# COLLABORATION DISCUSSION GROUP

Facilitator: Marcia Mardis

Location: Century C

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bIFhqEN5w60Z7GIlwYbMwCkgc14tb-AFX0GZiFkOIdk/edit>

[**http://tinyurl.com/summit2-collaboration**](http://tinyurl.com/summit2-collaboration)

-Interaction with iDigBio

-Networks between TCNs

-Lessons learned, best practices, and avoiding duplication of effort

**Interaction with iDigBio**

Chris: How to share community resources with iDigBio, i.e. database for taxonomic nomenclature, georeferencing databases, to avoid duplication of effort.

- Database that recognizes taxonomic names and relates possible collection events

- Taxonomic names resolution service- Anyone can act as authority and add names

 - Used in iPlant project-

- Vert community- no common database for double checking names

- Greg: iDigBio and ITIS purpose for storing names are very different. We can get names into iDigBio and then provide to ITIS.

- Name checks and quality assurance necessary for entering in taxonomic data.

- Judy: Minimum for TCNs is that TCNs have specimens under control, hoping that by exposing the names, we would have control over names eventually

- Who to initiate and maintain database- TCNs or iDigBio

- David Bloom: We have lots of locality names that are georeferenced.

- Jim: Specify- ability to share collecting events. There certainly is interest in the entomology community.

- Is someone keeping a collector authority file?

 - Deb/Charles Davis: Harvard Botanist database (<http://kiki.huh.harvard.edu/databases/botanist_index.html>), up to date regularly- model for iDigBio?

- Jim: Promote web services that allow data to flow in both directions.

- iDigBio collaboration to develop a web service to help with taxonomy, species names, georeferencing points.

- New England plants: two potential approaches: John Cartese names vs. USDA names

- Judy: iDigBio is charged with assessing services that are available out there.

- Greg: it would make sense to ingest Harvard data (<http://www.huh.harvard.edu/>).

- Why can’t iDigBio be the central location? Greg: Make it provider vetted, not iDigBio vetted.

- Larry Page: Do not want iDigBio be the source of wrong information. Need to indicate the type of authority of the source.

- Greg: Wikipedia style. Let the community decide what is right.We are clear about having to ingest taxonomic names from different sources. How we make all databases work synchronously is something that is not yet clear.

- Incorporate digitized field notes into collector database.

- Databases available from three major georeferencing projects.

-Unique identifier for locality data- Military reference points

 - Points can vary between collectors

**Networks between TCNs**

- Monthly online TCN meetings- perhaps not as useful?

 - Static, getting a little better with the addition of new TCN groups.

 - Technical difficulties of some

- What service should they serve?

 - Set a point of the meeting prior to it. 2-3 topical issues

 - Reports from (relevant) working groups for each of the meetings

- Building community amongst TCNs- but meetings are just limited to just PIs

 - Incorporate other members in the meetings?

 - Facebook group for students and staff involved in digitization

 - More communication needed amongst members of a TCN

- TCNs networking in other ways iDigBio not aware about?

 - Connectives- filtered push, Symbiota, Specify

- Lead institution responsible for planning and coordinating interaction acitivites

 - Budgeted in the TCN grants

- Working groups meetings- regular- weekly to biweekly

- Many developing TCNs beginning to recognized other’s programs/databases that may be relevant to their own efforts

- Considered successful

- Moving in right direction- need a timeline to develop these useful web services

- Working groups- develop list of current activities and estimated completion date

- Working groups- offer training services and resource to help groups with incorporating their new methods

- Issues with iDigBio website- confusing to navigate

- Established TCNs share their workflows with the working groups so they can share them with new TCNs

- Some TCNs with little IT knowledge, iDigBio with several computer scientists-strong IT

- Gap- TCNs lacking people funded to fill critical IT roles, iDigBio not funded to provide them

- Judy: Collect these challenges and parse them out to organizations looking to solve “grand Challenges” (i.e. NESCent hackathons)

-Coordinate with iDigBio, TCNs, and working groups to figure out common problem to set resourced toward to solve.

- Survey to groups to get input- all associated with iDigBio

-iDigBio forums- Georef forum high use, promoted

-Afraid to post newbie questions- afraid of snarky or no response at all

-Encourage participation in the forum

-Need to subscribe to the forum in order to get notification that someone has posted something to the forum.

Goal- track who is responding the forum etc- iDigBio staff vs TCN people

- Cross-link to Wiki pages for useful information.