

# NSF Collections Programs: Future of Funding for Small Collections



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*Small Collections Webinar*

*SCNet*

NEON

Directorate for Biological Sciences  
(BIO)

Emerging Frontiers (EF)

Division of Biological  
Infrastructure  
(DBI)

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Environmental  
Biology  
(DEB)

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Organismal Systems  
(IOS)

Division of Molecular  
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Biosciences  
(MCB)

Human  
Resources

Research  
Resources

BIO Centers

Population and  
Community Ecology

Ecosystem  
Science

Evolutionary  
Processes

Systematics &  
Biodiversity Science

Behavioral  
Systems

Developmental  
Systems

Neural Systems

Physiological &  
Structural Systems

Plant Genome  
Research Program

Molecular  
Biophysics

Cellular Dynamics  
and Function

Genetic  
Mechanisms

Systems and  
Synthetic Biology

# Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC) - Program Goals

- Digitize (image) existing, vouchered, curated specimens owned by nonfederal U.S. collections
- Include available ancillary material
- Build on existing resources
- Innovate to improve process
- Collaborate to increase numbers of specimens
- Research grand challenges as rationale for digitizing specimens
- Link to & collaborate with national resource: iDigBio
- Train next generation and inform public
- Deadlines are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in October

# **ADBC – Thematic Collections Networks (TCN) Important for review**

- Research justification for specimens
- Assessment of importance of specimens for the theme
- Innovative and efficient methods to lower cost
- Collaboration across institutions and across collection types
- Project management plan, task analysis, data management
- 2-4 year awards
- Integration with iDigBio (data, outreach)

## **ADBC Partners to Existing Networks (PEN) Important for review**

- Add information to existing network projects
- Should fit the TCN – why appropriate
- Fill in gaps for coverage and increase specimens to meet research theme
- Enhance outreach/training/education
- Improve data management of collection
- Increase collaboration and accessibility
- 1-3 years with TCN additional support (25K)
- PEN proposals may continue beyond term of TCN if TCN continuing to be active (society, etc.)

# Collections in Support of Biological Research (CSBR)

- Combines BRC (NH collections) and LSCBR (Living stocks)
  1. *Natural History Collections*
  2. *Living Stock Collections*
  3. *Ownership Transfer*

Encouraging digitization and open data access  
integration into all collections-securing activities

# CSBR - Overview

- Ongoing since ca. 1993 (in various forms)
- Supports activities to secure important collections
- Focus on urgency, impact, innovation, accessibility
- Moved to biannual cycle in 2012; **BACK TO ANNUAL**; August 11, 2014 (**NSF 14-564**); July 13, 2015
- Deadline Second Monday July



## Collections in Support of Biological Research (CSBR)

### PROGRAM SOLICITATION

NSF 13-557

REPLACES DOCUMENT(S):

NSF 11-558



National Science Foundation  
Directorate for Biological Sciences  
Division of Biological Infrastructure

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m., proposer's local time):

July 16, 2013

July 13, 2015

Second Monday in July, Every Other Year Thereafter

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

#### Revision Summary

- The competition is now biennial.
- The due date is a deadline instead of a target date.
- The third track, to transfer collection ownership, is changed from supplemental funding to a standard track.
- Previous language read that all specimens handled, if not previously digitized, must be digitized, whereas now this provision applies only to scientifically significant specimens.
- The Home United Biocollections (HUBC), supported by ADSC, has been updated to refer to iDigBio ([www.idigbio.org](http://www.idigbio.org))
- Grants are awarded up to 3 years and \$500,000.
- The only accepted statements of support are a one-page letter affirming institutional support and/or letters of collaboration conforming to the template provided in Section V. A. Proposal Preparation Instructions of the solicitation. Any deviation may result in return without review.

# CSBR - Challenge: Mobilize collections “dark data”

- Collections hold priceless biodiversity information
- Much inaccessible, inconsistent (small??)
  - Ancillary data may not be linked, usable
  - Identifying knowledge gaps impossible
  - Use of data for modeling, meta-analysis unreliable





## Other sources of support

- **Inside NSF** – Programs such as Major Research Instrumentation (MRI), Advances in Biological Informatics (ABI), Dimensions of Biodiversity (DoB), Genealogy of Life (GoLife)
  1. Request support on research awards for handling collections and preparing them for long term preservation and access (digitizing).
  2. Should be in the Data Management Plan (see GPG: “types of data, samples, physical collections,...” are included as part of this document)
- **Outside NSF** – IMLS, USDA or other agencies that deposit collections with you, GBIF, state and regional, your local library for digitization/storage
- **Be creative**

# Questions?

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