Digitizing Specimens in the STAR Herbarium: A Viable Workflow for Collections Working with Limited Resources

Kari M. Harris and Travis D. Marsico

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What we Know

Small herbaria:

- House important data
- Are less likely to digitize collections
  - Funding
  - Time
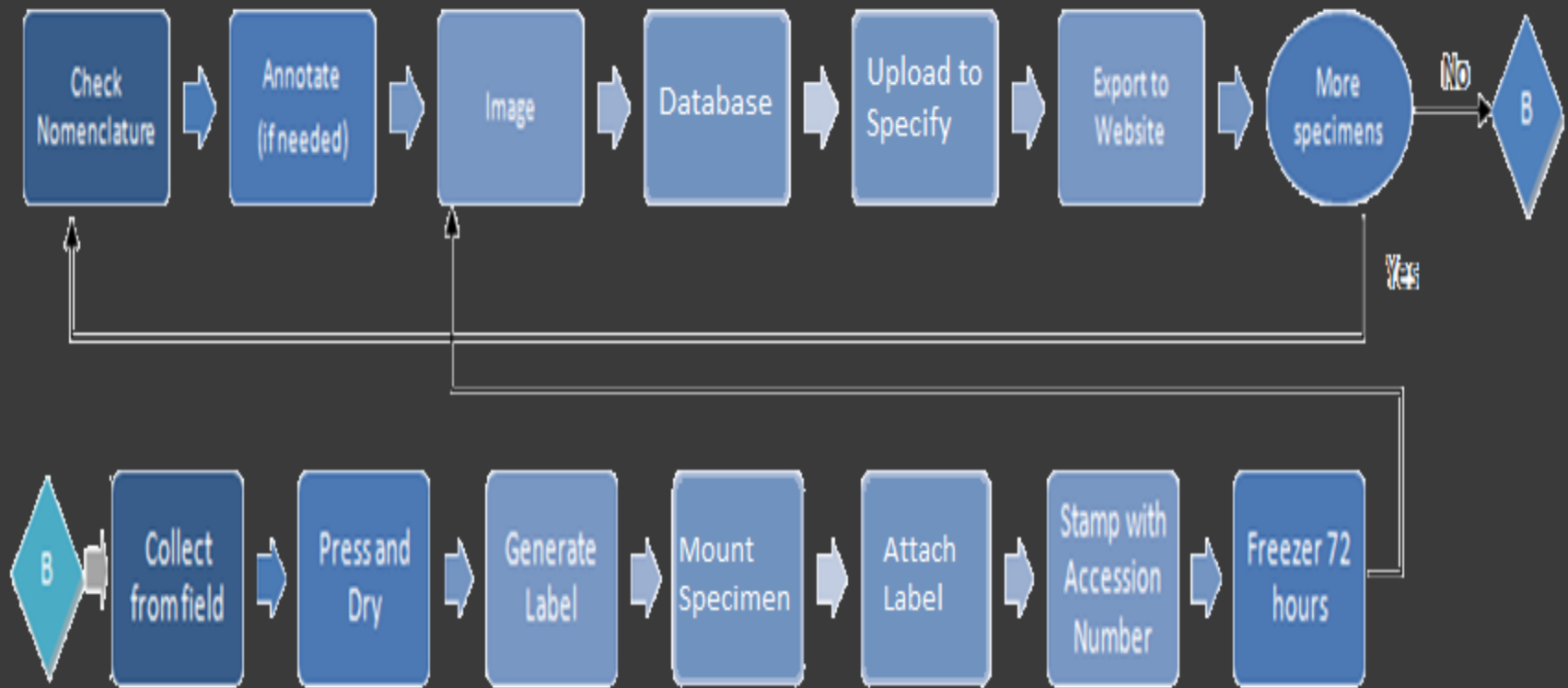 - Other Responsibilities

Previous Presentations

How to circumvent these obstacles

- Options for student workers
- How much time to fully digitize

STAR Herbarium Work Flow

Previous Presentations

Data

- Annotating: ~18,000 specimens
  - Rate ~ 150 specimens/hour

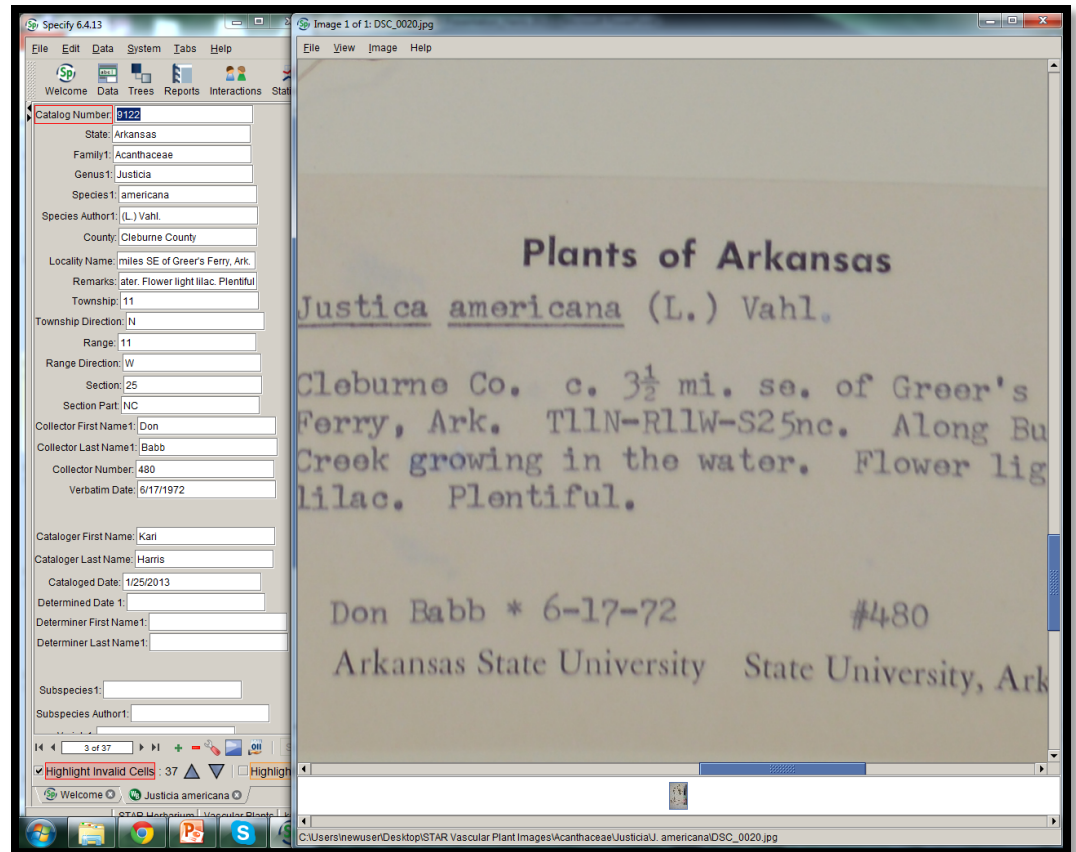- Imaging: ~18,000 specimens
  - Rate ~ 143 images/hour

Previous Presentations

Data

- Uploading: ~18,000 specimens
  - Rate ~ 333 specimens/hour
  - Previous: ~ 7 minutes/ dataset
  - Updated because:
    - STAR datasets are per species
    - Number of specimens in each set varies
    - Per specimen rate is more accurate

Databasing the Collection

- Using Specify 6
- 5 Students, 1 Me

Databasing the Collection

Specimens databased: 14,575

- Rate (5 students): ~ 24/hour

- Rate (Me): ~ 46/hour

- Why the difference?

  - Matter of motivation

  - Students paid by the hour

So What Can We Do?

- Find a more motivated student
  - Or one that can type faster…
- Train them better
- Pay them differently
  - Different motivation
  - Pay per specimen
    - $7.50/hour for 30 specimens = $.25/specimen
    - 20 hours/week = 600 specimens/week

Making Data Available

Commitment, Original Projection:

- 1 person;10 hours/week; 20,000 specimens:
    - 13 weeks to annotate
    - 13 weeks to image
    - 67 weeks to database
    - 5 weeks to upload

- Total: 98 weeks or ~ 2 years

Commitment, Revised:

- 1 person;10 hours/week; 20,000 specimens:
  - 13 weeks to annotate
  - 13 weeks to image
  - 83weeks to database
  - 6 weeks to upload

- Total: 115 weeks or ~ 2.25 years

And Remember This…

- It takes longer than you think
  - Always plan for extra time
  - Set goals to stay on track

- Digitizing is never finished
  - The important thing is to just get started
  - Partially digitized is better than not at all

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Questions?

Kari Harris

NHODE

Natural History Outreach,Digitization, and Education

nhode14@gmail.com

kari.panhorst@smail.astate.edu