

Systematics Collections Committee

Committee Members: S. T. Alvarez-Castaneda, G. Baumgardner, J. Bradley, R. D. Bradley, S. Burt, L. N. Carraway, J. R. Choate, C. Conroy, J. Cook, B. Coyner, C. W. Dick, R. C. Dowler, K. Doyle, J. Esselstyn, W. L. Gannon, M. S. Hafner, J. Hanson, F. Hoffmann, P. Holahan, T. Holmes, S. R. Hooper, C. A. Iudica, D. A. Kelt, E. A. Lacey, B. K. Lim, S. B. McLaren, N. D. Moncrief, L. Olson, E. A. Rickart, D. S. Rogers, W. T. Stanley (Chair), and P. M. Velazco.

Mission:

The Systematic Collections Committee advises curators worldwide in matters relating to collection administrations, curation, and accreditation, and maintains a directory of mammal collections. The Committee also surveys existing collections approximately once each decade and maintains a list of curatorial standards for managing a collection-accreditation program under the auspices of the Society.

Information Items:

(1) The Committee completed an initial update of the ASM's Directory of Existing Mammal Collections in the Western Hemisphere. The most recent publication of this directory was in 1992, and many aspects of this valuable information source are now out of date. The updated Directory is now available through the ASM website (as an Excel file on the SCC page), which renders this information simple to access. The information on many collections is still out of date, and the members of the SCC hope this file will inspire staff of those collections to supply updated information.

(2) The Collection of Mammals at the Illinois State University-Normal was inspected in May 2006 and awarded accreditation in January 2007.

(3) The Collection of Mammals housed at the University of Massachusetts Natural History Collections (UMA) was inspected in June 2006 and was awarded accreditation in July 2007.

(4) An accreditation review inspection of the Collection of Mammals at the Museum of Southwestern Biology is planned for June 2007 during the Annual Meeting of ASM.

(5) The Chair of the Systematic Collections Committee wrote a letter on behalf of the Committee to the National Park Service arguing that no action be taken to develop a Benefits-sharing program for material collected on land under NPS stewardship. This was in response to the Benefits-sharing Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) posted by NPS, and was deemed necessary because of the potential impact on systematic collections that house specimens collected on land under NPS stewardship.

Action Items: None

Respectfully submitted,
William Stanley, Chair
(bstanley@fieldmuseum.org)