

OVAM Update

June 2012



June saw the first of the curators starting work, progress being made with the 'back-room' of the museum, the first steering group conference call and a few other bits and pieces for the museum.



The student curators that finished with their exams and other commitments have been able to start working on the museum. First they catalogued all of the existing resources suitable for the anatomy museum from their schools into a standardised spreadsheet to give us an idea of what is available. They then put some thought into their individual projects. These projects are repurposing existing material in their schools into a small educational piece on a specific topic. As a starting point we asked them to submit a project proposal outlining these details

before they commence, covering some of the following points.

- How the project will benefit other students and vets and help them learn.
- What the main aims of the project are and the main topics that will be covered.
- How and where the project may be used in the curriculum.
- The end file type and media used to make the project, as well as where the material to create the work is sourced from.
- How it will be ensured that all the content has appropriate consent for use and is licensed under the Creative Commons licence.

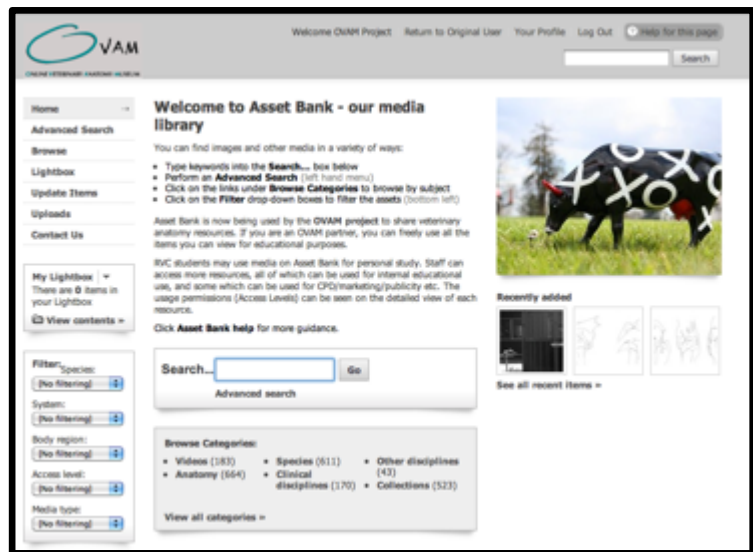
This gives us the opportunity to assess whether the project sounds feasible in the space of time, suitable for the museum and helps avoid any duplication. The project proposals will be shared with the steering group members and student curators to help them guide their respective projects.

Shown here is an example of Peter Tomlinson's project on the skeletal structure of the equine forelimb (University of Liverpool). So far all of the work which has been produced has been of an exceptionally high quality and we are very contented with the way in which the curators are working.

Our discussions with the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in India proved very productive. In India the reference species used for anatomy teaching is the water buffalo so much of the learning material is based on this. It has been agreed that some of this material will be contributed to the museum, making for an interesting comparison to the usual European reference species of cat, dog and horse.

The final version of the interim report has now been submitted to JISC after the appropriate changes were made upon their suggestion. This marks the halfway point of the project, which is progressing fast.

All the resources which are drawn upon to form the front displays in the museum will be held within Asset Bank, a content management system. After much research into the various options which are available we concluded that Asset Bank was most appropriate for the museum. Material can be extensively tagged and categorised making it easily searchable and it is possible to host all of the necessary file types here in one place.



Content can be categorised according to species, body system, body region and discipline, as well as meta-tagged using key words which ensure it is found during specific searches. When material is uploaded all the accompanying data has to be completed alongside the resource, ensuring that correct attribution and other details are provided. All curators and academic representatives will be provided with a log-in.

At the end of June we held a Skype call with a few members of the steering group. This was an opportunity to update academics on project progress and discuss matters such as content review, the longer-term maintenance of the museum and Asset Bank and raise any issues or concerns. This was a useful opportunity for the project team to hear objective points of view and a summary of the discussion will be sent to all members of the steering group.

This is the fourth in our series of monthly newsletters to provide updates on the project, which we send 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/>

