

# From the woods to the herbarium.

Steps in mushroom collection and documentation.

1. Field collecting: wax paper or paper bags, tackle boxes, pen and note paper. Map and compass. A research permit may be required for collecting.
2. Documentation: photographs of fresh specimens. Spore prints. Written descriptions. Field labels with locations and notes. Identifications made now or later.
3. Dried, bagged, labeled. Specimens are dried on food dehydrators until completely dry. Put in re-sealable bags with field label.
4. Database. Collection data is entered into a collections database. This data is later transferred to the herbarium database. Some herbaria provide data for [MycoPortal.org](http://MycoPortal.org)
5. Unknown fungi require microscopic examination and literature search to identify the collections.
6. Collections ready for herbarium have permanent labels printed on acid-free paper and glued on boxes or packets. Specimens are filed in herbarium cabinets.
7. Collections may go out on loans to researchers.