

ACQUISITIONS STRATEGY (*Zooarchaeology Reference Collection*)

A. COLLECTIONS AND PROGRAMS

1. Describe the purpose of the Collection and why it is maintained by the unit

The purpose of the Zooarchaeology Reference Collection is to support teaching and research involving the analysis of animal bones and teeth recovered from archaeological sites, primarily those located in the circumpolar north. This is a reference collection that is used for comparative purposes in the morphological identification of unknown bone and teeth specimens. It also is used as a teaching collection for both undergraduate and graduate students. The collection is occasionally visited by non-university researchers for this purpose. Items in the collection are used in displays both on and off-campus for outreach activities.

The bulk of the Zooarchaeology Reference Collection was built in the 1980s and 90s, primarily through donations from Department of Anthropology faculty members, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, and members of the public. The collection was moved to its current space in the Tory Building in 1996. Major expansion of the collection’s storage capacity was completed in 2011, and recently added fish and mammal skeletons bring the total size of the collection to over 1000 specimens.

2. Type of Material in Current Collection

Material	# of accessioned	# to be accessioned	# pending decision
Fish skeletons, whole or partial	71	~20	0
Amphibian skeletons, whole or partial	7	0	0
Bird skeletons, whole or partial	219	~45	0
Mammal skeletons, whole or partial, including antlers, horns, teeth	728	~40	0
Shellfish, shells, exoskeletons, etc.	34	0	0
Reptile skeletons, whole or partial	9	0	0
Total	1068	105	0



3. List the academic programs supported by the Collection

Undergraduate program:

1. Anth 206 (Introduction to Archaeology; ~70 students/term): The collection is used for 2-3 weeks per term for basic introduction to analyses of faunal remains.
2. Anth 256 (Alberta Archaeology; ~25 students/year): The collection is occasionally used for laboratory instruction purposes.
3. Anth 390 (Human Osteology; ~25 students/year): Specimens from the collection are occasionally used for laboratory instruction purposes.
4. Anth 480 (Zooarchaeology; ~20 students/year): The collection is used for the entire term to instruct students in standard practices of faunal remains identification.
5. Anth 484 (Topics in Archaeology/Biological Anthropology; ~5-10 students/year): The collection is occasionally used for classes listed under this number.

Graduate program:

1. Anth 580 (Zooarchaeology; ~5 students/year): The collection is used for the entire term to instruct students in standard practices of faunal remains identification.
2. THESIS research (2-3 students per year): Graduate students in archaeology or human osteology regularly utilize the collection for research purposes relating to their theses or dissertations.

Research:

Faculty member of the Department of Anthropology regularly use the collection for research purposes. Further, outside scholars occasionally utilize the collection for zooarchaeological research. This use of the collection is typically limited to 3-4 individuals per academic year.

4. List community engagement programs/activities supported by the Collection

1. On campus displays: Specimens from the collection are occasionally used for displays, almost always within the Tory Building, and often at the University Open House.
2. Off campus displays and instruction: Specimens from the collection are occasionally loaned to institutions or individuals for use in displays or instruction. For example, materials from the collection have been loaned to the Bodo Archaeological Society, a private organization involved in heritage-based tourism and research in rural Alberta.
3. Identification services: The collection curator occasionally uses specimens in the collection during volunteer work for individuals or agencies seeking assistance with identifying faunal material. Recent such activities have included the identification of possible wolf skeletal material for Alberta Fish and Wildlife.



B. STRATEGY AND CRITERIA FOR NEW ACQUISITIONS

1. Identify the types of new acquisitions that are essential to support the current and proposed programs identified above

1. New acquisitions will be in part driven by teaching needs. For example, it is presently difficult to instruct students in the osteology of fishes, both marine and fresh water, and it is anticipated that fish specimens will be added to the collection to meet this need.

Ideally, the collection will eventually contain multiple (10-12) specimens from a few species for instructional purposes; these specimens too would be accessioned into our collection. Instructing students in the osteology of fish would be far more effective if all students were able to simultaneously handle skeletal elements from the same species. This could be accomplished by acquiring locally 10-12 skeletons from a specific freshwater fish (e.g. pike), and the same number for a given mammal (e.g. dogs), and a bird (e.g. mallard duck).

2. New acquisitions will be in part driven by research needs. As faculty members' research foci evolve, additional specimens will inevitably be added to the collection. This would involve the addition of skeletal remains from mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians, or the shells of invertebrates. While the current geographic focus of our collection is Alberta and the Canadian Arctic, specimens acquired in the future could come from any geographic region. Priority will be given to specimens that can be efficiently curated and stored with our current collection space and cabinetry. Specimens can be acquired through field collection, donation, transfer, exchange, or purchase.

2. List any existing collecting area that will no longer be supplemented

None.

3. List any additional requirements unique to the Collection that would affect a decision to acquire

The only condition limiting our ability to acquire new specimens that may come up would be limitations in storage space. The newly added cabinetry in the collection will allow us to expand for 5-10 years, but after that additional professional-grade cabinetry likely will be needed.



Approved by Unit/Department/Faculty

Robert Losey
Designated Curator (Print Name)

[Signature]
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LISA PHILIPS
Chair/Dean/Director (Print Name)

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24 October 2011
Date Completed

Approved by Museums and Collections Services

[Signature]
Janine Andrews, Executive Director

Nov 4/2011
Date

Approved by U of A Museums Policy and Planning Committee

Heather Proctor
Chair, Policy and Planning Committee (Print Name)

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Signature

OCTOBER 25, 2011
Date of Committee Meeting

OCTOBER 25, 2016
Date of Next Review

