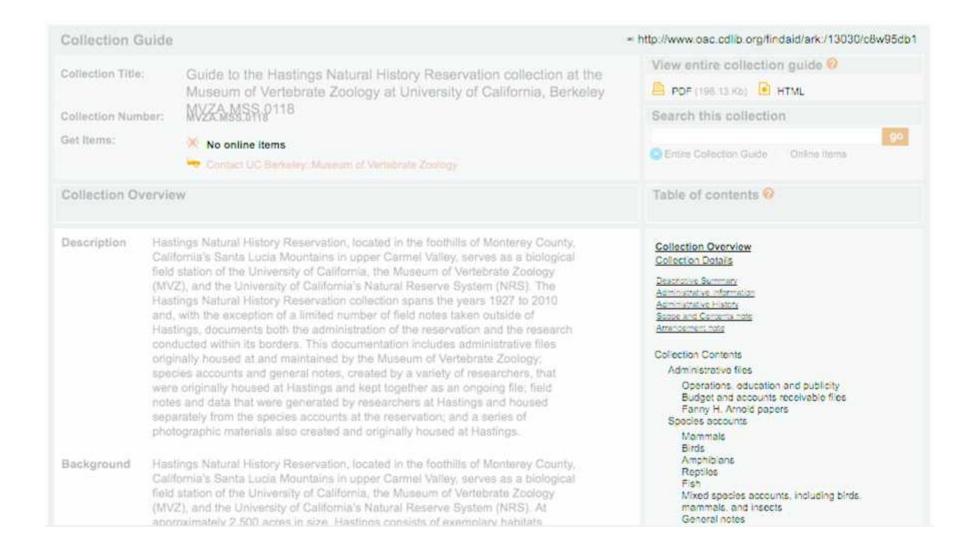


Unprocessed Archives

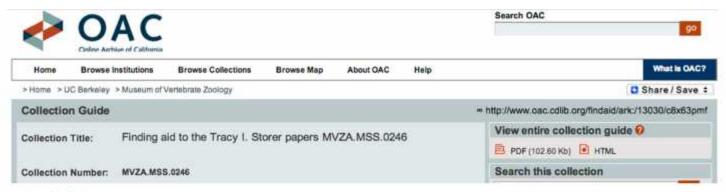


Processed Archives

Finding Aid



Finding Aid

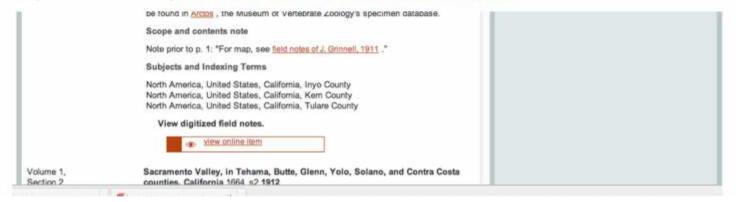


Related materials

Specimens collected in this section include accession #293. These specimens can be found in Arctos, the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology's specimen database.

Scope and contents note

Note prior to p. 1: "For map, see field notes of J. Grinnell, 1911 ."



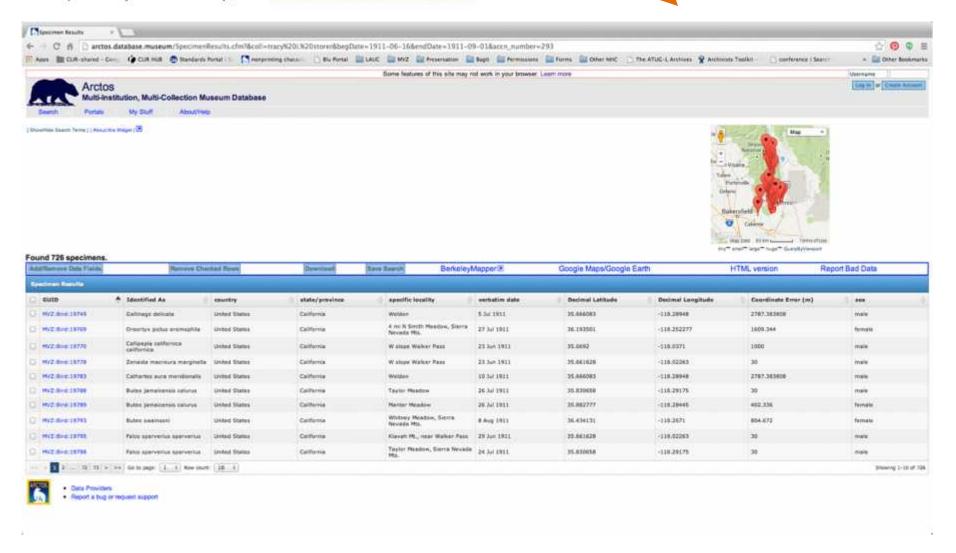
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Takes users directly to specimen records in Arctos



Preservation Challenges

- Avg life span of acid free paper: 500 years
- Avg life span of printed photograph: 200 years?
- Average lifespan of digital media: ???



Lantern slides (rehoused)



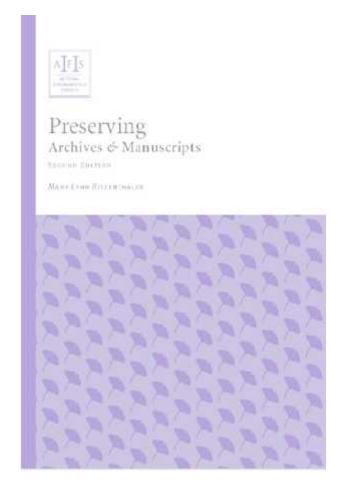


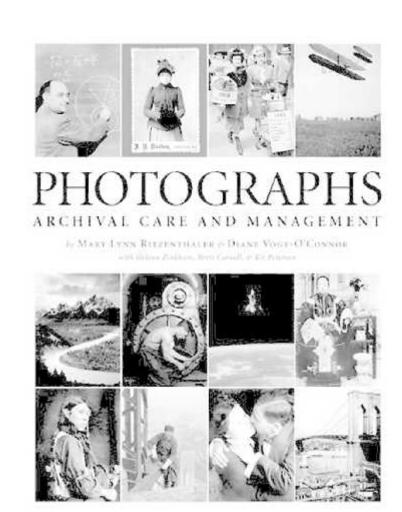
Acetate negative (vinegar syndrome)



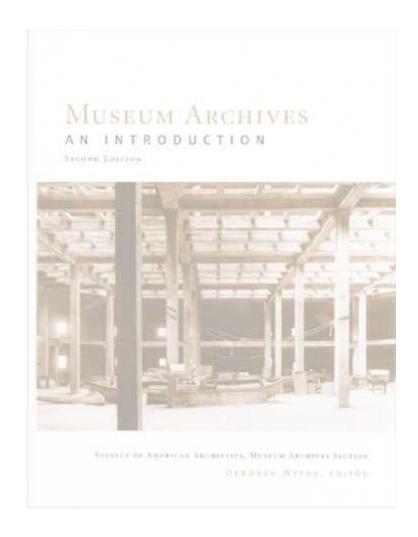
Acidic paper

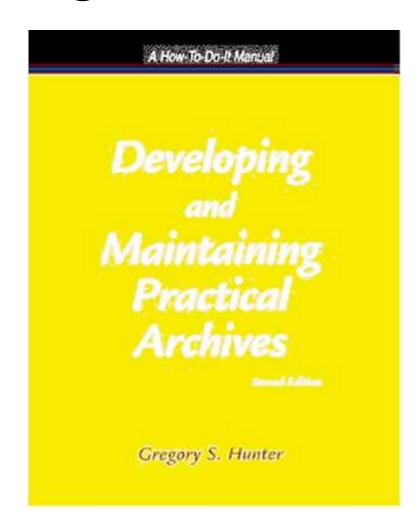
Preservation resources





Archives management





Western Archives Institute

CLIR grants to MVZ Archives

2012-2015 Hidden Collections 2016-2018 Digitizing Archives





Rescuing and Integrating Biological and Environmental Data in the Face of Global Change

100+ years of data collection

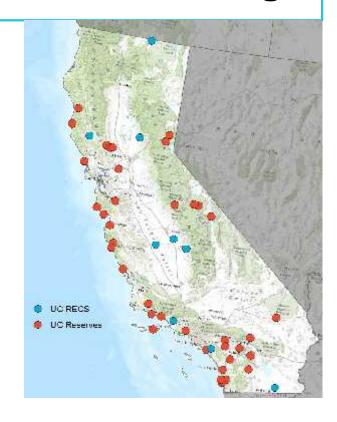
oField notes

OSpecies lists

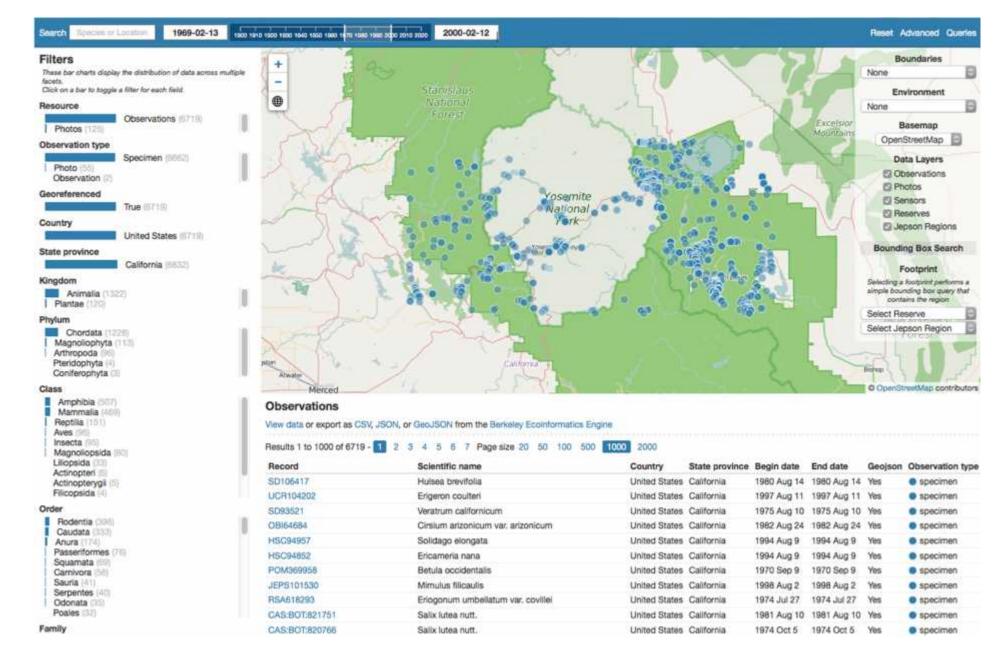
OPhotos

Climate Sensor Arrays

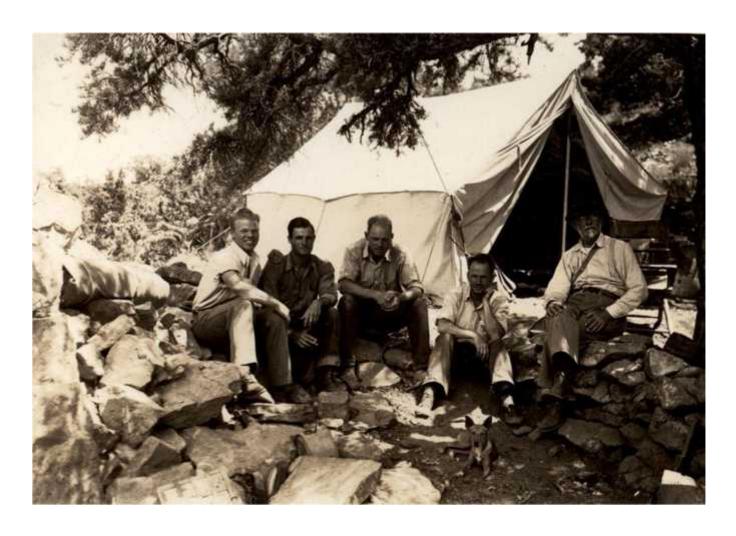
Experimental Data







Questions?



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