Community Building: Collaboration & Opportunities

Rich Rabeler & Joanna McCaffrey

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ADBC efforts – 3 years in

- 3 rounds of proposals/awards
- 10 TCNs, 50 states + Guam
- Initial funding for the first ends in 2015
- Diverse assemblage of large/small collections, prep types, etc.
- 152 institutions are part of one to six TCNs
- Others are not participating

  est. 1600-2500 Natural History collections, curating 1B specimens in the US

Communication within TCNs

- Likely varies among TCNs
- May be reduced in those w/steering committee participation + subcontracts
  - – In our TCN, there is communication among Steering Committee members, between PIs and their subcontractors, multiple people at the same institution, but little either between PIs and "other" subs or between subs.
- Should this be enhanced? Best way?

Collaboration between TCNs

- Suspect this to be less than *within* TCNs
- Should this be enhanced, esp. with those using similar methodologies?
  - e.g., Tri-trophic botanists, macroalgae, and some NEVP participants using the same imaging protocols
  - Several of the TCNs are using Symbiota as a database of record and/or a web portal
- Could some learn "tricks" from others?

Commnications about TCNs

- One question heard, esp. when folks are considering new proposals – what is a TCN doing? How much progress have they made? How could I link to/build on their efforts?
  - Too bad the summit isn't *before* ADBC deadline!
- Most TCNs have a website, some give talks at conferences – is this enough publicity?
- How might this be enhanced?
- What role might iDigBio have?

Collaborations – all are not equal

- One can't force collaborations and networking
- Some folks enjoy such contact, others don't
- Important factor: publicizing opportunities

Reluctant participants

- Maintaining/updating the data after TCN funding disappears, esp. for those short-staffed
- “Pay to play”: not wanting to participate unless they get salary, extra personnel, etc.
- Not knowing what is being planned; can I join something?
- Time to collaborate…

Clearinghouse?

- Intelligence for proposal writers
  - Digitized collections
    - both “who has done what”

    and
    - who has significant non-digital collections
  - Methodologies – “who is doing what”
    - Lightning Round summaries??
  - Who might like to “play”?
  - Clarify NSF intentions – how would one know if it would make sense to apply?

Questions heard yesterday

- How does each small collection fit into the overall picture?
- What is our end game and how do we get everyone involved?
- Should we organize our efforts more so that we are not trying to develop/support several attempts to do the same thing?
- How should social media be used?

Your comments and suggestions