

Connecting Content: A Collaboration to Link Field Notes to Specimens and Published Literature

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Abstract: The California Academy of Sciences Library, located in San Francisco, CA, was recently awarded a 3-year Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership Grant entitled “Connecting Content: A Collaboration to Link Field Notes to Specimens and Published Literature.” Connecting Content is a collaborative effort involving several natural science museums and universities. This cooperative project aims to improve access to biodiversity research materials in archives, libraries, and museums through identifying connections and creating linkages between collections that are physically and geographically dispersed. Further, it seeks to establish connections between collections that are also intellectually dispersed in terms of collection management practices. Substantiating linkages between primary source materials, museum specimen collections, and digitized published literature was the focus of the summer 2011 research project hosted at partner site the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

About the author:

Richard Fischer was the California Academy of Sciences Information Connections Research Intern in the summer of 2011, working out of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. He graduated from the Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, City University of New York, in May 2011 with a Master of Library Science degree and a Certificate in Archives and Preservation of Cultural Materials. While working on his degree, Richard interned at the American Museum of Natural History Research Library, the New-York Historical Society Library Manuscript Division, and the Louis Armstrong House Museum Archives. He was a Queens College Libraries Special Collections Fellow for the 2010-2011 academic year. Richard holds a BA in English from Rutgers University.