

General Memorandum of Understanding

BETWEEN

THE NATURAL SCIENCES COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATION,

THE GEOLOGICAL CURATORS' GROUP

AND

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

The Natural Science Collections Association (hereafter referred to as NatSCA), The Geological Curators' Group (hereafter referred to as GCG) and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (hereafter referred to as SPNHC) have reached an agreement on the following points in order to increase and improve collaboration in areas of common interest.

WHEREAS

- The aims and missions of NatSCA, GCG and of SPNHC (hereafter referred to as The Parties) are both complementary and overlapping.
- The Parties wish to recognize and benefit from the professional contribution made to their shared goals by the members and representatives of each Party.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED THAT THE PARTIES SHALL

1. Establish on their respective Committees (NatSCA and GCG) and Council (SPNHC) an ex-officio member position for the President (or appointed representative) of the other Party. This non-voting member will make all reasonable efforts to attend meetings and conference calls as would any voting member of the Board or Council, receive correspondence and serve as liaison between their organization and the other Parties.
2. Collaborate to establish a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide guidance and directions for productive collaborative/joint NatSCA-GCG-SPNHC Conferences.
3. Actively seek opportunities to cooperate and, when considered appropriate by all Parties, initiate and implement joint action, including - but not limited to - issuing joint statements regarding issues of concern in areas of common interest and value.
4. Draw on mutual synergies and complementarities, through the exchange of information and the implementation of strategies, projects and activities jointly elaborated and undertaken pursuant to this MoU, with progress being reviewed through regular contacts between the Presidents (or appointed representatives) of the Parties.

Limitations

The Parties will seek the approval of their respective governing bodies, as appropriate and as mandated by their respective Bylaws, in implementing the cooperation foreseen under the present MoU.

Fulfillment of the Parties' obligations under the present MoU shall at all times be subject to the terms of their respective Bylaws and the extent of the financial resources available to each Party.

Collaborative projects arising from the current MoU will be governed by separate detailed agreements between the Parties. Such agreements will include - but will not be limited to - financial arrangements associated with the collaborative projects.

Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as creating an exclusive relationship between the Parties. Each Party shall be free to enter into other agreements with other organizations.

Each Party's obligations under the present MoU shall be subject to: a) the application of its respective rules and policies and b) the availability of the appropriate financial resources.

Neither party shall use the name and /or logo of the other Party without prior written permission. Under no circumstances should any Party use the name and/or logo of any other Party in a way that implies that they are part of the other Party or under its patronage or affiliation.

The present MoU may be amended, at any time, upon formal written request by one Party and written agreement of the other Parties.

Duration and Termination

The present MoU shall take effect upon its signature by the Parties and shall extend through alternating representatives. It can be extended or amended.

Any Party may terminate the present MoU by giving 60 days written notice to the other Parties or by mutual consent of all Parties.

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of the MoU will be settled through discussion between the Parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding signifies a statement of intent to collaborate, but it is not a legally binding document.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below on the two original copies in English.

Signed on the 26th of June 2014

Clare Brown
Chair of NatSCA

Chris Norris
President of SPNHC

Dr C. Giles Miller
Chairman of GCG