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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Report on the Fifth Meeting of FENSCORE, the Federation for Natural Sciences Research

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Source: Pettitt, C. (1982). Report on the Fifth Meeting of FENSCORE, the Federation for Natural Sciences Research. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter*, Vol 3 No 4, 183.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1426>

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Report on the Fifth Meeting of FENSCORE, the Federation for
Natural Sciences Research.

FENSCORE Committee met on 17th July 1982 at Manchester
University.

The Secretary reported that information exchange was
in progress between the FENSCORE database and the authors
revising the BSBI volume on British Herbaria.

At the beginning of July the collection Register
database contained 5731 records, made up of contributions
from Midlands CRU (663), North East CRU (64), North West
CRU (1247), South East CRU (266), South West CRU (1388),
Scottish CRU (91) and Yorks and Humberside CRU (1987) -
about 2000 more records are currently being processed.
Some records in the database were considered to be too
detailed, and a degree of data compression is to be
exercised on these records. It was agreed the aim of the
FENSCORE database is to provide only a signposting service
which will permit researchers to establish the location of
aggregations of material possibly of interest to them, but
expecting them to contact the holding institution(s) so
identified for more detailed information. For economy of
resources and efficiency in use the information about
material held by an institution should be compressed into
the minimum convenient number of records concomittant with
the inclusion of all the primary level information
necessary to permit retrieval by any of the primary routes,
i.e. name of collector, geographic origin, taxonomic
classification or geological era.

The reports from each of the CRU's indicated a
generally high level of activity. The South West CRU are
exploring the establishment of a detailed regional
collections database at Bristol Museum, from which the
summary records would be sent to Manchester. The Yorks and
Humberside CRU have almost completed the main input and are
planning to produce a Register of Collections for their
region in 1983. The Council for Museums in Scotland had
obtained a grant of £15,000 from the Wolfson Trust to
assist the work of the Scottish CRU for two years. The
Midlands CRU have already recorded many more 'living'
private collectors than any other CRU, and documents
outlining their approach have been distributed to the other
CRU's.

The second report of the FENSCORE working party on a
Provisional Register of Type and Figured Specimens present
in collections in the British Isles was discussed and
confirmed. The pilot study made by the North West CRU,
covering a total of 1358 specimens from eight NW
institutions, has shown that the compilation of a Register
is feasible. The data gathering will be done on a regional
basis via the established CRU network, and the Working
Party is to re-convene to prepare a programme for
implementing their proposals.

The next meeting of FENSCORE will be on 11th Nov. 1982
at Manchester University.

Charles Pettitt,
Secretary.