

**Mid-Atlantic Megalopolis TCN**  
**Bi-Monthly Progress Report**  
**March – April 2017**



**Progress in Digitization Efforts:** The current numbers for progress of digitization efforts by specimen category are shown in Table 1. BALT and CHRБ are waiting for a light box to use with their imaging rig (see details under gaps in technology heading). Digitization work at SIM (Staten Island Museum) will not begin until imaging work at MCA is complete, probably in early 2018; digitization work at TAWES will likely begin with an imaging blitz in Summer or Fall 2017.

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

Specimen Stage	HERBARIUM									Totals
	BALT	CHRБ	DOV	HUDC	MARY	MCA	MOAR	NY	PH	
# specimens imaged (no stage, not in Symbiota yet)	0	1,878	3,175	70	0	12,946	0	0	11,884	<b>29,953</b>
# specimens imaged, and uploaded to Symbiota along with skeletal data (Unprocessed Stage)	0	79 <sup>#</sup>	96	271	0	11,281	1,964	0	31,751	<b>45,442</b>
# specimens as above + completely transcribed and transcription reviewed (Stage 1)	0	0	0	9	0	0	4,059	72,420*	0	<b>76,488</b>
# specimens as above + georeferenced (Stage 2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	273	40,586*	0	<b>40,859</b>
# specimens that need special attention, e.g. go back to sheet, etc. (Stage 3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	<b>20</b>
# specimens as above + closed as complete (Closed Stage)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

<sup>#</sup>The number for this category for CHRБ went down due to removal of some low-quality images that will be reimaged. \*Not uploaded to Symbiota yet as NY is using in-house workflow/database until later steps in process.

**Share and Identify Best Practices and Standards:** At NY, a workflow is followed in which images are processed using OCR after imaging, and the rendered label text is placed in a "Notes" field. Label elements unique to each digitization project are then searched for in that field to select sets of relevant specimens. The Rapid Data Entry procedure in the NY database is then used to transcribe data, with which transcription rates of 50-75 records per hour are achieved.

**Identify Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology:** MAM is working with a Philadelphia firm, Oat Foundry, to design and build a light box to fill the void left by the closure of OR Tech. These boxes will be used by the institutions in the MAM Project that are still missing a light box: BALT, CHRB, and MOAR. Also, the MOAR team of MAM has been working to identify the source of the soft focus issues a number of collaborators have been facing with their imaging rig set-up.

**Share and Identify Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts:** At CHRB, a training certificate was developed with 1-2 hour, topic-centered modules for the undergraduates that are part of the semester-long "Herbarium Army." These are students that work in the herbarium 90-200 hours a semester for credit, pay, or as volunteers. Training module development continues at CHRB, and includes such topics as photography and online data entry.

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

**Share and Identify Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability:** Financial sustainability has been increased through the advertisement for two federal work-study students for Fall 2017 in the CHRB herbarium. At NY, work is being done to link the MAM project to the Ecoflora of New York City project, particularly to build a constituency of volunteers ("Urban Naturalists") to help with the digitization/transcription of New York City plants (especially from the Brooklyn herbarium) and conduct field observations.

**Share and Identify Education and Outreach Activities:** MAM held its second project workshop, hosted by the New York Botanical Garden and led by Ed Gilbert, on 25-26 February 2017. This workshop provided training for MAM collaborators and public participants on how to use the floristics tools in Symbiota, with a long-term goal of building a Mid-Atlantic virtual flora in the MAM Portal. The workshop was attended by 25 participants, 14 from the MAM Project and 11 attendees from the general public, including amateur botanists, natural history enthusiasts, and staff from other regional parks, institutions and NGOs. Thanks to Ed Gilbert, Barbara Theirs, and Anne Barber for organizing, instructing, and coordinating this productive workshop!

CHRB's Herbarium Director Dr. Lena Struwe gave an invited talk on the inclusion and engagement of undergraduates in herbarium work at Rutgers in a special workshop on herbarium and education arranged by the Society of Herbarium Curators, at the ASB 2017 meeting. [Struwe, L. & M. King. 2017. How to create opportunities in research, education, and outreach through the formation of an undergraduate Herbarium Army. Association of Southeastern Biologists Meeting, Montgomery, AL, March 29-31 - April 1, 2017.]

Co-PI Burke and her student presented on the HUDC MAM project at Howard University Research Week. [Durand, A. and J.M. Burke. 2017. The digitization of mid-Atlantic specimens in the Howard University herbarium. HU Research week 2017. Poster.]

**Other Progress:** CHRB's Collection Manager Megan R. King, was named the Student Employee of the year for Rutgers University, and for the whole state of New Jersey solely based on her job performance in the herbarium during the last year.