Process of Paleontology
Large Fossils at the La Brea Tar Pits
Remove the surrounding matrix.

Take measurements of the fossil.

North Measurement  West Measurement

Depth Measurement
Record data in field notebook.

Write information on a data card which will stay with the fossil.
Fossil is taken to the Fossil Lab.

Fossil is soaked in n-propyl bromide, then cleaned and repaired if necessary.
Fossil is catalogued.

Fossil is stored in the collections.
Process of Paleontology
Microfossils at the La Brea Tar Pits

Process of Paleontology
Microfossils at the La Brea Tar Pits
Preserve matrix in buckets.

Sort out delicate fossils by hand.
Soak the matrix in solvents. First in biodiesel and then in n-propyl bromide.

Let matrix dry. Remove coarse material and delicate fossils by hand.
Matrix is placed in a one gallon bucket and taken to the Fossil Lab.

Matrix is sorted in the Fossil Lab.

7x-45x microscope is used
Microfossils are catalogued and stored in the collections.

Catalogue number