

ACQUISITIONS STRATEGY (*Renewable Resources Natural History Collections*)

A. COLLECTIONS AND PROGRAMS

1. Describe the purpose of the Collection and why it is maintained by the unit

The Renewable Resources Natural History Collections are made up of two teaching collections: the Cy Hampson Collection (UACHC) and the Dendrology Collection. The Cy Hampson Collection contains bird and mammal skulls, skins and taxidermy mounts, as well as a smaller number of fish, amphibians and reptiles preserved in ethanol, as well as pinned insects and ethanol-preserved aquatic invertebrates. The late Dr. Cyril Hampson was a professor in the Faculty of Education, and his personal collection of birds and mammals was used there until coming to Renewable Resources, first as a loan and then as a permanent transfer. The Dendrology Collection contains herbarium specimens, wood samples, bark samples, and seed and cone samples. Of the above, only the vertebrate specimens are accessioned. All the other specimens are not accessioned as they are seen as replaceable, in keeping with the teaching function of the collection and the inevitable damage that inexperienced undergraduates perpetrate on such material. Loan or examination of specimens by researchers is very occasionally arranged, but demand for such use has been minimal. The collection also serves a minor outreach function, but does not serve as a repository for research voucher specimens, since these are typically deposited in the more research-oriented collections on campus (e.g. E. H. Strickland Entomology Museum, Zoology Museum, Herbarium).

2. Type of Material in Current Collection

Material	# of accessioned	# to be accessioned	# pending decision
Birds and mammal skulls	191	0	0
Birds and mammal skins	134	0	0
Birds and mammal taxidermy mounts	147	0	0
Fish and reptiles in ethanol	96	0	0
Total Accessioned vertebrate specimens	568	0	0



3. List the academic programs supported by the Collection

The Cy Hampson Collection is used to teach the lab component of Environmental and Conservation Science 201, "Wildlife Ecology and Biodiversity." This course has an annual enrollment of about 95 students, who fill five lab sections during the winter term. The Dendrology Collection is used to teach Renewable Resources 120, "Woody Plants 1." This course has an annual enrollment of about 40 students, who use the specimens in the course of two lab sections in the fall term (new samples are added annually to complement the collection for teaching purposes).

4. List community engagement programs/activities supported by the Collection

Some items from the Cy Hampson Collection have been used in support of U of A outreach programs such as Science Sunday, DiscoverE Science Camps, and open houses for recruiting new undergraduate students. Some of our bird specimens were recently incorporated into an exhibit at the Fine Arts Building Gallery, exploring the history of the feather trade in millinery. Since many of our bird taxidermy mounts are now in sealed display cases, they lend themselves well to use as props for outreach events. Tours are, on rare occasions, requested and granted. No long-term exhibits have been produced outside the teaching lab, which is in room GSB 769.

B. STRATEGY AND CRITERIA FOR NEW ACQUISITIONS

1. Identify the types of new acquisitions that are essential to support the current and proposed programs identified above

Both courses are functioning well with the existing collections, and thus no acquisitions are anticipated other than replacement of damaged insect, herbarium, and seed/cone/bark specimens.

2. List any existing collecting area that will no longer be supplemented

New acquisitions of accession-worthy specimens are not anticipated. We have little room for additional material, and no funds to purchase new material. Replaceable plant and insect specimens will be acquired on a continual basis year to year but will not be accessioned.

3. List any additional requirements unique to the Collection that would affect a decision to acquire

If particularly fine taxidermy material were offered as a donation, and we had room to house it, acquisition would be considered. However, since all of our bird and mammal specimens are very old (some almost 100 years now) they were prepared with arsenical soap, which also contains mercury. Containing these specimens safely has been a difficult priority for us, and we would be reluctant to add more such problematic material to our collections.

We borrow from Zoology and E.H Strickland museums to supplement the collection.



Approved by Unit/Department/Faculty

John Acorn
Designated Curator (Print Name)

[Signature]
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Victor Liffers
Chair/Dean/Director (Print Name)

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NOVEMBER 2011
Date Completed

Approved by Museums and Collections Services

[Signature]
Janine Andrews, Executive Director

DEC 15, 2011
Date

Approved by U of A Museums Policy and Planning Committee

Heather Packer
Chair, Policy and Planning Committee (Print Name)

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DECEMBER 8, 2011
Date of Committee Meeting

DECEMBER 2016
Date of Next Review

