How Three-Dimensional Teaching Objects Can Intersect With Digital Libraries
The term **realia** refers to three-dimensional objects from real life such as coins, tools, and textiles, that do not easily fit into the orderly categories of printed material. They can be either man-made (artifacts, tools, utensils, etc.) or naturally occurring (specimens, samples, etc.), usually borrowed, purchased, or received as donation by a teacher, library, or museum for use in classroom instruction or in exhibits.
Background Benchmarking Survey: Findability & Promotion

- **Research Universities Object Collections:**
  22 total national AAU Member universities:
  17 public, with a student body over 35,000
  5 private, with a student body of over 20,000

- **Findability / Promotion:**
  - Homepage ➔ Links ➔ Collections
    OR
  - Homepage ➔ Search: “collection, museum, archive, & gallery”
  - Any educational commentary also noted
The Full Spectrum!

- Browsing: 6 institutions
- Browsing & Keyword searching: 4 institutions
- Keyword searching: 12 institutions

- Columbia: no reference to physical object collections
- University of Michigan: homepage led to 12 distinctly identifiable object collections
Objective:
To create a directory to house descriptions of the physical object collections within the University of Texas at Austin, such that a user visiting the database can figure out which institution houses a particular collection.
Avengers Grad Students Assemble!

Di (Eric) Liu  Liyun Huang  Charlie Dunn  Tony Domina
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection Title</th>
<th>Collection Type</th>
<th>Housing Institution</th>
<th>Collection Author/Creator</th>
<th>Collection Timeframe</th>
<th>Collection Size</th>
<th>Descriptive Statement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Invertebrate Zoology Collection</td>
<td>Terrestrial, freshwater, and marine organisms</td>
<td>Texas Natural Science Center</td>
<td>Reddell</td>
<td>1550-1962</td>
<td>400,000 specimens</td>
<td>The Invertebrate Zoology collection contains approximately 400,000 slide-mounted and alcohol-preserved specimens of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine organisms from many parts of the world, but with emphasis on the United States and Mexico. The collection contains significant material from the western parts of the United States, Central America, and the Caribbean. Specimens of approximately 400,000 specimens. The majority of these specimens are preserved for long-term storage in 70% alcohol. Specimens consist of various entomological specimens, molluscs, and crustacean crustaceans. We have a small selection of marine invertebrates, many of which are from the W. Dugan collection and his students. There are also some fish and mammalian specimens. The collection is very important and is one of the research units of the Texas Natural History Collections in the Texas Natural Science Center at The University of Texas at Austin. The collection began as a nucleus of research and teaching materials assembled by W. Frank Blair and students in the Zoology Department. These were transferred to the then-Texas Memorial Museum in 1970. The holdings consist of about 65,000 catalogued specimens, which are used for research by faculty, staff students at the University, as well as by qualified researchers throughout the world. The collection is also used for teaching courses (e.g., Vertebrate Zoology, Comparative Anatomy, and Entomology).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ichthyology Collection</td>
<td>Fish skeletal</td>
<td>Natural Science Center</td>
<td>Hubbs</td>
<td>1950-present</td>
<td>900,000 specimens</td>
<td>The Ichthyology collection currently consists of about 900,000 specimens. The majority of these specimens are preserved for long-term storage in 70% alcohol. The collection consists of the majority of dry skeletal specimens, many of which are from the W. Dugan collection and his students. There are also 230 of the cleaned and stained fish, nearly half are from the Ichthyology Division and the collection of the Fishes and Reptiles is one of the research units of the Texas Natural History Collections in the Texas Natural Science Center at The University of Texas at Austin. The collection began as a nucleus of research and teaching materials assembled by W. Frank Blair and students in the Zoology Department. These were transferred to the then-Texas Memorial Museum in 1970. The holdings consist of about 65,000 catalogued specimens, which are used for research by faculty, staff students at the University, as well as by qualified researchers throughout the world. The collection is also used for teaching courses (e.g., Vertebrate Zoology, Comparative Anatomy, and Entomology).</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Herpetology Collection</td>
<td>Reptiles &amp; Amphibians</td>
<td>Natural Science Center</td>
<td>Blair</td>
<td>1950-present</td>
<td>76,000 specimens</td>
<td>The Herpetology Collection is one of the research units of the Texas Natural History Collections in the Texas Natural Science Center at The University of Texas at Austin. The collection began as a nucleus of research and teaching materials assembled by W. Frank Blair and students in the Zoology Department. These were transferred to the then-Texas Memorial Museum in 1970. The holdings consist of about 65,000 catalogued specimens, which are used for research by faculty, staff students at the University, as well as by qualified researchers throughout the world. The collection is also used for teaching courses (e.g., Vertebrate Zoology, Comparative Anatomy, and Entomology).</td>
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</table>
- Institution Permission?
  The Stark Center

- To Tag or Not to Tag?
  (Not to tag)

- Fields of Study?
  “The field of study should be Phycology rather than Botany.”

- Browser Compatibility
Future Considerations

- UT System-level expansion
  - Linking across institutions
    - (We’re happy to share!)

- One-semester limitation
  - Build in early support
  - Infancy ≠ Promotion
  - Training individual institutions

Thank you!