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Jerwood/MGC Cataloguing Grants

In the final round of the Jerwood/MGC Cataloguing scheme, which aims to support the researching and cataloguing of collections in the UK's non-national Museums, grants have been awarded to the following:

- Perth Museum and Art Gallery** £9,900
To research the Perthshire herbarium and produce a website with a searchable database and virtual exhibition on the history of the herbarium and local flora.
- Buckinghamshire County Museum** £9,400
To create a catalogue and image database of the most significant elements of the museum's collection of Ice Age fossil mammal bones, from Pitstone-Marsworth chalk quarry site.
- Oxford University Museum of Natural History** £9,400
To research, photograph and produce an illustrated catalogue of the Corsi Collection of marbles, granites and other decorative rocks and minerals.

The WWW

For those of us fortunate enough (or not as the case may be) to have internet access, a small section of the Newsletter is to be dedicated to those websites that members have found useful in their quest for knowledge. Here are two for starters. Please let the Editor know of any other sites you consider worth mentioning.

The Museum and Galleries Commission

Includes items of MGC news, grants, a bookshop and a useful free download advice sheets on museum issues and conservation.
<http://www.museums.gov.uk>

Museums of the World

This page includes an eclectic collection of World Wide Web services connected with museums around the world.
<http://archive.comlab.ox.ac.uk/other/museums/world.html#museums>

Oxford University Museum of Natural History and Designation Challenge

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In July 1999 Chris Smith, the Minister for Culture announced a £2.7m boost for 49 of England's best museum and gallery collections. The grants – the first part of a £15m museums fund for the best regional collections would be made available to museums and galleries, designated by the Government for their outstanding collections. One of the projects approved for funding was submitted by the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

The aim of the project is to increase access to the collections through a documentation programme meeting SPECTRUM (The UK Museum Documentation Standard). Increased access will be achieved by conversion of the existing catalogues to electronic format and publication in searchable format. The grant will also provide funds for the electronic publication of a photo-library of key specimens that will be integrated with, and accessible via, electronic catalogues. Primary cataloguing of newly acquired collections and direct integrated with published electronic databases is also planned.

To achieve the project targets the Museum will be appointing both full and part time staff over the two and a half year duration of the funding. The staff will be employed not only to computerize the catalogues and generate the photo-library but to also release existing staff from their technical duties to carry out the necessary research on collections and databases prior to electronic publication.

The Museum has received a grant of £32,000 for the first 6 months of the project. Further funding of £230,000 will be released upon completion of initial targets.