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Report on proposed pilot study for a national Register of Type and Figured Material: extracted from the unconfirmed minutes of the NWCRU meeting held on 11 November at Merseyside County Museums.

Eric Greenwood, Chairman of the FENSCORE working party on a type register, first took members through the report of that working party (previously circulated). A further point that had emerged since that report was that we should add a suprafamilial tag to every record to permit the register to be divided easily into sections for convenient use.

There followed a long and thoughtful debate on the necessity and utility of the register. Two suggestions were made for referral to FENSCORE a) that the provisional nature of the list should be stressed at every opportunity, and that the term be included in the title of the register, and b) that thought should be given to forming a permanent record of the type material, e.g. for botanical types as microfiche photos; it was accepted that this could form a separate but parallel project, possibly organised by groups of specialists in each phyla using the data gleaned from the register to guide them.

At the end of the debate a show of hands indicated all but one of the members present agreed that the register was a worthwhile and timely project, and that the NWCRU would make the pilot study as requested by FENSCORE.

Organisation of the pilot study: Manchester Museum and Merseyside County Museums are to provide 500 records each, taken from several taxonomic groups and presented in a variety of formats, as available. In addition records are to be requested from the following other museums in the region:

Bolton Museum

Altrincham (via Charles Pettitt)

Carlisle Museum

Clitheroe Museum (via Phil Philipps)

Kendal Museum (? Bryophytes)

Lancaster University (via Geoff Halliday)

Liverpool, School of Tropical Medicine (via Malcolm Largen)

Liverpool, University Zoology Dept. (via Ian Wallace)

Oldham (via Leonard Kidd)

Rochdale (via Fiona Mackenzie)

All records to be sent to John Gray, who would act as central collator. Dr. Gray will then pass all botanical records to John Edmondson and geological ones to Phil Philipps for "sifting"; Dr. Gray will "sift" the zoological records himself. The sifters will arrange on an ad hoc basis for any specialist refereeing required.

The timetable agreed is that all data should reach Dr. Gray by Christmas, be distributed to the sifters by the third week of January, with a report to be presented to a joint meeting of the NWCRU and the FENSCORE working party to be held at Merseyside County Museums on 17 March 1982.