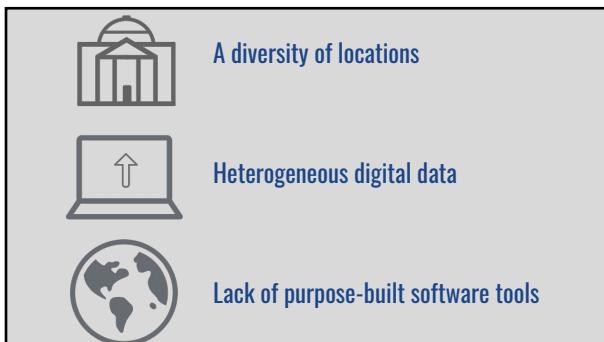


## Data-intensive approaches to digitized museum collections

Dr. Rebecca B. Dikow  
Data Science Lab  
Smithsonian Institution

 @rdikow  
@SIScience



-  A diversity of locations
-  Heterogeneous digital data
-  Lack of purpose-built software tools



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Smithsonian Open Access Initiative

CREATE. IMAGINE. DISCOVER.



## Open Access Launch Figures

2.8 million 2D and 3D objects  
14 million metadata records  
173 years of staff-created data

2,809 3D models  
40,500 design objects  
2.67 million scientific specimen images  
20,000 library volumes

## Open Access Vision

Make the nation's collection available to people around the world for any purpose: to make discoveries, build new knowledge, and to develop new art and creative projects to help us see the world a little differently.

<https://si.edu/openaccess>

The screenshot shows the Smithsonian Open Access homepage. At the top, there's a search bar with placeholder text "Search for Open Access Images and 3D Models". Below the search bar, there's a section titled "About Open Access" with four categories: "Value", "Values", "Value Metrics", and "Updates". Under "Featured Platforms", there are five items: "Smithsonian Books", "3D Models", "3D Images", "Smithsonian Labeling", and "Smithsonian Highwire". The background features a colorful geometric pattern at the bottom.

One way to engage directly with the OA collections data:

<https://github.com/sidatascienceLab/siopenaccess>

[https://sidatascienceLab.github.io/siopenaccess/saam\\_clustering\\_tutorial.html](https://sidatascienceLab.github.io/siopenaccess/saam_clustering_tutorial.html)



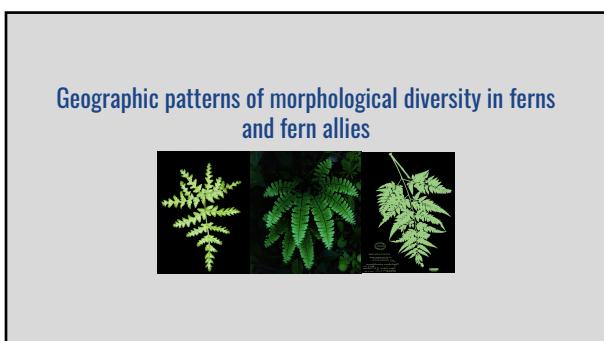
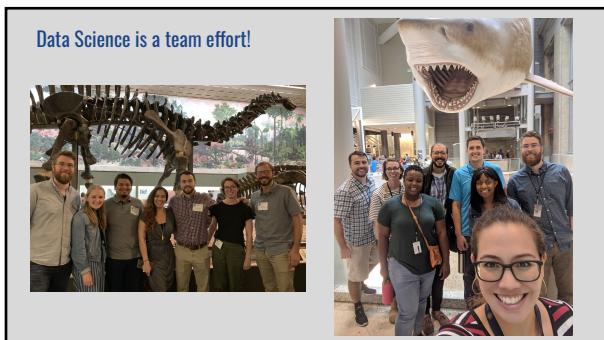
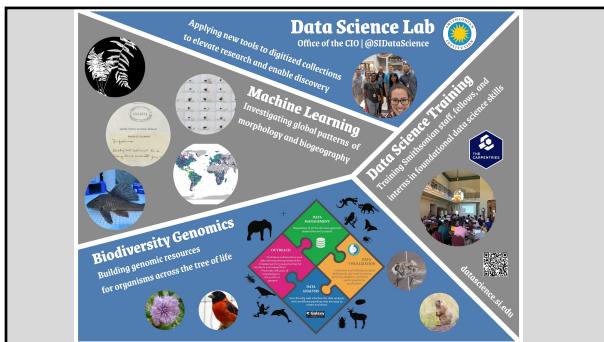
A diversity of locations



Heterogeneous digital data



Lack of purpose-built software tools



## Digitizing the US National Herbarium

Scaling from thousands to millions:



National Museum of  
Natural History



---

---

---

---

---

## First pilot projects: detecting mercury staining and family ID



---

---

---

---

---



---

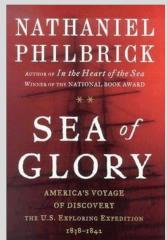
---

---

---

---

## Wilkes Expedition: 1838-1842



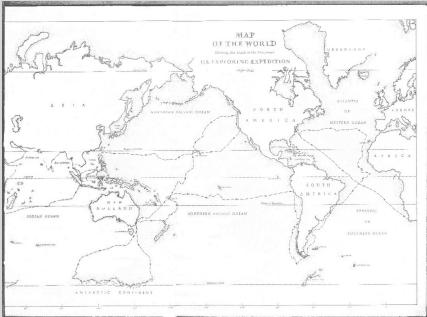
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

## Building a training dataset: mercury staining

- Visually inspected thousands of herbarium sheets for the presence of mercuric chloride crystallization



- Final dataset had ~7K "stained" and 7K "clean" sheets, partitioned 80% for training, 20% for testing/validation

---

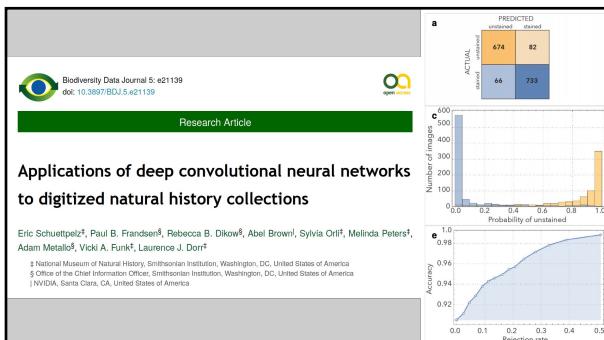
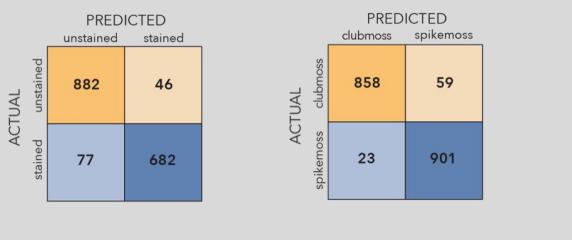
---

---

---

---

## Results: mercury staining and family ID models

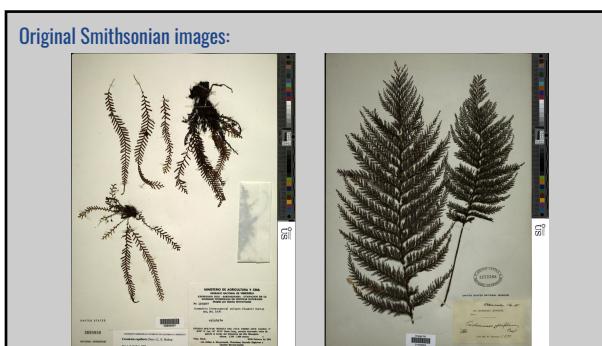
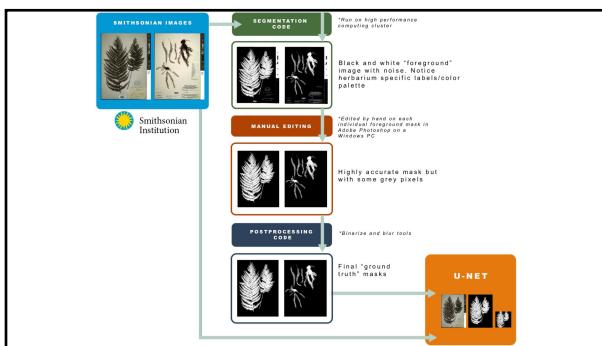


## How can we scale this work across collections?

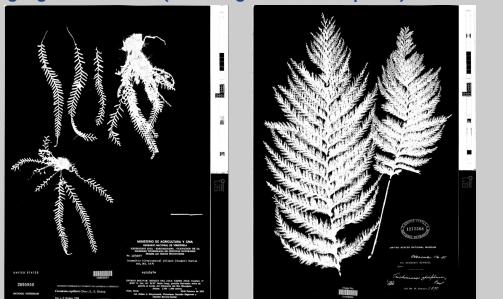
- Need to be sure collection-specific features are “masked”
- Potential sources of bias include lighting, labels, color bar, stamps, barcodes



White et al., in review, *Applications in Plant Sciences*



After running segmentation code (built using PlantCV and OpenCV):



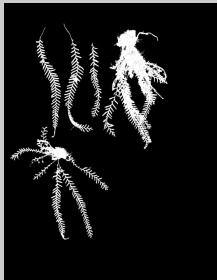
---

---

---

---

After manual processing to remove any residual non-plant material:



---

---

---

---

These processed images are called masks: images of identical resolution that define the identity of each pixel in the original image.

---

---

---

---

400 ground-truth masks were used to train a U-Net:

**U-Net: Convolutional Networks for Biomedical Image Segmentation**

Olaf Ronneberger, Philipp Fischer, and Thomas Brox  
Computer Science Department and BIOS3 Centre for Biological Signalling Studies,  
University of Freiburg, Germany  
ronneber@informatik.uni-freiburg.de,  
WWW home page: <http://t2ab.informatik.uni-freiburg.de/>

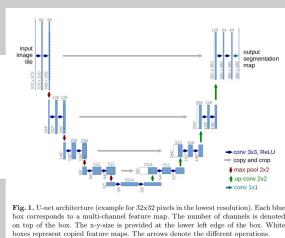
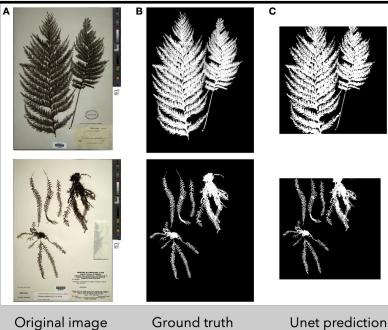


Fig. 1. U-net architecture (example for 32x32 pixels in the lowest resolution). Each blue box corresponds to a multi-channel feature map. The number of channels is denoted on top of the box. The x-y-site is provided at the lower left edge of the box. White boxes represent skip connections. The arrows denote the different operations.



Original image

Ground truth

Unet prediction

**Paper, code, model, and data available:**

White et al., 2020: <https://doi.org/10.1002/aps3.11352>

[https://github.com/sidatascienceLab/fern\\_segmentation](https://github.com/sidatascienceLab/fern_segmentation)

Original images (<https://doi.org/10.25573/data.9922148>)

Curated masks (<https://doi.org/10.25573/data.9922232>)

Metadata (<https://doi.org/10.25573/data.11771004>)

## Uncovering the Scientific Impact of Women at the Smithsonian Using Machine Learning



Mirian Tsuchiya, postdoctoral fellow

---

---

---

---

---



Mary Vaux Walcott

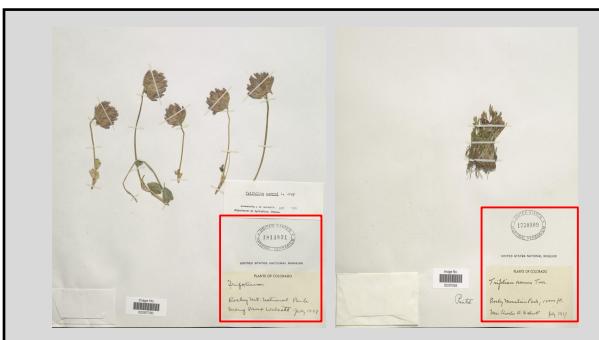
---

---

---

---

---



---

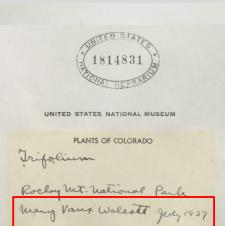
---

---

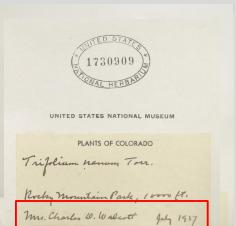
---

---

Mary Vaux Walcott, July 1937



**Mrs. Charles B. Walcott, July 1937**



More details about this project: <https://datascience.si.edu/news/whatsinaname>

## The Funk List:

includes more than 400 current and past Smithsonian women in science



[Photo of Vicki Funk by Mauricio Diazgranados](#)

## How do we measure scientific impact?



- Publications
  - Service
  - Collections
  - Public outreach

From left to right: Vicki Funk, Sophie Lutterlough, and Jessie Cohen

Machine learning tools can help us connect women on the Funk List to Smithsonian archives and collections data to help us better understand their scientific impact.

---

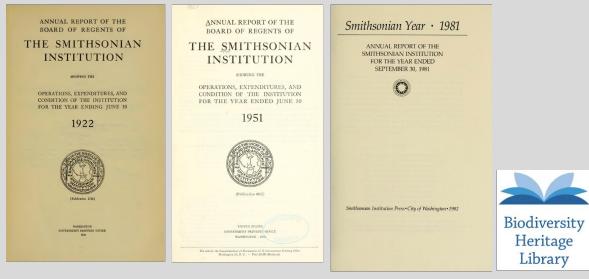
---

---

---

---

## Smithsonian Annual Reports



---

---

---

---

---

## SRO – Smithsonian Research Online

A screenshot of the Smithsonian Research Online (SRO) website. The top navigation bar includes links for "Smithsonian Research Online", "Research @ Smithsonian", and "About". Below the navigation, there is a search bar and a list of search results. The first result is a publication by Vicki Funk titled "James Lee Zaruch (1952-2019)." The second result is another by Vicki Funk titled "The 2018 National Fellow, Jarai Chanserey, Jarai Chanserey is presenting a monograph of the genus *Climacoptera* and a diversity of *Cercasurinae*." The third result is a paper by Vicki Funk and others titled "An empirical assessment of a single family-wide hybrid capture locus set at multiple evolutionary lineages in *Astraeus*." The fourth result is a paper by Vicki Funk and others titled "Kleff, Corri L., Funk, Vicki A., and Alexander, Sara N. 2019. Smithsonian Plant Collections: Guiana Shield 1981–2014. *Bol. Diversidad* 10(1): 1–10." The fifth result is a paper by Vicki Funk and others titled "Mandel, Jennifer R., Okine, Rebecca R., Sperlich, Caroline M., Thapa, Ramhari, Watson, Linda L., and Funk, Vicki A. 2019. A fully resolved backbone phylogeny reveals numerous dispersals and repeated diversifications throughout the history of *Astraeus*." The sixth result is a paper by Vicki Funk and others titled "Kleff, Corri L., Funk, Vicki A., and Alexander, Sara N. 2019. Smithsonian Plant Collections: Guiana Shield 1981–2014. *Bol. Diversidad* 10(1): 1–10." At the bottom of the page, there is a link to "Sample search for publications by Vicki Funk" and the Smithsonian Libraries logo.

---

---

---

---

---

## Methods

Used a combination of Natural Language Processing in spaCy and shell scripting to:

- Extract and count mentions of women on the Funk List in Annual Reports
- Count publications for women on the Funk List from Smithsonian Research Online
- Extract and count occurrences first names and words related to science in the Annual Reports



---

---

---

---

---

## NER – Named Entity Recognition

William J. Bennett PERSON , Secretary of Education ORG  
John S. Herrington PERSON , Secretary of Energy Board of Regents ORG  
Warren E. Burger PERSON , Chief Justice of the United States GPE , ex officio , Chancellor  
George H. W. Bush PERSON , Vice President of the United States GPE , ex officio  
Edwin J. PERSON ( Jake ) Garn PERSON , Senator from Utah GPE  
Barry Goldwater PERSON , Senator from Arizona GPE  
James R. Sasser PERSON , Senator from Tennessee GPE

A portion of the 1985 Annual Report - this section lists the members of the Board of Regents

---

---

---

---

---

## Methods

- Included all women from the Funk List no longer at the Smithsonian – 127 total
- Analyzed Annual Reports from 1846-1999
- Downloaded all citations from SRO

---

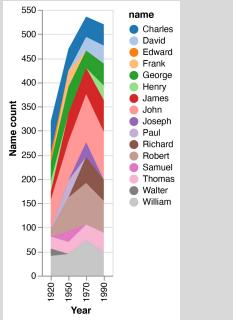
---

---

---

---

## Count of mentions of 10 most common first names in four Annual Reports



---

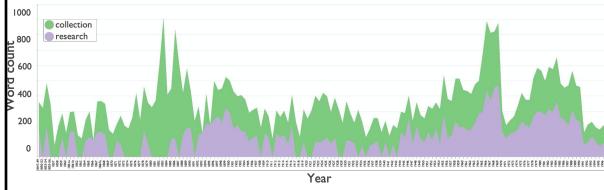
---

---

---

## Annual Report word counts through time

Mentions of the words: research and collection



---

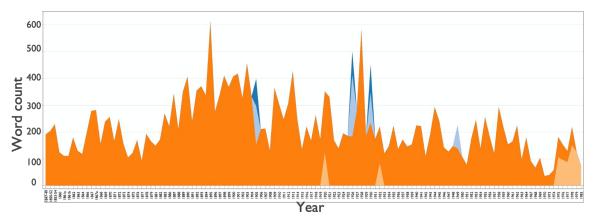
---

---

---

## Annual Report word counts through time

Mentions of the words: man, male, women, and female



---

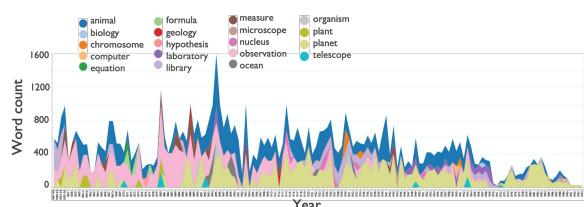
---

---

---

## Annual Report word counts through time

Mentions of some common science words



---

---

---

---

---



---

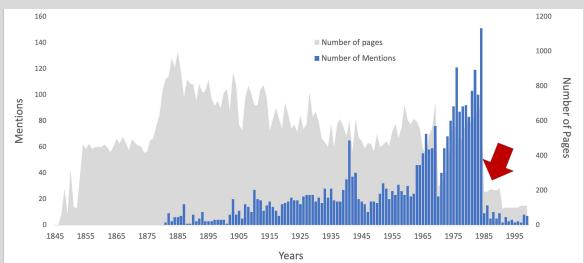
---

---

---

---

## Total number of mentions per Annual Report



---

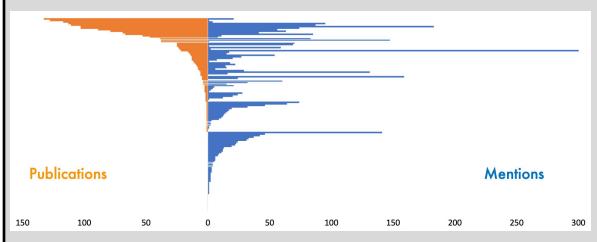
---

---

---

---

## Number of mentions in the report do not correspond to scientific publications



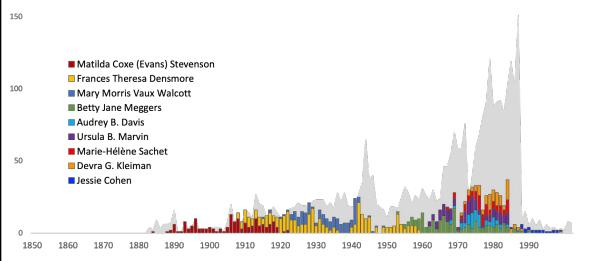
## Number of mentions in the report do not correspond to scientific publications

	Betty Jane Meggers NMNH Tenure: 1954-2012 Mentions: 183 Publications: 103		Frances Theresa Densmore NMNH Tenure: 1907-1957 Mentions: 330 Publications: 22		Matilda C. Stevens NMNH Tenure: 1889-1915 Mentions: 159 Publications: 5
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## Number of mentions in the report do not correspond to scientific publications

	JoGayle Howard NJP/SCBI Tenure: 1994-2011 Mentions: 4 Publications (until 1999): 117		Vicki A. Funk NMNH Tenure: 1981-2019 Mentions: 21 Publications (until 1999): 133		Pamela B. Vandiver MCI Tenure: 1985-2003 Mentions: 1 Publications: 128
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## Who are the most-mentioned women in each decade?



find more online: <https://datascience.si.edu/AWHISymposium>

## Many contributors, many thanks



Partners:  
NMNH Botany  
OCIO DPO  
OCIO DAMS  
Smithsonian Institution Archives  
American Women's History Initiative  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum  
Tiana Curry  
Megan Glenn  
Liz Harmon  
Effie Kapsalis  
Ryan King  
Katrina Lohan  
Grace May  
Richard Naples  
Jenn Schneider  
Keri Thompson  
Mike Trizna

Funding:  
Smithsonian Women's Committee  
Smithsonian Office of the Provost  
Smithsonian Office of the CIO