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Natural Sciences Collections Association

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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Information

Sunflower Campaign

Shopping List

As the next stage in the **Sunflower Campaign** we are going to publish a shopping list of requirements for the storage, curation, conservation and study of biology collections. (Not including displays, exhibitions or biological records centres.) Simply jot down on a scrap of paper all your large scale urgent requirements, and all your small scale urgent requirements with an approximate cost. For example:

Large Scale

- Visitor study area with facilities
£40,000
- New biology store to replace leaky old building
£500,000
- Ten new insect units to accommodate new material
£8,000
- Conservator for one year to work on bird skins
£15,000

Small Scale

- Additional stereomicroscope for use by visitors
£1,200
- A set of essential reference books on insects
£450
- A microscope slide cabinet
£800
- A drawer unit for small skeletons
£80

The aim is to grasp some idea of current requirements to bring biology collections and study facilities up to scratch. We will then lobby hard for more 100% grants, and for local authorities and industry to find matching money for 50% and 70% grants.

This is the next phase in the **Sunflower Campaign**. It is **IMPORTANT**. Do it now! It should only take a few minutes of your time. (If you wish to remain anonymous simply enter the name of your AMC eg AMSEE - area museum.)

Send your shopping list to:

Biology Curators Group
c/o City Museum
Sheffield S10 2TP

Initiative Money (or Sunflower Money)

How is it being spent?

The extra £75,000 allocated by MGC to biology collections is a good shot, with a promise of more to come. But how is it being spent? Yorkshire and Humberside AMC has made £20,000 gross available in the form of 70% grant aid for a RECAP project (Reclassification of Collections Access Project). The objective is to make sections of unaccessible collections accessible by sorting into scientific order. During 1990/91 entomology collections have been given priority status. What is happening elsewhere? Are your collections benefitting? BCG is monitoring the situation. Keep us in touch.

New Leaflet

Your committee is working on a new campaign leaflet to keep things on the boil. We are seeking additional sponsorship and hope to print 10,000 copies on recycled paper by the late winter/early spring.

Derek Whiteley
BCG Secretary

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is a multidisciplinary organization including individuals within the fields of anthropology, botany, geology, paleontology, zoology and others who are interested in the development and preservation of natural history collections. Natural history collections include specimens and supporting documentation, such as audio-visual materials, labels, library materials, field data, and similar archives. Preservation refers to any direct or indirect activity providing continued or improved care of these collections and supporting documentation.

The Society publishes a journal and a newsletter, each of which is distributed twice a year. The Society also conducts an annual meeting that includes presentations, posters, workshops, and other activities. Individual membership to SPNHC can be acquired by supplying the details listed below and