

CHAH Curation exchange program 2026

The Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH) is pleased to once again invite applications for the Curation Exchange Program. The CHAH curation exchange program seeks to facilitate visits by Herbarium collections staff/curators/botanists to other Australasian institutions with the aim of undertaking intensive curation of the recipient institution's collection and/or information exchange (e.g., curatorial methods). This year CHAH is also supporting a data management exchange stream, with the aim of undertaking intensive in person data management information exchange (e.g., training, system implementation).

The total funding allocation for the 2026 CHAH curation exchange is up to \$25K. Up to \$15k of this is available for the standard curation exchange activities, and up to \$10k is available for the data management exchange stream.

Applications can be made by the recipient (host) institution or the provider institution, but must indicate agreement by both institutions and the nominated staff member/s. It is anticipated that visits will be of one to two weeks duration and CHAH support will be sufficient for an economy return airfare and accommodation. Salary and daily allowance will not be supported and remain the responsibility of the provider institution. Applications should include a detailed budget. Costs will be reimbursed on the submission of receipts following the activity.

Applications are open from February 2026 and close on 30th April 2026. Applications will be reviewed by a panel made up of CHAH members (excluding any with direct involvement).

Aims

To promote the exchange of specialist taxonomic knowledge, curatorial and data management expertise between Australasian herbaria through facilitating staff visits to participating institutions.

Visits should be focused on the curation of collections, information exchange or training in the host institution. This may include work where visitors may examine, curate (i.e. determine) material in selected groups, or provide data management training. Visits should be arranged to maximise time spent working on collections by the visiting specialist or exchanging curatorial expertise.

Research activity is not discouraged, but while there are opportunities available to fund research visits, there is little comparable funding available to support visits aimed at improving (taxonomic) curation of collections and exchanging curatorial knowledge, including improving curatorial practice/s and data management. Therefore, enhancing curation of collections should be the primary aim of proposed exchanges.

Benefits

Improved specimen curation for recipient herbaria and exchange of knowledge. Improved data quality for recipient herbaria, flowing on to AVH, ALA, taxonomic outputs among other potential benefits.

Staff development is an important outcome where staff exchange curatorial expertise, maintain or improve their taxonomic expertise, develop and refine concepts in their study groups, discover unaccessioned material, improve the currency of collections taxonomic status, develop future research projects, develop, strengthen or maintain collaborations and relationships with staff in other institutions.

Logistics

Participation may be reciprocal or stand alone.

Participation may be instigated by the recipient or the provider institution. For example, an institution may indicate a taxon group that requires taxonomic attention, and request participation by a particular specialist, or an individual may nominate themselves.

If possible, an indication of output and any time and other costs incurred by each participating institution should be recorded, in order to help determine where improvements could be made to the scheme.

Please submit proposals to John Huisman (John.Huisman@dbca.wa.gov.au) before 30 April 2026. The application form is available on the CHAH website and also attached to this announcement.