

Collection Forum

Fall 1986, Volume 2, Number 2

OPINION: We've had it... Orphaned and Endangered Natural History Collections - A Statement

PAPERS

A Common Problem for Museums - The Space-Cost Crisis.
Dave Fenner

Ideas on how to better preserve collections of natural history. Mary Lou Florian

PREPARATION, FROM PRESERVED DISCARDS, OF SKELETAL MATERIAL FOR TEACHING AND DISPLAY

A. P. Russell and B. Curtis

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A method for preparing skeletal material from discarded, commercially available, preserved dissection specimens is described. This method employs trisodium phosphate to loosen the soft tissues. Because large quantities of skeletal specimens may be reclaimed cheaply and easily, the opportunity to experiment with such material for innovative teaching and display purposes is increased. Based on average current prices, commercially prepared skulls cost about twice as much, and complete disarticulated skeletons about four times as much as complete dissection specimens. Thus, the method described herein not only is useful for reclaiming skeletal material from already used material, but may also provide a cheaper source for the primary acquisition of skeletal material required for teaching and display purposes.

Preservation of Douglas fir branches for display purposes

C. Romero-Sieff and J.C. Webb . Department of Anatomy, Queen's University, Kingston Ont. K7L-3N6

A process for preserving Douglas fir branches has been developed. The treatment consists of immersing the branches in a mixture of chemicals for a period up to two weeks. The branches are subsequently rinsed in water and placed in a solution of water and glycerin for another two weeks. Finally, the branches are air dried. This treatment preserves the needles and prevents them from shedding.

Preparation of freeze-dried hearts for use as teaching aids.

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Freeze-dried hearts are well suited for teaching aids. They last for a decade and longer, occupy little storage space and emit little odour. This study describes how to prepare these teaching aids by freeze-drying. Also,

instructions are given on how to mount hearts on plastic bases for display purposes.

1986 MEETING ABSTRACTS

Meetings

Miscellany

Reviews

Biological Museum Methods by G. Hangay, M. Dingley, C. Romero-Sierra