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THE NEOTOMA PALEOECOLOGY DATABASE *A Research-Outreach Nexus*

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Abstract: Paleocological data from the Quaternary Period (2.6 million years ago to present) provides an opportunity for educational outreach for the Earth and biological sciences. Paleocology data repositories serve as technical hubs and focal points within their disciplinary communities and so are uniquely situated to help produce teaching modules and engagement resources.

The Neotoma Paleocology Database provides support to educators from primary schools to graduate students. In collaboration with pedagogical experts, the Neotoma Paleocology Database team has developed teaching modules and model workflows. Early education is centered on discovery; higher-level educational tools focus on illustrating best practices for technical tasks.

Collaborations among pedagogic experts, technical experts, and data stewards, centered around data resources such as Neotoma, provide an important role within research communities, and an important service to society, supporting best practices, translating current research advances to interested audiences, and communicating the importance of individual research disciplines.

Keywords: paleocology, curriculum, outreach, engagement, databases, community curated data resources, climate change, geologic time, global environmental change, paleocology, proxy data, teaching, engagement, Neotoma Paleocology Database

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