Guided discussion: Challenges to Beginning & Sustaining a Digitization Program

David Jennings, iDigBio Project Manager

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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