DIGITIZING BIOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS AT THE MUSEUM OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY: OPTIMIZING WORKFLOWS



By Alyssa DeWaele adewaele@ttu.edu Jennifer Girón Duque 💟 @JGEntiminae

Digitization has become an increasingly integral part of museum's curation and public access, allowing previously ina ccessible information to be spread more widely.

We propose an optimized digitization workflow using free online tools, that minimizes the time entering information, while maximizing the amount of information recorded.

We tested this workflow at the Natural Science Research Laboratory at the Museum of Texas Tech University while digitizing the bee collection.

This workflow increased the number of records processed per session.

Recommendation:

• Ensure dorsal images are focused, clear, and appropriately illuminated



TTU-Z 267399

Using free, online tools can increase the number of specimens processed in digitization workflows

Initial workflow:

Pull specimen and assign catalog number

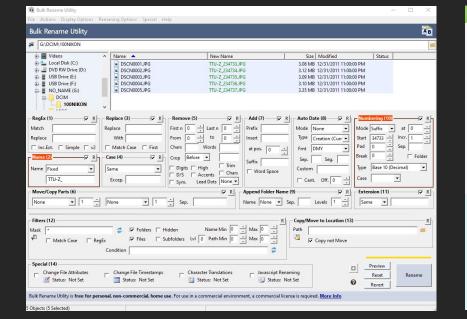
New record in SCAN • Typing in each field Georeferencing

Optimized workflow:

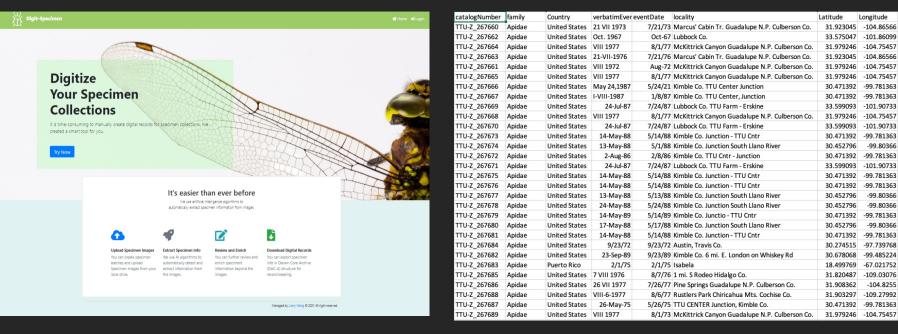
Photograph specimen with labels

Rename images Bulk Rename Utility software

Text recognition tools (AI) • Digit specimen



Screenshot of Bulk Name Utility



Screenshot of Digit Specimen webpage

Invertebrate Zoology Collection at the Natural Science Research Laboratory Museum of Texas Tech University



Resulted in:

- 6 specimens per hour ightarrow
- No images
- Monotonous process

Review Data

- Darwin Core field match
- Geo-reference
- Additional fields

Batch upload data • SCAN

Upload photos into SCAN

Screenshot of cleaned-up spreadsheet

Resulted in:

- 12 specimens per hour
- Specimen and labels imaged
- Diverse tasks



TOOLS USED:

Text recognition and data paring Digit specimen



Renaming images: Bulk Rename Utility









Caupolicana yarrowi (Cresson, 1875) Colletidae TTU-Z 266834

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