



Jointly sponsored by CSIRO National Research Collections Australia, iDigBio and the Atlas of Living Australia

Digitisation of Biological Collections Round Table Discussions

WeDigBio-Worldwide engagement for digitizing biocollections :

Online transcription centres, such as Notes from Nature, DigiVol, the Smithsonian Institution's Transcription Center and Les Herbonautes, provide a means by which the public can contribute to digitisation of biocollections in ways and at scales that were previously not possible. WeDigBio, an event of global mass digitisation planned for October 2015 and annually thereafter, will capitalize on these developments by providing a media campaign, cyberinfrastructure, and other support for the transcription centres and the biocollections using them. The event is planned to engage both widely distributed public participants and participants in transcription events held onsite at biocollections. The latter can be used to strengthen local community support for biocollections and biodiversity research (e.g., as a launch for crowdfunding campaigns) and build sustainability.

Transcription Blitz scheduled for 22-15 October 2015. Developing "blitz kits" to make it easy for people to host their own event.

media - need to tell a compelling story
press release to suit all participants

Aiming to triple average weekly transcription rates - presently asking participants to document and contribute their weekly average to track this (this is the increase that SI gets when they do a 'blitz')

discussion around university students, Pam will be teaching in the Fall & would like here class (~50 students) to spend a morning transcribing & possible take home assignment over the weekend. Austin has worked with classes on this before - did he mention that he had a lab template he can share?

Austin - not engaging high schools students this first year - will engage them in years to come

concern over site crashing - participants encouraged to check their stability at highest rates of traffic.

If we get big influx of users it's important to be able to cope with them in their first 20 seconds of activity.

statistics - pre-/post-survey

BMNH interested, has a lot of pulling power

Live feedback to users - can 'star performers' be identified in real time. Rewards?

You need to have enough content ready to 'feed the beast' and perhaps be prepared to recycle content if necessary to keep the project going.

Possibly encourage current users to validate through the event - validation blitz. Should we think about a way for blitzing validators to provide live feedback to transcribers?

Load up de-activated expeditions in advance, and perhaps have a coordinated process to activate the expeditions on a planned feed.

Need to keep an eye on quality and provide live feedback to prevent us ending up with a 'load of crap'. Users like feedback after they've done a few transcriptions - helps maintain their engagement. People will need to be ready to be online over the weekend.

Monitor twitter for questions, be ready with answers? Scientists available to answer questions?

Communication forums associated with these sites can be a good source for scientifically important annotations, as well as a social space for the transcribers.

This is an opportunity for this group to demonstrate international collaboration working well.

An opportunity to have a cross-collection focus on a historical or notable expedition? eg. Livingstone's Zambesi expedition. Needs to not be contrived - users will pick up very quickly if you're getting them to re-do something that's already done.

A project focus helps with writing press releases - if you have four focus projects you have four potential press releases....