

# The "Who" in Collections: Revealing the Network of Collectors and Determiners of Bat Specimens

Deborah Paul, David Shorthouse, Siobhan Leachman, Aja Sherman, Katie Pearson, Trevor Dalton, Nancy Simmons  
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## Abstract

**Purpose:** We need your help to build a master list of the world's bat collectors for the horseshoe bats and relatives. Join us for this special 2-hour workshop to contribute to building this who's who of those collecting and identifying bats through time and space.

**Brief Summary:** Imagine being able to see, all in one place, which people have collected bats or identified bat specimens and where they have done this work over many years. Next, think about how much you know about this group of people and their contributions to what we know about bats. Who collected and identified bats is often known or easily discoverable by chiropterologists but rarely are these lists of people linked to each other, or to other kinds of very useful items such as publications, field notes, collecting events or birth and death dates.

We need your knowledge about this group, added to online information, to help us improve and verify the quality of bat specimen records and to fill in gaps in what we know. For example, collection dates may be transcribed in error because they are before the date of birth, after the date of death, or when a collector could not have been present in a given locality once cross-referenced against their other specimen records.

See Figure 1 below for an example of what we can do (eventually for all collectors), *but only with your help*.

To prepare for these explorations, we have some tasks to accomplish. We will learn about Wikidata and ORCID where the identities of people are expressed and/or linked to other resources and about Bionomia where links between people and specimens will be built. At the end of the day we will evaluate our progress and plan next steps, such as the potential for others to help us progress even further in building our collector-specimen network.

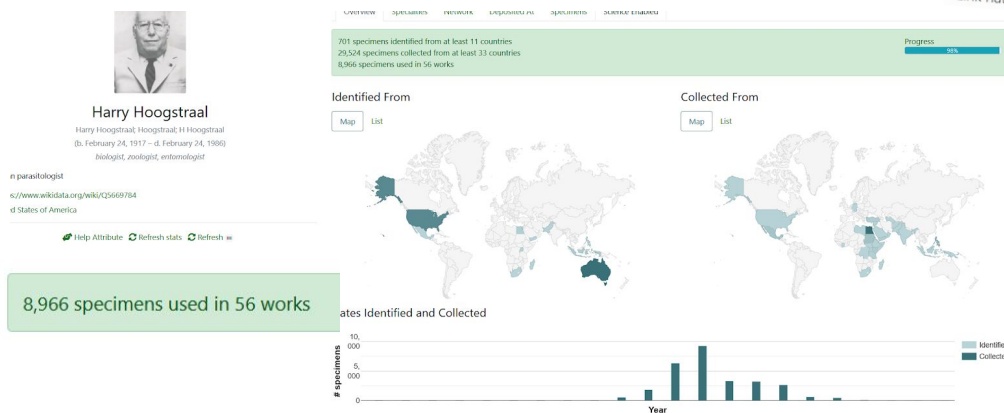
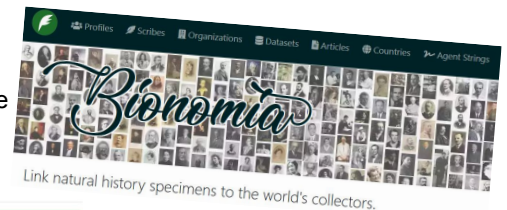


Figure 1. Harry Hoogstraal see <https://bionomia.net/Q5669784>

## Rationale

### Why are we doing this? and some more technical bits.

We have generated a list of people names from published bat specimen records and used a semi-automated look-up and matching service to produce candidate unique identifiers. We are confident in some of these identifiers, but are not confident in many others. Now, we need your expertise to move forward. For people names without a match to either identifier, we can use the collection date as an inference tool (i.e. is that person possibly living, or more likely deceased) and then, of course, your expert knowledge to figure out who these people are.

**For more background see:** see the talks presented during the TDWG2020 symposium, [Using Collections to Mitigate and Prevent Zoonotic Disease: Data Mobilization and Integration](#).

# Schedule

15:00 UTC (10 AM EST)  
Tuesday December 1st 2020

Time	Topic	Highlights	Person/s responsible and resources
10-11 AM EST	Welcome and introductions	Focus on those Collecting / Identifying Rhinolophidae and Hipposideridae	David Shorthouse Deborah Paul
	Getting Started	Overview of this workshop and the data	David Shorthouse
	How To: Bionomia, ORCID, Wikidata	Discovering Bionomia and how ORCID and Wikidata make Bionomia possible.	Example by Siobhan Leachman. (2020, June 26). Auckland Museum Volunteer Instructions for Bionomia (Version 1). Zenodo. <a href="http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3908727">http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3908727</a>
	Describe the strategy	See <a href="https://bionomia.net/help">https://bionomia.net/help</a> for some examples.  Choose the collectors you will work on from the list we have compiled (we will share at workshop). Split into two or more groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• living collectors,</li> <li>• deceased collectors</li> <li>• names where we have no idea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ full name, aliases, affiliation, group (ornithologist, ent, herp, zoo, mammalogist, etc)</li> <li>○ <b>Metadata</b>: your initials, personal knowledge, and/or link to online resource</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	David Shorthouse  Example by Deborah Paul (2020, 1 Dec). <a href="#">Sample Bionomia Workflow: finding bat collectors</a> (Version 0).
11 - 11:15	Questions		
11:15 - 3 PM EST	Working on our own	Please work as you wish. Breakout Rooms and help available. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main Room</li> <li>• Strings (unknown folks)</li> <li>• Things (Known People)</li> <li>• About wikidata (below, optional)</li> </ul>	Breakout rooms available for help / group work.  Aja Sherman Katie Pearson Trevor Dalton
2:00 - 2:30 PM EST (optional)	Creating new entries in wikidata	Join Siobhan to learn how to create new entries in wikidata and how this interacts with Bionomia.	Siobhan Leachman
3:00 - 4:00 PM EST (optional)	Report backs, what's next, and your insights  send optional results [here]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• your <b>discoveries and stories</b> uncovered</li> <li>• see some profiles added to Bionomia</li> <li>• possible next steps for this work (e.g. wikidataans, citSci, bat taxonomists, collection manager, our data curators, you, ...)</li> <li>• reintegration of these data back to local collections</li> <li>• other downstream activities</li> </ul>	David Shorthouse, Deborah Paul
	Thank you!		