# Pre-Digitization Challenges for Wet Collections

N. Dean Pentcheff Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County



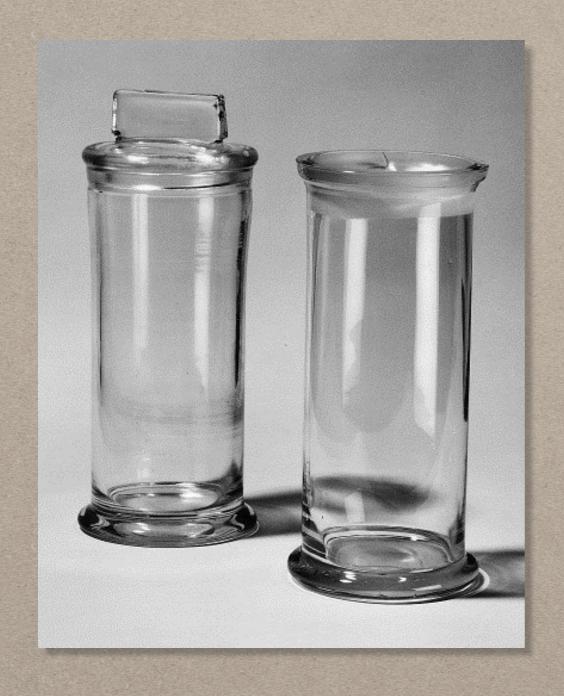
NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



#### Representative wet collections

- Ichthyology
- Herpetology
- Crustacea
- Malacology
- Echinoderms
- Polychaeta
- Parts of many others

### What do they have in common?





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ALLAN HANCOCK FOUNDATION

CAT. NO. AMF COMMERCE

Euphylax dovii Stimpson, 16, 49

Isla Manuelita, Costa Rica

(1.1 mi. 343°T from)

2 June 1973 swimming at surface Velero IV

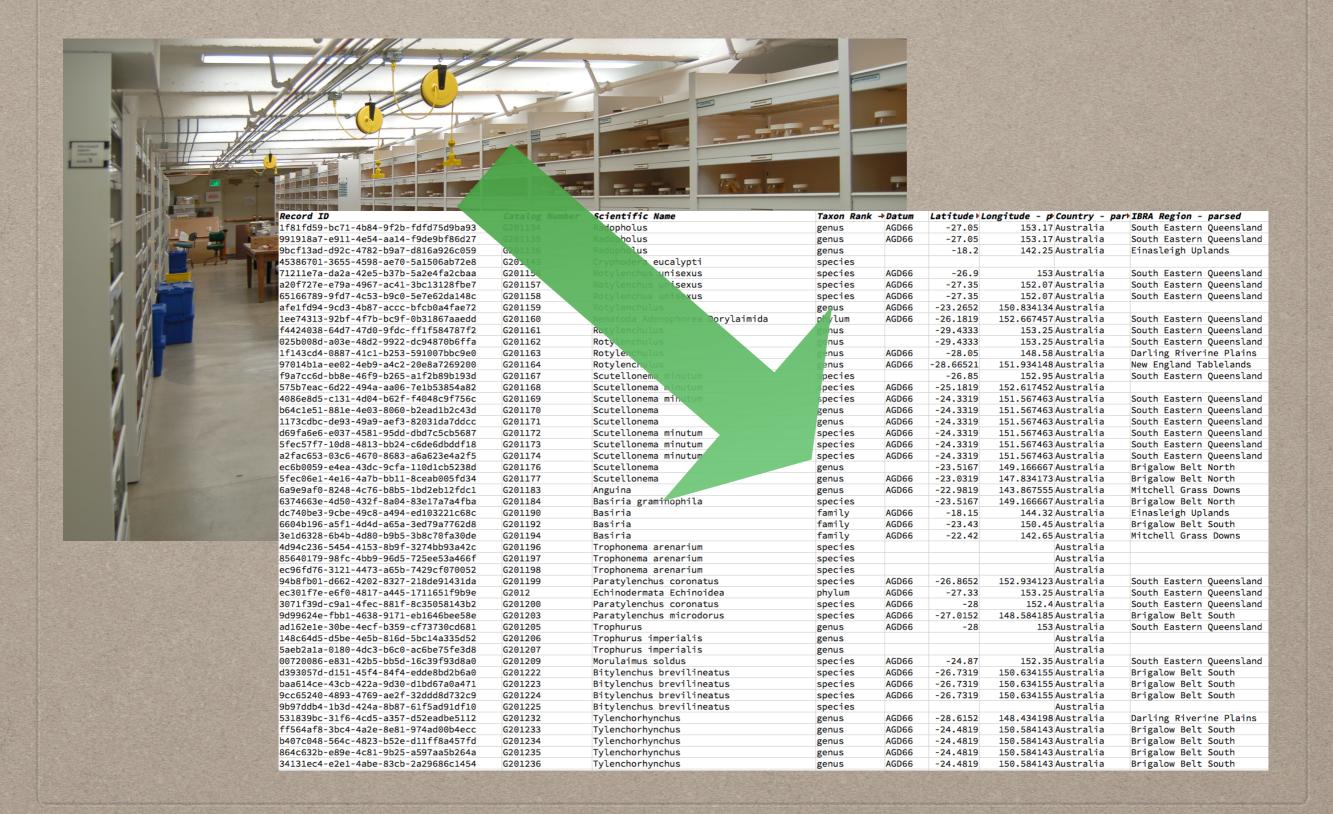
ID. BY J.S.G. 3/76

STA. NO. 19043-73

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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(and a specimen)

#### What do we want?



### Label data or specimen images?

- Many invertebrates:
   little/no value in specimen images
- Where specimen images are desirable, see:
   iDigBio DROID workshop results (Developing Robust
   Object-to-Image-to-Data Workflows)

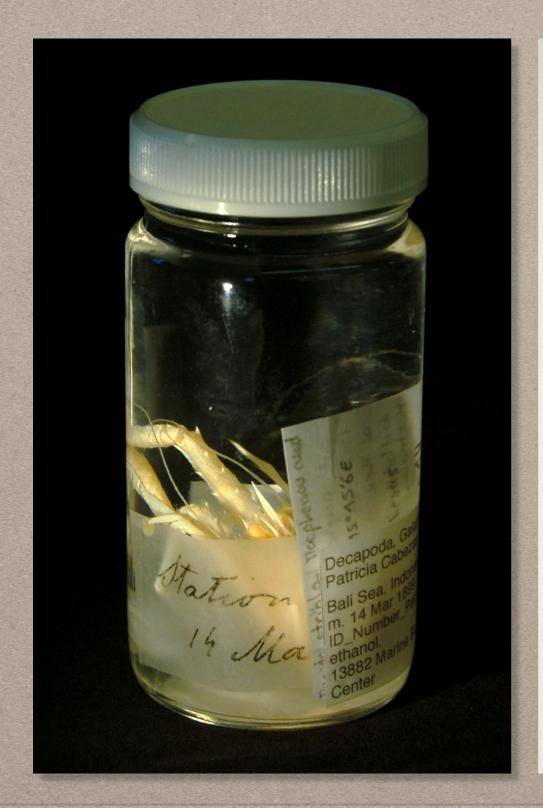
#### What are the problems?

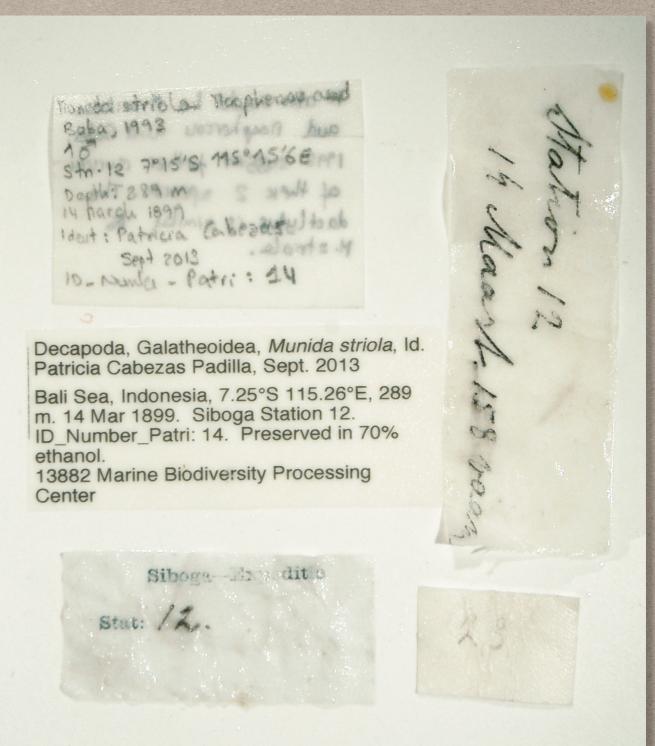
- Label visibility
- Multiple labels
- Container nesting
- Container heterogeneity
- Label heterogeneity
- Expeditionary collecting

# Label visibility



#### Multiple labels





# Container nesting







# Container heterogeneity



# Label heterogeneity





# Expeditionary collecting



Fishes -Crustacea Cnidarians \*



# Expeditionary collecting

5	Station.	Date	General Locality	Dredg Position	e Down Time	Fms.	Dir.	Position	Dredge Up Time	Fms.	Remarks
	(	Aug. 19	H1)								
53 -1	373-41	2	Off White Cove, Santa Catalina Island	33 24 10 N 118 20 25 W	4:40 PM	105		- 33 24 10 -118 20 25		105	Gray sand
154 4	374-41	3	1 mi. E. of Empire Land- ing, Santa Catalina Island	33 25 45 N 118 25 10 W	10:30 AM	22		-33 24 10 118 20 25			Broken shell, 37 -5 10 coarse sand ny 22 57
<u> </u>	375-41	3	1 mi. E. of Empire Land- ing, Santa Catalina Island		11:20 AM	18		- 33 24 10 118 20 25			35 → 47 N Worm tubes, kelp 17 →
156 4	376-41	3	Catalina Island	-33 21 10 NA -118 17 40 WA	S PM	83	,	33 24 10 118 20 25		33 21	Gray sand
157 <u>1</u>	377-41	3	Off Avalon, Santa Catalina Island	33 21 03 N 118 19 55 W	5:00 PM	55			5:15 PM		Gray sand
ب 158/	378-41	4	1 mi. NW. of White Cove, Santa Catalina Island	33 24 20 N 118 22 00 W	10:00 AM	2-3					Mask diving for kelp holdfasts
159 4	379-41	4	Santa Catalina Channel	33 33 00 N 118 10 00 W	3:25 PM	84			4:00 PM	95	Gray sand, mud
160 4	380-41		8½ mi. E. of Long Point, Santa Catalina Island	33 24 10 N 118 13 20 W	4:03 PM	228		-118 11 25	WH5 PM	228	Mud, rock
14 -!	251-41	9	½ mi. off White Cove, Santa Catalina Island	33 23 30 N 118 22 04 W	10:00 AM	33	=	118 22 02	W.A. M	II Was	*Kelp, rocks, sea fans, wurchins, fish, sponge
/62-1		10	Beach close in by Buoy, Wh. Cove, S. Catalina Isl.		7:00 AM	2		118 21 00	N.26 8:00 W.6 AM	3	leaf debris 1/4 2 10
163 4		10	E. of Long Point, Santa Catalina Island	33 23 40 N 118 20 04 W Z		45	** **	118 21 22		50	Sponges, lamp shells
بس <i>کاه</i> ۱۰		10		33 24 30 N -118 21 30 W		108		33 00 10 118 21 40	W PM	109	Green, sandy mud
/ -	585-41 D-1	25	16½ mi. SSE. of E. Point, Santa Rosa Island	33 41 00 N +119 52 58 W	10:30 AM	75		119 52 30		76	Rocks, crinoids, sponges
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'				82. 4.7.	130		43	· +.	لد لم ما		,

#### Recommendations

- Accommodate heterogeneity (either pre-digitization or in process)
- Diverse strategies for the range of full-to-partial labels (inspection from outside through unpacking)
- Develop inter-institutional databases for expeditionary sample/locality information
- Recurate while digitizing

## One size does not fit all

Happy collections are all alike; every unhappy collection is unhappy in its own way.

(Apologies to L. Tolstoy)