



SPNHC

ADVANCING COLLECTIONS CARE

Application for Christine Allen Travel Grants

Application deadline: **31st March 2014**

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is offering a grant up to \$750 for travel expenses associated with attendance of the SPNHC Annual Meeting. Participants are required to make all their own travel arrangements, including application and requests for visas, if required. The SPNHC Annual Meeting Host Committee can provide a letter of support verifying registration/participation in the meeting. Applicants should be members of the Society or apply for membership before the application will be accepted. Preference will be given to graduate students or emerging professionals in fields related to the management and conservation of natural history collections. Applicants from the institution(s) hosting the meeting will not be eligible. Awardees are required to make either an oral or poster presentation at the meeting and to be first author on the presentation. Receipt of the grant is contingent on the acceptance of the applicant's abstract by the local committee for the meeting. A letter of support from your advisor, supervisor, or professional mentor should be submitted to the SPNHC Annual Meeting Host Committee (electronically) together with this application.

Name	<u>Bethany L. Abrahamson</u>		
Institution	Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico		
Address	315 Richmond Dr. SE		
City	Albuquerque		
State/Province	New Mexico		
Zip Code	87106		
Country	United States of America		
Email address(es)	babraham@unm.edu		
Country of Residence	United States of America		
Anticipated travel dates	22-27 June 2014		
Are you receiving any additional funds to attend this meeting?	Y	<u>N</u>	
Are you a current member of SPNHC?	<u>Y</u>	N	

Please explain in the space provided below, the benefit that attending a SPNHC meeting will afford you.

At the SPNHC meeting I will give a talk on my research, which focuses on the Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB) at the University of New Mexico as a case study. My research uses museum records to analyze how MSB's collections have been used over time, and draws conclusions that are pertinent to other research collections. This research has many applications for future study of museum records and for promoting research collections in general. The SPNHC meeting hosts talks from museum professionals around the world to educate scientists and museum professionals on topics that advance the field of collections management and preservation. Considering that my research deals with assessing how MSB's collections are used, the SPNHC meeting is an ideal venue for presenting my research that will reach many prestigious institutions and contribute to improving my study.

As a graduate student, I will benefit from the exposure that presenting my research will give me. I will gain important insight into my research from the perspective of other researchers and professionals, which will help me shape my research for its intended audience and submission to SPNHC's *Collection Forum* within the year. Gaining feedback from others at this particular meeting will provide the most pertinent information regarding what I should include or omit in my submission to the journal. Attending the conference itself will allow me to learn what others in my field are studying, and the dialogues that emerge from the conference will give me the opportunity to engage in and interact with some of the most current issues that face collections today. I hope to network with others in my field and make connections which will assist me in pursuing a career in collection management. This year's meeting may be very influential in my future career direction, since I am currently applying for collection manager positions. Lastly, no other researchers from UNM plan to attend this meeting, so I will be representing UNM with my research and promoting my university's reputation as a research institution.

Please provide an estimate of anticipated expenses (in US\$):

Transportation (air fare, train fare, ground transportation)	\$700 (approx.) each way ABQ NM to CARDIFF = 1400
Lodging	\$214 per diem = 1284
Meals	\$105 per diem for 6 days = 630
Additional expenses (list individually)	NA
Total	\$ 3314

Please submit your application SPNHC2014@museumwales.ac.uk to the SPNHC Annual Meeting Host Committee. **Electronic submission is preferred, but hard copies will be accepted** at the address below.

Julian Carter
Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

Cathays Park
Cardiff, UK
CF10 3NP

Checklist:

- ✓ completed application form sent to host committee
- ✓ letter of recommendation sent to host committee
- ✓ enrolled as current member in SPNHC
- ✓ abstract submitted for poster or oral presentation at SPNHC annual meeting

SPNHC 2014 CARDIFF

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

Send all completed abstract forms to: SPNHC2014@museumwales.ac.uk

A copy of **DemoCamp abstracts** should be sent to the session organizer, Amanda Neill - aneill@brit.org

iDigBio and the Small Collections Network (SCNet) symposium abstracts should be sent to: <http://tinyurl.com/RecruitingRetainingSymposium>

Deadline for abstract submission:

25th April 2014 – DemoCamp,

5th May 2014 – All other presentations

ORAL PRESENTATION

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR EMAIL: babraham@unm.edu

ABSTRACT

A quantitative evaluation of natural history collection use in one university museum

Bethany L. Abrahamson¹

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This study, focused on the museum records held by the Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB, a university-based research collection), analyzes museum-based publications, specimen loan records, and guestbook information from six divisions to determine how MSB's natural history collections (NHCs) have been used in scientific study over time. Using a novel methodology, I objectively sorted publications into ten research subjects via search phrases to determine how MSB has contributed to different kinds of research over time. I also tracked patterns in the kinds of specimens loaned over time, and explored how visitor affiliations and purpose of visit changed over time. The trends presented suggest that MSB's uses have changed and expanded over time as its specimens have been applied to new and innovative areas of study. This case study illustrates MSB's steps onto a larger stage in both research and public spheres, and sheds light on how the utilizations of NHCs might be studied in other museums. Analyses that quantify the use and impact of NHCs

illustrate the importance of this key infrastructure to the scientific community and beyond.

Maximum of 250 words (not including author and address details), Ariel Font, size 12.

See <http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/spnhc2014/submissions/> for format details.