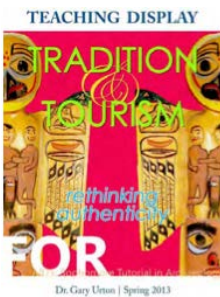


# Teaching & Learning through Museum Collections

Freshman Seminar Instructors are very welcome to use Harvard's world-renowned museum collections in their teaching. Some objects can be lent for specific classes and all the museums have collections viewing spaces for class use. Museums will also help individual students with object-based research as part of a class. Some museums can work with faculty on teaching displays – either curated by the faculty in advance or by the students themselves.

## Examples of classes that have used collections

In a seminar on Darwin, students read *On the Origin of Species*, paying close attention to the science as well as the man. Then they visited the MCZ to accompany their readings about slave-making ants, the Botany Libraries to examine the extraordinary herbals and old botanical volumes, and to the Arnold Arboretum where they explored carnivorous plants, movement in plants, climbing plants, and recreated Darwin's classic experiments.



In an archaeology tutorial, students worked closely with Peabody Museum staff to curate a small exhibit case, *Tradition & Tourism: Rethinking Authenticity* that explored the notions of commercialism, craft, and culture change. Through woven Tlingit baskets and molded Mexican dogs, students critiqued the idea that indigenous authenticity lives in the past. The exhibit case is on the third floor of the Peabody, and in the “Collections Online” section of the museum web site: <http://pmem.unix.fas.harvard.edu:8080/peabody/> .

## Harvard Art Museums

<http://www.harvardartmuseums.org>

Faculty and students are encouraged to use the Harvard Art Museums' digital resources for their teaching and research. Museum educators, curators, conservators, and technologists are available to consult with faculty from across disciplines on how the collections might support course goals. For more information, contact Jessica Levin Martinez at [jessica\\_martinez@harvard.edu](mailto:jessica_martinez@harvard.edu) or Erin Northington, 617-495-1595.

## Arnold Arboretum (in Jamaica Plain, Boston)

<http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu> : 281 acres, 15,000 plants, 1.3 million herbarium specimens, and an extensive library.

Online plant inventory: <http://arboretum.harvard.edu/plants/plant-inventory/>

Online herbaria database: <http://arboretum.harvard.edu/plants/herbaria/>

## **Harvard Museums of Science & Culture**

<http://hmsc.harvard.edu>: go to the “Education” for Harvard Faculty Resources for the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments, Harvard Semitic Museum, the Harvard Museum of Natural History, and the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology-specific links below

## **Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments**

<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~hsdept/chsi.html> : 20,000 objects representing a broad range of scientific disciplines.

Contact: Dr. Jean-Francois Gauvin, [gauvin@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:gauvin@fas.harvard.edu) 617 – 496 1021

## **Harvard Semitic Museum**

<http://www.semiticmuseum.fas.harvard.edu> : 40,000 Near Eastern artifacts.

Contact: Dr. Adam Aja, [aja@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:aja@fas.harvard.edu), 617 – 495 3123

## **Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology**

<https://www.peabody.harvard.edu> : 1.2 million objects, 500,000 photographic images, and substantial archival records.

Contact: Dr. Diana Loren, [dloren@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:dloren@fas.harvard.edu), 617 – 495 7535

Online Database: <http://pmem.unix.fas.harvard.edu:8080/peabody/>

## **Harvard Museum of Natural History**

<http://hmnh.harvard.edu/> : the public face of three research museums, the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Harvard University Herbaria, and the Mineralogical & Geological Museum – specific links below

## **Harvard University Herbaria**

(<http://www.huh.harvard.edu>): more than 5 million specimens covering botany, paleobotany and economic botany.

Contact: Michaela Schmull, 617 – 495 0665

Online Database: <http://kiki.huh.harvard.edu/databases/>

## **Mineralogical and Geological Museum**

<http://www.geomus.fas.harvard.edu> : rocks, meteorites, minerals and ores.

Contact: Dr. Raquel Alonso Perez, [ralonso@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:ralonso@fas.harvard.edu), 617 – 496 2401

## **Museum of Comparative Zoology**

<http://www.mcz.harvard.edu> : 21 million specimens covering zoology and paleontology.

Contact: Dr. Linda Ford, [lford@oeb.harvard.edu](mailto:lford@oeb.harvard.edu), 617 – 495 - 3748

Online Database: <http://mczbase.mcz.harvard.edu/SpecimenSearch.cfm>