

Lightening round: Challenges to small collections – recruitment and retention

Recruiting, Supporting, and Retaining Small Collections
in Biodiversity Digitization Workshop

Central Michigan University

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Georgia Herbarium (Consortium) Alliance

- 8 herbaria
- Mostly small
- Loosely organized network
- Purpose: facilitates communication and enables exchange of information about our collections and ideas promoting their continued preservation

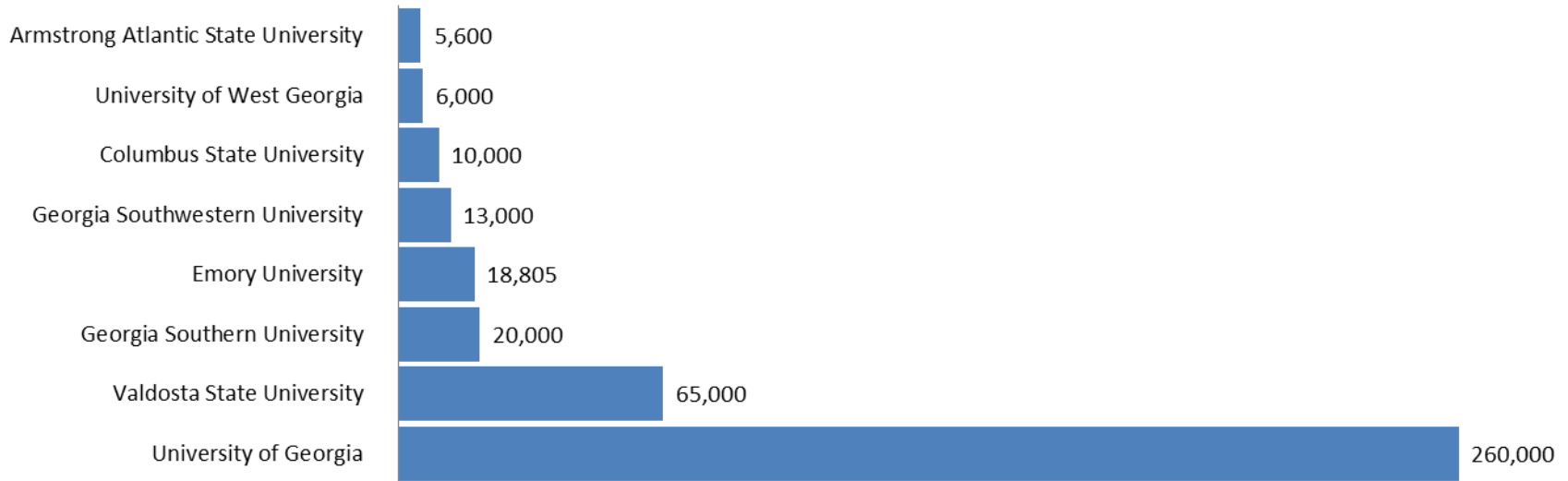
Georgia Herbarium (Consortium) Alliance

- 2010: Initial meeting at by Wendy Zomlefer at Univ of Georgia Herbarium, sponsored by SERNEC with NSF funding
- 2012: Second meeting at Valdosta State highlighted digitization efforts there – again supported by SERNEC with NSF funding

Georgia Herbarium (Consortium) Alliance

- February 2014: We met at Georgia Southern Univ. and toured their new herbarium facility
- Meeting sponsored by Wendy Zomlefer, Univ of Georgia Herbarium, funded by her CSBR NSF grant
- Formally adopted the name: Georgia Herbarium Alliance

Georgia Herbarium Alliance



Several Georgia herbaria have recently been dismantled:

FSSR: USDA Forest Service, Atlanta > GA

DECA: Agnes Scott College, Decatur > GA

SHOR: Shorter College, Rome > GA

Challenges of small collections

- Teaching load
- Isolation
- Inadequate financial resources
- Inadequate IT support
- Lack of curatorial expertise
- Lack of digitization expertise
- Inadequate understanding among colleagues and administrators of the value of biological collections in scientific research

Georgia Herbaria

University of Georgia
GA
Athens
260,000 specimens
Wendy Zomlefer
wendyz@plantbio.uga.edu

Valdosta State University
VSC
Valdosta
65,000 specimens
Richard Carter
rcarter@valdosta.edu

Georgia Southern University
GAS
Statesboro
20,000 specimens
Alan Harvey
aharvey@georgiasouthern.edu

Emory University
GEO
Atlanta
18,805 specimens
Cassandra Quave
cquave@emory.edu

Georgia Southwestern University
GSW
Americus
13,000 specimens
Stephanie Harvey
sharvey@gsw.edu
Yonnie Williams
pyw@gsw.edu

Columbus State University
COLG
Columbus
10,000 specimens
Kevin Burgess
burgess_kevin@columbusstate.edu

University of West Georgia
WGC
Carrollton
6,000 specimens
David Morgan
dmorgan@westga.edu

Armstrong Atlantic State University
AASU
Savannah
5,600 specimens
Melanie Link-Perez
melanie.link-perez@armstrong.edu

Primary Source:

Thiers, B. [continuously updated].
Index Herbariorum: A global
directory of public herbaria and
associated staff. New York Botanical
Garden's Virtual Herbarium.
<http://sweetgum.nybg.org/ih/>