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So... You Want to Move Your Collections?

Shifting Focus

The onus of moving collections, on any scale, can be a daunting task. There are many documented case studies, as well as disaster ridden anecdotes, in the museums sector. These can be useful when considering specific methodological needs but are often bespoke to the collections or organisation concerned. As yet there is no openly accessible template or toolkit for planning natural history collections moves.

A Moving Store-y

In April 2016 OUMNH undertook a 12 month project to relocate:

- 🐾 ~80m (linear) of archival material
- 🐾 ~1500 specimens of mammal osteology
- 🐾 ~100 casts of fossil material
- 🐾 ~15,000 palaeontological and geological specimens

Some tips were gleaned from museum sector literature but the majority of planning, process and pace of progress were specific to the situation at OUMNH.



From Left to Right: the original store, packing in situ, the final specimen.

Towards a Toolkit

Whether you're planning a collections move and need to construct a budget or timeline or you have been tasked with the logistics of relocation then a template toolkit may save a lot of time and duplication of effort. This project starting point would be designed to be flexible to collection and budget size.

Once created we aim to share this resource via publication in the Journal of Natural Science Collections. It would also compile other relevant case studies and resources into one place.

To make sure it reflects our Subject Specialist Network, we need your help...

Reflecting on Relocations

Have you moved your collections recently?

What tips would you share?

What lessons did you learn?

What publications or resources did you utilise?

What do you wish you could have known beforehand?

Options:

- 🐾 Answers on a Post-it below
- 🐾 Fill in a feedback form
- 🐾 Email one of the contacts below



Contemplating your Collections

Are you planning a collections move?

What do you want to know?

What type of resource would be useful?

Options:

- 🐾 Answers on a Post-it below
- 🐾 Fill in a feedback form
- 🐾 Email one of the contacts below

