museums
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

ACQUISITIONS STRATEGY (*Soil Monolith Collection)*

A. COLLECTIONS AND PROGRAMS

1. Describe the purpose of the Collection and why it is maintained by the unit

The Soil Monolith Collection provides representative examples of soil taxonomy and classification. The Collection is maintained for the purposes of teaching of undergraduate and graduate courses, public viewing, extension activities, and other educational uses.

While the majority of the Soil Monolith Collections were initially collected in 1978 when the 11th World Congress of Soil Science was held in Edmonton, some soil monoliths were collected as early as 1927 for a field trip organized for the First International Congress of Soil Science. Later, additional soil monoliths were collected to complement the existing ones.

The soil monoliths in the Soil Monolith Collections were mostly collected from Alberta and across Canada. The original objective was to showcase the soils within Canada to attendees of the 11th World Congress of Soil Science (1978) and the First International Congress of Soil Science (1927). Later, a limited number of soil monoliths were collected by staff members and friends of the department from Southeast Asia. Those Southeast Asian soil monoliths add diversity to the kinds of soils we have represented.

2. Type of Material in Current Collection

Material	# of accessioned	# to be accessioned	# pending decision
Wyatt Alberta Soil Monolith Collection, collected almost exclusively by the Alberta Soil Survey	~220		
Alberta profiles (soil monolith) collected for the 1927 First International Congress of Soil Science	4		
Indonesian soil monoliths, collected by Dr. J. D. Newton in 1958 and 1962	3		
Sri Lankan soil monoliths, collected by Dr. C. F. Bentley in 1954	5		
Thailand monoliths collected by Bryan Hamman in 1989	4		
Soil Profiles of Canada (ISSS Collection), entitled 'Soils of Canada', assembled in conjunction with the 11th International Congress of Soil Science (Edmonton 1978).	50		
Total	~286	0	0

3. List the academic programs supported by the Collection

Largely academic programs housed within the Department of Renewable Resources, mainly for the Environmental Conservation Science and Forestry degree programs.

The Soil Monolith Collections are used by a number of courses offered by the Department of Renewable Resources. For example, SOILS 210 (Introduction to Soil Science) and SOILS 420 (Soil Formation & Landscape Processes) extensively use the soil monoliths for teaching. The FOR 322 (Forest Ecosystems/Ecology) class in the Forestry degree program also uses the soil monoliths for some of their teaching. The monoliths are used as reference material to illustrate the features of classification, as well as in laboratory demonstrations outlining key features such as soil horizons. The monoliths are also used in exams to test student understanding of the classification system, and their ability to identify soil types through morphological features.

Usage of the soil monoliths by graduate programs is on an ad hoc basis.

4. **List community engagement programs/activities supported by the Collection**

The Collection has been used by the Alberta Institute of Agrologists (the Soils Network) and environmental consulting firms in Edmonton (such as AMEC) as part of their continuing education programs.

We have been using the resources in the Soil Monolith Collections for the Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences in the annual open house held at the University of Alberta.

We also use the soil monoliths for visits to schools in the Rocky Mountain House area.

B. STRATEGY AND CRITERIA FOR NEW ACQUISITIONS

1. **Identify the types of new acquisitions that are essential to support the current and proposed programs identified above**

We are currently not in the process of acquiring new soil monoliths. Up-keeping and maintenance of the existing collection would be the priority for this Collection. The current collection meets the needs of the department for teaching and community engagement.

We would face shortage of storage space issues if we were to acquire new soil monoliths. We currently do not have the required funding to acquire more soil monoliths either.

2. **List any existing collecting area that will no longer be supplemented**

Not applicable for the Soil Monolith Collection.

3. **List any additional requirements unique to the Collection that would affect a decision to acquire**

Potential changes to the Canadian System of Soil Classification may occur in the future. Since the Soil Monolith Collection provides reference samples of the soil order and subgroups, changes at this level of the Classification system would warrant the acquisition of new reference samples.

Approved by Unit/Department/Faculty

Scott Chang
Designated Curator (Print Name)

(Signature)

Vic Lieffers, Chair
Chair/Dean/Director (Print Name)

(Signature)

Nov. 29, 2011
Date Completed

Approved by Museums and Collections Services

Janine Andrews, Executive Director

Dec 15, 2011
Date

Approved by U of A Museums Policy and Planning Committee

Heather Procter
Chair, Policy and Planning Committee (Print Name)

Signature

December 8, 2011
Date of Committee Meeting

December 2016
Date of Next Review