Teaching with Collections during Covid-19

University Museums Group AGM
19th November 2020
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- 80 teaching practicals per academic year
- 2000 HE students
- 1200 specimens used in practicals
- Core HE teaching
Planning

Preparation of museum space

• UCL reoccupation planning, Operations and Collections Management teams, risk assessments

Working with academic departments

• Academics – delivery options – F2F and blended teaching

• Departmental administrators – timetables, numbers of students
Advice to students

- Step-by-step practical guidance distributed prior to first class
- Outlined expectations (UCL and Grant Museum)
- Masks, socially-distanced queue, hand sanitiser, seating
Covid-secure measures

• Sharing safety measures and rationale with students
• Reassurance about specimen handling and quarantine
• Encouraged feedback
• Support for course leaders and students
Object use
Socially-distanced teaching
Remote students

- Object-based learning experience for remote Vertebrate Life and Evolution students
- 3D printed specimens
- Based on scans and models by UCL academic partners; printed by UCL Bartlett
- New collaborations
- Future 3D print projects
Outcomes

• Contributed to UCL-wide effort to provide a rewarding learning experience for our students
• Contributed to student mental health and well-being
• Smaller group sizes = more intimate learning experience
• Development of digital teaching materials
• Strengthened relationships with academic departments
• Highlighted the value of teaching with collections – essential and uplifting
• Wider awareness of museums and museum-based teaching at UCL