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NSCG Newsletter

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The Natural Sciences Conservation Group promotes: research and exchange of ideas; advances in technical and ethical standards; the public profile of the conservation and preservation of natural science collections and objects; training; and publications.

Membership

The Group is keen to open its membership to all those involved in the care and conservation of natural science objects and encourages their active participation.

Annual Subscription

Students (UK only)	£8.00
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Newsletter

The Newsletter is a forum for articles, views and opinions on the care, conservation and curation of natural history and associated material. The Newsletter is produced three times per annum (January, May and September) and is free to all members.

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1/4 page	£15.00
1/2 page	£25.00
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Instructions for Authors

Material should be type-written and double-spaced in A4 format and if possible accompanied by a text file or Word document on disk (Dos-formatted). The pages should be numbered and the position of any tables and/or figures should be indicated on the hard copy. The names of animal and plant species should be underlined and the authority name given in full for the first time used, thereafter they may be omitted. All references should be given in full. Articles and other items for inclusion should be submitted to the Editor at least three weeks before the publication date.

Opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those shared by the NSCG Committee, the Editor or the membership at large.

Editorial

"It is indeed wonderful to consider, that there should be a sort of learned men who are wholly employed in gathering together the refuse of nature, if I may call it so, and hoarding up in their chests and cabinets such creatures as others industriously avoid the sight of."

Joseph Addison, 26th August, 1710

Welcome to Issue 15 of our Newsletter

In the words of the famous Psychic, Professor Trelawney: "Is there anybody out there?" I have not heard a dicky-bird, whisper, complaint or even, dare I say it, a compliment about the newsletter from you, the membership, and as much as a like a peaceful life, it would be nice to be given some external stimuli, or maybe even some articles.

In this issue we have the remainder of the articles from our joint *Access to Collections* conference with the BCG and GCG, plus an excellent article by Jo Sage from the *Best Value* meeting on everything you did/did not want to know about *Best Value* and from this I have at the very least learnt some new buzzwords; *outsourcing* being my particular favourite.

Another additional piece of jargon I recently learnt, which is my "buzzword of the year" is *institutional memory*. Now, when I was told I had this, I must admit I thought it an insult, but not wanting to appear ignorant of such jargon I took it like a man, so just nodded and smiled. I learnt later that it merely meant that I knowledge of my place of work, the collections and their history, i.e. I know where the toilets are and where my office is, or at least something like that.

Jargon brings me onto my next point, MGC = MLAC = *re:source* = ?? I have read, or at least tried to read the manifesto. There are some great things included, it even mentions conservation of collections, on the downside it also mentions Best Value, focused services, partnerships and quite a few other scary phrases. If anyone would like to comment on this manifesto, please send it to me, as I'm not sure I quite got the point.

Cheers for now,

D.