Skills requested by GCG survey responders

Subject specialist networks so curators know where to get help and advice; How to know where subject specialists are/ i.e. who are researching out there and who if at all can museum tap into expertise and knowledge (in part)

1. Early Career training/ Non-geological specialist resources

1.1. I have just been made responsible for a geology collection; I know very little about geology. What do I do?
1.2. Geological curator intern program
1.3. Mentors for early career palaeontologists/geologists interested in curation
1.4. How to run a curatorial traineeship in geology
1.5. Introduction into curating geological collections,
1.6. How to become more involved in collections,
1.7. How to become a geological curator
1.8. Latin for non-classically trained Natural Scientists
1.9. Crash course on mineral identification for non-mineralogists
1.10. How to catalogue geology collections properly.
1.11. Basic curation (especially for curators without a geology background).
1.12. Information on how to answer enquiries with little knowledge.
1.13. Internships, helping early stage curators with training/mentorship, collections tours
1.14. How to curate a university museum geology collection

2. Mid-Career/ Advanced Geological curation training

2.1. Managing volunteers in geology
2.2. Managing geological collections for Natural Sciences curators.
2.3. Moving geology stores.
2.4. Case studies from museums with geology collections that are involved in a store move project
2.5. Dealing with big and heavy objects
2.6. Dealing with thin sections/caring for thin section collections
2.7. Mineralogy and Igneous Petrology collections management
2.8. Insurance valuation of geological specimens
2.9. Social history for geology curators – HOGG?
2.10. Training in devising storage systems, particularly for rock collections.
2.11. Fieldwork training and active field collecting programs - curators may have little idea of how to log sections
2.12. Geological site excavation
2.13. Transport/couriering collections
2.14. Collections tours program
2.15. Keeping members informed of developments in museums beyond the area of collections management
2.16. "How to" on geological specimen labelling
2.17. Case studies from museums with geology collections that are involved in documenting undocumented collections projects.
2.18. Doing geological collections reviews

3. Legal and Ethical

3.1. Legal ownership of fossils found on private land or Crown Property
3.2. Legality of geological specimens collected abroad
3.3. The law as regards to institutions acquiring and/or paying for fossils especially with regard to the due diligence required to establishing true ownership.
3.4. Ethics and the law as it applies to geological collections
3.5. Fossil collecting and the law in Scotland
3.6. Dealing with current problems with disposal for financial reasons

4. General Collections issues

4.1. Collection Management issues
4.2. Centralised database for collections and collector profiles
4.3. Standard info page of where to find information on jobs - regularly updated online.

5. Museum partnerships

5.1. How to get better use of collections by taxonomists, biographers, historians
5.2. Engaging with academia using geological collections for research, traditional and new areas
5.3. Links with research establishments and schools
5.4. Working with local geology/natural history groups
5.5. RIGS sites Conservation Research (collections and related museum research) Geoarchaeology
5.6. How to link up with RIGS groups.
5.7. Applying for grants to support networking.
5.8. Supporting amateur and professional individuals who care for their own private collections.
5.9. Creating dialogue between museums and professional/amateur fossil collectors who currently possess fossils wanted by museums.
5.10. Setting up regional links
5.11. “How to engage with” and information related to other small scale community organisations with collections
5.12. Engaging with Natural England (and other provincial organisations), the National Trust, English Heritage (and other provincial organisations) and the Geological Society of London/GA

6. Conservation/preparation/sourcing of curatorial supplies

6.1. Palaeontological preparation
6.2. Packaging of objects
6.3. Recommendations for suppliers of geological curatorial supplies
6.4. Standard info page of where to find information on care of collections - regularly updated
6.5. Long term environmental control
6.6. "How to" on collections storage
6.7. Conservation techniques
6.8. Curatorial Products
6.9. Care of particular collections or on particular subjects (like your proposed risks/hazards one)
6.10. Dealing with emergency situations with geological collections

7. Digital collections creation/use/best practice

7.1. Cataloguing and relational databases
7.2. Connecting specimens and publications
7.3. Online databases
7.4. Database Development
7.5. Crowd sourcing for Geological Collections projects,
7.6. Mass digitisation.
7.7. Microfossils Social Media Archives
7.8. Photography of fossils for digitised media
7.9. Digitisation of collections
7.10. Social media/online access: new ways of interpretation and learning - informal/formal
7.11. Digital media funding
7.12. Standardisation of collections databases and dictionaries
7.13. Crowdsourcing
7.14. Web access to collections
7.15. Blogs/twitter

8. Advocacy

8.1. 'How to' improve advocacy for natural science collections and curatorial posts.
8.2. How to raise awareness and use of geological collections within regional museums.
8.3. The need to show the relevance of collections as not just solely about science but also about their relevance to society and the general community and about the social history of geology and geologists.
8.4. Training for senior museum managers to understand why NS collections are important and need to be looked after.
8.5. Geological collections in peril - highlighting particular institutions, to raise awareness of how much we are losing in terms of expertise and collections available in different regions.
8.6. New finds and rediscovered collections.
8.7. Positive stories about how geological collections are being used.
8.8. Operating a "higher levels" collections advocacy campaign
8.9. Contacting MPs/MEPS direct/lobbying
8.10. Lobbying ACE, DCMS, etc.

9. Outreach/exhibition/community engagement

9.1. Geology and the new school curriculum
9.2. "How to" on geological exhibitions
9.3. Exhibition Planning
9.4. Developing new displays with geology collections
9.5. Case studies from museums with geology collections that are involved in re-display projects
9.6. How to do geological educational programmes
9.7. Making links with schools, colleges and other community groups.
9.8. Engaging young people with geology.
9.9. Exhibition design
9.10. Engaging with scientific debate, e.g. climate change
9.11. Social media online access new ways of interpretation learning - informal/formal

9.12. Museum events (planning of and delivery),
9.13. Geological outreach in the community.
9.14. How to do a ‘show and tell’.

10. Fund raising

10.1. Sourcing funds.
10.2. Applying for grants to support networking.
10.3. Securing external funding
10.4. Standard info page of where to find information on grants - regularly updated online
10.5. Digital media funding
10.6. Winning grants by crowdsourcing