



Call for papers **Meeting on the preservation of wet collections –** **Muséum national d' Histoire naturelle**

Preservation of natural history wet collections : feedbacks and future prospects

5 – 7th December 2018, Muséum national d' Histoire naturelle, Paris (France)

Context

Natural history wet collections form a precious resource that support many areas including important scientific research, teaching and exhibitions. Across the world, these collections now contain many plants and animals now extinct or highly endangered, and as such now form an important part of our natural heritage.

Their care and conservation presents a significant challenge and attempting to improve their preservation has been a developing field of research since the end of the 19th century. Preservation techniques employed for the preparation, preservation and conservation of wet collections have changed significantly over time, and the proper care of such specimens depends on numerous parameters: the types of fixation or preservation fluids used, type of jars, sealants, storage environments etc. In the medium-to-long term, all these factors have an impact on the anatomical and morphological quality of the specimens as well as on the integrity of the biochemical information they contain such as DNA and proteins. These factors directly determine the use that can be made of the collections: exhibition, morphological study, biochemical research...

The aim of this meeting is to bring together all of those involved in the development, care and conservation of natural history wet collections, be they volunteer, student, curatorial assistant, curator in charge, conservator or researcher, to share collective knowledge and experiences in preserving, conserving and managing wet collections. Discussions will be structured around feedback to presentations and workshops to enable participants to learn from issues and to try and provide achievable solutions. This will also highlight common practices, recurring problems observed within spirit collections, potential drivers, topping strategies as well as future challenges posed by wet collections. The issue of the toxicity of some preservation fluids will also be addressed along with precautionary health and safety measures for the institutional staff.

Communications

Two main topics are proposed in the framework of this call for papers:

① **Focus 1 – Past, present and future of the collections:** Participants are invited to describe the collections they are caring for. They will be able to discuss their diversity, history, value, and use, as well as the requirements for their improvement. Future concerns about the management of collections will also be considered such as the evolution and developments of materials for conservation (e.g. jars availability, label printing, sealing) and of different types of display and presentation.

② **Focus 2 – Crucial issues on fluid collections:** Participants are encouraged to talk about their specific problems with fluid collections: degradation problems, fluid identification, possible diagnostic tools etc. They can tell about methods for assessing types of deteriorations, about preservation criteria and discuss the possible degradation causes (reactions between specimens/fluid/jars, storage and exhibition conditions, etc.). One part can be dedicated to the means found to curb degradations (practical details, local planning, etc.) and to the processes used to restore the specimen affected (including protective equipment intended both for common and individual usage).






Contributions will take the form of 20 minutes talks, in either French or English (simultaneous translation). No poster session is planned.

Abstracts should be submitted on the website pfc2018.sciencesconf.org in the Submit section ("In practice" tab). Abstracts should not exceed 250 words and should follow the **template** provided on the website.

Deadline for submission: **1st July 2018**

Result notification: summer 2018

Scientific steering committee

-  Sophie Cersoy (Centre de Recherche sur la Conservation, CRC, USR 3224)
-  Véronique Rouchon (Centre de Recherche sur la Conservation, CRC, USR 3224)
-  Marc Herbin (Mécanismes Adaptatifs et Evolution, MecAdEv, UMR 7179, MNHN/CNRS)
-  Jacques Cuisin (Direction générale déléguée aux collections, MNHN)
-  Patrice Pruvost (Biologie des organismes et écosystèmes aquatiques, UMR 7208, MNHN/CNRS/IRD)

Practical informations

Location : Grande Galerie de l'Evolution, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France.

Registration: [Free BUT mandatory according to availability](#)

Website (registration, abstract submission, programme...) : pfc2018.sciencesconf.org

Contact : pfc2018@sciencconf.org

