

Preface

The recent destruction and deterioration of the environment has led to a worldwide decline in biodiversity. To conserve the current biodiversity, there is an urgent need to identify and catalog species. Therefore, natural history museums and biological research institutes, including universities, must keep primary sources, including voucher specimens and photographs, of organisms to record the current biodiversity and pass them on to posterity as humanity's common properties.

This book describes curatorial procedures for fish specimens and fish collections as practised by the Kagoshima University Museum. The curatorial and cataloging methods and procedures described here, while perhaps not ideal for large museums such as the Natural History Museum, London, or National Museum of Nature and Science, Tsukuba, are suitable for local small-sized museums or universities with lower budgets. This book also provides details of various equipment for photography, preservation and storage, including specifications and names of manufacturers. It also mentions methods for the creation of specimen databases and procedures for specimen loans.

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