

OVAM Update

March 2012



Since the start of the OVAM project we have been busy getting the framework in place for the museum to successfully function. Up until now this has been mainly organisational, but over the next months we are looking forward to having something more materialistic to show.

We have spent a considerable amount of time visiting schools in the UK, starting with Glasgow and Edinburgh and then onto Cambridge, Nottingham, Hartpury, Bristol and London. Nick has also been to Dublin and Maison Alfort in Paris and we are hoping to be able to visit Liverpool in the next month.

For schools further afield such as Murcia, Utrecht, Bern, Cordoba, Murdoch and Townsville we have been in touch using Internet conferencing.



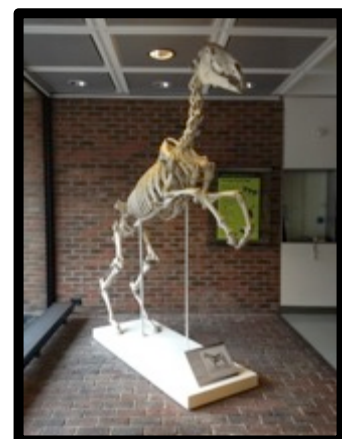
Live anatomy at Bristol vet school.

The purpose of our visits and calls was to speak to partners and identify what was going to be important in order to make the museum a success. Many interesting and useful suggestions were made, including having a student competition where the best entries will be displayed in the museum, having a favourites section where academics can highlight resources they feel are particularly valuable, as well as other important points about the accessibility of some material which may be seen as controversial by the general public to maintaining a high quality resource and ensuring that licensing of material was correct.

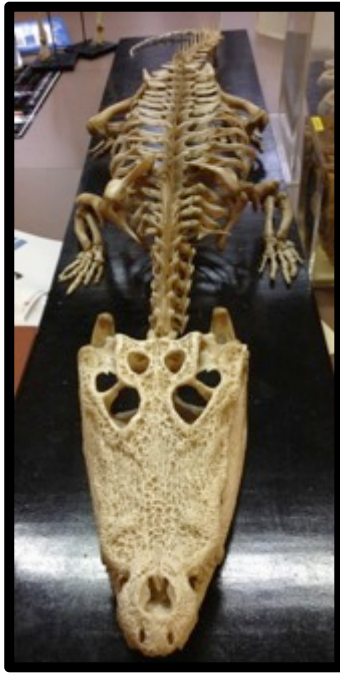
In order to publicize the project and ensure that it is as widely used as possible we will also be holding a workshop at the Veterinary Education Symposium in Edinburgh on the 12th and 13th July where anybody who would like to attend is more than welcome.

Catrin Rutland from Nottingham has kindly agreed to present a poster on the project at the European Veterinary Anatomists Congress in Bulgaria at the end of July.

Further meetings have also been held with Robert and Graham from Elsevier to discuss the content which they are willing to contribute to the museum and what types of resources will be most appropriate. Clare Boulton from the RCVS Trust has also been helping us to think about the best way to categorise and catalogue the material to ensure that it is as easily accessible for our users as possible, as well as looking at the types of historical resources which could be included.



Horse skeleton at the Zoology museum Cambridge



Crocodile skeleton in the Bristol Anatomy Museum.

The museum itself will be hosted within WikiVet, with the equivalent to the real life show cases and displays which users will be able to access through different routes, of species, systems and discipline with different types of content adapted appropriately for the type of user.

These displays will be drawn on from what is essentially the museum 'stack' which will be hosted on another platform appropriate for storage of images, videos and other media types. This back room will also be accessible for the more focused user; perhaps an academic looking for a specific image for use in teaching.

Using this type of organisation will help to avoid confusion among students and the more general user who may not see the value of varying views of the same area, but will allow inclusion of a large amount of content in the museum.

Nick and Bara have attended JISC workshops on OER networking and understanding user-centred design respectively. These days have proved highly useful in meeting

people and in seeing what other projects are working on as well as considering the usability of the museum and how to achieve this.

In April we will be holding a workshop for the student curators, which each school has selected to represent them. We hope that this will provide a chance for the e-curators to meet us and each other and to share their ideas as students on what they would like to get from the museum, with brainstorming sessions for potential interface designs and some technical training as well what they will need to use as criteria for the selection of appropriate material.

This is the first 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 it's page on WikiVet at:
<http://en.wikivet.net/OVAM>

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

