Welcome

2nd Retreat – away from interruptions and opportunities to talk to staff not regularly seen.

Discussions should keep in mind the 4th Year site visit in April and the **proposal for renewal due in fall 2015.**

**What we are obligated to do is spelled out in the cooperative agreement.**

“The primary goal of the project (iDigBio) is to create a national collections resource that will integrate critical information for scientific research to aid in understanding the biodiversity dimensions and societal consequences” of climate change, invasive species, etc. …

iDigBio will serve as the administrative home for the national digitization effort, foster partnerships, facilitate best practices and workflows, and establish interconnectivity among digitization projects.”

Reporting to NSF done very efficiently by David.

Program-specific terms and conditions:

1. Develop a community implementation plan: this is a long paragraph with many ‘things’ included. Some we are doing, some still have to be done. *Fortunately*, the NIBA Implementation Plan spells out many of the same goals, and NSF has agreed to fund an RCN to hold a series of workshops to accomplish many of these same obligations.

2. Some items that we may need to pay more attention to (and these are potential topics for discussion today)

a) ‘enable links with other digitization projects’ nationally and internationally. Some progress but my impression is that this is proving to be difficult. VertNet – progress recently; BISON?; GBIF?; CRIA – talk; (CSIRO), A L Australia – talk; Vince Smith – BMNH. Maybe this should be a topic for discussion.

b) establish a plan for long-term preservation of digital data through partnerships with appropriate cyberinfrastructure resources. Who are these resources? DataONE?

c) promote and coordinate outreach for research, education, etc. And develop a plan that specifies outreach tasks, intended learning outcomes, geographic distribution of impacts (and evaluation processes). And document the uses. Sounds huge but, again the NIBA RCN also has this as a goal.

d) ‘In Year 4 there will be an impact evaluation for the project.’ Shari and I will work on this.

Another issue we might all discuss briefly. Are there staffing needs that need to be addressed (new staff, reassignment of duties?). With Joanna now half-time, we clearly need another staff working directly with data providers; that position is at HR now for approval.