

California Academy of Sciences Invertebrate Zoology (CASIZ)

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Feb 4, 2019, DigIn: overview CASIZ Colln



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Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA

- oldest nat. hist. museum west of the Mississippi (1853)
- current site since 1916, demolished 2004, opened “new” bldg. 2008



[Renzo Piano's green design, seismic ingenuity, living roof, Platinum Green, lots of light and windows...not optimal for exhibiting specimens]

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Invertebrate Zoology Collection (CASIZ)

Active taxonomically diverse invertebrate collection (non-ento) in a single collection [marine, terrestrial, FW]

~800,000 lots, ~50:50 fluid/dry, ~6000+ type lots (~2400+ primary types), numerous pub vouchers
CASIZ Research: opisthobranchs, octocorals, barnacles, echinoderms – most well curated/digitized

Well-curved largely undigitized legacy polychaete, bryozoan, crustacean, tunicate holdings;
large (~372K) ~25% digitized mollusk holdings

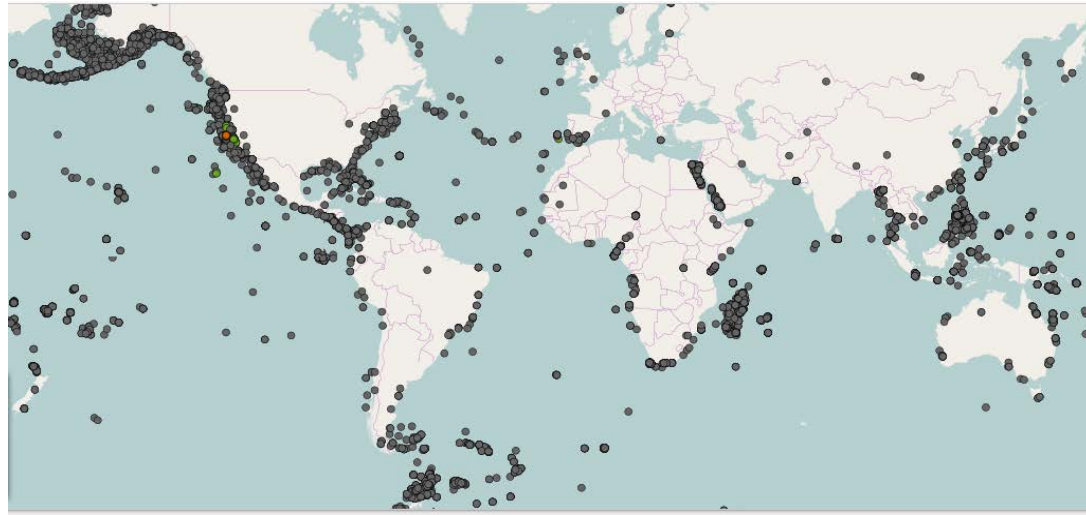
Recent and historical collections 1833-present: [ex. Agassiz, Dall, Verrill, Eisen, Fisher, Light, Hyman, Jordan]

- OSU, NOAA & BLM (AK), Stanford Univ. Colln, Henry Hemphill Colln, CDFW, Pacific Marine Station, E.F. Ricketts, Galapagos and Baja Expeds, Royal Ontario Museum Shell Colln, F.B. Steiner Colln....etc.
- Selected cruises: Albatross, Te Vega Exped, HMS Challenger, Templeton Crocker, Alan Hancock...etc., (mostly partial)



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Invertebrate Zoology Collection (CASIZ) distribution digitized lots



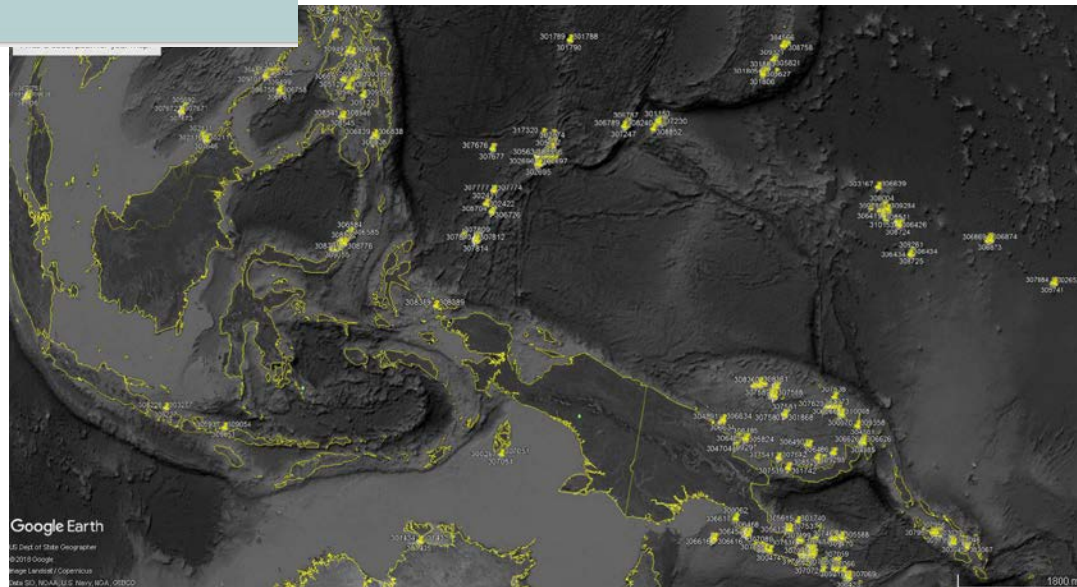
- Historically chiefly northeastern Pacific (AK to Galapagos)
- Recent decades & new CRRF (global coral reefs), Antarctica, west and central pacific....etc.

Digitized CASIZ coverage 2016, GBIF (~25% of records)



Paradox

July 2019?



Example region >11K new CRRF records California Academy of Sciences

CASIZ Collections: Infrastructure

Dry collections large space shared with Geology Colln (GE current active TCN to digitize Paleo Colln), compactorized Delta cabinets.

Fluid collections: 2.5 compactorized rooms Delta open shelving + shared tank room (oversized tanks, buckets)

Wetlab (includes dry work, staff/volunteers/interns/visitors), limited space for staffing

Imaging equipment limited but improving, shared copy stand, shared Little Kahuna & BK, small scope cameras



Dry



Fluid



Wetlab

CASIZ Collections

Scattered details, digitization challenges

organization, infrastructure & staff:

- **minimal biol. informatics staff currently** (holding out hope)
- **collections staff:** 1 CM + 2 FTE supporting 5.5 curators + external
- **curation and digitization status**

fluid colln: well-curated but ~30-40% with bakelite lids (need replacing);

dry colln physically well-curated (most)

wet+dry colln approx. 25% data-digitized [inclusive of large molluscan collns ~372K lots [plus uncurated molluscs]

- **past digitization efforts & grants** – old card catalog with cat. #s. (non-digitized, 10-20K records to be digitized...labels pre-stuffed), previous decades: taxonomic groups of curator interest digitally cataloged (old NSF \$), most SF records cataloged (SFO), new expeditions and CRRF cataloged (project \$)

- **what are your challenges for digitization** – staffing and **space** to manage staff/volunteers (1 small lab); heterogeneous collns with no ledger

wet: tiny labels inside ## internal vials; formalin specimens

dry: multiple wadded up dry labels in cursive bearing mysterious content,

- **where are you heading with digitization?** – trying to keep up with incoming +loan/visitor activities, strong desire to capture historical specimen data, no imaging planned except types

- **where would you like to be with digitization if funding was available?** wish for ALL specimen lots with transcribed FULL data, mollusk collection too large/difficult for single grant, future plan to collaborate with Paleo and/or other partners (?)

