

# NIBA RCN: Organizing and Sustaining a National Community

Robert Gropp

American Institute of Biological  
Sciences

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN  
FOR THE NETWORK INTEGRATED  
BIOCOLLECTIONS ALLIANCE



**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...



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- All questions will be answered and archived for public view on the website
- Entries will be evaluated by a panel of experts

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