



Summit 2018 - Building Institutional Digitization Synergy

Wednesday, October 3, 2018, 10:45-12:00, McGuire Classroom

[Link back to the ADBC Summit 2018 wiki](#)

Session Leader(s)

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Overview

Data mobilization doesn't (have to) stop when digitization is complete or grant funds have been exhausted. In this discussion group, we will explore how efforts, like a local digitization committee or leveraging institutional resources and policy, can inspire data mobilization across your collaborators' institutions.

Participants

Enter the participant names here Remote participants: Austin Hendy (NHMLA), Trina Roberts (NHMLA), Lindsay Walker (NHMLA)

Session Notes

- Issue may be more fundamental than just sharing knowledge between collections; some institutions seem to be doing digitization when it is directly funded but are still not incorporating the same practices in day-to-day collection practices (e.g. equipment is being "archived")
- NYBG in contrast: digitization is incorporated into *all* new specimens, as well as specimens going out on loan. Costs incurred by institution include things like barcodes and time.
- How can ADBC help build the culture that encourages collections/institutions to act more like NYBG?
 - easy-to-access repository of workflows
- How do technical infrastructure decisions affect future institutional buy-in to digitization?



- How do collections appear to development offices? “Lone, greedy botanist looking for an herbarium hand-out?” Funding from external sources, e.g. ADBC, can inspire more trust to raise money elsewhere. But at the same time, collaborations between institutions can be a dilution rather than a magnifier because development sees money going outside the institution as a downside.
- Is there a sense that workload is an issue for collection managers? Breadth/scope of duties varies vastly and has changed over time. Where does digitization fit into this?
 - NYBG realized this over time and has been fortunate to be able to hire to fill gaps. Institutional buy-in to support staff positions that are infrastructurally important.
 - in-house (or reference to external) protocols can ease this workload and maintain consistency over time and across staff changes.
- Collecting practices for new collections need to evolve in order to capture information digitally from the start. (=proactive digitization)
- Collections management software can silo collections within an institution; not uncommon to have this scenario
- Digitization workflows paper was always missing a section on social factor (do collections feel like they’re on the spot? are they open to improvements?). ALA ‘digitization maturity scale’ is based on an organizational level, and takes into account institutional infrastructure buy-in as well as leadership. How can an institution integrate digitization using internal policy.
- CSIRO has someone who’s entire job is to lead digitization at the institution.
- Bottom up vs. top down conversations could better involve the people *doing* digitization.
- More training at the graduate level (and below!) for the skills we need in collections today.
- For small collections, just participating in a nationally-funded “important” workshop can be “life-changing” for their success internally (in their administration’s perception).
- When we identify things that work, how are we disseminating these ideas to the rest of the community? In other programs, NSF will invite paragons of best practice to come and present to the rest of the community at a summit-like event. SPNHC wiki? Webinars? But this goes beyond tools and workflows into the social/leadership aspect.
- Easier to get institutional buy-in when we tie digitization in to earned income, e.g. exhibits.
- Natural History Collections Club model for smaller universities to engage students and create value for collections as a teaching resource (which administrators at such an institution may value more than collections as an international research resource)
- In-house workshops can help spur internal collaboration and continuing education
- UCSB developing a class for students to learn how to score herbarium specimens’ phenological status. Could we as communities develop online education for students that involves participation in digitization?



- What could we do to help collections provide for their own biodiversity informatics needs in the future? How many formal programs already exist in biodiversity informatics? Are we improving on this statistics?
- Success depends on personal effort in many specific examples.
- Implementing institutional change requires planning and thought.
- Sharing protocols and workflows suffers from the same lack of attribution that we see frustrating people at the specimen level. Could we be licensing our documentation (e.g. CC-BY)? Attribution at a personal or project level can lead to internal recognition which can lead to more internal support.
- NSF expects iDigBio to aggregate and provide protocols to the community.
- Could we set up a staff exchange or visit program between institutions? Between large and small?

Main Points / Action Items

Enter your main points and/or action items here

Need a formal path (expectations) to disseminate lessons learned / tools developed / strategies that work(ed)

SPNHC? iDigBio, Webinars

Participate in NSF - what works (models/projects/strategies) sharing event

Next generation workflows

metadata

versioning

clear contribution workflow and expectations

iDigBio Materials

need attribution

also some tracking in TCN reporting

More - continuing training - and hands on training (compared to ppts)

At an institution (like a university) need help to convey value / need for collections mobilization

Museum workflows are changing

need for staff (because otherwise too many hats for a single person)

Staff Exchange Program



When you are done, copy the main points and/or action items into the Session Summary Notes presentation here:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Vu0tiajSly3YDU6aaqrlyAowqdv9r_jcajS7LXjiV40/edit?usp=sharing