



<http://www.natsca.org>

Biology Curators Group

Title: Collections Research: Can you Help?

Author(s): Pettitt, C.

Source: Pettitt, C. (1981). Collections Research: Can you Help?. *Biology Curators Group*, Vol 2 No 10, 487.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1636>

NatSCA supports open access publication as part of its mission is to promote and support natural science collections. NatSCA uses the Creative Commons Attribution License (CCAL) <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/> for all works we publish. Under CCAL authors retain ownership of the copyright for their article, but authors allow anyone to download, reuse, reprint, modify, distribute, and/or copy articles in NatSCA publications, so long as the original authors and source are cited.

Collections Research: Can you help?

A large number of museum curators with responsibility for natural sciences collections have been collaborating as a team to record the existence (or known fate if lost) of all collections of natural science specimens in the British Isles. Recently the Federation for Natural Sciences Collection Research (FENSCORE) was formed, with representatives from many major provincial museums and from all the relevant national museums. The information being gleaned about collections is fed through FENSCORE into the national database being compiled by the Manchester Museum Computer Cataloguing Unit on the Manchester University computer.

The primary purpose of the database is to provide researchers with a means of rapidly locating collections containing material of relevance to their studies. For example, details can readily be retrieved of the collections known to:

- 1) Contain material of a given group
- 2) Be associated with a particular person or expedition
- 3) Be gathered from a particular area of the world

Until recently the curators involved have been concentrating on collections held in provincial museums and kindred institutions, but now wish to expand the scope of the Register to include details of collections outside museums, such as those in private hands or in the teaching departments of educational establishments.

If you own, or are in charge of, botanical, geological and/or zoological collections, and you think its existence should be recorded in the Register, then please get in touch with Mr. Pettitt at the address given below; note that arrangements can be made to keep the precise location of valuable collections confidential.

You will be sent the necessary forms and instructions, together with the name and address of the nearest involved curator, to whom the completed forms should be returned, and who will be able to answer any queries you may have.

The work of compiling the Register is unfunded, so it would be appreciated if you could include a stamped, addressed envelope (at least 9" x 3½") with your letter.

Charles Pettitt
Computer Cataloguing Unit,
Manchester Museum,
Oxford Road,
Manchester M13 9PL.