



museums
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MUSEUMS ANNUAL REPORT

*including the report of the University of Alberta Museums
Policy and Planning Committee*

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016



Left to Right: Mrs. Cornelia Morcos, Chair of the Board of Governors Michael Phair, University of Alberta Museums Executive Director Janine Andrews

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|-------------------|--|----|
| 1.0 | Introduction | 4 |
| 2.0 | Report of the University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee | 5 |
| 2.1 | ACTIVITY ONE University of Alberta Museums and Collections Policy | 5 |
| 2.2 | ACTIVITY TWO Research Collection Purpose-Built Facilities | 6 |
| 2.3 | ACTIVITY THREE Reaccreditation of Recognized Museum Status | 8 |
| 2.7 | ACTIVITY FOUR For the Public Good | 9 |
| APPENDICES | | |
| A | Policy and Planning Committee Membership 2015/16 | 13 |
| B | Directory of Registered Collections of the University of Alberta Museums | 14 |
| C | Museums and Collections Services Staff | 16 |
| D | Friends of the University of Alberta Museums Board of Directors 2015/16 | 16 |

FAST FACTS

Dr. Fawzy and Mrs. Cornelia Morcos donated Kosso Eloul's sculpture *Signalos III* to the University of Alberta Art Collection. An internationally renowned sculptor, Kosso Eloul was a key figure in twentieth century sculpture in Canada. This sculpture was installed on campus on the southeast corner of 114th street and 87th avenue in July 2016.

MISSION

We are committed to initiating and leading innovative museum strategies and solutions that ensure the University of Alberta Museums are relevant to the University of Alberta academic, research, and community engagement missions and to make the University of Alberta Museums collections accessible to students and researchers and our diverse local and international communities.

MANDATE

University of Alberta Museums provide museum leadership in strategies and services to assist the 29 University of Alberta Museums in fulfilling their academic mission at the University of Alberta by:

- Providing a framework for our distributed academic museum model and committee structures;
- Ensuring physical and intellectual access to museum collections and associated knowledge through diverse programs that engage our communities;
- Developing digital/multimedia collections-based initiatives that support research, teaching, and fiduciary requirements;
- Developing standards and programs that affect collections care for access, storage, risk management, and emergency preparedness;
- Maintaining a policy and procedure framework within UAPPOL that facilitates compliance with museums standards;
- Ensuring curatorial and stewardship initiatives for the University of Alberta Art Collection, including the Mactaggart Art Collection.

This report summarizes the activities of the University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee, with selected highlights from University of Alberta Museums activities and achievements from July 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.



FAST FACTS

A total of over 2,200,000 collection files have been downloaded from the iDigBio website between August 2015 and June 2016. These files have been made publically available on the iDigBio website for six biological sciences collections including Vascular Plant, Entomology, Ichthyology, Ornithology, Mammalogy and Herpetology.

The University of Alberta Museums Policy and Planning Committee met formally on January 20, 2016 and March 30, 2016.



FAST FACTS

The University of Alberta Museums has had its content displayed approximately 960,000 times on social media (impressions) over the last year which lead to a 1.23 per cent engagement rate (industry average is 0.9 per cent). Impressions were up 600 per cent over last year (157,000) and the engagement rate percentage rose by 0.53 per cent.



2.1

ACTIVITY ONE

University of Alberta Museums and Collections Policy

The following key policy compliance tasks and activities were discussed:

- The University of Alberta Museums held focus groups with Curators in order to submit a document to President Turpin to include in the University of Alberta's strategic planning process.
- The University of Alberta Museums will be reviewing the existing UAPPOL Museums policies as required by the Office of the Provost every five years.
- The Policy and Planning Committee and Curators discussed that the current UAPPOL contract signing authority policy and delegation matrix in relation to the University of Alberta Museums is not working for collections across campus. The University of Alberta Museums will make recommendations for changes to be considered by Senior Administration to better facilitate compliance with the Museums policy and associated regulations.
- The University of Alberta Museums is working to develop a compliance survey in order to determine whether the University of Alberta Museums collections are complying with the UAPPOL Museums and Collections Policy.
- The University of Alberta Museums has been informed of the transfer of the Ice Core Collection from National Resources Canada to the University of Alberta. The Policy and Planning committee agreed that this collection should fall under the UAPPOL Museum and Collections Policy as the objects in the collection are by definition museum objects (rare and irreplaceable).
- The Committee voted unanimously to approve the deaccession of the last groupings of objects from the Dentistry Collection via an electronic vote.



FAST FACTS

Curator of the Mammalogy Collection, Andrew Derocher, co-authored a study on the migratory response of polar bears to sea ice loss that was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Ecography*.



2.2

ACTIVITY TWO

Research Collection Purpose-Built Facilities

The University of Alberta Museums has worked with various departments, faculties and Building Services to ensure that adequate storage facilities exist for short and long-term care of the University of Alberta Museums collections. For the continued evolution and operation of the University of Alberta Museums research collection facilities, purpose-built spaces are still required and the Policy and Planning Committee and Curators continued to discuss this need.

The following facility updates and issues for the University of Alberta Museums collections were reported during this period:

- Human Ecology's Clothing and Textile Collection is looking into installing a new security system with cameras to address the threat of vandalism and theft.
- Negotiations continue in order to move the Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology collection (approximately 50,000 specimens) to the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS) to improve storage conditions.
- The Parasite Collection's dry slide collection (21,000 specimens) was relocated from the fourth floor of the Biological Sciences building to the seventh floor.
- The Vascular Plant Herbarium converted an adjacent room into a preparatory space to allow for safer integration of new material into the collection. This new prep room will allow for proper inspection and drying of specimens prior to them entering the main storage area, which will better protect the existing collection from potential infestation.



FAST FACTS

Twenty-four tours in the Print Study Centre brought in approximately 300 researchers, students and visitors to see the 3,500 prints part of the University of Alberta's Art Collection.

- The type specimens from the Paleobotanical Collection were relocated from the sub-basement of the Zoology Wing in the Biological Sciences to the fourth floor of the Botany Wing and underwent a complete inventory and digitization during this process. Additionally, the acetate peels in the Paleobotanical Collection were successfully relocated to the fourth floor of the Botany Wing into a much more suitable environment that will aid in their long-term preservation.
- The University of Alberta Museum of Zoology's Mammalogy Collection underwent a major storage reorganization and improvement project in the summer of 2015. The collection was collated and reorganized onto the eleventh floor of the Biological Sciences building. A complete inventory of the collection is ongoing as a direct result of this project.
- The Pathology Gross Teaching Collection underwent storage upgrades to protect wet specimens in the Pathology Museum from damage. A full inventory was completed simultaneously and the collection now has item-level location assignments.



- The Mactaggart Art Collection underwent storage upgrades to its three-dimensional textiles to prevent further creasing, to its albums to protect paper from ink transfers, and to its scrolls to protect silk edges.
- With funding through the Alberta Museums Association and the University of Alberta Museums, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program is currently being implemented in 10 at-risk collections to include sustainable prevention, monitoring, and response processes for long-term preservation. These collections include:
 - » University of Alberta Art Collection (including Mactaggart Art, Historical, and Ethnography collections)
 - » University of Alberta Museum of Zoology (including Mammalogy, Ornithology, Ichthyology, and Amphibian and Reptile collections)
 - » Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology
 - » Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives
 - » E.H. Strickland Entomological Museum
 - » Vascular Plant Herbarium
 - » Renewable Resources Natural History Collection
 - » Clothing and Textiles Collection
 - » Cryptogamic Herbarium
 - » Bryan/Gruhn Ethnographic Collection
 - » The project will also include a review and integration of the IPM program at the University of Alberta Museums Galleries at Enterprise Square.
- Pest issues in the Ornithology Collection in the Zoology Museum – which affected approximately 19,000 specimens between the two collections – have been resolved as there are no new or recurring infestations. Monitoring is still ongoing.
- A mouse infestation was discovered in the Osteology Collection, which required all cabinets to be emptied, cleaned and disinfected. Several specimens required treatment to clean and disinfect them. One specimen was permanently damaged as a result of staining from the infestation. Mice were also found near collection spaces in the basement of the Henry Marshall Tory building.
- Water issues continue to be a concern in the storage and lab spaces for the Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology collection. With heavy rainfalls in the summer, leaks were discovered along the North-East walls and under the wooden flooring. Building Services assessed the leaks and determined the leaks are part of larger structural problems with the building.

There are approximately 120 locations on campus that house collections. Roughly 53 locations, housing 1.61 million specimens and objects, were affected with facility updates and issues this reporting period. Only one of the collections locations is fully CCPERB (Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board) compliant.



FAST FACTS

Forty-seven tours in the Mactaggart Art Collection brought in approximately 500 researchers, students and visitors to see some of the 1,000 impressive works of art and artifacts in the collection.



Delegates viewing the Mactaggart Art Collection as part of the Dressing Global Bodies conference.

2.3

ACTIVITY THREE

Reaccreditation of Recognized Museum Status

University of Alberta Museums has successfully undergone reaccreditation with the Alberta Museums Association, a process that occurs every five years. The University of Alberta Museums has gained the Recognized Museum designation from the Alberta Museums Association. Museums earn this designation after participating in the Recognized Museum Program, an initiative designed to strengthen the Association's accountability toward the public funds it distributes through grants and programming to the province's museums. This accreditation is essential to the University of Alberta Museums for several reasons:

- To ensure eligibility for key grants which are distributed by the Alberta Museums Association on behalf of the Government of Alberta
- To demonstrate that the University of Alberta Museums is committed to maintaining professional standards of museum practice
- To appreciate that the University of Alberta Museums plays a strong role within the museum community and will continue to be a leading museum model.

2.4

ACTIVITY FOUR

For the Public Good

University of Alberta Museums Galleries at Enterprise Square

At the conclusion of the three-year pilot project with the City of Edmonton for the University of Alberta Museums Galleries at Enterprise Square, a new funding model was submitted to City of Edmonton Officials and presented to City Councillors in November 2015. However, the motion requesting new funds of \$350,000 per year was withdrawn by City Councillors and therefore not deliberated by City Council during the budget meetings, thus ending the collaboration effective March 31, 2016.

The Policy and Planning Committee and Curators discussed this initiative. The majority along with the University of Alberta Museums remain committed to this space for these reasons:

- The University of Alberta Museums require space to present the diverse and extensive museum collections and their associated knowledge to a broad public audience;
- With the University of Alberta focus on community engagement, this venue provides a location through which the University of Alberta can involve diverse communities of not only the collections on campus, but the University as a whole;
- To remain accredited and be eligible for museum grants, the University of Alberta Museums and the associated collections require space to provide access to the Alberta public and beyond;

- The gallery space at Enterprise Square meets environmental requirements such as temperature, humidity, and security for exhibiting collections that are museum quality and certified as cultural property.

However, the Policy and Planning Committee, Curators, and University of Alberta Museums also recognize the following issues: there is currently no long-term commitment for the space and no commitment to funding in order to operate the space. The combination of these two factors makes it difficult to develop a long-term plan, create efficiencies, build community partnerships, and seek out external funding opportunities.

A funding request for \$350,000 has been granted by the Office of the Provost for the 2016/17 year to continue operations and programming for the University of Alberta Museums Galleries at Enterprise Square on a one-year basis.



Left to Right: Lyndal Osborne, Liz Ingram, Walter Jule



Sculpture cleaning of *The Visionaries*

Community Engagement

The University of Alberta Museums produced a total of 16 exhibitions in the University of Alberta Museums Galleries at Enterprise Square – nine were produced by the University of Alberta Museums and seven were community exhibitions as part of the City of Edmonton funded partnership. In addition, there were a total of 30 public programs that supported the exhibition content, which ranged from lectures and panel discussions to receptions and film screenings. Total attendance for this reporting period was approximately 8,000 visitors while the gallery was open three half-days per week for a total of 175 days.

Internship Programs

The Committee adjudicated applications to the Friends of the University of Alberta Museums Internship in Museum Innovation again in both 2015 and 2016. University of Alberta Museums hired two student interns in summer of 2015 (Alexandra Rocca, Paleontology, and Brittany Wingert, Entomology) and one intern for the summer of 2016 (Taylor Barry, Biological Sciences, Environmental Studies). These positions were funded by the University of Alberta Museums and an annual donation by the Friends of the University of Alberta Museums. The interns undertook various projects in all areas of museum practice including exhibition preparation, conservation, data collection, collections management, public programs, and marketing.

The Friends Internship continues to be an important opportunity for undergraduate students to get much needed diverse experience in museum practice to assist them in their future career paths.



Recognition

One curator and one volunteer were honoured at the annual University of Alberta Museums Celebration in April 2016.

Curator Hall of Fame Inductee

- Cindy Paszkowski
Museum of Zoology: Amphibian and Reptile Collection, and the Ornithology Collection

Volunteer of the Year

- Kelsey Koon
Volunteer, W.G. Hardy Collection of Ancient Near Eastern and Classical Antiquities





**EXHIBITIONS:
BEING A PART OF A VIBRANT DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY**

**COMMUNITY
EXHIBITIONS**

**(COORDINATED BY
UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA MUSEUMS)**

Found Flock
June 11 – August 1, 2015

**Celebrating Connections:
Multicultural Weddings in
Alberta**
May 28 – August 1, 2015

Monarch
May 28 – August 1, 2015

**Recollections: An Imperfect
Schematic**
August 20 – October 10, 2015

Arche-Textures
August 20 – October 10, 2015

Mind Games
August 20 – October 10, 2015

**Do It Yourself: Collectivity
and Collaboration in Edmonton**
November 27, 2015 – March 5, 2016
(Curated by the Art Gallery of Alberta)

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
MUSEUMS EXHIBITIONS**

**Le Corps en Question(s)² /
The Body in Question(s)²**
June 18 – August 22, 2015

**Brain Storms:
UAlberta Creates**
September 25 – January 23, 2016

You, the Wind and the Sound
October 29 – November 28, 2015

**The Mactaggart Art Collection:
Beyond the Lens**
March 18 – July 30, 2016

**China through the Lens of
John Thomson (1868-1872)**
March 18 – July 30, 2016

Tempo of China
May 12 – July 30, 2016

**Show Me Something
I Don't Know**
May 19 – July 2, 2016

Dandy Lines
June 16 – July 9, 2016

A Little Bit of Infinity
August 11, 2016 – January 28, 2017

A

POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2015/16

Chair**Jocelyn Hall**

*Curator, Vascular Plant
Herbarium and Chair,
Curators Committee
Department of Biological
Sciences*

Ex Officio (voting)**Janine Andrews**

*Executive Director, University
of Alberta Museums*

Rosalind Sydie

*President, Friends of the
University of Alberta Museums*

**Ex Officio (non-voting)
2015/2016****Gerald Beasley**

Vice-Provost, Learning Services

**General Faculties Council
(elected)****Andrew Greenshaw**

Department of Psychiatry

Joseph Patrouch

*Wirth Institute for Austrian
and Central European Studies
& Department of History and
Classics*

**Curators Committee
(elected)****Heather Proctor**

*Curator, Freshwater
Invertebrate Collection
Department of Biological
Sciences*

Pamela Mayne Correia

*Curator, Bryan/Gruhn
Ethnographic Collection, Fossil
Hominid Cast Collection,
Osteology Collection
Department of Anthropology*

Michael Caldwell

*Curator, Higher Vertebrates
Department of Biological
Sciences*

Allen Shostak

*Curator, Parasitology
Department of Biological
Sciences*

**Undergraduate Student
Representative (voting)**

Ziyue (Lily) Zhang

**Graduate Students'
Association
Representative (elected)****Scott Wilson**

*Department of Biological
Sciences*

**Committee Secretariat
(non-voting)****Frannie Blondheim**

*Associate Director, University
of Alberta Museums (Issues
Management)*

B

 DIRECTORY OF REGISTERED COLLECTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA MUSEUMS

Faculty of Arts**Department of Anthropology**

Bryan/Gruhn Archaeology Collection

Curator: Pamela Willoughby

Bryan/Gruhn Ethnographic Collection

Curator: Pamela Mayne Correia

Fossil Hominid Cast Collection

Curator: Pamela Mayne Correia

Osteology Collection

Curator: Pamela Mayne Correia

Zooarchaeology Reference Collection

Curator: Robert Losey

Department of History and Classics

W.G. Hardy Collection of Ancient

Near Eastern and Classical Antiquities

Curator: Jeremy Rossiter

**Department of Modern Languages
and Cultural Studies**

Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives

Curator: Andriy Nahachewsky

Department of Music

Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology

Curator: Michael Frishkof

**Faculty of Agricultural, Life
and Environmental Sciences****Devonian Botanic Garden**

Devonian Botanic Garden Herbarium

Curator: René Belland

Department of Human Ecology

Clothing and Textiles Collection

Curator: Anne Bissonnette

Department of Renewable Resources

Renewable Resources

Natural History Collection

Curator: John Acorn

Soil Science Collection

Curator: Scott Chang

Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry**Department of Laboratory
Medicine and Pathology**

Pathology Gross Teaching Collection

Curator: David Rayner

School of Dentistry

Dentistry Museum Collection

Curator: Loren Kline

Faculty of Science

Department of Biological Sciences

Cryptogamic Herbarium

Curator: Catherine La Farge-England

Vascular Plant Herbarium

Curator: Jocelyn Hall

Paleobotanical Collection

Curator: Eva Koppelhus

E.H. Strickland Entomological Museum

Curator: Felix Sperling

Freshwater Invertebrate Collection

Curator: Heather Proctor

Jim van Es Marine Invertebrate
and Malacology Collection

Curator: Richard Palmer

Museum of Zoology

*Curator: Cindy Paszkowski (Amphibian and
Reptile Collection / Ornithology Collection)*

Curator: Alison Murray (Ichthyology Collection)

*Curator: Andrew Derocher (Mammalogy
Collection)*

Parasite Collection

Curator: Allen Shostak

Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology

Curator: Michael Caldwell (Higher Vertebrates)

Curator: Philip Currie (Dinosaur Collection)

Curator: Alison Murray (Fossil Fishes Collection)

Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Drill Core Collection

Curator: John-Paul Zonneveld

Invertebrate Paleontology Collection

Curator: Lindsey Leighton

Meteorite Collection

Curator: Christopher Herd

Mineralogy and Petrology Collection

Curator: Tom Chacko

Trace Fossil Collection

Curator: Murray Gingras

Museums and Collection Services

University of Alberta Art Collection

Curator: Jim Corrigan

Mactaggart Art Collection

Curator: Vacant



MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS SERVICES STAFF

Janine Andrews
Executive Director

Emily Beliveau
Collections Management
Advisor (Humanities)

Frannie Blondheim
Associate Director

Jennifer Bowser
Collections Management
Advisor (Registration /
Preventive Conservation)

Bryan Brunet
Collections Management
Advisor (Natural Sciences)

Jim Corrigan
Curator, University of Alberta
Art Collection

Matthew Hills
Assistant Curator, University
of Alberta Art Collection

Jill Horbay
Communications and
Marketing Coordinator

Tom Hunter
Collections Assistant,
University of Alberta
Art Collection

Jillian Kuzyk
Administration Assistant
(November 2015 – June 2016)

Denis La France
Senior Systems Administrator

Christina Marocco
Administrative Team Lead

Julie-Anne Peddle
Administrative Assistant
(started September 2016)

Riva Symko
Gallery Lead, University of
Alberta Museums Galleries
at Enterprise Galleries

Jim Whittome
Museums Collections
Management (until
September 2016)

Museums and Collections Services Temporary Staff

Taylor Berry
Intern (Summer 2016)

Joseph Doherty
Curatorial Assistant, University
of Alberta Art Collection
(until March 2016)

Lacey Huculak
Volunteer Coordinator
(started August 2016)

Seamus McDougall
Collections Assistant
(until December 2015)

Alexis Millar
Social Media and
Communication Assistant
(started July 2016)

Alexandra Rocca
Intern (Summer 2015)

Julia Rudko
Collections Assistant (Location
Tracking Project)
(started July 2016)

Sarah Spotowski
Curatorial Assistant, University
of Alberta Art Collection
(started April 2016)

Jessica Tofflemire
Collections Assistant (Pest
Management Integration)

Brittany Wingert
Intern (Summer 2015)



FRIENDS

Friends of the University of Alberta Museums Board of Directors 2015/16:

Rosalind Sydie
President

Stephanie Huolt
Treasurer

Eleanor MacAllister
Secretary

Jackie Flaata
Director-at-Large

Harvey Krahn
Director-at-Large

Janine Andrews
Executive Director,
University of Alberta Museums
Ex Officio (voting)

Jocelyn Hall
Curator, Vascular Plant
Herbarium and Chair, Policy
and Planning Committee
Ex Officio (non-voting)

FAST FACTS

Total attendance at the University of Alberta Museums Galleries at Enterprise Square this reporting period was approximately 8,000 visitors while the gallery was open three half-days per week for a total of 175 days.



An Australian-Canadian team, including Michael Caldwell, Curator of Higher Vertebrates in the Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology, re-examined one of the most important and controversial fossils of modern times, *Tetrapodophis*. This Brazilian fossil from the age of the dinosaurs was a tiny snake-like creature that was described last year as a primitive snake. However, the new study reveals that *Tetrapodophis* had the wrong body shape for burrowing and instead possessed a suite of adaptations that are typical of aquatic animals. This study appears in the journal *Cretaceous Research*.

In this reporting period, over 1,700 new images have been added to the University of Alberta Art Collection's database.

The University of Alberta Museums Collections Management team upgraded 56 client machines across campus with a new version of Mimsy – the collections management system used by the University of Alberta Museums.

Over 308,000 views occurred on the U of A Museums website from 59,000 users – 36.3 per cent were returning and 63.7 per cent were new. There were 38,000 more views than last year and 9,000 more users viewing the website.



The Mactaggart Art Collection Lecture Series launched in October 2015. The lecture series contained four sessions and each contained 3-4 lectures plus a panel discussion. Fourteen leading scholars of late imperial Chinese history from around the world shared with the public their historical knowledge of individual items in the Mactaggart Art Collection.

Data from the Herpetology, Ornithology and Ichthyology collections has been used for an up-and-coming paper by VertNet that was published this summer. VertNet is a NSF-funded collaborative project that makes biodiversity data free and available on the web.

Curator of the Freshwater Invertebrate Collection, Heather Proctor has been published along with her colleagues in the *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* Journal for their work on water mites (Hydrachnidia), which are a part of the Freshwater Invertebrate Collection.



museums
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

museums.ualberta.ca | 780.492.5834
[@ualbertamuseums](https://twitter.com/ualbertamuseums)
facebook.com/ualbertamuseums

