NMNH Guidelines for Writing
Image Descriptions for Digital Accessibility
• Scientific names and common names
• Department-specific subject matter instructions
• Mass digitization efforts

*Three dorsal views of carpenter bees (Xylocopa tenuiscapa).*
L-R: ENT01607115; ENT01609202; ENT01609204
Department of Entomology, NMNH Photos by Smithsonian Digitization Program Office
New Alt Text and Extended Description (Accessibility) fields

vs.

Existing IPTC Description field
Alt Text:
Tooth marks scrape and puncture the back of a yellowed chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*) skull (USNM 450071).

Extended Description:
Tooth marks scrape and puncture the back of a yellowed chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*) skull (USNM 450071). There are two rows of puncture wounds. The upper row has six identifiable punctures and has scrape marks emanating upwards from the punctures. The lower row, located approximately one centimeter below, has five puncture holes that are much deeper, with three hole punctures on the right also showing upwards scraping. The largest hole, located in the lower left row, is almost a centimeter wide. There is a 1 centimeter scale in the lower left corner of the image.
Description:

Right lateral view of the cranium of a West African chimpanzee, *Pan troglodytes verus* (USNM 450071), showing predation marks likely caused by a leopard. The specimen was collected by J. W. LeDuc from Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).

Photo by James D. Tiller, Smithsonian (NMNH-2018-03036)
Smithsonian's Digital Ecosystem

Web Applications:
si.edu/openaccess
transcription.si.edu

Smithsonian Websites:
SAAM, NMNH, NMAH...

Data Partners:
DPLA

Metadata Delivery Service
Image Delivery Service
Central Smithsonian Metadata Repository (EDAN)

Collection Information Systems (CIS) for Museums, Libraries & Archives

DAMS
Smithsonian's collections can be open access, allowing anyone to download, share, and reuse over three million digital images and 3D models from the Smithsonian's collections. These assets may be used for personal and educational use without causing copyright infringement. This includes data from across the Smithsonian's nine research centers, libraries, archives, and the National Zoo. While not all assets are open access, all collection media online are open access, both personal and educational use (see Terms of Use). Total image views and downloads from the Open Access Dashboard:

**SI Open Access Dashboard:**
si.edu/dashboard/virtual-smithsonian
Benefits – Smithsonian's Reach

Digital Public Library of America: dp.la/search?partner=%22Smithsonian%20Institution%22
Benefits – Smithsonian's Reach

NMNH Extant Specimen Records: gbif.org/dataset/821cc27a-e3bb-4bc5-ac34-89ada245069d/activity
Benefits – Everyone

FAIR Principles: go-fair.org/fair-principles/
CARE Principles: gida-global.org/care
Thank You!

• Cailin Meyer (she/her)
  • MeyerCa@si.edu

• James Tiller (she/they)
  • TillerJ@si.edu

• Rebecca Snyder (she/her)
  • SnyderR@si.edu