Non-molluscan Invertebrates Collection

@ North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (NCMNS/NCSM)
Curator: Dr. Bronwyn W. Williams (@BWWilliamsLab)
Collections Manager: Megan I. McCuller (@mccullermi)
NCMNS

Organization
• ~1 million annual on-site visitation
• ~$17M annual operating budget
• ~150 FTEs
• >80,000 hours of volunteer service annually

Research & Collections Section
• 15 units
• 11 separate “Research Collections”, housing (collectively) >4 million specimens
• 10 collections-based Research Curators
• 8 Collections Managers
Non-molluscan Invertebrates (NMI) Unit & Collection

• Prev. “Crustacean” collection → NMI

• Non-marine Holdings
  • >30,000 lots
  • FW: crayfish, branchiobdellidans, entocytherid ostracods (significant)
  • Terrestrial: millipedes & centipedes (significant, international)

• Marine Holdings
  • ~10,000-11,000 lots
  • Largely decapod crustaceans
  • Mostly acquisition of historical collections with a geographic focus on the mid-Atlantic
    • Charleston Museum (1855-late 1980s)
    • Duke Marine Lab (mostly ‘60s-’80s)
    • University of North Carolina Institute of Marine Sciences (‘30s-’90s)
Digitization efforts

• Currently IMLS funds to digitize historical marine collections
  • Pays salary of FT tech, 100% databasing; 3 PT interns, outreach and imaging

• Next up:
  • Chelicerates
  • Associates

• Challenges
  • Time!!! Historical collections in various states and with diff. amounts of data
  • As new(ish) collections manager, learning curve
  • Funding
  • SPACE

• Where we would like to be:
  • Completely databased
  • Imaging for better outreach, interactive models (digital 3d & physical prints)