RDCN Lightning Presentation
Summit III 2013

TORCH – Texas Oklahoma Regional Consortium of Herbaria

Overview of Digitization Efforts

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TORCH – a Regional Digitization Collection Network

- Herbarium network representing **49 herbaria** in Texas and Oklahoma   (36 TX, 13 OK)

- Annual meetings/workshops/symposia since founding in 2006

- **BRC funding** to support Digitization & Specify 6 workshops
    PI – Amanda Neill, Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)
    co-PI – Wayne Elisens, University of Oklahoma

- No functioning TORCH portal

- **Major herbaria** driving digitization & coordination efforts through **individual portals**
    University of Texas, Austin
    Botanical Research Institute of Texas
    Texas A & M University
    Oklahoma Vascular Plants Database (thru University of Oklahoma)

NSF-supported efforts to facilitate digitization within the TORCH network

2011 – Digitization Workshop & Best Practices session

8-10 April, Texas Tech University field station

- 10 workshop presentations + half-day working session
- 30 senior + 8 student participants from 20 institutions

2012 – Specify 6 Workshop   (led by Andy Bentley)

17-19 May, University of Oklahoma field station

- 11 senior + 7 student participants from 11 institutions

2011
TORCH Digitization workshop

2012 TORCH Specify 6 Workshop

Present state of digitization efforts

Digitization activities   continue to be undertaken by:

1) nine individual institutions,   2) the Oklahoma Vascular Plants Database, and 3) collaborations on ADBC-funded projects

Primary TORCH digital data resources

- Plant Resources Center at University of Texas, Austin
  - data from 400,000 specimens online

- Botanical Research Institute of Texas
  - online databases and development of digitization tools for:
    Digital Workflow (Apiary) & Biodiversity Information (Atrium)

- Oklahoma Vascular Plants Database (coordinated by OU)
  - 180,000 OK specimen records from 11 herbaria (no images)

- 4 additional Texas herbaria with records online

Ongoing digitization activities

TORCH 2013 fieldtrip
saline slough

- **TORCH 2013** meeting
  (16-18 May at Jarvis Christian College, TX)
  - Progress reports by curators on
    digitization activities

- **TORCH 2014 Workshop**   (23-25 May at Sul Ross University, TX)
     "Providing data and images through the iDigBio portal"
     (tentative; coordinating with iDigBio)

- Continuing digitization activities by
  institutions individually and as
  collaborators in ADBC projects and
  proposed networks