

## Preserving collections

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The natural sciences of biology and the earth sciences are based upon collections. Specimens provide the structure upon which all future studies are based. The scientific description of the first of its kind whether it be a fossil, mineral or biological specimen, provide the basis upon which all subsequent discoveries and descriptions are founded. Museums and universities have provided safe and secure places to store and make available these natural and intellectual treasures. In these decades of restrictive museum funding, severe cutbacks, and the tendency to create virtual representations, collections are threatened with their very existence, let alone collection expansion. This is a matter of international concern.

This presentation presents experiences with and insights into, earth science collections gathered over a 45 year career in industry, academia, museums, Foundations and the private sector.