

Minutes for March 2014 Internal Advisory Committee Meeting

Date/Time: March 19, 2014 1:00-3:00 PM Eastern
Attendees: David Jennings, Suzette King, Reed Beaman, Joanna McCaffrey, Kevin Love
Remote Attendees: Corinna Gries (LBCC), Katja Seltmann (TTD), Robert Naczi (TTD), Chris Dietrich (InvertNet), Barbara Thiers (Macrofungi), Patrick Sweeney (NEVP), Neil Cobb (SCAN), Chris Neefus (Macroalgal), Dena Smith (FIC), Shari Ellis (iDigBio), Deb Paul (iDigBio), Mari Roberts (Macrofungi), Una Farrell (PALEONICHES), Rich Rabeler (TTD)
Meeting Location: Building 105, Room 310
Recording: <http://idigbio.adobeconnect.com/iac/>
VoIP access available through Adobe Connect or dial 866-284-8871

Action Items:

- (1) [Michael Webster] The Animal Communication TCN needs to submit their bi-monthly report
- (2) [David Jennings] Perform a Doodle poll for the May meeting.

Call to Order & Welcome

Housekeeping Items

Meetings/Workshops/Events

- David made several announcements beginning with the October 27-28 dates for the next Summit. Please make sure they are on your calendar so you aren't taken by surprise.
- The Collections for the 21st Century Symposium is May 5-6, 2014. Many of you have already registered. If you haven't registered and would like to Register, please do so on line at <https://www.idigbio.org/content/collections-21-century-registration>. The symposium will also be online via Adobe Connect. We welcome participation from everyone. Please pass this information along to your colleagues in your TCN or your institution to help get the word out for us.
- The last scheduling item was from Deb Paul. She is going to SPNHC 2014 and wants to know if representatives from the TCNs will be going as well. Una Farrell and Rich Rabeler indicated they are going. Others please let Deb know if you are going. Deb will be presenting a topic on International Collaboration. The goal is to connect projects that have significant overlap with what iDigBio and the TCNs are accomplishing. The foci are expertise sharing and setting up communications lines between iDigBio and those international projects. All the players from our arena that want to be involved need to contact Deb.

Bi-Monthly Progress Reports

- David Jennings thanked the TCNs for sending reports. Nine of ten have been received. The form has been adjusted so everyone who submits a progress report will receive an email with a copy of their submission.

TCN Wiki Pages

- Please maintain your TCN wiki page. These pages are for you to communicate about your TCN.

Next TCN Meeting

- The next IAC meeting will be in May. A Doodle poll will be sent towards the end of April to schedule.

Discussion Topics [moderated by Joanna McCaffrey]

TCN resources wiki page:

Feedback on the TCN resources wiki page was requested, but there were no comments. The page will remain online as it offers new TCNs valuable information and can help others with their proposals.

Use of supplemental source materials to support overall label data gathering:

Several of the TCN's do use supplemental materials. It is one of the key parts of the Macrofungi project. Digitization of supplemental materials allows them to create complete records more efficiently. In order to make the specimens more useful, supplemental materials such as field notes, spore prints, and photographs are typically used.

One of TTD's partners is using supplemental materials on a minimal basis. They have California Food and Agriculture Agency (CFAA) catalogue numbers that were assigned to aphids taken from plants that were brought from outside the country. The resource is very rarely used; however, there is additional information such as condition of insects on arrival, date of arrival, origin, and so on.

Ratio of specimens to images over all collections:

The question was posed: "What is your sense of the ratio of digitized specimens that have an accompanying image over the range of all collections?" Austin Mast and Libby Ellwood are working on a paper and this is one of the topics of interest to them.

There were initial reservations about the scope of the question. Was the interest in existing images or planned photos? Was the scope to address the ratio of images in specific collections or estimates across collections? Were specimen images the focus of the question or images of labels to be considered also? In addition, there are field images as opposed to high-resolution lab images. There was a general sense that this was a complex question that actually needed to be broken down into its components.

Nevertheless, it was offered that at the Chicago Field Museum approximately 10% of all specimens have images. The SCAN project has three types of images: low-resolution specimen images, high-resolution specimen images, and images of labels. They have set a target of capturing 1% of specimens at high resolution. The TTD project has imaged approximately 1% of their images. They have many images of species, but they are not matched to a particular specimen. They would like one high-resolution image for each specimen, with the intent of imaging everything with the exception of herbaria that already have images. Macroalgal collection has approximately 1 image for each specimen.

Macrofungi has at least a label image for every specimen and often other images as well. The Macrofungi label images are not transient; they will always be associated with a record. NEVP has one image per specimen. LBCC offered that for lichens and bryophytes, only label images will be available, which are associated with species, not specimens.

EML/registration data:

Registration data about TCN data sets is displayed in the portal at www.idigbio.org/portal/publishers. Comments were solicited to improve the function. Joanna McCaffrey was interested in the types of metadata about the collection the TCNs want exposed in the portal.

Deb Paul asked that in terms of discoverability, what would be useful for the TCNs on the publisher page? She mentioned contact information and suggested it would be helpful to have a link to a project to explain for example, what the Consortium of North American Herbarium is and why this data set was collected? She also asked if there was additional information in terms of looking at the data sets that people would want to know. There were no immediate comments. Neil Cobb informed the group that Symbiota collects contact information, a synopsis of the history of institutions and other descriptive data. He encouraged the use of this data.

Neil Cobb added that the information on the publisher page is somewhat useful, but it would be nice to be able to search by collections that have specific categories of data (e.g., arthropods). Reed Beaman replied that iDigBio is now working on a feature to enable searches on higher taxa that is not necessarily included in the data the TCNs sent. The use case brought up by Neil is exactly the input IT is after, but this issue is distinct from Joanna's question.

The TCNs agreed that, theoretically, GRBio is good to use for registration data in the long term. However, GRBio has a long way to go before it is as functional as other sites, such as Index Herbariorum.

Treating synonymies in taxonomy:

The final discussion topic that Joanna McCaffrey addressed was how to treat synonymies in taxonomy? Rob Naczi suggested looking at some of the more successful sites like iPlant, which could provide models. It can be made as inclusive as possible but never complete because that would consume too much time. It would be an end in itself. Barbara Thiers and Corinna Gries agreed that Symbiota has a good solution. It has the option of running several taxonomies in the background. You can choose the authority file you want, and it will find the matches and return all that apply. Reed Beaman thought that was part of the answer. “We are leaning towards improving access but not imposing anyone’s classification on your existing data sets.” Katja Seltmann suggested a “you may also be interested in” list that would separate exact matches from synonyms or affiliated materials (i.e., the Amazon approach). This approach could work well for observational data such as the host plant for an insect. The reason that a match is returned with a search might be listed in the results. Dena Smith noted that her TCN is interested in putting together taxon authorities for the fossil groups.

Joanna McCaffrey opened the floor to comments. There were no comments. David Jennings thanked the TCN’s for their engagement, reports, and digitizing.

Meeting Adjourned

Agenda for March 2014 Internal Advisory Committee Meeting

Date/Time: March 19, 2014 1:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

Invitees: Toby Schuh, Katja Seltmann, Corinna Gries, Robert Naczi, Chris Dietrich, Bruce Lieberman, Barbara Thiers, Patrick Sweeney, Neil Cobb, Chris Neefus, Dena Smith, Michael Webster, Ed Gilbert, Shari Ellis, Gil Nelson, Deb Paul, Andréa Matsunaga, Renato Figueiredo, Kevin Love, Joanna McCaffrey, David Jennings, Suzette King, Reed Beaman, Larry, Page, José Fortes, Greg Riccardi, Bruce MacFadden, Pam Soltis

Additional participation from TCNs/PENs is welcomed and encouraged!

Meeting Location: Building 105, Room 310

Remote Access: <http://idigbio.adobeconnect.com/iac/>

VoIP access is available through Adobe Connect, or you may alternatively dial 866-284-8871 (less preferred due to per-minute charges).

1:00 PM Call to Order

Housekeeping:

Upcoming iDigBio meetings/workshops/events – https://www.idigbio.org/calendar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iDigBio Summit IV – October 27-28, 2014 Collections for the 21st Century Symposium – May 5-6, 2014 – Register online at https://www.idigbio.org/content/collections-21st-century-registration SPNHC 2014 – June 22-27, 2014 	David David Deb
TCN bi-monthly progress reports to iDigBio are due: https://www.idigbio.org/content/tcn-bi-monthly-progress-report-idigbio	David
Please maintain your TCN wiki pages, updating contributor lists, adding research statements, TCN maps, etc.: https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/TCNs	David/Joanna
Schedule May IAC Meeting – Doodle	All

Discussion Topics:

Do you have any feedback from our sending the TCN Resources Wiki page out to the listservs (Herbarium, Taxacom, etc.)?	Joanna
Is anyone in your network using alternative sources of information (digitizing ledgers, etc.) to support overall label data gathering?	Joanna
What is your sense of the ratio of specimens to image over all collections?	Joanna
How do you want to view eml/registration data - given that we have data from your ingested EML files, and we are supporting GRBio.org to get/have/keep up to date info: https://www.idigbio.org/portal/publishers	Joanna
How do you want to treat synonymies in taxonomy?	Joanna
Other topics	All

3:00 PM Adjourn

Upcoming Workshops/Meetings/Events:

Event	Location	Start Date to End Date
PaleoDigitization Working Group: Bruce MacFadden, Linking Ancillary Data to Specimen Records in Paleo Databases	https://idigbio.adobeconnect.com/paleo	03-18-2014
iDigBio Internal Advisory Committee Meeting	UF Building 105 Room 310 (Gainesville, Florida)	03-19-2014
LEEF 2014	4-H Camp Ocala (Altoona, Florida)	03-21-2014 to 03-23-2014
WISE Girlz Science Spring Camp	University of Florida (Gainesville, Florida)	03-24-2014 to 03-28-2014
Data Modeling Workshop	East-West Center (Honolulu, Hawaii)	03-24-2014 to 03-25-2014
Biological Collections Digitization in the Pacific	East-West Center (Honolulu, Hawaii)	03-24-2014 to 03-27-2014
75th Annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists	Spartanburg Marriott (Spartanburg, South Carolina)	04-02-2014 to 04-05-2014
Small Collections Workshop	Central Michigan University (Mt. Pleasant, Michigan)	04-07-2014 to 04-10-2014
iDigBio Steering Committee & Executive Committee Meeting	UF Building 105, Room 310 (Gainesville, Florida)	04-10-2014
Biology Careers Shadowing Days	Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida (Gainesville, Florida)	04-17-2014 to 04-19-2014
Earth Day	Powell Hall/University of Florida (Gainesville, Florida)	04-19-2014
Paleo Imaging/3D Imaging Workshop	University of Texas, Jackson School of Geosciences, J.J. Pickle Research Campus, and High Resolution X-ray CT Facility. (Austin, Texas)	04-28-2014 to 05-02-2014
Collections for the 21st Century Symposium	University of Florida (Gainesville, Florida)	05-05-2014 to 05-06-2014
iDigBio Steering Committee & Executive Committee Meeting	UF Building 105, Room 310 (Gainesville, Florida)	05-08-2014
Specify for Paleo Collections Workshop	Kansas University (Lawrence, Kansas)	05-19-2014 to 05-23-2014
iDigBio Steering Committee & Executive Committee Meeting	UF Building 105, Room 310 (Gainesville, Florida)	06-12-2014
SPNHC 2014, Cardiff, Wales		06-22-2014 to 06-27-2014
iDigBio Steering Committee & Executive Committee Meeting	UF Building 105, Room 310 (Gainesville, Florida)	07-10-2014
Botany 2014 - New Frontiers in Botany	Boise Centre (Boise, Idaho)	07-26-2014 to 07-30-2014
Georeferencing Natural History Collections: A Crash Course in Translating Locality Data into Geographic Coordinates	Boise Centre (Boise, Idaho)	07-27-2014
Digitized natural history collections records in traditional research, collaborative research, and big data research	Boise Centre (Boise, Idaho)	07-29-2014
Botanical DNA Banking and the Systematics Community: Working Together to Meet Future Research Challenges	Boise Center (Boise, Idaho)	07-29-2014
North American Network of Small Herbaria Workshop	Boise Centre (Boise, Idaho)	07-31-2014
iDigBio Steering Committee & Executive Committee Meeting	UF Building 105, Room 310 (Gainesville, Florida)	08-14-2014
iDigBio Steering Committee & Executive Committee Meeting	UF Building 105, Room 310 (Gainesville, Florida)	09-11-2014
iDigBio Steering Committee & Executive Committee Meeting	UF Building 105, Room 310 (Gainesville, Florida)	10-09-2014
GSA iDigBio Symposium	UCSB, Vancouver Canada	10-19-2014 to 10-22-2014
iDigBio Summit IV	University of Florida (Gainesville, Florida)	10-27-2014 to 10-28-2014
iDigBio Steering Committee & Executive Committee Meeting	UF Building 105, Room 310 (Gainesville, Florida)	11-13-2014
iDigBio Steering Committee & Executive Committee Meeting	UF Building 105, Room 310 (Gainesville, Florida)	12-11-2014