Course Syllabus

Digital Data in the Herbarium

Instructor and class times

Katie Pearson (kdpearso@calpoly.edu)

Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Course description

During this term, you will learn about the scientific use of herbarium specimens—dried, press plants stored in herbaria—and you will directly contribute to the "digitization" of these specimens. This will involve transcribing data from images of herbarium specimen labels and performing other digitization tasks.

Course Expectations

Requirements

You will need a computer with internet connection, a microphone, and Zoom installed for participation in remote work sessions.

Attendance

You will be expected to attend the synchronous Zoom co-working time every week. During this time, we will discuss relevant materials, and we will work together on herbarium digitization tasks primarily in our online database, CCH2. You will be expected to ask questions, receive feedback and correct your work accordingly, and engage with the instructors and your peers in a respectful manner.

In case of an emergency that will not allow you to attend a class time, please email Katie as soon as possible. Make-up work may be assigned.

Assignments

Besides attendance, you will have three types of assignments, described below.

Weekly updates

Starting in week 4, you will submit a short update on a Google slide about what you have been discovering or learning. You may be called upon to share your slide during class. Weekly updates will be due at the beginning of each class.

You will create your weekly slide in this document: EMAIL KATIE FOR LINK

Paper presentation

Each week, two or three students will give a 5-minute, 1-slide presentation about a scholarly paper they found and read that uses herbarium specimens in research. You will sign up for your presentation week during week 1. In these presentations, you should not go into a lot of detail about the methods or results, but explain the following:

1. What was the purpose of the research? What questions were asked?
2. What method did the authors use to investigate their question (e.g., statistics, models maps)?
3. What did the authors find?
4. Why is this important?

Please make sure to include **visuals** more than text and a **complete citation of your paper**. More details are provided in the Google slides file.

You will create and share your slide here: [EMAIL KATIE FOR LINK](#)

Final reflection assignment

For this assignment, you will just need to fill out a Google form answering some short answer questions. More instructions for this assignment will be provided at the end of the quarter.