



Free CT-scanning? Sure! Apply here!

Small grants for CT-scanning via the oVert Thematic Collections Network

The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture is accepting small grant proposals for investigations of the vertebrate skeleton using Computed Tomography (CT). Through the oVert Thematic Collections Network (TCN), we have funds to support more than 10 teams to come to the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Laboratories to CT-scan vertebrate specimens. We will train participants in the techniques of CT-scanning, volume reconstruction, and 3D data management. The goal of the oVert TCN, funded by the US National Science Foundation, is to make anatomy of specimens from US scientific collections widely accessible and freely available on-line.

We are interested to fund projects that facilitate research on groups of organisms that are of broad interest to the scientific community. Each proposed project should amount to one week's worth of scanning (approximately 100 specimens), though we are open to smaller projects. The specimens should already be catalogued in a US museum collection and fluid-preserved, preferably in ethanol. Because the oVert TCN has scanned more than 3,000 species of vertebrates (representing >1,500 genera in >430 families), we will entertain proposals to rescan taxa only under exceptional circumstances. All grantees will be required to upload resulting CT data on MorphoSource immediately and make these freely available on-line to the research and educational communities. Through our network of 16 major US scientific collections, the oVert TCN can facilitate loans, including shipping costs, of specimens important to these proposed projects.

We welcome applications from people at any career stage (undergraduate to full professor) and from any disciplinary background. These small grants fund lodging and fees at Friday Harbor Labs, and some travel costs. All other associated costs with CT-scanning are covered by the oVert TCN. Team applications are encouraged, as the logistics of large-scale scanning is such that a two or even three-person team is more productive than a single person.

The micro-CT scanner available for these projects ([Skyscan 1173](#)) is restricted to specimens under 160 mm in length and 140 mm in width. The scanner is capable of contrast enhanced scanning for soft tissue visualization.

Proposals will be considered on a rolling basis, but there are limited funds, so apply as soon as you are able. Proposals will be evaluated by oVert TCN PIs in consultation with other TCN PIs based on taxonomic expertise. Interested parties should send an email to Luke Tornabene (luke.tornabene@gmail.com) briefly describing:

- i. The taxa you plan to scan.
- ii. The research objective or educational motivation behind the scanning project.
- iii. The impact of these resulting data on the research community.
- iv. Your background with 3D data and CT techniques.
- v. A two page CV or resume.

Learn more about the oVert TCN:

http://bit.ly/oVert_info

http://bit.ly/oVert_iDigBio