



Abstract ID : 37

Bakeng se Afrika – a digital skeletal repository, for Africa, by Africa

Content

Micro-focus X-ray computed tomography (micro-XCT) is the gold standard modality for microstructural assessment of skeletal remains for the purposes of clinical research. Micro-XCT renders high-resolution results non-invasively, enabling researchers to collect data on the micro-inner structure of odonto-skeletal elements. Micro-XCT scanning also allows researchers to digitally preserve skeletal remains for future use in research and education.

Bakeng se Afrika is an European Union (EU) co-funded project with the goal of creating a digital repository of micro-XCT scanned skeletal elements of South African individuals. Skeletal remains from the University of Pretoria, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University and Stellenbosch University were scanned at Necsa in Pelindaba and the X-sight facility in Cape Town. Data was then curated by the Bakeng se Afrika team to create an internationally accessible repository of digital skeletal remains accompanied by a series of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on 3D imaging.

The Bakeng se Afrika digital skeletal repository will launch in November 2021 and will be accessible via the University of Pretoria's Figshare platform. The data is applicable to a wide variety of research topics, including, but not limited to: dentistry, clinical anatomy, biological anthropology, forensic anthropology and palaeoanthropology. Join the Project Manager of Bakeng se Afrika for a talk on the inception of Bakeng se Afrika, its uses in research so far, and the exciting prospects on the horizon.

Article submission to SA Journal of Science: Title:

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Contribution Type: Oral Presentation

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