May 3rd, 2023

In Attendance (add your name here):

Diego Barroso, TORCH TCN
Erika Tucker (MPM & BON) - TCNs: TPT, SCAN, iDigBees, Big-Bee
Jonathan Kennedy, All Asia TCN
Shyla Davison, iDigBio EODI Coordinator
Lindsay Walker, iDigBio Symbiota Support Hub
Regina Wetzer, NHMLA – DigIn TCN
Robin Delapena, FMNH - ESB TCN
Miranda Zwingelberg, GLOBAL Bryophyte and Lichen TCN
Pamela Horsley, Big-Bee TCN (SDNHM)
Katie Pearson, Symbiota Support Hub / iDigBio / Arizona State University
Vijay Barve NHMLA DigIn TCN
Brad Ruhfel, MICH
Kyle Lough, All Asia (MICH)
Reed Beaman, NSF
J Ryan Allen Univ Colorado
Jose Leal, Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, ESB TCN
Garth Holman University of Michigan
Libby Ellwood, iDigBio EODI
Chris Whitt-Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, ESB
Announcements

- Registration is open for the next Symbiota Portal Advancement Campaign AZ-NM Chapter of SEINet (June 5–July 11): https://symbiota.org/portal-advancement-campaigns/az-nm-portal-campaign/
- The annual Digital Data conference is happening at ASU in June. View the agenda: https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/7th_Annual_Digital_Data_Conference,_Arizona_State_University [Register here]
- IDigBio social media announcement from Shyla

Today’s Agenda (subject to change)

- Digitization Protocols and Procedures
  - From Physical Specimen to Digitized Record
    - Best practices?
      - “Image first workflow” has worked well for CAP, can be followed by image transcription
        - Some +1s for an “image first” approach
        - Important to capture skeletal data as well with the images, e.g. locality, taxa
  - Crowdsourcing transcription data
    - Zooniverse, WeDigBio, Notes from Nature, Symbiota module
    - Working w/crowdsourced data can be very time-consuming
      - Could end up costing more money just filtering through and vetting volunteer-generated data
    - Risk of malicious/intentionally erroneous data
  - What has worked, what has not worked?
  - Volunteer outreach
    - Anyone utilize WeDigBio?
    - Are you “quantifying” the “digitization stage” of your collection(s)?
      - E.g. “90% of records in Collection X are georeferenced”
      - Collections Management Systems discussion
        - What are you using, what have you tried?
          - Symbiota has an easier interface for volunteers to use, but Specify has better developed loan management features
        - Symbiota users: are you aware of the SSH?
  - Data archiving
    - How are you archiving/backing up your data? What is your “data backup” jottedplan? (you DO have a data backup plan, right?)
○ Image Storage
  ■ How are you hosting your images?
  ■ WHERE are you hosting your images?
    ● TACC,
      ○ TACC is good, but very locked down security-wise (which can be tedious adding new users)
      ○ Symbiota Support Hub offers image hosting for TCNs (TCNs started 2020 and earlier)
        ■ Moving forward there will be a “free tier” (~25GB) for collections that also live-manage their data in Symbiota
        ■ Contracting with ASU for image hosting (<10 MB/file) is new and in development, and is run through BioKIC Services: https://services.biokic.asu.edu/. These services do not currently include archival image storage or hosting.
  ■ Some collections, TCNs, have had to move images from one server to another. Are you part of this group? What issues have you faced in this process?
  ■ Are there any decent (affordable) options out there for image hosting and storage?
    ● Symbiota has image hosting services available through BioKIC Services
  ○ CMS-related bottlenecks
    ■ Are there issues you feel are “endemic” to your CMS of choice?
      ● E.g. software idiosyncrasies that get in the way of goals
      ● Updating existing data within Specify is evidently an issue…
        ○ “The list is long for Specify…”
        ○ Updating records from an external source
        ○ Duplicate matching is lacking
      ● Symbiota is lacking in loan management systems?

Looking Ahead
Meeting themes for the year - subject to change, open to criticism!

● February: Collections Metadata
  ○ See below :-) 
● May: Digitization Protocols and Procedures
  ○ Including Collections Management System discussion
- Including archiving, image storage discussions
- Including discussion of bottlenecks, roadblocks, and other issues

- **August: Taxonomy Support**
  - Discussion of available taxonomic resources
  - “Support group session” to discuss shared taxonomy issues, frustrations, and how to best approach them

- **November: Education, Training, and Outreach**
  - Best practices for training staff, volunteers?
  - Education and outreach success stories? Failures? Lessons learned?