



Case Study: Life and Environmental Sciences, The University of Sydney

Students as partner curators: sharing Haswell's educational legacy and the University's scientific heritage

Students and staff from *Life Sciences* and *Museum Studies* at the University of Sydney have partnered on an extensive digital audit of the Haswell Museum. The adoption of the 'students as partners model' has afforded learning opportunities for all team members (both students and staff) allowing us to stretch our thinking beyond discipline boundaries and to extend our life science, curatorial, digital and technological literacies. Biology students and staff have learnt to handle museum objects and Museum studies students have learnt about the biological significance of the objects. All team members have contributed: 1) to the audit itself (photographing objects, generating 3D scans, and creating database entries), 2) to our project website, and 3) to our Instagram and twitter feeds. Over the course of the project we have discovered a number of valuable specimens and a large number of previously uncatalogued specimens.

The audit database has already provided a source of inspiration for teaching and research, and has been used to find resource for our undergraduate classes, outreach activities and to research exhibitions for our colleagues within the School of Life Sciences and Macleay Museum. We are currently working with Engineering students on generating a website "Haswell Online" from the audit database to enable this historic educational zoology collection, framed in an Australian context, to be shared more broadly.

[The Haswell Museum](#) was established in 1903 by Prof William Haswell, the University of Sydney's first Challis Professor of Zoology. This historic educational collection consists of invertebrate and vertebrate specimens that have been used to support teaching and research in Zoology at the University for over a century. The collection resides in the School of Life and Environmental Sciences and is registered with the [University Museum and Collections Worldwide Database](#) and the [Atlas of Living Australia](#).

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