

AdobeConnect Chat, 14 Jan 2014, Paleo Digitization Working Group

Andy Farke:Andy here...mic not working, but can hear audio

Andy Farke:Our assistant curator at the Alf, Peter Kloess, will likely drop in also

Chris Norris:Susan is in the meeting I just left - she should be here shortly

Gil Nelson:kevin, are you recoding?

Gil Nelson:I see

Pat Holroyd:Yes, according to the Wyoming BLM, UCMP data have been used to poach fossils during a brief period when our lat/long data were publicly available. I also have personally routinely run into people poaching fossils from UCMP sites.

Chris Norris:Thanks, Pat - that's good to know

ypmsusan:very interesting, Pat ---

ypmsusan:It is mandatory to publish detailed locality information in any peer-reviewed publication....

Pat Holroyd:I disagree with Chris about whether we are the best (or at least good enough) to inform the process of data usage. Most of us have (or should have) a lot of information on how researchers have used data that may be construed as sensitive. For example, in having interacted with several thousand researchers, only a tiny fraction have ever requested access to sensitive geographic data. So, simply in terms of prioritizing information gathering and improvement of georeferencing, obtaining geographic data has not been a high priority for most researchers

Bruce MacFadden:Our localities have been poached, but mostly from publications, not so much our databses, because we already redact detailed locality data from the public access website.

anmmolineux:Our old journals always have full details and at JP

Carolyn Levitt:I liked Chris' idea about fuzzy-ing the locality data and say something like southern Utah, Kaiparowits Formation, GSENM but not show/tell exactly where the specimens were found

Talia Karim :I agree with Bruce. The only invert poaching I know of was from a published locality description.

ypmsusan:anyone who is competent to poach fossils is competent to find the locality info in JPaleo

ypmsusan:ABSOLUTLEY Talia -- our best collectors are amateurs

Bruce MacFadden:Lots from Florida! Check ebay.

trish weaver:one of the things we've discussed doing here, is to only have locality info. down to the county level available on the web, but with the idea that researchers could contact us for more detailed locality info.

Paul Mayer:For Mazon Creek Specimens many of the localities refer to individual private farms. I would hate to hurt our relationship with these land owners by giving out their addresses. However most if not all the locations are published in one form or another.

Jessica Utrup:All of our Beecher localities are currently restricted from the public database.

anmmolineux:I agree with that Talia, we aheva similar setup with our local collectors and they provide us with really good specimens, with good provenance data.

Austin Hendy:Carolyn, and others. GBIF hosts a guide to fuzzying of locality (coordinate) data, with some suggestions for how and when to do so. <http://www.gbif.org/resources/2760>

Carolyn Levitt:thanks Austin

Talia Karim :ditto. thanks austin.

Sam McLeod:We've never refused a "qualified researcher" for locality data but we don't provide the data generally to the public, even though a

significant number of the urban localities, collected through mitigation, no longer exist.. If all of our locality data were made available a lot of southern alifornia

Austin Hendy:Chapman & Grafton (2008). Guide to Best Practices for Generalising Sensitive Species Occurrence Data

ypmsusan:That's pretty specific!

<http://peabody.yale.edu/collections/search-collections?ip>

ypmsusan:If anyone wants some pyritized trilobites!

Talia Karim :me!

ypmsusan:<http://peabody.research.yale.edu/cgi-bin/Query.Ledger?LE=ip&ST=2&SU=0&TX=&TA=&HT=&TS=&CI=&LO=10+mm+new+york&CO=&PE=&OT=&ID=&SO=1>

Sam McLeod:... ooops .. southern California urban fossils would be destroyed because of the way EIR companies would [mis]use the data.

Una Farrell:good luck getting fossils out past the lasers!

Ron Eng:Yes, the location of the Walcott Quarry is not a secret. So Parks Canada is the guardian.

Pat Holroyd:As a US taxpayer, I am happier to be a gatekeeper for data rather than have my dollars spent policing sites

Carolyn Levitt:If we are responsible for protecting the specimens we have in collections, then we should be responsible for protecting their localities for future specimen discoveries

Bruce MacFadden:We do have to protect important fossil localities.

Andy Farke:To some extent (and depending on the case), we are bound by professional code of ethics--e.g., SVP guidelines, etc., yes? Multiple parties to serve here!

ypmsusan:I am all for protecting localities...

Bruce MacFadden:But certain subsets of data are OK to share, others not.

Lisa Boucher:If perrrmit restrict the sharing of locality data, then accessibility of detailed data will not always be possible.

Jessica Utrup:There's also the question of restricting the data for a certain period of time, either until a donor has passed away or a particular research project has been finished.

Carolyn Levitt:but data can be protected

Bruce MacFadden:I'm interested in a survey of which collections redact data on line, versus others that present it all. Anyone know of such a list, perhaps SPNHC?

Jessica Utrup:Speaking from complete ignorance here, do collecting permits from other countries contain guidelines about whether or not locality data can be shared?

Carolyn Levitt:by not giving people specific locality data

Talia Karim :No idea Jess

Bruce MacFadden:Me neither, I think you are correct.

Andy Farke:For our public database, we publish locality number, state, county, and country (as applicable), but nothing more precise.

Austin Hendy:No heard of such a regulation Jessica

Pat Holroyd:with respect to data collected on fossils from US federal lands, I think the new regulations suggest that they control those data moving forward

UMPC:In many cases you need to be a professional, i.e. associated with a university or museum, to get a collections permit for BLM land. If a person is not qualified to get a collecting permit, why should we, museum "gatekeepers" feel bad about not allowing "unqualified" individuals access to sensitive data?

Paul Mayer:I think providing data to researchers/individuals on a case by case basis and posting data online are two different issues.

Tiffany Adrain:This is even more of an issue for archaeological sites. What protocols do archaeologists use? I've seen reduced location data available on-line, and full data for researchers available on request.

Sam McLeod:I agree with Paul - and with most researchers they will be provided the data, but general restrict the data be provided to the public.

Sally Shelton:Just a reminder that we would like to open the question of data and repositories for fossils at the 10th CFR meeting in May here.

UMPC:This is what the UMPC is trying to do. Non-members, public individuals have access to reduced location data...usually down to county. Then for members, they have access to the full site with all locality data available. To become members, they do have to pass the "professional" series of questions, i.e. must show academic need for data.

ypmsusan:and Chris, you collected them on FEDERAL LAND

Sally Shelton:We would like to host on-site discussions of these issues in depth during the meeting.

Sam McLeod:OK, but you don't allow just anyone to walk in your collections and handle specimens as they wish.

Tiffany Adrain:Who would make the decision to restrict sharing a locality that occurs in multiple collections?

Bruce MacFadden:Chris--do you have written policies about who can use YPM collections?

Talia Karim :Good question Tiffany.

ypmsusan:<http://peabody.yale.edu/collections/using-collections>

Bruce MacFadden:we have some for "bona fide" purposes!

ypmsusan:Our much more specific policy isn't available online...

ypmsusan:we let artists photography stuff all the time

annmolineux:So do we

Bruce MacFadden:agreed, and it is open to curatorial judgement.

ypmsusan:artists, interested kids, relatives of ancient curators, etc.

Talia Karim :us too

Andy Farke:Being granted access to collections as a (untrained) high school student is a big part of why I am in paleontology today. Case-by-case, but generous, access can be a major public good.

Talia Karim :I agree Andy

Andy Farke:And yes, curatorial judgement with education on proper handling is important. I've seen degreed paleontologists who have worse fossil handling skills than some amateurs--I am sure we all have similar anecdotes.

Chris Norris:Andy - great example; we definitely promote high school access (with guidance)

ypmsusan:a crew from NOVA

Andy Farke:It is parallel with data access--for instance, we do not normally allow visitors to access our in-house database (which has detailed locality data)

Patricia Burke:I agree with Andy. It is a balance between making collections available vs protecting.

Andy Farke:(i.e., on-site visitors)

Sally Shelton:We are encountering records from previous collectors on staff here that have actually been obscured to the point that no one has been able to locate the sites again....so protection of info can be taken to a counterproductive extreme.

ypmsusan:THat is REALLY interesting Sally!!

annmolineux:Sally, that would be a real issue if you fuzzy up the data that is published

Gil Nelson:Sally, who were these redactions intended for?

Andy Farke:From a logistics standpoint, if a database has both federal and non-federal locality data, it may be easiest to just go with the federal standards/regulations across the board.

Lisa Boucher:Exactly Andy. Redaction guidelines are inevitable...

Tiffany Adrain:Use mix of data withholding where requested, promotion of ethical collecting (I'm giving a talk at upcoming fossil expo), and collecting restrictions where necessary? (Cow Head, Talia!). So I'll only restrict where someone has specifically asked me to while they're still collecting/researching.

Talia Karim :Yes Tiffany!

Austin Hendy:My understanding was GBIF uses decimal points rather than geopolitical units as a means to fuzz the data

Bruce MacFadden:an important point was made a few minutes ago about specimens from the same locality going to different collections. What happens if each of these have different levels of access via redaction? Coordination is needed.

Pat Holroyd:I think GBIF just serves what they are sent; they don't do the fuzzing

Austin Hendy:sorry, I meant to refer the GBIF guidelines, not the database itself

Austin Hendy:Here are their recommendations - Category 1: Extreme Georeference not released or data may be released bywatershed/ bioregion/ county, etc. with no georeferencecoordinates.

Austin Hendy:Category 2: High Georeference rounded to 0.1 degree.

Austin Hendy:Category 3: Medium Georeference rounded to 0.01 degree.

Austin Hendy:Category 4: Low Georeference rounded to 0.001 degree.

Austin Hendy:Not sensitive: Not sensitive Georeference unrestricted.

ypmsusan:note final paragraph --

http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/paleozoic_beecher.cfm

Talia Karim :Nice

Paul Mayer:As we are digitizing our collection we are photographing the original labels and want them to be available to database users as check against our data entry. How do we redact the labels?

anmolineux:Eaxactly

Andy Farke:No matter what standard is adopted, it will be important to include appropriate metadata w/the record indicating type of redaction, etc.

Austin Hendy:Although how often are coodinates placed on labels in paleo collections?

Pat Holroyd:However, redacting or providing limited data online is NOT the same as restricting it to the researchers. It points out that data exist and they can directly contact the museum for more info for research

Talia Karim :We don't have that info on labels Austin

Andy Farke:I see it fairly frequently, esp. if a field label is left with the specimen

Jessica Utrup:Is this a problem for herbarium sheets with the labels in the same image as the specimen?

Austin Hendy:Yes, I can see the problem among other types of collections, certainly

Talia Karim :This year!

Pat Holroyd:we make approximately \$8-10k per year doing locality surveys for mitigation

Sam McLeod:I perform 100-200 paleo record searches per year.

Andy Farke:Same here at the Alf Museum.

Talia Karim :we do too

Gil Nelson:Jesssica, yes, herbaruim sheets are a problem, too, but fairly easy to redact

Andy Farke:Usually just a handful of record searches for us

ypmsusan:I've done maybe one...

Lisa Boucher:Straw document regarding the issues discussed about sensitive data would be very useful to start.

Pat Holroyd:it is our ENTIRE curatorial budget, as the state provides none
Austin Hendy:hahaha
Talia Karim : :)
Sam McLeod:As for the UCMP, it is the ENTIRE LACM VP curatorial budget.
Lisa Boucher:I also think it is important in light of what may be
restricted due to collections on federal lands.
Talia Karim :yes
Andy Farke:Question for Gil and others in charge -- once it is up on the
wiki, do you feel comfortable w/distribution of the discussion, opportunities
for input, etc., via social media?
Talia Karim : and a lot of the request we get are for specimens on federal
lands
Andy Farke:OK, great...just want to check!
Talia Karim :we signed you up for a GSA talk too Chris
Andy Farke:Awesome discussion, yes--thank you!
Ron Eng:Thank you to everyone. It's been very good...
Lisa Boucher:Thanks for discussion!
anmolineux:I second that , great discussion
Ricardo Pérez-de la Fuente:all this was really helpful, Chris. Thank you!
Talia Karim :ditto
Austin Hendy:Very good. Enjoyed everyone's contributions. We are addressing
this issue with the Paleobiology Database at the moment.
L. Catherine Riddle:thank you!
Talia Karim :Thanks!
Una Farrell:thank!
Austin Hendy:thanks