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## Bibliography of Current Articles

This is intended to keep members aware of current articles relevant to natural sciences conservators.

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OCIM is the *Office de Coopération et d'Information Muséographiques*, and publishes a bi-monthly journal (*lettre*). 36 Rue Chabot-Charny, 2100 Dijon, France, Tel. 0033-805-89850.

From SPNHC's *Collection Forum*:

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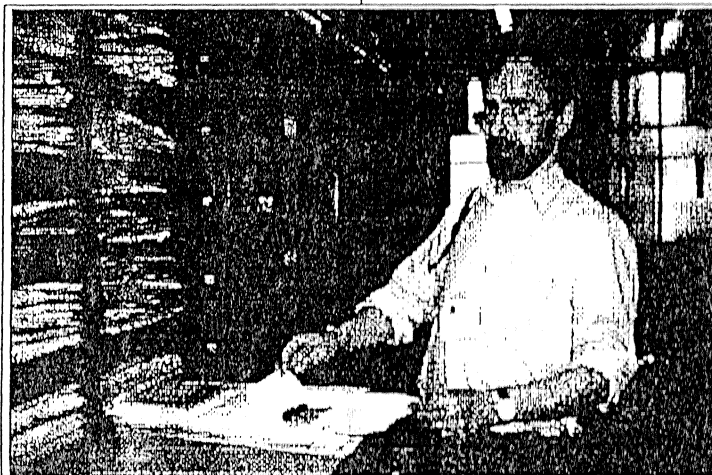
# ARTICLES

## Toronto '95, the tenth annual SPNHC meeting and herbarium workshop. (Royal Ontario Museum, 2-6 June)

Keeping the pulse on modern museum trends in natural sciences, SPNHC's theme for the 1995 conference was more botanically orientated. Four days of largely interesting talks relevant to modern conservation problems and discoveries. The first day centred around the role of natural history museums and a general updating of museum curatorial duties, especially collections management and associated problems. Stephen Jay Gould (MCZ) spoke of the glory of natural history museums and how he deplored the present day trend of putting real and scientifically relevant specimens aside for electronic and hi-tech theme park displays, of little scientific value, just to bring in the public. Some

more specific topics were also presented including biochemical reactions in bone and keratin to show how they deteriorate under certain conditions; Victoria Purewal (NM Wales) showed examples from a 'herbarium' of wax flower models, how these had deteriorated and how the NMW were finding ways to cure this problem, the use of original illustrations to act as a control against colour leaching in fluid preserved

fish specimens was presented. Julian Carter (NMW) provided a useful buffer for formalin preservation. Chris Collins gave the meeting the 'low-down' on the proposed Cambridge Conference next year - 'Madrid 2' as it has been nicknamed! The second day's presentations were centred around problems and disasters with



Rob Huxley (NHM) with fungal specimens on 'moose balls' (moose dung)

collections. Storage of specimens in tropical climates, problems with air conditioning, off-gassing insecticides affecting certain plastics, preparing for and acting on disasters, to the ultimate