

Guided discussion: Challenges to Beginning & Sustaining a Digitization Program

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What are the principal challenges?

- Limited/no digitization experience
- Limited/no IT support
- Coordination among other collections, institutions, field stations, etc.
- Perceived value of Field Station collections
- Doing more with less (funding & staffing)
- Diverse collections in varying degrees of maintenance

What are the opportunities?

- Discoverability:
 - non-digitized = non-existent
 - not registered = non-existent
- Small collections can feasibly digitize everything – their *entire* collections
- “Dark Data” – unique specimens; unexpected value; research triggers; broader/richer data
- Community coordination and outreach
- Funding programs: ADBC, CSBR, IMLS, ...

How can iDigBio help?

- Example workflows, protocols, equipment recommendations, etc.
 - Modifying the wheel, not reinventing it
- Training workshops & webinars:
 - Digitization expertise
 - Data expertise
 - Data management expertise
- Attribution
- Outreach resources, coordination, & promotion
- Community-building

Next Steps...

- Get involved with iDigBio!!!
 - iDigBio Field Station Interest Group:
https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/Field_Station_Interest_Group
 - More webinars focused on Field Station digitization?
 - A few have already been done – check out the FSIG wiki page
 - Small Collections Network may provide additional useful information: <http://scnet.acis.ufl.edu/tags/webinar-series>
 - Field Station oriented TCN proposal
 - In process – slow and steady wins the race