

## Introducing the “IUGS Geocollection Subcommittee” – the new international body to represent geological collections.

**Dr Rachel Walcott**<sup>1</sup>, Dr Marcela Gómez Pérez, Ms Leslie Hale

<sup>1</sup>*National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh, United Kingdom*

(LT1) Long time no see, Lecture Theatre 5, Appleton Tower, 11 Crichton Street, EH8 9LE, June 7, 2022, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) has played an important role in the promotion and professional development of the geosciences – from providing formal definitions of geological time periods (IUGS - International Commission on Stratigraphy), and development of international data standards (IUGS Geoscience Information), to helping to develop the UNESCO led Global Geoparks Network scheme among many other activities. However, until recently there was little representation of geological collections, despite their great geoheritage, scientific, and cultural importance.

This gap in representation was closed in early 2022 with the formal launch of the IUGS Geocollection Subcommittee. I will introduce the key objectives of this subcommittee. This includes: 1) setting up a road map for the development of a collection designation scheme that will acknowledge the important geoheritage of specific specimens and collections, 2) developing a centralised resource for information on geocollections; and 3) developing a network to acquire and disseminate knowledge about geocollections.

