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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: Biological Recording and Museums - a seminar

Author(s): Not Listed.

Source: Not Listed. (1984). Biological Recording and Museums - a seminar. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter*, Vol 3 No 8, 432-434.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1331>

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A Seminar

Biological Recording and Museums

1) Introduction

For the last fifteen years or so museums have been actively involved in biological recording and in providing local biological record centres. The extent and scale of the services provided was analysed in two recent articles, (Harding, P.T. and Greenwood, E.F. survey of local and regional biological record centres. BCG Newsletter, 2: 468-478 (1981); Greenwood, E.F. and Harding, P.T. survey of local and regional biological record centres - analysis of results. BCG Newsletter, 3: 108-114 (1982)). Since these articles were written museums have continued to be active in this field and the BCG now feels that it would be appropriate to focus attention in these centres by means of a two day Seminar.

2) Aims and objectives of the Seminar

The aim of the Seminar is to discuss the function and role of local biological record centres as a part of a wider network of voluntary and official organisations involved in biological recording and to discuss whether or not they provide a useful public service that is adequately funded. An objective of the conference might be to make suggestions as to the future role of local biological record centres.

3) Final Discussion

During the course of the meeting many issues will be discussed but in the final discussion period the following questions, amongst others, should be asked and answered.

Is the present situation, both nationally and locally, of biological recording, storage and retrieval of data satisfactory?

Should agreed standards be set for all biological recording? If so, how should this be achieved?

Can and should museums provide a biological data bank service.

If museums should provide a service, what kind of service should be provided and for whom?

If museums should provide a service, are they adequately financed and by whom should they be financed.

Biological Recording and the use of site
based biological information

Date of Venue: A two day seminar to be based at Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries & Records Service, and Leicester Polytechnic, 13-14th September, 1984.

Draft Programme.

Thursday, 13th September.

10.00 a.m.	Assemble and Coffee.	
10.30-10.45 a.m.	Opening remarks.	Chairperson: P. Boylan, Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries & Records Service.
10.45-11.30 a.m.	Museums as Biological Recording Centres.	P.W. Lambley, Castle Museum, Norwich.
11.30-12.15	The role of the National Biological Records Centre	P.T. Harding, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.
12.15-1.30 p.m.	Lunch	
1.30-2.00 p.m.	The Work of the Nature Conservancy Council: species Recording	Chairperson: F.H. Perring A. Stubbs, N.C.C.
2.30-3.00 p.m.	National Societies' Recording Schemes: British Trust for Ornithology	Dr. R.J. O'Connor, B.T.O.
3.00-3.30 p.m.	Tea	
3.30-4.00 p.m.	National Societies' Recording Schemes: Botanical Society of the British Isles.	D. Wells, B.S.B.I.
4.00-4.30 p.m.	National Societies' Recording Schemes: Bat Groups	H. Arnold
4.30-5.00 p.m.	Discussion	
Evening (45 Minutes talk)	The role of Nature Conservation Trusts in obtaining and using site based data. Discussion.	Chairperson: M. Walpole S. Crooks, R.S.P.N.C.

Draft Programme (continued)

Friday, 14th September.

Chairperson: G. Stansfield

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| 9.00-9.45 a.m. | The use of micro-computers in marine biological site recording | D. Erwin, The Ulster Museum. |
| 9.45-10.15 a.m. | The use of local biological Record Centres 1. | J. Lavin, Cliffe Castle, Keighley |
| 10.15-10.45 a.m. | The use of local biological Record Centres 2. | I.M. Evans, Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Records Service |
| 10.45-11.00 a.m. | Coffee | |
| 11.00-11.45 a.m. | The biological data requirements of a local authority Planning Department | R. Gemmell, Lancashire County Council. |
| 11.45-12.30 | The problems of biological site evaluation | P.H. Smith, Liverpool Polytechnic. |
| 12.30-1.45 p.m. | Lunch | Chairperson: ? ? |
| 1.45-2.30 p.m. | Why Museums? | A. Tynan, The Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne. |
| 2.30-3.15 p.m. | The problems posed by the absence of a local B.R.C. | A. Walker |
| 3.15-3.30 p.m. | Tea | |
| 3.30-4.00 p.m. | Financial and administrative problems faced by a local authority local B.R.C. | P. Boylan |
| 4.00-5.00 p.m. | Discussion and conclusion | Chairperson ? ? |