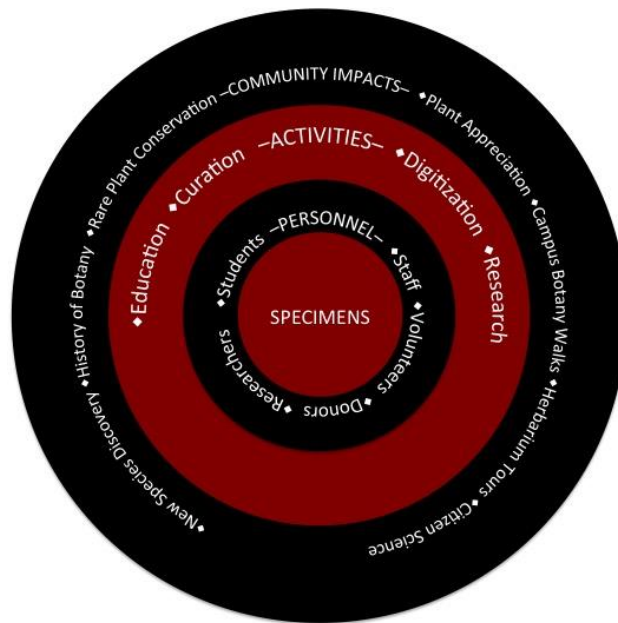


University of South Carolina A.C. Moore Herbarium 2024 Strategic Plan

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Mission

We are dedicated to preserving unique botanical specimens and their use in support of teaching, research, and community engagement.

Vision

To serve as a leading resource for botanical information in South Carolina by:

- Maximizing our ability to provide for the continued curation, growth, and use of our collections as a diverse and dynamic botanical repository.
- Collaborating with other herbaria to facilitate access to collections information and share in the development of collections and data management protocols.

Core Values

1. **Preservation** - Careful curation of the specimens in the collection is of paramount importance. Staff and volunteers work carefully to ensure the specimens and the information they contain will be preserved indefinitely.
2. **Accessibility** - Specimen information is openly available and can be accessed in person or digitally, free of charge.
3. **Education** - Serving as an essential resource for training future botanists and curators, the collection also supports education in both the scientific community and public at large by fostering botanical appreciation and discovery.
4. **Research** - As primary reference materials, our specimens provide critical support to a variety of research projects. Digitization of these specimens and other relevant materials unlocks research potential at a global scale and provides data for countless disciplines and topics not only in science but also the humanities.

Strategic Goals & Objectives

1. Sustain and expand collection

Objective: Continued care and maintenance for our current and future specimens will ensure that our collection is an actively available resource. Currently the collection faces serious space limitations and a need for additional collections management staff.

- Determine the current growth rate of our collection and what is necessary to properly curate newly accessioned material.
- Seek external funding for a compactor system and for a permanent Collections Manager position.
- Hold discussions for a new or renovated collection space located on campus.

2. Establish our Herbarium Advisory Board

Objective: The Herbarium Advisory Board will consist of representatives from stakeholders who will assist in the evaluation of our strategic plan. By providing a diversity of perspectives, the HAB will aid in measuring progress and success towards our strategic goals and identify any potential need for improvement.

- Select primarily from faculty at USC and staff:
 - Biology / SEOE, McKissick, Thomas Cooper Library, Anthropology, USC Office of Development.
 - Additional members may be associated with the following organizations: SCDNR, SC State Museum, Columbia Green, SC Native Plant Society, SC Association of Naturalists, SC State Library.
- Set up a schedule of board meetings and draft guidelines.

3. Sustain and expand teaching initiatives and research partnerships

Objective: Expand volunteer and research opportunities for UofSC students as well as foster use of the collection in faculty research.

- Continue to develop the guidance given to volunteers as well as collaborate with a broader selection of students and faculty.
- Collaborate with university resources such as the W.G. Belser Arboretum, USC Grounds staff, McKissick Museum, and the Mark Catesby Centre.

Objective: Continue and expand research and outreach collaborations with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, herbaria in South Carolina and across the southeastern US (i.e., SERNEC), as well as with national projects such as Symbiota, iDigBio, and iNaturalist.

- Expand upon the work already done in spearheading the South Carolina Herbarium Consortium.
- Develop projects that involve extensions of digital specimens including *in situ* photos, micrographs, and DNA sequences.

4. Sustain and expand public outreach

Objective: Expand on the herbarium's already robust outreach activities that include campus Botany Walks, social media presence and plant identification services.

- Nurture the new Botany Boot Camp adult education program.
- Participate in campus activities such as tabling to boost the presence and importance of the herbarium, and encourage individuals to get involved.
- Continue our involvement in local and state organizations including the SC Native Plant Society, Making it Grow!, Master Gardeners, and Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic.

Action Items

- Seek external funding opportunities.
- Formulate the Herbarium Advisory Board.
- Expand volunteer research opportunities and promote herbarium offerings.
- Update the Herbarium's website and develop informational brochures.
- Continue to present at iDigBio data conferences and other events.