

# OVAM Update

April 2012



In the middle of April the OVAM weekend workshop was held at the RVC Hawkshead Campus in Hertfordshire. Eleven curators attended from Bern, Bristol, Cambridge, Dublin, Edinburgh, Hartpury, Liverpool, Murcia, Nottingham, London and Utrecht. We were delighted to have such good attendance from so many places.



OVAM Curators in front of Duncan's Horses at the RVC



Over the weekend we covered a vast number of topics concerning the museum and aspects of which the curators will have to be aware when selecting appropriate resources which fulfil the relevant criteria for the museum. Ranging from licensing and copyright issues to brainstorming design ideas and entry routes for the museum interface.

Amongst the OVAM curators the general feeling was that there are many benefits for students from learning anatomy online. Some of these include:

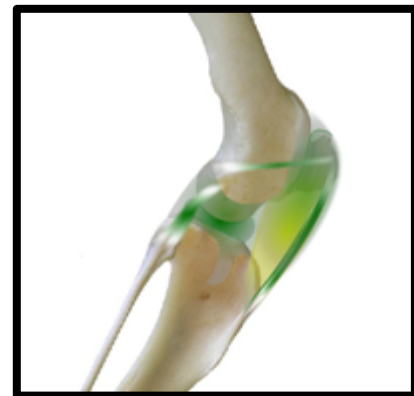
- Easy accessibility which is not limited geographically, allowing all students to benefit from high-level resources in their learning.
- Efficiency and practicality – easy to find exact resources and store information from an infinite number of sources in one place as well as never becoming out of date.
- Aid to self-study, reinforcing learning through practical sessions and helping to compensate for increases in student numbers, as well as compensation for increasingly limited access to dissection specimens.
- Easy integration of the clinical relevance of anatomy into resources.

During the last month we have also been discussing with Morpho-Imaging the areas which they will be concentrating on using their 3D rendering to create animations for the museum. It has been decided that these animations will focus on the equine distal limb and the canine head to start with.

The other publishers which are partners in the project are Manson Publishing, who also collaborated in the previous JISC funded Opening Access to Veterinary Literature (OVAL) project. Bara and Nick met with Matt to discuss texts which will be used to provide some material for the museum. As with the OVAL project ten percent of the textbook either in the form of images of text will be available through the museum with further links to the full texts via Mansons own site.

Nick attended the JISC Discovery Programme Meeting in Birmingham. It was useful to meet representatives from other projects with similar aims as in OVAM i.e. collating digital resources.

Cordoba University in Spain, also a partner in the project are working to translate their interactive embryology programme so that it will be ready for the museum in the summer months. They also have a fantastic atlas of osteology and arthrology which is already available in English and will be incorporated into the museum. It shows detailed visualisations of the joints, such as in the image of the canine stifle on the right.



Much thought has been put into considering which platform will be used as a repository for all the digital resources forming the 'stack' of the museum. Finally we have decided that Asset Bank will be the most appropriate platform providing easy searchability and usability with its complex tagging and ability to categorise resources, as well as supporting all file types. These resources can then easily be incorporated and embedded into the WikiVet pages which will form the front end of the museum with the so called 'displays'. Individuals with a more specific item in mind will be allowed to directly search the stack of resources via accessing Asset Bank.

This is the second in our series of monthly newsletters to provide updates on the the project, which we will be sending out on a monthly basis to all involved. This includes anatomists, students, publishers, funders and many more. Please let us know if you would like one of your colleagues to be added to this mailing list.



For more information on the project see its page on WikiVet at:  
<http://en.wikivet.net/OVAM>

And follow us on our blog at:  
<http://ovamproject.blogspot.co.uk/>

