



Resurrecting Orphaned Collections

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Some statistics

May of 1998

- 26,956 lots ledger catalogued
- None databased
- Some backlog

June of 2014

- 74,378 lots (906,811 specimens) databased
- Total holdings are approximately 115,000 lots (1.4 million specimens) = significant backlog
- 88,000+ lots acquired (including early backlog and recent acquisitions)

To accept or not accept?

Factors we consider:

- Benefits to our collection
- Space
- Financial responsibilities
- Staff
- Condition of orphaned collection
 - Specimens
 - Data

We have accepted it.....now what?

Workflow after initial packing and transport to NCSM:

- *Initial curating of specimens, including stabilizing in appropriate environment (e.g., fluid, acid-free container, cryogenic vial, etc.), procuring and permanently associating legacy data, and organized storage to facilitate easy location and retrieval*
- *In some cases, further early curatorial steps (e.g., transfer from formalin to alcohol solutions)*
- *Sorting, identification, ID-labeling (including associated field #), and subdividing to new containers*
- *Entering locale data, georeferencing, and upgrading to NCSM standards*
- *Proofing and appending locale data to permanent locality tables*
- *Entering lot-specific data from specimen containers into temporary species tables*
- *Proofing lot-specific data and appending to permanent species tables*
- *Printing labels from permanent tables*
- *Placing labels in specimen containers*
- *Storing lots in the permanent collection range in systematic order*

Staff

9,000 hours of constant work on backlog

50 work weeks x 40 hours per week = 2,000 hours per year

9,000/2,000 = 4.5 years

Condition of specimens



Condition of specimens



Labels

EVIL MAD
SCIENTIST

675
Lupper west bank
11/9/91

Santee--Lake Moultrie July 26th, 1954
1 mile East of State Hwy 8
1 mile East of town of Cross

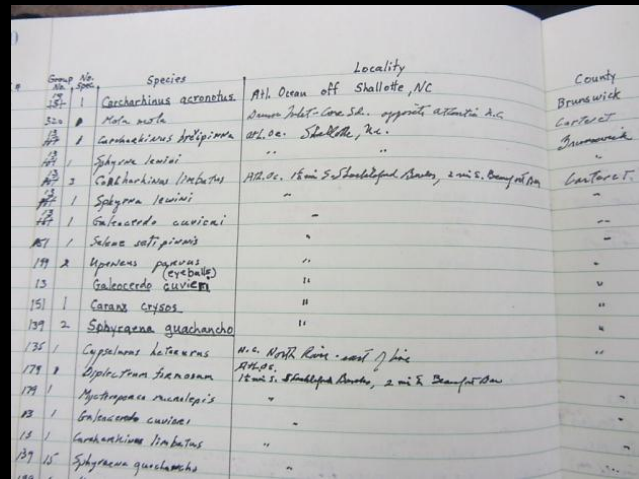
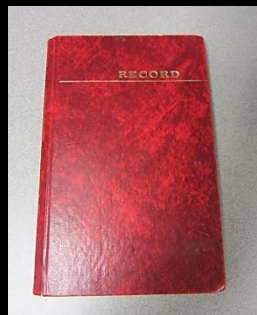
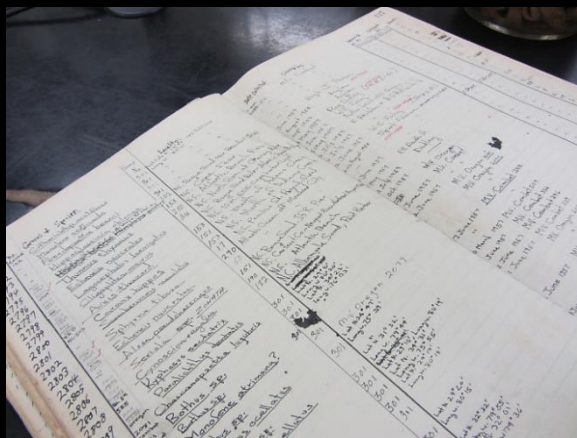
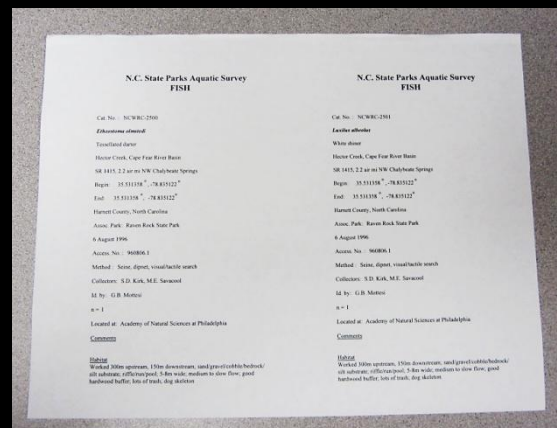
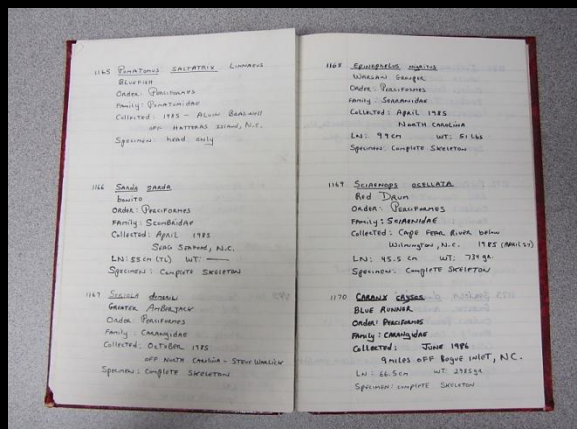
GRACE
9-1564
low ridge

98 Anderson
July 23, 1957

NEUSE RIVER
3 MAY-1966
G.S.#31
ANCHOA

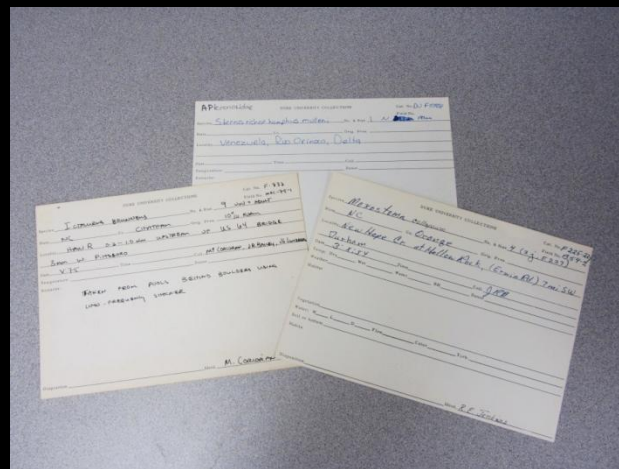
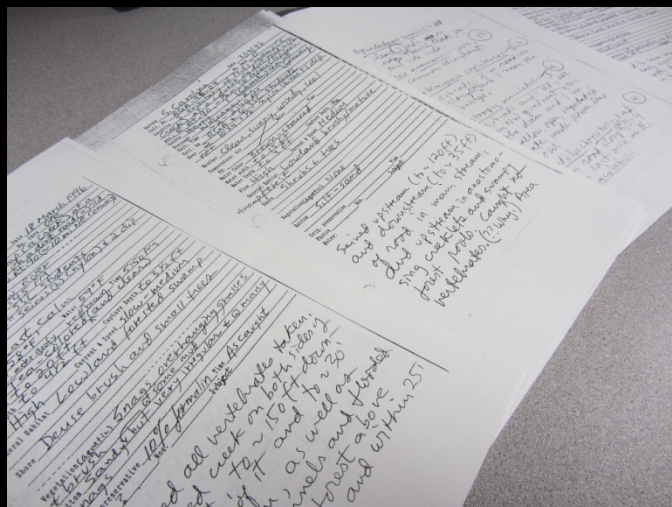
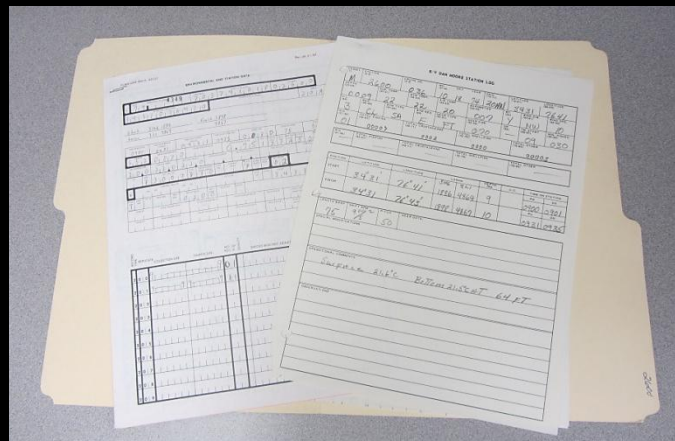


Ledgers





Field notes & cards



Stabilizing & Sorting



Databasing, labeling, & shelving



North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences
Fishes 1 of 2 tagged NCSM 27220
FAM: 060 Lepisosteidae
Lepisosteus osseus
Atlantic Ocean, United States, North Carolina, Brunswick-
New Hanover Co.
Cape Fear River at Snows Cut, [ca. 10.7 air] miles [NNE
center] Southport
Lat/Long: 34 052' N, 77 9197' W
Collector(s): Shelton and AR Berg
Date Coll.: 3 April 1974 Detr./Year: GH Burgess/nk
Field/locality #: FISH6-2452 Prev.#s: UNC-IMS 8567 Acc.
#: 2267
Total no.: 2 70%alch:2 (2 tagged) [Remarks: Yes, see
catalog]



Var 818 slm 612-Misc. Batoid Fishes (1 B)																																																																																																			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



Final goal





Global connections

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences Online Collections

Search Fishes Database

Quick Search

Quick Search yields all records for which the search object occurs in any field, including Remarks, etc.

Full Search Show Help

Types <input type="checkbox"/>	Continent/Ocean <input type="text"/>
Family <input type="text"/>	Ocean Subbasin <input type="text"/>
Genus <input type="text"/>	Drainage <input type="text"/>
species <input type="text"/>	Country <input type="text"/>
Subspecies <input type="text"/>	State/Province <input type="text"/>
Common Name <input type="text"/>	County/District <input type="text"/>
Storage Medium <input type="text"/>	Locality <input type="text"/>
Size <input type="text"/>	Field Number <input type="text"/>
Catalog Number <input type="text"/>	Vessel/Cruise/Station <input type="text"/>
Previous Catalog Number <input type="text"/>	Collector(s) <input type="text"/>
	Collection Date <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>

Search Clear

NORTH CAROLINA Museum of Natural Sciences
Downtown Raleigh • corner of Jones & Salisbury Streets • naturalsciences.org

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences Online Collections

Fishes Search Results Tables Map

Map data ©2014 Google | 20 km | Terms of Use | Report a map error

- NCM 5364
- NCM 5524
- NCM 81945
- NCM 83729
- NCM 85589
- NCM 87540
- NCM 87312
- NCM 87183
- NCM 87208
- NCM 87161
- NCM 87520
- NCM 87663
- NCM 88222
- NCM 88265
- NCM 88263
- NCM 88321
- NCM 88331
- NCM 88384
- NCM 88419
- NCM 88505
- NCM 88506
- NCM 88507
- NCM 88508
- NCM 88509
- NCM 88510
- NCM 88511
- NCM 88512
- NCM 88513
- NCM 88514
- NCM 88515
- NCM 88516
- NCM 88517
- NCM 88518
- NCM 88519
- NCM 88520
- NCM 88540
- NCM 88563
- NCM 88564
- NCM 88565
- NCM 88566



How do we stop this madness?



Recommendations

- *Involve the administration*
- *Involve students, volunteers, and interns*
- *Apply for grants*
- *Target donations from the community*
- *Augment specimen driven research*



The End