Post-Workshop Survey Summary

iDigBio GWG first Train the Trainers Workshop

October 8 - 12, 2012

Overview

The survey was distributed to 32 individuals; 15 surveys were returned. Note: the initial response rate may have been higher, but some participants responded to an online link provided in a document and that link failed. Participants were asked to complete the survey again and 9 actually did.

The workshop was very well-received with a large majority of respondents reporting the workshop achieved its stated objectives. There were very few issues they face in their collections that were not addressed at the workshop. Respondents reported higher levels of georeferencing skill and ability to train others following the workshop. All felt the workshop was worth their time and would recommend the workshop to others. The majority of respondents are already engaged in training others or will be within the next three months.

Respondents

The respondents included 10 TCN members, 3 non-TCN members, 1 member of iDigBio, and 1 "other."

Ratings of georeferencing skill and ability to train others ranged from "very low" to "high;" no respondent rated either skill as "very high."
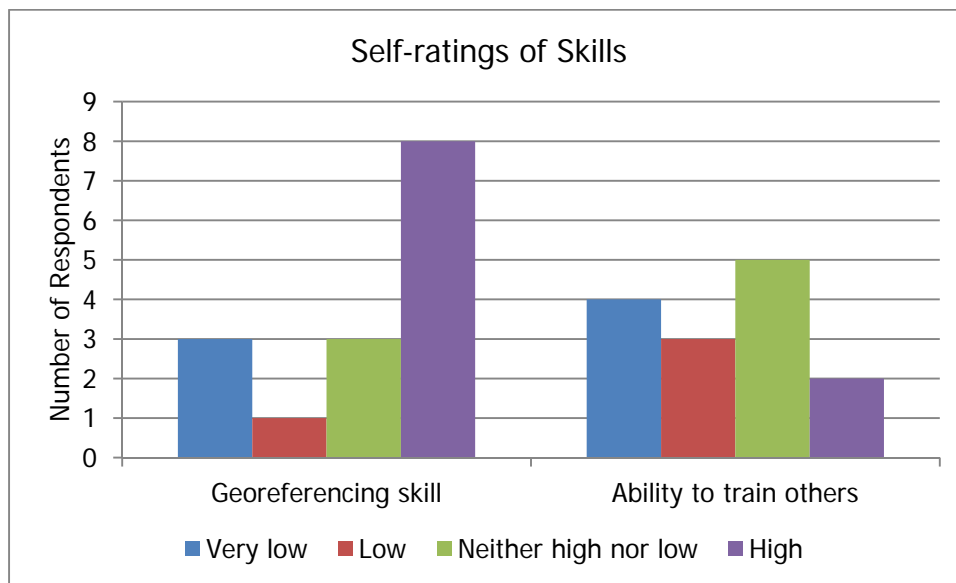
Following the workshop, all respondents reported their georefencing skills to be either "higher" or "much higher" as did the 14 of 15 respondents who rated their ability to train others.
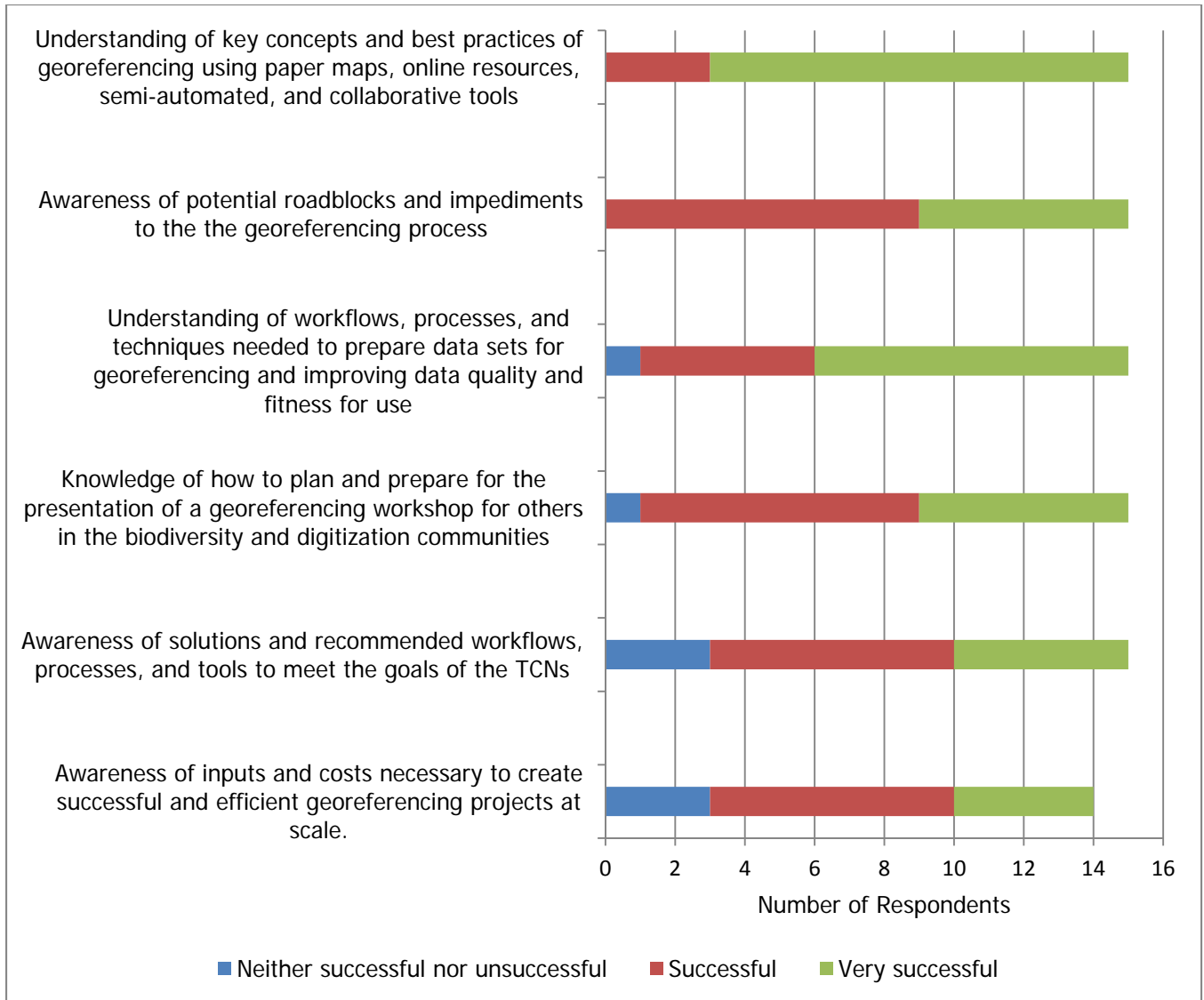
Pre-workshop Materials

Respondents rated the *Georeferencing Quick Reference Guide* and *Best Practices Guide for Georeferencing* to be either "helpful" or "very helpful." The *iDigBio Georeferencing Wiki* was rated somewhat less highly.
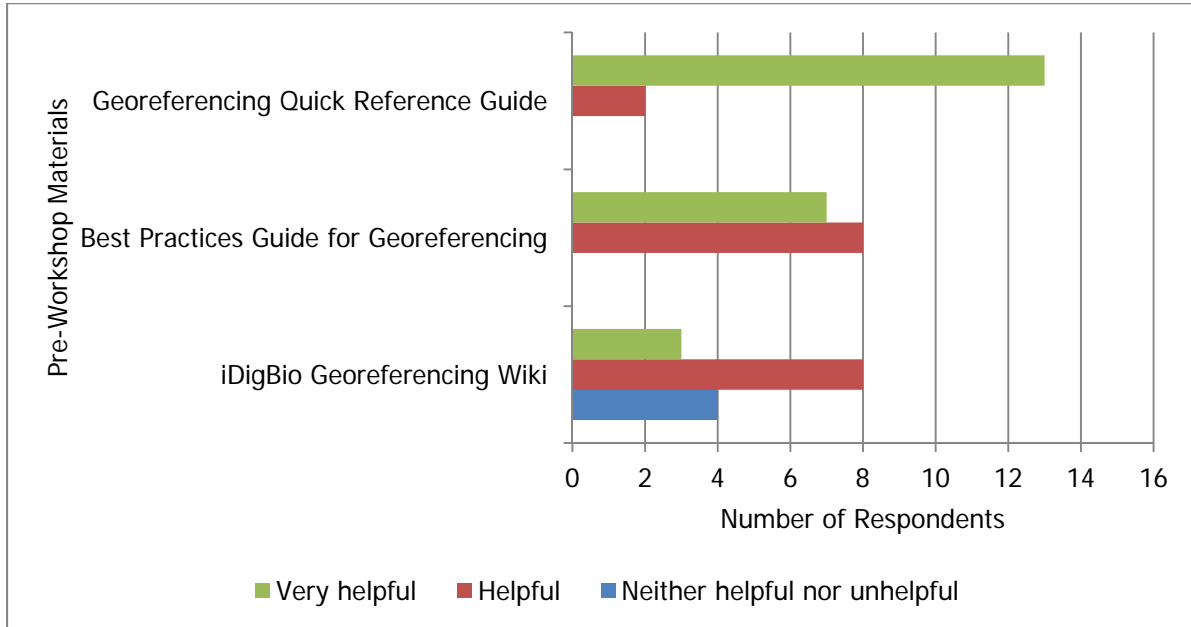
Workshop Objectives

The majority of respondents reported the workshop achieved six of the stated objectives.

Chart showing responses by category with legend: Neither successful nor unsuccessful (blue), Successful (red), Very successful (green). Categories listed:
- Understanding of key concepts and best practices of georeferencing using paper maps, online resources, semi-automated, and collaborative tools
- Awareness of potential roadblocks and impediments to the the georeferencing process
- Understanding of workflows, processes, and techniques needed to prepare data sets for georeferencing and improving data quality and fitness for use
- Knowledge of how to plan and prepare for the presentation of a georeferencing workshop for others in the biodiversity and digitization communities
- Awareness of solutions and recommended workflows, processes, and tools to meet the goals of the TCNs
- Awareness of inputs and costs necessary to create successful and efficient georeferencing projects at scale.

X-axis: Number of Respondents (0 to 16)

Georeferencing Questions or Needs Not Addressed

- We only briefly touched on paleontologic problems such as dealing with stratigraphic information. This generally doesn't include new georeferences, but it is definitely something to keep in mind when dealing with paleontologic collections.
- There are some paleontological idiosyncrasies that I think were well represented at the workshop, if not officially, then through participant contribution during discussion.
- At this point no. Most of our current collection has locality data from the USA, much of it related to the Public Land Survey (TRS data), or reference to a named place. As we expand the content of the collection to include non-USA specimen records then there might be issues.
- This workshop was geared (as I expected it might be) towards "gross georeferencing" or "1st pass" georeferencing, which is perfectly valid and approriate assuming that all assumptions are clearly stated and acknowledged so that any analyses or results derived

from them can be done in manners to minimize propagation and cascading errors that the assumptions necessary for the georeference generate or at least can be acknowledged in the results discussion. I am now comfortable teaching others or helping others do this for their collections and knowing how it might impact futrue GIS analyses. However my project/collection needs include taking into account "required" geology (could just as equally be ecological regions, climate zones, etc.) of collection site localiton as approriate geology to collect the fossil is important in a location for paleontological collections. Unfortunately at this time, a GIS software package is required to do this, but allows us to make it more useful other GIS analyses as it will be a Dataset with a Data Quality Report such that future inclusions in GIS analyses hopefully will minimize false precision and false accuracy that non GIS data often gain in GIS analyses.

When the Trainers Anticipate Training

One-half (7) of the 14 individuals who responded to the question are already engaged in training or expect to do so within a few weeks. Four others expect to conduct training within approximately 3 months, two within 6 months, and 1 in about 10 months.

Overall Workshop Effectiveness

A large majority of respondents reported the workshop to be successful on five measures of effectiveness.
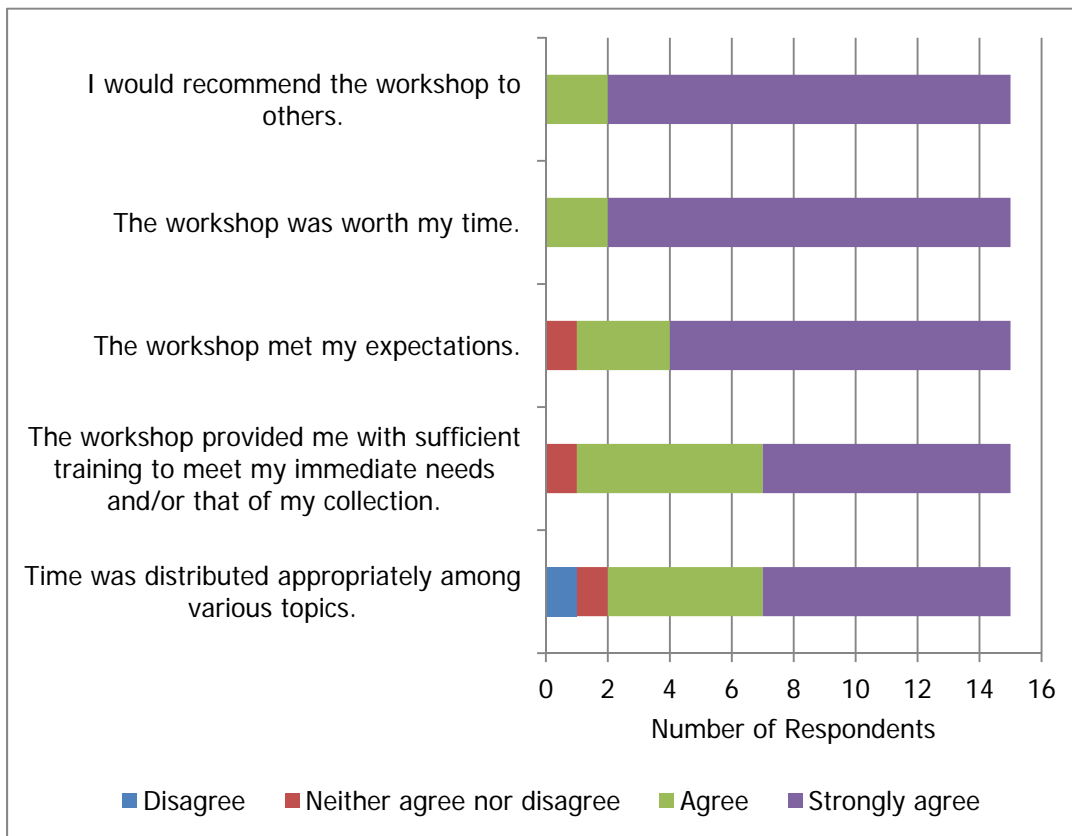
Comments offered to explain the above ratings were:

- The workshop was great. I wish I had attended sooner. Such training should be included in the basic education of all who are or may be involved with anything that could be put on a map.
- I found it very helpful to be in a workshop environment where we could run examples on our own computers and experiment with new tools
- Not sure that we have developed a work flow or decided on whose responsibility the georeferencing is going to be in our project. But at least now I can contribute ideas and point people to the resources that they might need to ensure we use best practices.
- I learned the most when I explored my own data and tried to use programs we had learned about; activities were great too
- I think attending this workshop [was]worth my time because the instructors have a wide knowledge about the topic so[it has] been a dense topic and a very long week, due to the amount of topics to cover, they made it fun and very interesting!
- Thank you very much for your time and effort in preparing this week-long workshop. I feel much more informed and equipped for georeferencing for a large-scale project, as well as, for training others to georeference.
- Overall, this was one of the best professional development workshops I have ever attended. The instructors were incredibly knowledgeable and patient. I am really grateful for all the time and effort they put into this workshop. There were some topics that were covered extensively that probably won't be included in my TCN, but it was good that they were covered for the benefit of those who needed to learn this information.
- While there was "extra" time scheduled for certain topics (e.g. GPS exercise)...it is better to have more time than not enough. While I am usually a paper schedule person, I thoroughly enjoyed the online schedule that could be updated and links added to/made from as we all had laptops that could use it. Whether I would like it at a less computer based workshop/meeting I am not sure, but I really liked it here and thought it was effectively used.

Additional Comments/Suggestions for Ways to Improve Future Workshops
- Overall I thought this was a great workshop that was very extensive in its coverage and depth of many topics.
- I think paper maps first would be helpful.
- I would like that at the last day of the workshop, we have a set of data (could be a mix of all groups: fossils, plants, vertebrates, invertebrates) with some issues to work with, in which the instructors could lead and help the participants. I mean, an exercise similar to those at the beginning of the workshop with some programs or with the paper maps.
- I honestly cannot think of any at this time. This was a very well planned and executed workshop.

- Perhaps more time and encouragement/prompts to talk with and ask questions of other workshop attendees as the more discussion we had the more ideas and additional resources that came to light; as some of us do not see what we are doing as innovative or different than what other collections do. The conversations do not just have to be about the workshop currently ongoing, but collection topics in general such as: How do you address finding people to help with (fill-in-the-blank) topic?, How have you been handling maintaining data?, Do you have any forms that you have created for your collection recently as part of the digitizing effort? (Such as Photography Pull Slips, need Photograph request slips?, etc.) After all it is not just georeferencing that we are doing and a network of other resources is just as important to the digitizing effort.