

LACONA IX Workshop

Laser cleaning of organic objects and natural history specimens

Where: Conservation Unit, Palaeontology Department, NHM
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD UK

Time: 2 pm – 5 pm

Number of Participants: 10 (Maximum)

Workshop Coordinator: Abdelrazek Elnaggar, NHM, aaa02@fayoum.edu.eg

Organization:

- Chris Collins, NHM (chris.collins@nhm.ac.uk)
- Matija Strlic, UCL CSH (m.strlic@ucl.ac.uk)

Workshop Aims

This workshop will give participants a practical introduction to using lasers to clean natural history specimens, leather and linen, and to discuss the best ways to optimize their set-up. Each participant will have the opportunity to work with the laser on samples and assessment of laser cleaning using analytical instruments. The workshop will conclude with a review of the long-term effects of lasers on laser-cleaned materials.

Workshop Schedule:

- Overview of advantages and disadvantages of laser cleaning of organic objects and natural history specimens in comparison with traditional methods and optimisation of working parameters
- Hands-on experience of working with a Q-switched Nd: YAG laser (1064 nm & 532 nm) using model materials (leather/linen) and original specimens from NHM
- Hands-on laser cleaning assessment using colourimetry, FTIR, Profilometry and SEM/EDX
- Discussion of yellowing phenomena as a consequence of laser cleaning and evaluation of long-term effects of laser cleaning.

Several invited speakers have been contacted.



Access information

The workshop will be held at the Palaeontology Conservation Unit (PCU). Directions to the Museum can be found on the Museum website: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/getting-here/index.html>.

Participants are advised to meet the organisers at the museum entrance on Exhibition Road at 2pm. This entrance and the workshop location are wheelchair accessible. More details on the museum entrances can be found at: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/access-guide/museum-entrances/index.html>.