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100 Years of Collecting

In 2025, The University of Queensland's Integrated Pathology Learning Centre (IPLC) is commemorating 100 years of the collection. This milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on how the collection has been used, how its specimens have been documented, and how its role continues to evolve. Over the past 100 years, the IPLC's collection has transformed from a resource for medical training into a site for historical research, public engagement, and discussions around the ethics of human remains.

This paper will explore two themes: the evolution of collection practices and audience engagement. For the former, it will trace the chronological development of the collection, beginning with its origins in anatomical and pathological teaching. A key focus will be on the documentation of the collection—what information was prioritized or omitted in different periods, and how contemporary curatorial approaches seek to recover and reinterpret these narratives. In an era where transparency, provenance research, and digital access are becoming increasingly vital, this paper will examine how the IPLC is adapting to new curatorial responsibilities while ensuring the collection remains a valuable resource for education and research.