

Gateway to the Earth

The GB3D Fossil Types Online project (<u>www.3d-fossils.ac.uk</u>) –

the inside story



Mike Howe, British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham, UK



and continues at..... BGS Keyworth, 1985 -



Plan

- Brief history of collections digitisation at British Geological Survey
- The Jisc GB/3D fossil types online project
- The future but funding?
- Lessons learnt







Brief history of Collections digitisation at BGS





Digitisation Timeline



2001 – "Virtual Museum" bid to New Opportunities Fund failed



2000











Digitisation Timeline



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(All sections must be completed)	JISC
Name of Strand: Strand A:	Strand B: X Strand C:
Name of Load Institution:	The British Castoniael Suprey (BCS)
Name of Proposed Project:	"GB/3D Fossil Types online": Database of type specimens of British fossil species
Name(s) of Project Partners(s) (except commercial sector – see below)	National Museum Wales; The Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge; The University Museum of Natural History, Oxford; and the Geological Curators' Group, representing a number of regional museums.
This project involves one or more commercial sector partners YES / NO (delete as appropriate)	Name(s) of any commercial partner company (ies)
Full Contact Details for Primary Co Name: Michael Peter Alfred Howe Position: Chief Curator, BGS, and cu Email: mhowe@bgs.ac.uk Tel: 01 Address: British Geological Survey, I	ntact: irrent Chair of the Geological Curators' Group. 15 9363105 Keyworth, NOTTINGHAM. NG12 5GG
Length of Project: 1 year 9 m	onths
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August 2011 – Submitted JISC grant application

The Jisc funded GB3D fossil types online project

Jisc funded GB3D Fossil Types Online

17,500 types, each with HR images, anaglyphs & labels + 2000 3d digital models

Cameras: Canon EOS5D (22.3Mp). Images served as JPEG2000. Models available as Zipped .PLY and .OBJ

Partners: British Geological Survey; National Museum Wales; The Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge; The University Museum of Natural History, Oxford; and the Geological Curators' Group, representing a number of national, regional and university museums - (most of major British type repositories, except London Natural History Museum).

Web-based uploading and API undergoing beta testing

C 1990 Los Frankling # W C C mere hit feasilial at 🗊 Anne 🖸 Einiger 🔮 Bill berdrer hanne 🖸 D.C. Bill Diege hann 🚯 Britch Desequentian 🗰 BC Streeter Conn. 👩 Bingger BC Bill Bill 📅 Di ant par sonner 🗤 🚘 bill berdrer bare OTHER D. **GB3D Type Fossils** Home The project Search About Insalls Centributors Downloads Links Corrbact us **GB3D Type Fossils Online** The International Code on Ziological Nomenclature and the International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Surgi and plants require that every species or subspecies of organism, whether living or focul, should have a type or reference specimen to define its characteristic features. The GROD Type Forsils Online project, funded by 155, when to develop a single database of the type specimena, held in British collections, of macrofossil species and subspecies found in the UK, including links to photographs (including 'anaphyph' stereo pairs) and a selection of 1D algital models.

The database currently contains only a selection of specimens and is still being populated.

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Database search

Enter a local name, the name of a local group, or the name of an internal of geological time, etc.

Alternatively do an <u>Alternoed Search</u>-

News

- 22 September 2034 New data added to the database takes the totals to over 28,000 images and 1800 3dscans of more than 16,400 fossil specimens from 22 museums on this website
- # September 2014 <u>DigitalSpecimen 2014</u> GB30 Type Fossile was one of the digitization projects abovecased at the DigitalSpecimen 2014 conference held at Maseum for Naturkurde Berlin.
- 20 March 2014 <u>The project blog</u> A blog is being maintained by Mike House and others throughout the project.

Contributing organisations

3D fossil images: G8/3D fossi

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Public Zone

These pages describe the major fossil groups that are commonly found.

Equals are the preserved remains of plants and animals whose bodies were hurled in sudiment under ancient unas, lakes and tivers.

Although the soft parts of the body usually decayed after death, the hard parts - teeth, shells and bones - www preserved as the sedment hardened to rock.

In exceptional cases, soft parts like feathers or skin, or other evidence of life, such as footprints or dung may also be preverved.

Fonsils give us a useful insight into the history of He on Earth -- they provide a record of how creatures avolved, how continents now widely separated were once connected, and how environments have changed across the face of the globe through prological time.

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Press Launch to the Public – BGS London Office August 2013

GB3D fossil types online project impact

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GB3D fossil types online project – future developments

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Artec Spider

A go to tool for CAD view and invention of any kind, Adec Spader effectively captures the most intricate details of small objects with aniazing accuracy, offering atmost underteet possibilities in minima engineering, quality control, product design and manufacturing, and a great door of other spheres.

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Read his comprehensive walks to learn what computers work paint with forter sciencing solutions

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When quality can't be compromised, your best options are Artec Spider and Space Spider. Detivering the accuracy of up to 50 encrore and resolution of up to 100 microits, both scanleds render elaborate curves, sharp edges and twintids.

Artec Space Spider

Drawing on the best features of Arter. Spidor, this upgraded handheld 3D scanner is one step ahead of the competition – originally developed to work in space, it features an enhanced costing system, which enables it to reach optimal operating herperintens and achieve maximum accuracy much lister. Like Arter: Spider, Arter: Space Spider scans small specific querky, in high lessibilition and britisher color.

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NextEngine

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Gateway to the Earth

British Geological Survey

> Automated photography of "hand specimen" sized fossils with metadata recording and background removal

> > Simon Harris

ENDERING IN AND IN COMMON

Lessons Learnt

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Lessons learnt.....(1 - Workflow)

- Start the planning several months in advance
- Consider alternative ways of resourcing the project government grants, foundation grants, "business as usual", volunteers
- Consider outsourcing the digitisation
- Develop workflows, standards, costings. (Does your organisation have standard workflows that are not ideal for your project? Do you have the best technology/software?)
- Run a pilot project find the problems before it's too late
- Database your specimens before you start but see later
- Consider use of barcodes and automatic renumbering to reduce errors

Lessons learnt.....(2 - Resources)

- Consider recruiting dedicated team
- Consider a dedicated project manager
- Remember partners and many team members will have other deliverables besides yours
- If using other organisational services besides your own team, consider how you can ensure adequate control
- Hope you don't have 4 different Directors during the duration of the project

Lessons learnt......(3 – Data, Databases, Schemas & Dictionaries)

the really tricky bit ...2,500 years of legacy data

Typical problems: Sample/Specimen Registration

- Sedgwick Museum One registration number per fossils specimen. A single block could have several numbers
- Geological Survey One registration number per block. Could refer to several specimens. Problems in then linking bibliographic information

Typical problems: Chronostratigraphy

- Sedgwick Museum Frequent use of Bala (= Caradoc + Ashgill) – Hangover from Sedgwick vs. Murchison?
- International or UK standards? UK tend to be finer, but conversion problems when boundaries don't coincide

3	Homalonotus (Bro	ongniartella) tawneyi Reed nom. nud.	
*	Undifferentiated Type:	A 10558	(No thumbnail available)
	Locality:	Vyrnwy Dam, Rhayader (near), Bala, Gwynedd, Wales	View full details
	Rock Unit:	Bala	
	Geological Age:	Ashgill Epoch (Ordovician Period) – <u>Caradoc Epoch</u> (Ordovician Period) (443.7 – 460.9 Ma 8.P.)	
	Resources:	(None available)	

Typical problems: Lithostratigraphy

- M. triangulatus Band (Horizon D) Biozone
- Saltern Cove Goniatite Band ? Biozone
- Valentian Legacy chronostratigrahic term
- Middle Devonian Chronostratigraphy

Typical problems: Similar Databases - differing implementations

- Cambridge SNBase
- Cardiff MicroMuseum

Both MobyDoc - but use different data structures

|Middle Arenig ~ Arenig ~ Canadian ~ Ordovician ~ Cambro-Silurian ~ Paleozoic ~ Phanerozoic ~ ../..

Aurelucian/Burrellian Stage

 Some museums unable to provide .CSV export file

International Standards

- Darwin Core
- ABCDEFG (Access to Biological Collections Data – Extension For Geoscience)
- Great for the future but not so helpful in dealing with 2,500 years of legacy data

Solution:

Two fields for each attribute

- Free text as per original registration the definitive registration information
- Dictionary controlled best current interpretation – possibly even crowd sourced. <u>Current best interpretative</u> discovery information

Website www.3d-fossils.ac.uk

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