

NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS WORKING GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Coordinator's Column

The last year was one filled with consultations to colleagues worldwide, wonderful conferences, and collaborations. In addition, personally, 2019 was a fantastic year. I finished my PhD and was hired as the Natural History Conservator at the Yale Peabody Museum. Unfortunately, 2020 had started to be another positive year, until the news of the pandemic hit. Conferences were postponed, face-to-face collaborations stopped, and quarantines became our daily lives.

Luckily, the conservation community came together to provide resources and ways to stay connected during these challenging times. We got to visit museums virtually, attend talks, and relearn how to take care of collections and exhibitions.

The natural history community also came together and decided to make the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections a virtual event that was free for attendees. The conference was a success and it was a fantastic opportunity to see many colleagues and share our work in a new way.

I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone in our Working Group and those in the Natural History Conservation world for being so positive and helping one another.

On another note, I am stepping down as Coordinator for the next triennium and we are still looking for a candidate to take over the position. If you or anyone you know would be interested, please contact me at mariana.digiacom@yale.edu and we can schedule a virtual meeting to talk about this opportunity.

Get to know your working group

Social Media

Please follow us on Facebook to stay connected to the natural history world, post news, and communicate with others working in conservation of natural history collections!

www.facebook.com/icomccnathist/

Postponement of the ICOM-CC Beijing Conference

ICOM-CC has been closely monitoring the current global COVID-19 situation, the WHO analyses and the potential impact of the pandemic.

Following in the path of several international organisations and similar conferences the Board has agreed with the National Organising Committee in Beijing to postpone the 19th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference to May 17-21, 2021.

Please visit the ICOM-CC Triennial Conference website (www.icom-cc2020.org) for updates on the conference and follow us on Facebook as well! The ICOM-CC Directory Board and the NOC in Beijing are looking forward to welcoming you in Beijing in Spring 2021.

We have accepted a paper about mummified cats and a poster about a new method to reconstruct bone, and our colleagues in the other Working Groups also have a wonderful array of talks and posters that will make this conference absolutely wonderful and not something you'll want to miss!

ICOM-CC Call for Working Group Coordinator Candidates

CALL for CANDIDATES for ELECTION of WORKING GROUP COORDINATORS

For the 2020–2023 TRIENNIUM

The deadline for submission of candidacy was May 25, 2020. However, we are still looking for a Coordinator. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact the current coordinator at mariana.digiacomio@yale.edu

The current Coordinator is willing to talk to you about the position, explain what it means to be a coordinator, and work with you to help make your tenure successful.

COVID-19 Resources

Below is a list of resources relating to COVID-19 and caring for collections that may be useful to conservators and museum professionals at this time:

International Council of Museums (ICOM) - Conservation of Museum Collections
<https://icom.museum/en/covid-19/resources/conservation-of-museum-collections/>

The Heritage Emergency National Task Force - COVID-19 Resource Hub
<https://culturalrescue.si.edu/hentf/major-disasters/current-disasters/>

American Institute for Conservation (AIC) - COVID-19 Resources
<https://www.culturalheritage.org/resources/emergencies/collections-care-amid-covid-19>

Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) - Caring for Heritage Collections during the COVID-19 Pandemic CCI Technical Note - CCI Technical Note
https://www.cac-accr.ca/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2020/04/ci_covid-19_en_2020-04-17.pdf

American Alliance of Museums - Managing collections care during pandemics
<https://www.aam-us.org/programs/about-museums/reviewing-cleaning-and-collections-care-policies/>

The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM) - Closed by COVID-19?
<https://aiccm.org.au/disaster/disaster-response>

Museums and Galleries NSW - Practical things you can do while your museum is closed due to COVID-19
<https://mgnsw.org.au/articles/what-to-do-while-your-museum-is-closed-due-to-covid19/>

National Centre for Preservation Technology and Training - Cultural Resources and COVID-19
<https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/blog/cultural-resources-and-covid-19/>

Northeast Document Conservation Centre - Disinfection Books and Other Collections
<https://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/preservation-leaflets/3.-emergency-management/3.5-disinfecting-books%C2%A0>

Museum Study free online course - Cultural Institution Crisis Response
<https://courses.museumstudy.com/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=13643#p43559>

Meetings and Conferences

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) meeting in Edinburgh, UK has been postponed until 5th-12th June 2022. See the statement at the link below for more details:
<http://www.spnhc-icomnathist2020.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/spnhc-icom-nathist-2020-postponement-statement-26.03.20.pdf>

19th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in Beijing has been postponed from September 2020 to 17-21 May 2021. Check the Triennial Conference website for further updates: www.icom-cc2020.org

Conservation Resources

Below is a brief list of resources that will provide opportunities for professional development and further learning while you may be working from home.

American Institute for Conservation -
Connecting to Collections Care Webinars
<https://www.connectingtocollections.org/archives/>

American Institute for Conservation -
Collections Care Self-Study
<https://learning.culturalheritage.org/collections-care>

American Institute of Biological Science -
Writing for Impact and Influence:
Professional Development Program
<https://www.aibs.org/events/programs/writing-for-impact-and-influence.html>

Canadian Conservation Institute Notes:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/conservation-preservation-publications/canadian-conservation-institute-notes.html>

Getty Publications Virtual Library
<http://www.getty.edu/publications/virtuallibrary/>

Image Permanence Institute Webinars
<https://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/education/webinars.html>

International Council of Museums
Publications Database
<https://icom.museum/en/resources/publications/>

In Their True Colors - Research supporting
the preservation and conservation of
taxidermy and related materials
<https://intheirtruecolors.wordpress.com/>

Museum Study - Online Courses:
<https://courses.museumstudy.com/course/index.php>

National Park Service Conserve O Grams
https://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/conservedgram/cons_toc.html

Natural Sciences Collections Association
Resources
<https://www.natsca.org/resources>

Society for the Preservation of Natural
History Collections Wiki
<https://spnhc.biowikifarm.net/wiki>

Storage Techniques for Art Science &
History Collections
<https://stashc.com/>

Useful Websites

ACGIH American Conference of
Governmental Industrial Hygienists
www.acgih.org

ACS American Chemical Society
www.acs.org/content/acs/en.html

AIC American Institute for Conservation
<https://www.culturalheritage.org/>

ALCA American Leather Chemists
Association
leatherchemists.org/

ANSI American National Standards
Institute
www.ansi.org/

C2C Care Connecting to Collections Care
www.connectingtocollections.org

CDC Centre for Disease Control and
Prevention
www.cdc.gov/

CHIN Canadian Heritage Information
Network
[www.canada.ca/en/heritage-information-
network.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/heritage-information-network.html)

CIC Canadian Conservation Institute
[www.canada.ca/en/conservation-
institute.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute.html)

CITES Convention on International Trade
in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and
Flora
www.cites.org

CoOI Conservation on Line
<https://cool.culturalheritage.org/>

DHHS Department of Health and Human
Services

www.hhs.gov/

English Heritage
www.english-heritage.org.uk/

EPA Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/

GCG Geological Curator's Group
geocurator.org/

Global Conservation Forum (Previously
ConsDistList)
[https://community.culturalheritage.org/c
ommunities/community-
home?CommunityKey=ea3d002c-9fc3-
4446-b7d2-c308f5faed13](https://community.culturalheritage.org/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=ea3d002c-9fc3-4446-b7d2-c308f5faed13)

ICCROM International Centre for the
Study of the Preservation and Restoration
of Cultural Property
www.iccrom.org/

ICOM International Council of Museums
icom.museum

ICOM-CC International Council of
Museums Committee for Conservation
www.icom-cc.org/

ICON The Institute of Conservation
icon.org.uk

IIC International Institute for
Conservation of Historic and Artistic
Works
www.iiconservation.org/

IMLS Institute of Museum and Library
Services
www.imls.gov

IRUG The Infrared and Raman Users
Group
<http://www.irug.org/>

ISO International Organization for
Standardization
www.iso.org/

MRS Materials Research Society
www.mrs.org

NatSCA Natural Sciences Collections
Association
www.natsca.org

NCPTT National Center for Preservation
Technology and Training
www.ncptt.nps.gov

NCSHPO National Conference of State
Historic Preservation Officers – Historic
Preservation Fund
[ncshpo.org/issues/historic-preservation-
fund/](http://ncshpo.org/issues/historic-preservation-fund/)

NHCOLL The Natural History Collections
List Server
mailman.yale.edu/mailman/listinfo/nhcoll
[-1](#)

NIOSH National Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health
www.cdc.gov/niosh/index.htm

NISO National Information Standards
Organization
www.niso.org/

OEHHA Office of Environmental Health
Hazard Assessment
oehha.ca.gov/

OSHA The Occupational Safety and
Health Administration
www.osha.gov/

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PubChem
<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

RAP Regional Alliance for Preservation
www.rap-arcc.org/

SiC Sustainability in Conservation
www.sustainabilityinconservation.com

SHNH The Society for the History of
Natural History
shnh.org.uk

SPNHC The Society for the Preservation
of Natural History Specimens
www.spnhc.org/

Storage Techniques for Art Science and
History Collections
<http://stashc.com/>

The Textile Conservation Centre
www.textileconservationcentre.org.uk/

UNESCO United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization
<https://en.unesco.org/>