



**BIODIVERSITY
COLLECTIONS NETWORK**

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What's the Biodiversity Collections Network?

- Research Coordination Network funded by National Science Foundation
- A collaborative, community-building project
- A way to expand reach, engage new audiences, do things iDigBio can't

BCoN is not...

- In competition with iDigBio, or any other initiative
- A replacement for iDigBio
- “Doing” digitization

BCoN and NIBA

- 2010 Strategic Plan for Network Integrated Biodiversity Alliance
- 2011 NSF funds iDigBio, first TCNs
- 2012 Implementation Plan for Network Integrated Biocollections Alliance
- 2014 NSF funds BCoN (NIBA) RCN.
- 2015 RCN changes name from NIBA RCN to BCoN

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.

BCoN will...

- Evaluate the recommendations from the Implementation Plan to determine whether still relevant and to prioritize efforts
- Establish Working Groups that will develop plans to move elements of NIBA forward

Building Community



Supporting Organizations

- American Institute of Biological Sciences
- American Society of Plant Taxonomists
- Angelo State Natural History Collections
- Biodiversity Institute, University of Kansas
- Bishop Museum
- C.A. Triplehorn Insect Collection, The Ohio State University
- Central Michigan University Herbarium
- Chicago Botanic Garden
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- Florida Museum of Natural History
- Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology
- H.A. Stephens Herbarium, Emporia State University
- iDigBio
- Illinois Natural History Survey Herbarium
- Milwaukee Public Museum
- Natural Science Collections Alliance
- New York Botanical Garden
- North American Network of Small Herbaria
- Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
- Small Collections Network
- Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections
- Society of Herbarium Curators
- SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
- The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University
- The Field Museum
- Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico
- University of Michigan Herbarium
- University of Wisconsin Insect Research Collection
- Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History

Communications Workshop

- A small workshop
- Nat History Collection administrators/directors, scientists, communications/outreach, and government relations staff
- Explore opportunities for improved communication – within community and from community to external audiences (administrators, funders, other scientists)
- Productive workshop with rich mix of recommendations
- Report released last spring, available on BCoN website

IsoBank Workshop

- Cosponsored a workshop last spring to identify potential for development of an IsoBank, with collections as founding partner
- Potential model for other partnerships
- Expands stakeholder base
- Enables new research
- Report coming soon

Education

- Workshop: Integrating Resources and Growing the Community: Data Resources and Data Literacy. Next week in Gainesville
- Biological Informatics Workforce: Education and Workforce Needs, cosponsored with AIBS in 2015
- Participated in other meetings

Survey: Institutional Investments in Research

- Joint survey earlier this year: NSC Alliance, Cal Academy, iDigBio, SPNHC, BCoN, iDigBio
- Outgrowth of BCoN Communications Workshop
- Evaluating data
- Report to come

Next Generation Research

- Workshop coming in January 2017
- Identify next steps, what might come after ADBC? What is needed to use digitized data, advance research?
- In preparation, we are evaluating current progress toward achievement of goals in NIBA plan.
- What barriers exist to use of digitized data for research, informed decision-making, education?
- Please send ideas to rgropp@aibs.org

Participate

- Encourage everyone here to join our website, sign-up for updates
- If you have an idea, please suggest it
- If your organization is not listed among our Supporting Organizations, please join us – it's free.

For More Information

- www.BCoN.aibs.org -- sign-up to receive updates.
- Twitter @BioCollNetwork



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