



# Advances in Wiregrass Georgia: Infrastructural Improvements to Sustain another Half-Century of Herbarium-Based Research and Teaching

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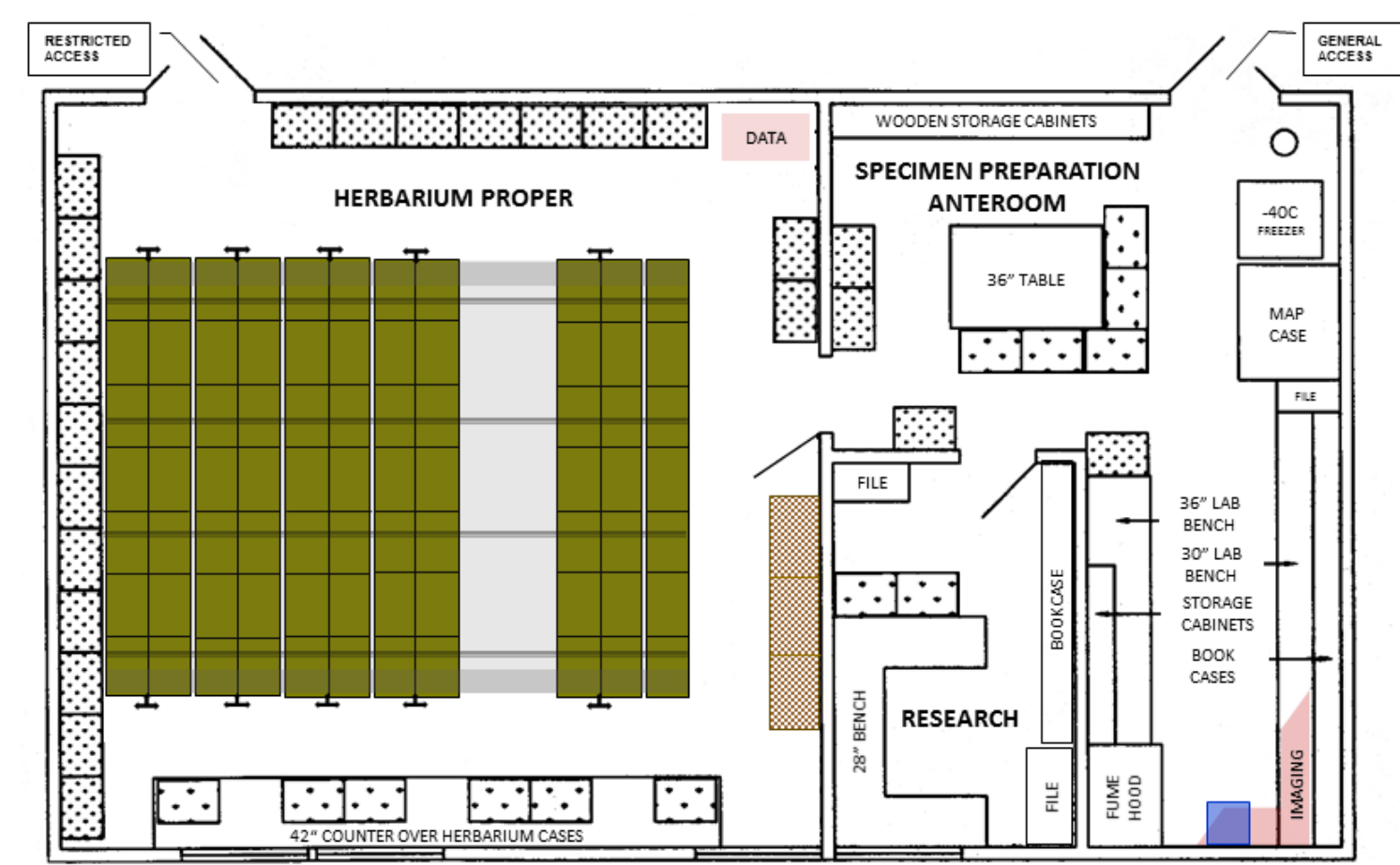


## INTRODUCTION

Established as a research collection in 1967, the Valdosta State University Herbarium (VSC) comprises >70,000 vouchers. Its primary geographical scope is Georgia and the southeastern United States, particularly the Coastal Plain Region, and it has extensive holdings of graminoids, especially Cyperaceae, and pteridophytes. Through financial support from the National Science Foundation Collections in Support of Biological Research (CSBR) Program, in April 2015 VSC began a three-year project with five major objectives.

### 1. Enhancing the herbarium

- High-density storage system
- New herbarium cases
- Visual cabinets for carpological specimens

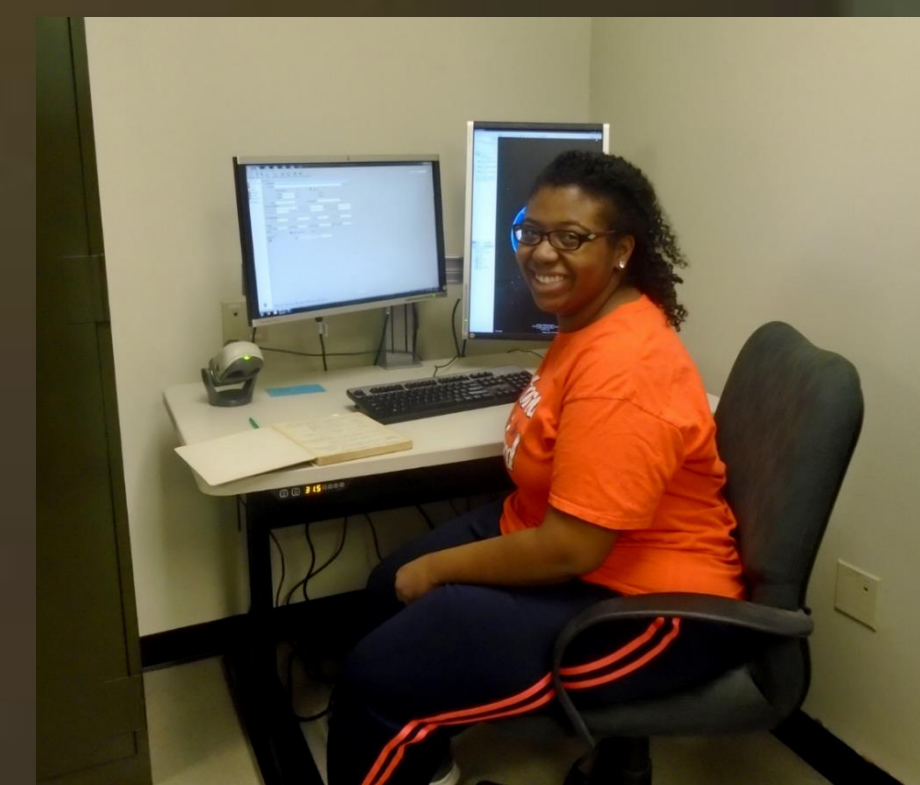


VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY HERBARIUM [VSC]  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



### 2. Backlog processing

- Mount, accession, and digitize 5,000 backlog specimens



### 3. Georeferencing

- 2,500 localities [>14,000 vouchers]
- Geolocate and data from legacy field notes and maps

### 4. Acquisition of teaching collections

- Receive, inventory, and employ 130 boxes of dormant Vanderbilt University teaching materials



### 5. Outreach

- Instructing student assistants in herbarium curation
- Involving students from selected courses: Local Flora, Dendrology
- Digitally displaying educational materials about plants and biodiversity collections in the publically accessible atrium of Bailey Science Center
- Summer workshop for teachers
- Community programs: *Science Saturday* and *Learning in Retirement*

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