RDA P7 - BoF Management and Curation of Physical Samples IG

Summary (for post-event report):

A cross-section of RDA disciplines (including information scientists, museum curators, geoscientists, biologists, ethnographers, and biomedical researchers) attended the BoF Management and Curation of Physical Samples IG. Discussion focused on identifying the common challenges across the disciplines that relate specifically to physical objects and their curation, management, discovery, and citation. These discussions are being incorporated into a case statement for an IG, Internet of Samples for Research, that will be submitted soon.

See Spreadsheet for Attendee information

Domains represented:
- Geoscience
    - Geochemistry
    - Geophysics
    - Energy
    - Geobiology
    - National repositories
    - Environmental sciences (including biodiversity)
- Biology
    - Biodiversity
    - Microbiology
    - Biospecimen informatics (cancer)
- Material informatics
- Information science
    - Data curation
    - Data management
        - Research cruise data
        - Atmosphere of ocean
        - Videos of deep sea submersibles
    - Scholarly services (all disciplines)
    - Publications
        - Specifically earth science
    - Natural History Collections
        - Geo
        - Bio
        - Archives
        - Biomedical

- - Geoscience repositories
    - Library science (information seeking behaviour of scientists)
  - Ethnography (folklore)

Common concerns:
- Standards for unique sample identification
- Documentation standards (and relating cross-discipline)
- Credit, including
  - Sample citation
  - Linking to traditional and other publications
  - Acknowledgement of sample and metadata curation/upkeep
- Legacy samples
- Discovery
- Specimen granularity/heterogeneity
- Sample sharing/access, including users outside original/current repository
- Linking samples to other associated data/analyses
- Sample handling, including
  - Destructive sampling guidelines/procedures/documentation
  - Documentation of sample handling procedures/practices
- How to encourage open sample data/access
  - Make it automated?
  - Provide credit/"reward"
  - Clear places to go to publish/access
- Laboratory instruments