NIBA RCN: Organizing and Sustaining a National Community

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Have you heard of NIBA?
NIBA Strategic Plan Key Objectives

(1) Digitize data from all US biocollections and integrate these in a Web-accessible interface using shared standards and formats.

(2) Develop new Web interfaces, visualization and analysis tools, data mining, georeferencing processes and make all available for using and improving NIBA resources.

(3) Create real-time upgrades of biological data and prevent the future occurrence of non-accessible collection data through the use of tools, training, and infrastructure.
Implementation Plan

Recommendations

(1) Establish an organizational and governance structure that will provide the national leadership and decision-making mechanism required to implement NIBA and to fully realize its Strategic Plan.

(2) Advance engineering of the US biocollections cyberinfrastructure.

(3) Enhance the training of existing collections staff and create the next generation of biodiversity information managers.

(4) Increase support for and participation in NIBA by the research community and a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

(5) Establish an enduring and sustainable knowledge base.

(6) Infuse specimen-based learning and exploration into formal and informal education.
NIBA RCN

• NSF is still listening to the community
• An effort to build, organize and sustain a new community of practice
• A five-year effort
• Synergistic, collaborative, and cooperative with iDigBio and ADBC efforts, but NIBA can also focus effort on engaging other agencies, professional communities, etc.
The RCN will...

• Establish an Advisory Council
• Evaluate the recommendations from the Implementation Plan to determine whether still relevant and to prioritize
• Establish Implementation Working Groups that will develop plans to sustainably move elements of NIBA forward
Advisory Council

- Robert Gropp, American Institute of Biological Sciences & NSC Alliance
- Andrew Bentley, PI of NIBA RCN, Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections, University of Kansas
- Christopher Norris, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History
- Larry Page, NSC Alliance and iDigBio
- Barbara Thiers, The New York Botanical Garden
- Anna Monfils, Central Michigan University
- Joseph Cook, PI of AIM-UP!, University of New Mexico
- Günter Waibel, Digitization Program Office, Smithsonian Institution
- Richard O’Grady, PI of NIBA RCN, American Institute of Biological Sciences

Additional members will be added and the membership will change over the course of RCN
Operations

• We envision Implementation Working Groups
  – Community members – current and new
  – Develop plans to continue implementing NIBA
  – Plans will consider sustainability
  – Please sign-up on our website and stay tuned for opportunity to participate

• A mix of virtual and in-person meetings

• Interactive website so that people can comment on draft documents
Opportunities

• Please answer the phone when we start calling, and please feel free to call us.

• [www.NIBAlliance.org](http://www.NIBAlliance.org) -- sign-up to receive updates.

• Twitter @NIBAlliance
Thanks

• We thank everyone who has participated in any of the meetings or events that have led us to where we are now.
• We also thank NSF for providing support for this effort
So you want $1M...

Beyond the Box
Digitization Competition

Byte by byte,
transforming the future
of insect collections.
$1 million innovation prize.
Contest will open soon

• All contest rules and regulations will be made public at the same time and via the official website

• All questions will be answered and archived for public view on the website

• Entries will be evaluated by a panel of experts
To learn more...

Web: http://beyondthebox.aibs.org
Twitter: @BeyondtheBugBox