



## Pre-digitisation curation : Getting collections ready for digitisation - Insects

Biological Collections Digitisation in the Pacific , Symposium II: March 2014

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# Section 1:

## *Introduction :*

# Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC)



## Section 1 : Introduction

# Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC)

- ANIC is the world's largest collection of Australian insects and related groups (mites, spiders, earthworms, nematodes & centipedes).
- A research collection, not a museum !
- 12 million insect specimens!  
.... and grows at a rate of 100,000 per year



*Section 1 : Introduction*

# Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC)

~ 2,000 cabinets  
(10 drawers per cabinets)  
= 20,000 drawers



# Section 2:

## Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

## *Section 2 : Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation*

### ➤ **Accepting & accessioning material**

- Data entry at time of field collecting
- Providing standard label templates/formats for incoming material
- Standard storage : vials, drawers, unit trays
- Can databasing happen before material is lodged at an museum ?

### ➤ **Workflow**

- How will you manage drawer images which are out-of-date once curation occurs
- Maintain list of drawers that have 'changed' due to sorting, curation, changes to agreed taxonomy etc.
- Barcodes / QR codes on unit trays, drawers, specimens to link images with metadata ?

### ➤ **Metadata capture and handling**

- Linking images with specimens: filenames, GUID, location code ...
- Interacting with & annotating images
- Extra labelling

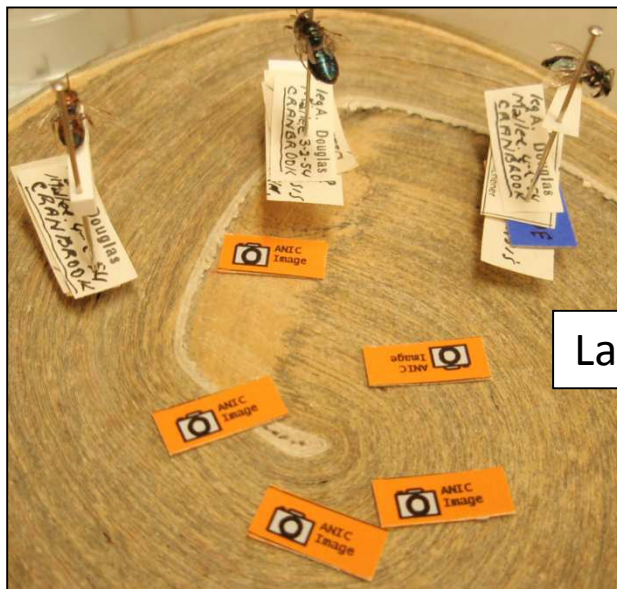
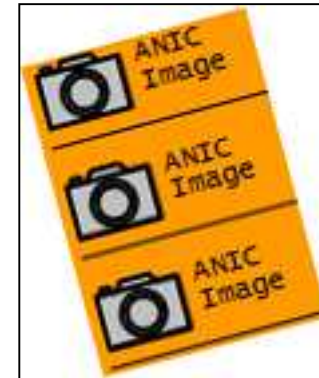




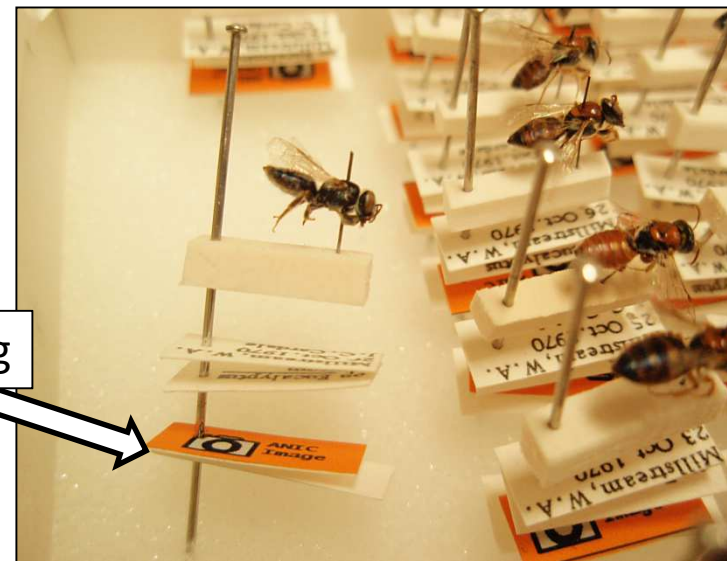
## Section 2 : Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

### Imaging single pinned specimen

- ✓ attach labels to indicate an image has been captured



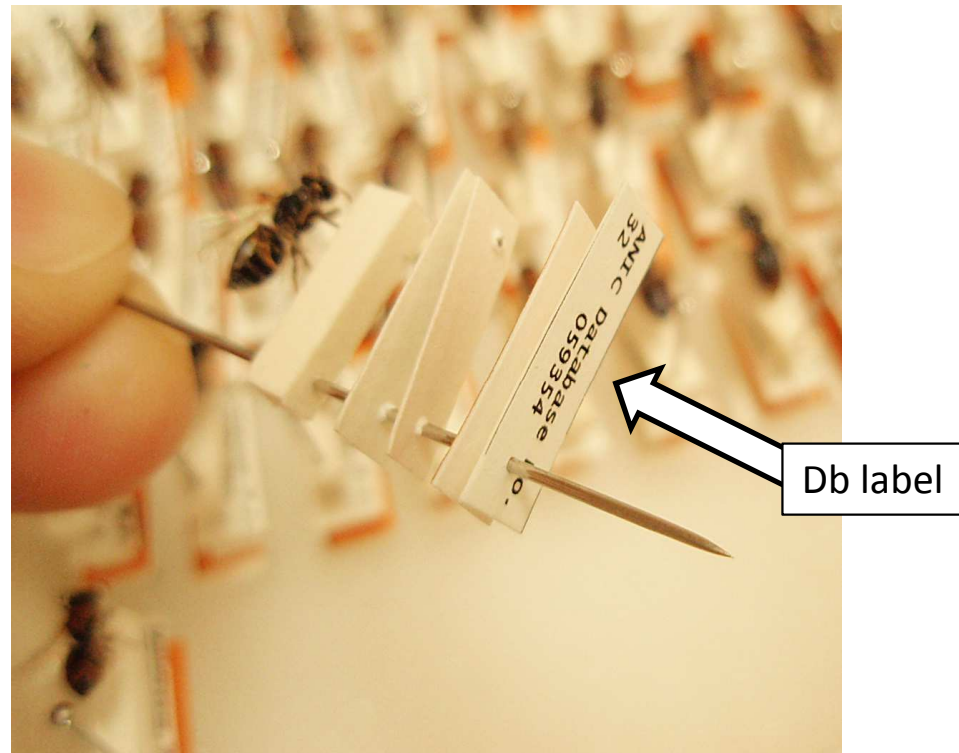
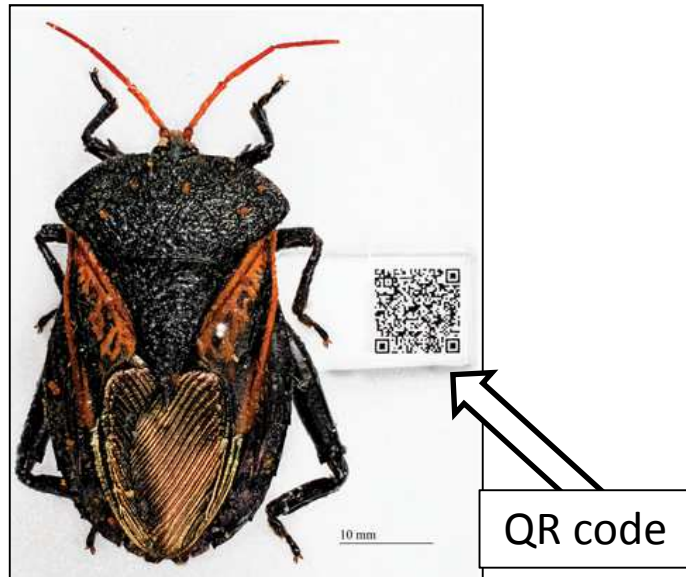
Label for imaging



## Section 2 : Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

### Creating more space in collection drawers for labels

- ✓ attachment of database labels
- ✓ attachment of QR codes

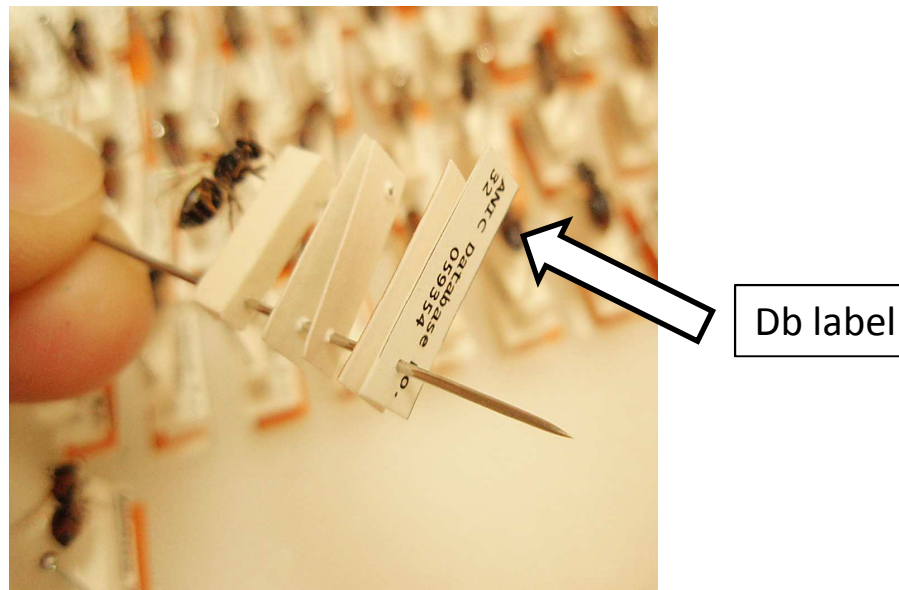




## Section 2 : Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

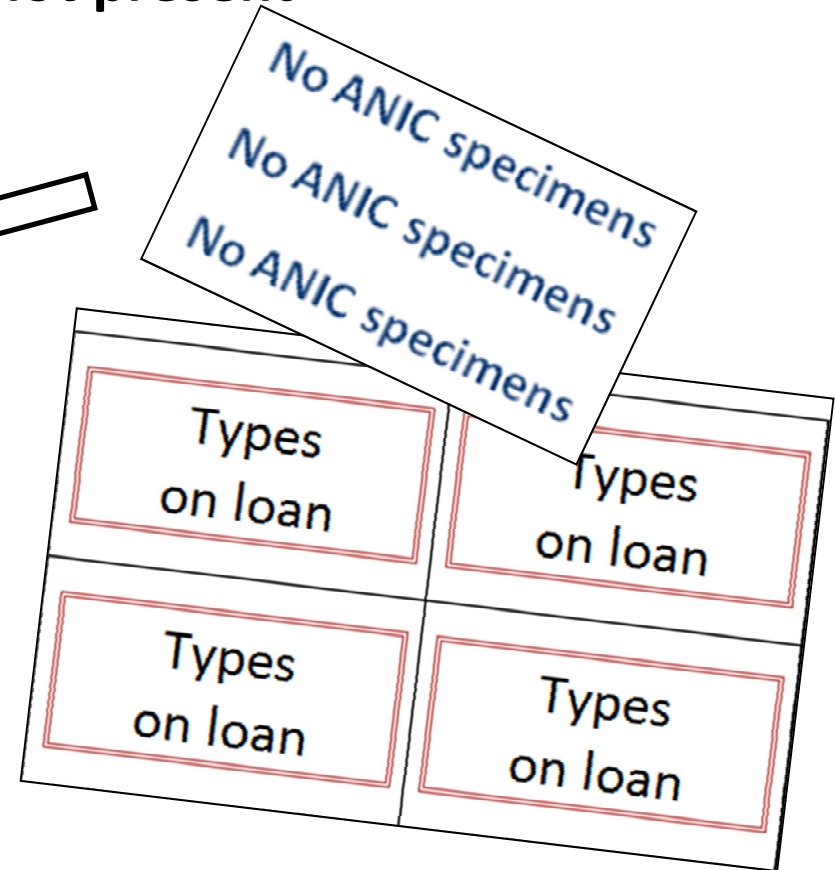
### Filename of the image ?

- will the filename be the database number ?
- if so, does time need to be spent databasing before imaging ?



## Section 2 : Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

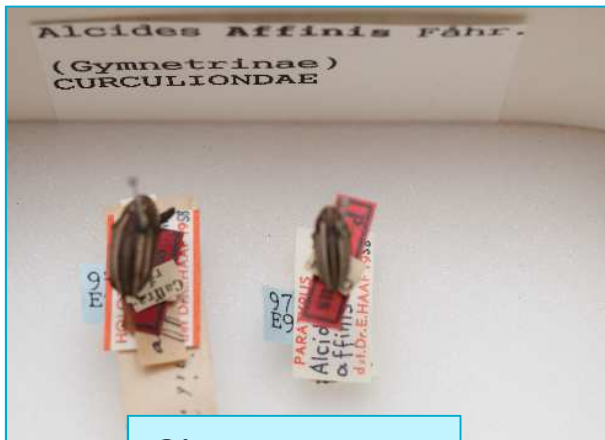
### Labelling for when specimens are not present



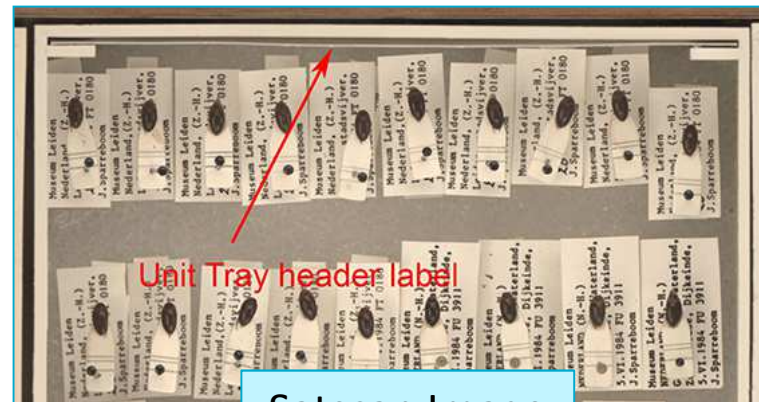
## Section 2 : Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

### Duplication of drawer and unit tray labels (dependent on imaging systems)

- ✓ can all labels be seen in the final image (header labels of unit trays)



GigaPan Image



Satscan Image

## Section 2 : Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

### Duplication of drawer and unit tray labels (dependent on imaging systems)

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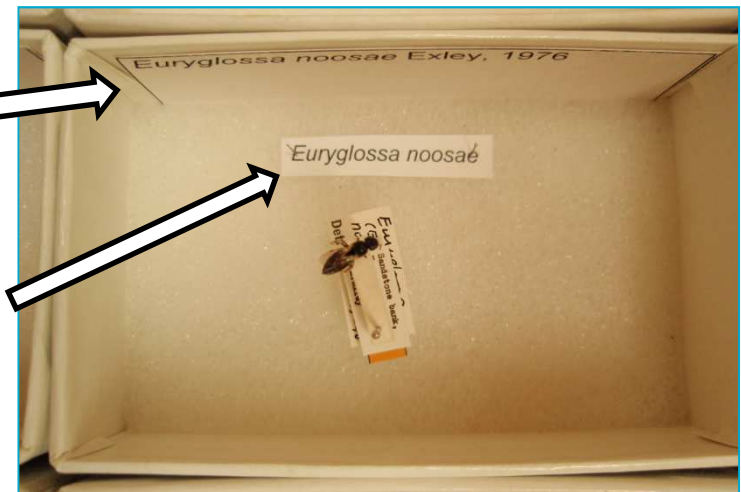
GigaPan Image



Satscan Image

Header label

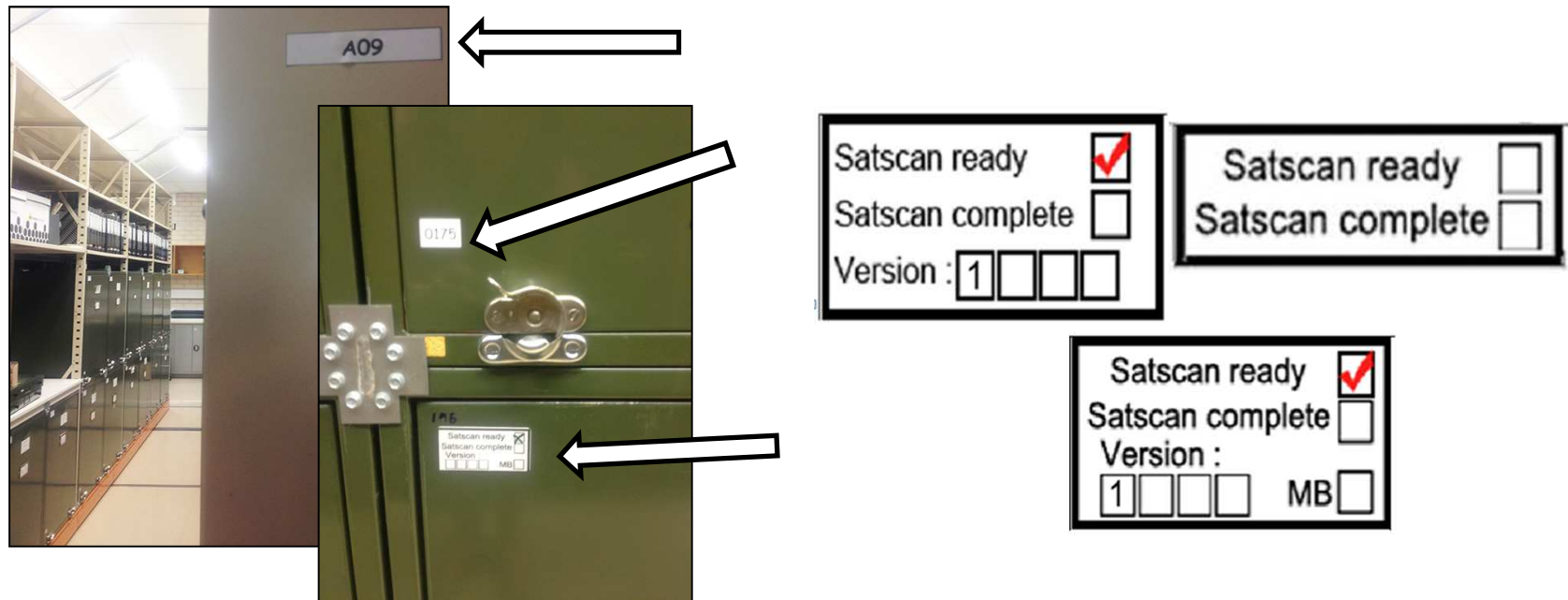
Duplication of label



## Section 2 : Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

### Labelling of cabinets, compactus, rows etc

- ✓ Number cabinets ?
- ✓ Label cabinets with their digitisation status ?

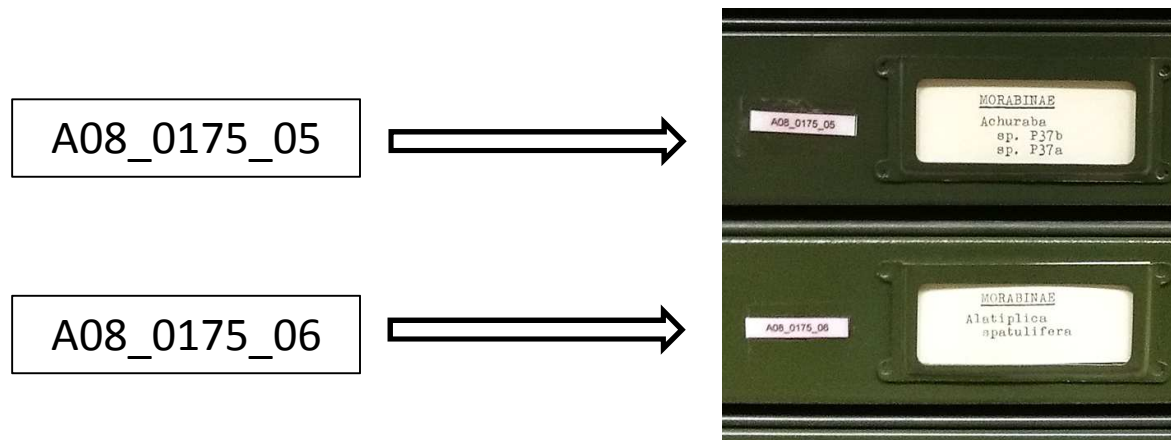




## Section 2 : Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

### Labelling of drawers

- ✓ Does the drawer need labeling before removing from the collection
- ✓ Location code for the drawer = filename of the image
- ✓ Human readable or machine readable label ?



## Section 2 : Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

**Colour control sample** – where to place it?  
Do you need to make space for it in the drawer?



ANIC drawer with a modified photographic colour control sample on edge of drawer

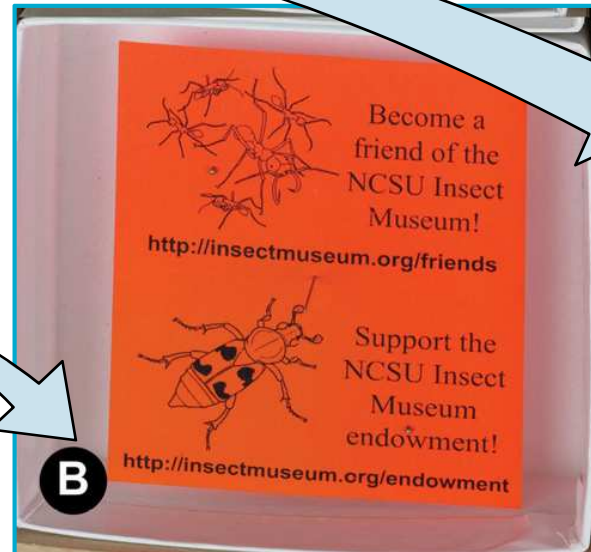


NCSU drawer with a modified photographic colour control sample in a unit tray in a drawer

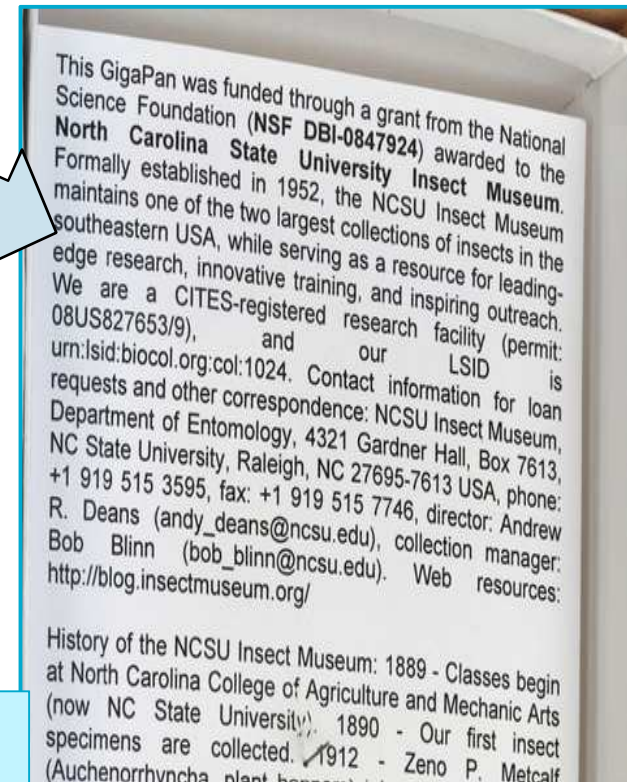
## Section 2 : Getting Insect Collections Ready for Digitisation

Any further advertising ?

- ✓ Endowment /donation funds
- ✓ Public engagement
- ✓ Outreach / education programs



NCSU drawer with further information captured in the unit tray when imaging a drawer



# Mahalo

# Thank you

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