

NSCF NEWS

Communication from the Natural Science Collections Facility Hub Team

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The importance of natural science collections

“Nothing will ever replace the taxonomic knowledge and training that museums provide; funding in this area should become a national priority. Otherwise, knowledge of this planet’s biodiversity, and of all the potential benefits therein, will be lost.”

- Natural Sciences Collections Association

Natural Science Collections help us understand the world we live in. They help us understand biodiversity, evolution, population genetics and the environmental impacts of climate change, pesticide use, combating of diseases, school curriculum and more.



e-Flora SA-World Flora Online Announcement

It is with great pleasure that SANBI Biosystematics announces that the first part of the e-Flora of South Africa is now available online. With the help of Biodiversity Information Management (BIM), the data has been submitted to the World Flora Online project in fulfilment of Target 1 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and the remaining part will be submitted by 2020.

Access World Flora Online here: <http://www.worldfloraonline.org>

Coordinate Conversion

Authored by Ian Engelbrecht , NSCF Data Coordinator

Good news!

Coordinate conversion is now a breeze, and this is why:

- You can now convert coordinates from any format to decimal in Excel.
- You no longer have to type formulas manually.
- You no longer have to worry about calculation mistakes.
- There is no need to standardize coordinate formats.

Find it here: <http://bit.ly/2krmWMK>

#collections
#research
#biodiversity
#darwincore
#dataquality
#biodiversitydata
#biodiversityinformatics

Job Post: Scientific Officer, Bolus Herbarium

The Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Cape Town is seeking to appoint a Scientific Officer to serve as an Assistant Curator at the Bolus Herbarium. The primary responsibility for the position is the development, maintenance and management of a digital/virtual herbarium based on specimens held at the Bolus Herbarium. In addition, the incumbent will be responsible for some physical specimen curation. The incumbent will also assist with general herbarium duties including specimen identification, mounting of newly collected material, and field-based specimen collection. Finally, the incumbent is expected to supervise students/interns/ volunteers involved in herbarium duties.

Closing date: 16 September 2019

Application details: http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/SCI_E90828_Scientific%20Officer_%20BioSci.pdf

Upcoming Important Dates

Please diarise

| Date | Meeting |
|------------------------|--|
| 18 & 19 September 2019 | Staffing & Capacity Development Working Group Meeting |
| 25 September 2019 | Deadline for submission of 2 nd quarter report |
| 29 & 30 October 2019 | Specify level 1 & 2 training in Pretoria |
| 12 to 14 November | Coordinating Committee & Organisational Development Sessions |
| 25 & 26 November | Collections Management & Curation Working Group Meeting |

Join us on Social Media

Like/follow, share/retweet and comment

“We don’t have a choice on whether we do social media, the question is how well we do it.”

– Erik Qualman



[@NSCFSA](#)—aimed at the public audience

‘Natural Science Collections Facility’ Facebook group—aimed at communicating to institutions, and not the public.



[@NSCF_SA](#)—aimed at the public audience



[@nscf_sa](#)—aimed at the public audience

Let’s connect!

Follow each link and **like/follow** the NSCF pages on social media, we will like/follow you back.

Send us your news...

to feature in the NSCF newsletter!

- What exciting activities took place at your institution?
- Anything happening with the collections?
- Any new species?
- Any collections-related research?
- Any job opportunities?
- Any new staff members?
- Any moving of collections?
- Any data related work happening?
- Any visiting scientist you are hosting?
- Any staff members traveling/attending a conference/attending a training?
- Did you recently receive items from the NSCF grant?
- Was your institution featured in the media?

... Guess what? That needs to be on this newsletter!

Send your news to:

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The NSCF is a virtual Facility, comprised of a network of institutions that hold natural science collections that are accessible to external researchers. The NSCF was established as part of the Department of Science and Technology’s Research Infrastructure Roadmap and co-ordinated by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI).

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