

**Mid-Atlantic Megalopolis TCN**  
**Quarterly Progress Report**  
**May – July 2018**



**Progress in Digitization Efforts:** The current numbers for progress of digitization efforts by specimen category are shown in Table 1 and Figure 1. Staff at BALT have received a light box and completed imaging training on 16-17 July 2018. Staff at CM, the newest PEN to MAM, completed imaging training on 30-31 July 2018. The imaging blitz at TAWES has been scheduled for 13-15 August 2018. All MARY records from the three imaging blitzes previously conducted by MOAR in collaboration with MARY staff have been sorted to category of completion in the MAM portal and, if relevant, merged with legacy data. The latest numbers resulting from that work are reported here.

**Share and Identify Best Practices and Standards:** See Identify Gaps section below.

**Identify Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology:** PI Cynthia Skema (MOAR) presented at the Botany meeting in Rochester, Minnesota (22-25 July 2018) on research on focus quality issues in herbarium specimen imaging, including comparing Nikon and Canon focus abilities, and improving and characterizing the MAM FineFocus protocol.

**Share and Identify Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts:** Nothing to report.

**Share and Identify Collaborations with other TCNs, Institutions, and Organizations:** Nothing to report.

**Share and Identify Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability:** Nothing to report.

**Share and Identify Education and Outreach Activities:** MAM was well represented at this year's Botany meeting, as detailed in Identify Gaps section above and as follows. PI Cynthia Hong-Wa (DOV) presented a poster, entitled "The Mid-Atlantic Megalopolis (MAM) Project at the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium (DOV): New opportunities through collection digitization." Megan King, in collaboration with PI Lena Struwe (CHRB), presented a talk entitled "The MAM Project at Rutgers University – Digitization of the Mid-Atlantic Flora to investigate urban floristic changes." Working with PI Janelle Burke (HUDC), Amber Durand, an undergraduate at Howard University, presented a talk entitled "Videos as Outreach Tools to Build Community in Natural History Collections Research: Examples from Howard University," and showed one of the three videos she has produced as part of the work. All of these videos are currently available on YouTube:

- What Type of Research Can You Do With Natural History Collections? (<https://youtu.be/bmhrn8LZIDY>)
- How to Find a Lab With Natural history Collections? ([https://youtu.be/zLye0qz1\\_hw](https://youtu.be/zLye0qz1_hw))
- Why Does Research with Natural History Collections Matter? (<https://youtu.be/6oRs0BRb400>)

**Other Progress:** Nothing to report.

**Table 1.** Digitization of specimens by stage of completion and herbarium for MAM TCN.

Specimen Stage (Processing Status)	HERBARIUM <sup>1</sup>											Totals
	BALT	CHRB	DOV	HUDC	MARY	MCA	MOAR	NY	PAC	PH	SIM	
# specimens imaged (no stage, not in Symbiota yet)	1,398	1,793	0	900	0	0	0	129,181	1,685	1,165	359	<b>136,481</b>
# specimens imaged, and uploaded to Symbiota with skeletal data, transcription/review may be in progress (Unprocessed + Expert Required + Pending Review)	0	14,632	19,584	7,822	4,483	0	0	0	7,168	183,697	4,613	<b>241,999</b>
# specimens as above + completely transcribed and transcription reviewed (Stage 1)	0	1,749	3,527	941	12,256	37,354	1,062	123,179	0	33,361	16,450	<b>229,879</b>
# specimens as above + georeferenced (Stage 2)	0	64	261	1	19,992	13,677	19,389	40,586	0	595	1	<b>94,566</b>
# specimens that need special attention, e.g., go back to sheet (Stage 3)	0	0	0	27	41	12	618	0	0	0	415	<b>1,113</b>
# specimens imaged, transcribed, ± georeferenced + closed as complete (Closed)	0	0	0	0	1,635	19	20	0	0	0	395	<b>2,069</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>18,238</b>	<b>23,372</b>	<b>9,691</b>	<b>38,407</b>	<b>51,062</b>	<b>21,089</b>	<b>292,946</b>	<b>8,853</b>	<b>218,818</b>	<b>22,233</b>	<b>706,107</b>

<sup>1</sup> Index Herbariorum acronyms for herbaria correspond to institutional names as follows: BALT = Towson University, CHRB = Rutgers University, DOV = Delaware State University, HUDC = Howard University, MARY = University of Maryland, MCA = Muhlenberg College, MOAR = Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, NY = New York Botanical Garden, PAC = Pennsylvania State University, PH = The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, SIM = Staten Island Museum

**Figure 1.** Percentage of specimens by stage of completion and herbarium for MAM TCN. With this presentation of digitization progress, the final goal for each institution is to have a mostly green column above the X axis (could potentially have orange up to roughly 10%). Note that CM only recently completed imaging training and TAWES has not yet entered the project. (Specimens not yet in workflow are set as negative numbers.)

