

Exploring OpenSites: Home page

Tab 2. Collections

Tab 2 on the home page links to pages that enable searching the site for specific records. Clicking the tab will bring up a page that allows you to choose which kinds of records you wish to locate and/or which collections you wish to search.

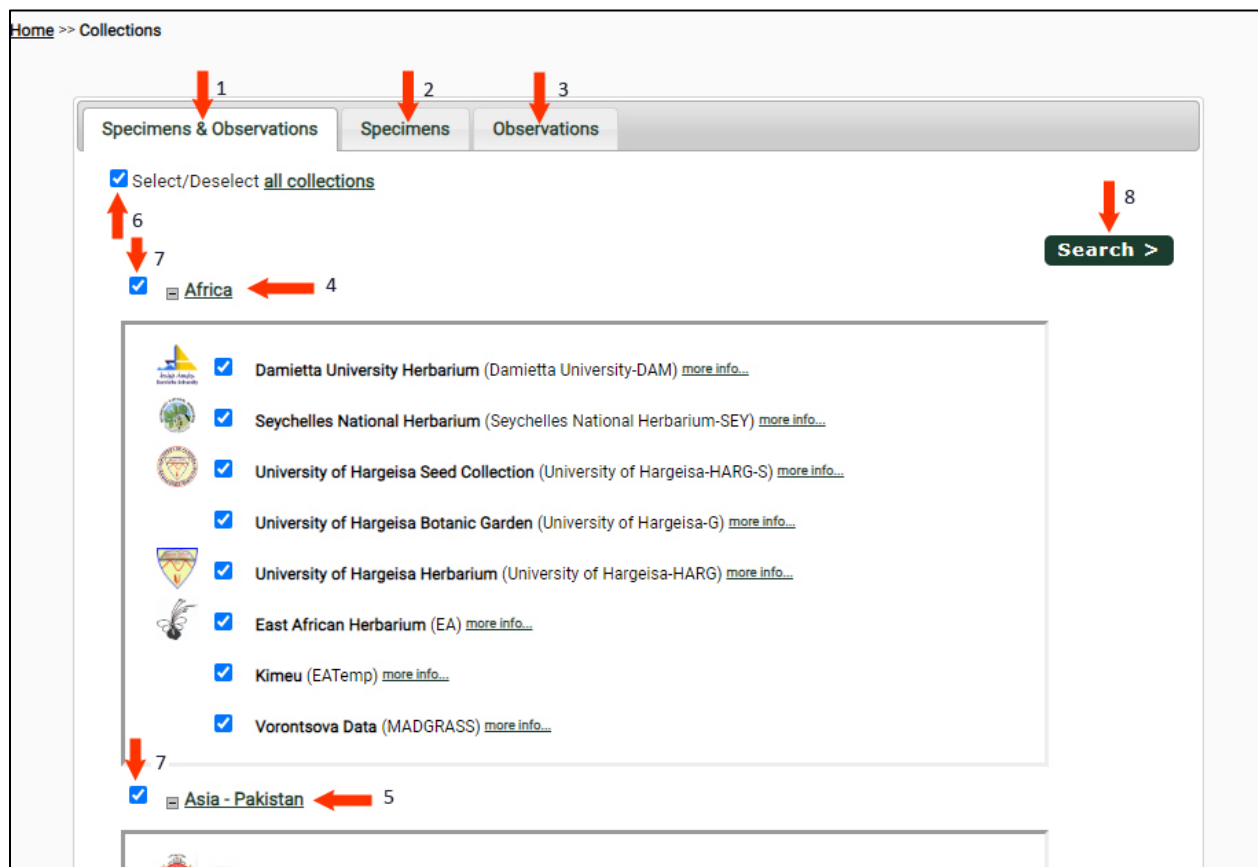


Fig. 2. Key areas of Collections page

Arrows 1-3

The OpenSites can hold both specimen- and image-based “Occurrence records”.

Specimen-based records are linked to a physical specimen such as a herbarium specimen, stuffed bird, or pinned insect. These records come from natural history collections.

Observation records come from people’s personal databases. They may be image-based, specimen-based, or from field notes but with no documentation to support them.

Specimen-based records in personal profiles are based on an individual’s field notes. Using the personal profile tool enables collectors of herbarium specimens to print labels that they then include with the specimens they deposit in a herbarium. Herbaria receive such specimens can

then copy to record from the appropriate personal database after providing the specimen in their collection with a catalog number. This eliminates the need for retyping the information, saves time and avoids introducing errors from typing mistakes.

Image-based records are useful for documenting the presence of a species when there are few specimens present, or if the observer does not have permission to collect in the area, or if the he or she does not have collecting equipment with them.

Users must decide whether, for their purpose, they want to see both specimen-based records from collections and observations, just specimen-based records from collections, or just observations. The advantage of collection-based specimen records is that their identification can be checked, but including observation records will often suggest additional locations of a species.

Arrows 4 and 5

There are several collections contributing to OpenHerbarium, some more actively than others. For convenience, they are grouped into categories. The categories are being reorganized (15-Jan-2024) to make them easier to understand. They will be:

- Africa (including Seychelles).
- Asia – Pakistan.
- Asia – Other.
- Flora records: These are records extracted from published floras. They are, ultimately, based on a specimen, but it is not possible to link each record to a specimen. Consequently, these records are classified as Observation records, not specimen records.
- Global. These records come from various sources; in future, they will be used to house subsets of specimen-based records from herbaria with many specimens relating to areas of interest such as Pakistan.
- Food markets: created for use in teaching; ask [Mary Barkworth](#) if interested in using it. Its records are image-based.
- Image-based records. These records are documented by images.
- Sandbox: For trying things out; results of activities are not saved.

Notes:

1. New categories could be set up if there is interest in doing so by several collections.
2. Categories could, if their contributing collections agree, have separate URLs and still participate in OpenHerbarium. There would need to be technical and financial support for maintaining such portals.

3. Inactive collections will be deleted in the first quarter of 2024.

Arrows 6 and 7

These arrows point to “On/off” buttons. They make it easy to narrow down the collections included in a search.

Arrow 8

After selecting the collection(s) you wish to search, click the “Search” button to set the taxonomic, geographic, and other properties of the records you wish to find.

Click it now to continue your exploration of OpenHerbarium.