

Leveraging Library Resources

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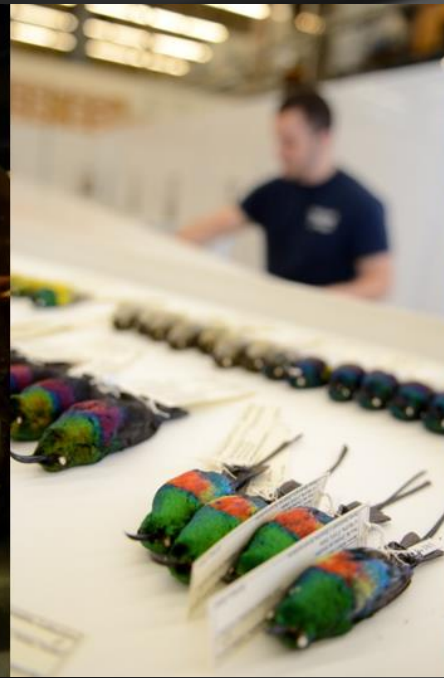
The Collections

University Based, since 1935

Vertebrates

Invertebrates

- Parasites
- Marine
- Freshwater



Historical Collections

Mammals

- WB Davis

Birds

- WP Taylor

Herps

- JR Dixon

Fishes

- KL Strawn and others



Kerr county survey, Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission (later Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), ca. 1950.

Curatorial Structure



Kevin Conway
Faculty Curator of Fishes



Lee Fitzgerald
Faculty Curator of
Amphibians and Reptiles



Gary Voelker
Faculty Curator of Birds



Jessica Light
Faculty Curator of
Mammals



Heather Prestridge
Staff Curator of Fishes

Toby Hibbitts
Staff Curator of Amphibians
and Reptiles

Modern Collections

Mammals

- With parasites and tissues

Birds

- More international collections
- New Texas surveys
- With parasites, tissues and blood

Herps

- South Texas surveys
- Species of concern

Fishes

- NOAA collaborations
- International work



Bat collecting in South Texas, part of a large effort to document vertebrates on the sand sheet.

The State of our Data

Each division keeps own Access Database

- Stores locality data only

Participate in VertNet and associated portals

Portions of Marine Invertebrate data hosted by OBIS

Homegrown search on web too



Processing specimens from the WTAMU collection.

Limitations and Opportunities

Short on staff and IT resources

- Aren't we all?

Bulk of Field Notes scanned by volunteers

Images from collectors stored locally

Willing collaborators at Evans Library (TAMU)

- Staff
- Scanning facilities
- Data management expertise

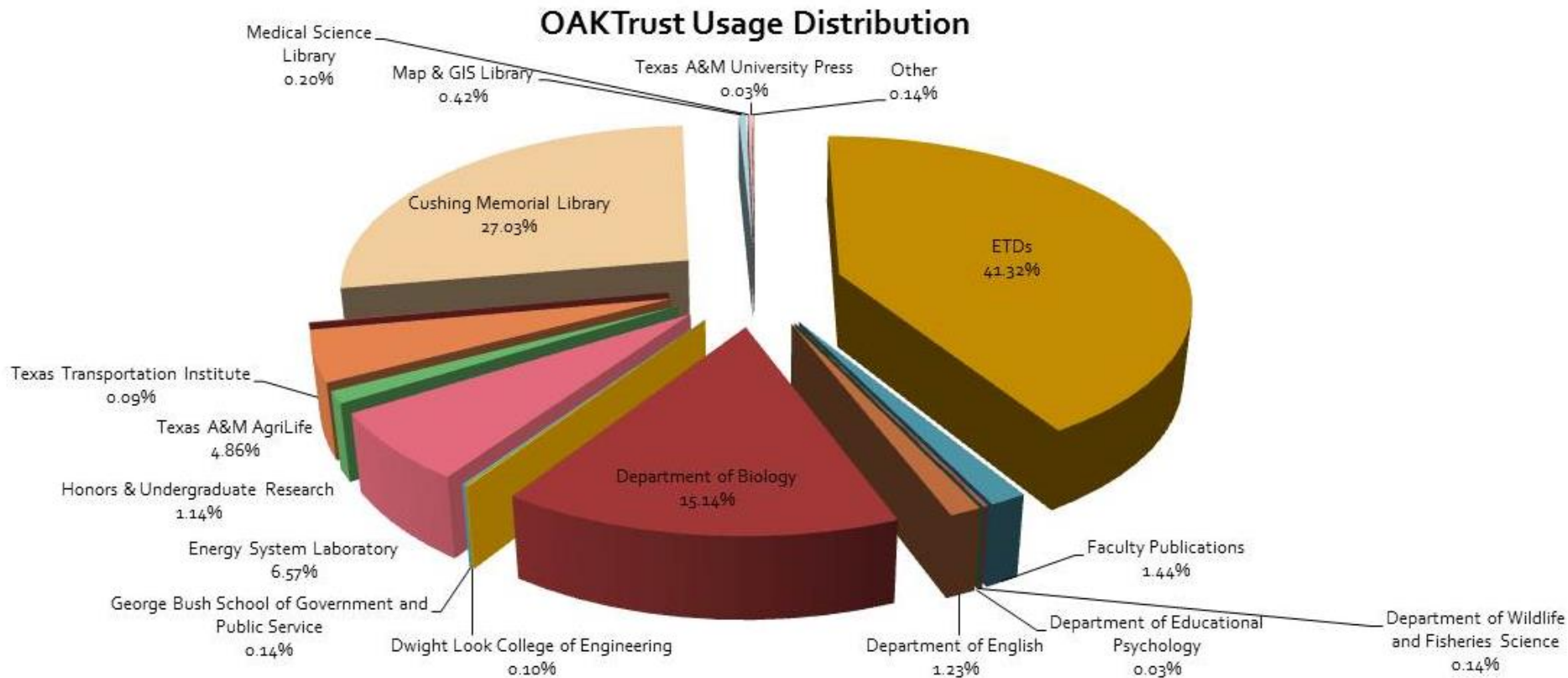


Specimen photos deposited by collectors to BRTC (photos by Kevin W. Conway).

Library Resources

OAKTrust (Open Access to Knowledge)

- TAMU Institutional Repository



Library Resources

OAKTrust organized to handle two types of collections

- Faculty authored publications
- Sponsored Collections



Aloe sp. image, part of the vascular plant image collection available via OAKTrust.

Initial Digitization

WB Davis

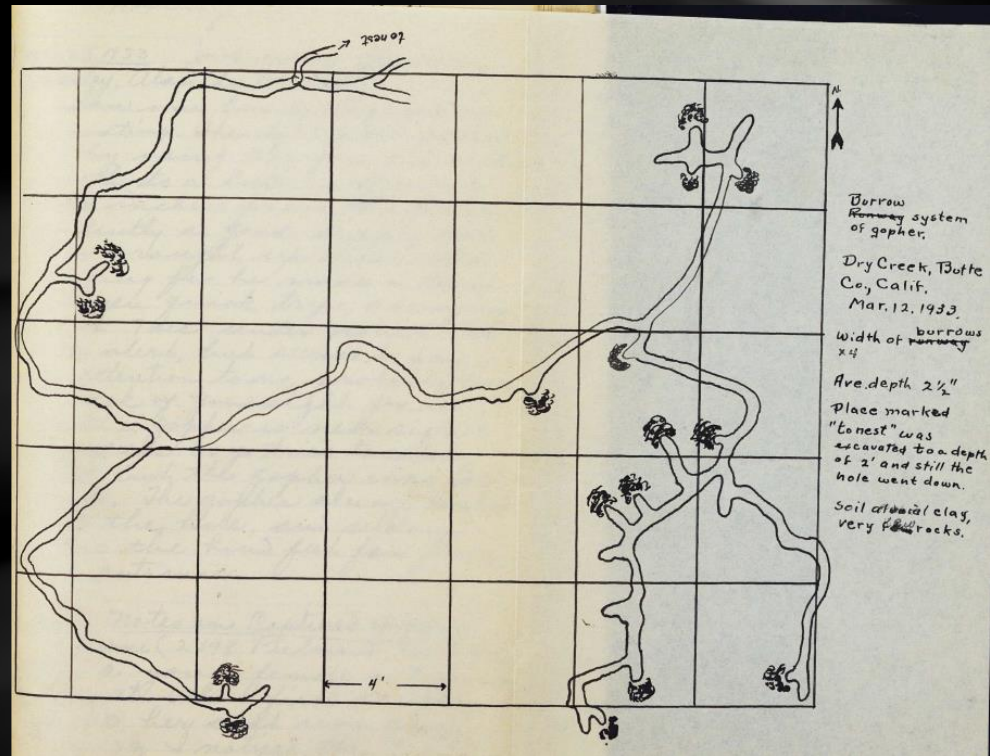
- [field notes and catalog](#)

X-rays

- Digitized from film

Batch processed by library

- Doesn't work for daily cataloging events



Map of WB Davis gopher collecting locality in Dry Creek, Butte Co. California, 1933.

Image Repository

Customized input form created

Can load images directly from desktop as they arrive to collections with their vouchers

Working towards batch entry from curators desktop

The screenshot shows the 'Item submission' page of the OAK Trust repository. The page is part of the Texas A&M University Libraries system. The breadcrumb trail indicates the path: Repository → Biodiversity Research and Teaching Co... → BRTC Image Collection → Item submission. The user profile is Heather Prestridge. The page features a search bar and a navigation menu on the left with sections for 'Entire Repository', 'This Collection', 'My Account', 'Context', and 'Help and Documentation'. The main content area is titled 'Item submission' and contains a series of steps: Initial Questions, Describe, Access, Upload, Review, and CC License. The 'Describe' step is currently active. The form includes fields for Title, Scientific Name, Family, Geographic Point of Discovery, Location (transcribed), Location (authority form), and Date Discovered. Each field has a text input box and a small 'Add' button. The 'Date Discovered' field has separate input boxes for Year, Month, and Day. At the bottom of the form are buttons for '< Previous', 'Save & Exit', and 'Next >'. The footer contains links for 'Giving to the Libraries', 'Texas A&M University', 'Employment', 'Webmaster', 'Legal', '979-845-5741', and 'Accessibility'.

Image Repository

Images added as they become available

- Currently only working with field photos

URI inserted to Access Database

- To be picked up by iDigBio

UNIVERSITY OF OAK Trust

Research and Teaching Co... → BRTC Image Collection → View Item Profile: Heather Prestridge | Logout

Search Repository Search

Gobiesox strumosus TCWC 16774.03

[Show full item record](#)

Title: Gobiesox strumosus TCWC 16774.03

Author: [Conway, K.W.](#)

Description: Atlantic Ocean, Seagrass bed along beach at Lime Beach Resort, Layton, Long Key

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/153799>

Date: 2014-03-12

Basis of Record: PreservedSpecimen
StillImage
OtherSpecimen

Catalog Number: 16774.03

Collection Code: TCWC

Recorded By: Conway, K.W.



Scientific Name: Gobiesox strumosus

Family: Gobiesocidae

Citation

Conway, K.W. (2014). Gobiesox strumosus TCWC 16774.03. Available electronically from <http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/153799>.

Files in this item

Files	Size	Format	View	Description
Gobiesox strumosus Long Key dorsal.jpg	1.421Mb	JPEG image		Gobiesox strumosus dorsal view
Gobiesox strumosus Long Key ventral.jpg	1.528Mb	JPEG image		Gobiesox strumosus ventral view

Library Part

Server space

Searchable interface for discoverability

- OAKTrust is open access and indexed regularly by major search engines

Image curation

- Back-ups and integrity checks



Student intern Lauren Wimbish organizing a drawer of bat specimens at the BRTC.

Why a University Based Effort

Texas A&M Libraries keen on helping to preserve and curate our data

Utilizes a pre-already existing platform

Not mutually exclusive

- Still plan on participating in iDigBio and other initiatives to share data



Bigeye Sand Tiger Shark headed to the CT scanner.

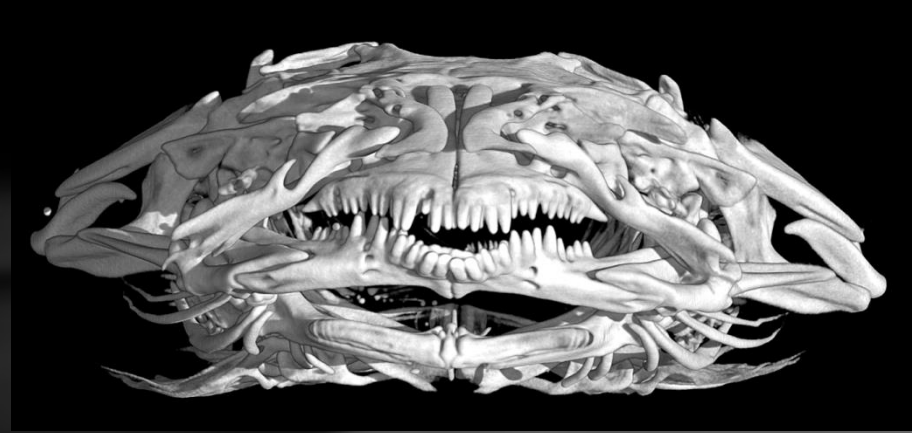
Moving Forward

Opportunistically add to image repository

Work toward remote batch upload

Begin imaging specimens in collection

- Prioritize which specimens are to be imaged
- How those specimens are imaged



TCWC 11200.20 *Gobiesox strumosus*
Micro SEM.

Thanks and questions?



TCWC 22551 Malachite kingfisher, Grahamstown, South Africa.