NSF, K-12, and Broader Impacts Thoughts & Tips

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Things you already know

- In addition to **Intellectual Merit**, NSF expects to see a **Broader Impact** plan.
- K-12 is identified as a potentially important Broader Impact activity.
- Although scientists know how to promote IM, many are less able to balance this with a strong BI plan of activities.

Things you may not know

- NSF program officers are typically very supportive of BI.
- They have remarked to me that many BI K-12 outreach plans and activities are “sub-optimal” and oftentimes naïve.
- One recommended that a workshop like this might help the digitization research community.

Successful strategy: K-12 partnership(s)

- Mutual benefit
- How do you develop the partnership?
- Teachers & administrators
- Other stakeholders & expertise

Why natural history digitization? How to sell it

- Aligns with several performance expectations of NGSS, for example
- Authentic research practice
- If properly planned, can integrate STEM

Evaluation & assessment

- The importance of evaluation & assessment
  - Project efficacy
  - Teacher PD
  - Student achievement
- Partner with sci ed, evaluators

Summary

- Immense potential exists with the ca. 50 million K-12 learners in the US and their teachers.
- Other K-12 resources
  - NSTA, NABT, NGSS, NAS Press, etc.
  - NSF e.g. supplements to existing projects
    - Also stand-aloneDRK-12, iTEST, etc.