Collection Digitisation at Naturalis Biodiversity Center
Why digitisation?

- Digitisation of collections for scientific research
- Digital information provides quality checks
- Digital information discloses collection virtually
- Dissemination of data to interest groups
- Consultancy role to business and government
- Exposure role for public
- Enhancing knowledge through education
Targets

By the mid of 2015:

• A substantial part of the collection of 37M objects will be digitised: 7-8 million objects;

• An infrastructure is in place to continue digitisation.
Challenges

- Budget of € 13M
- Collection of 37M objects
- Between 7-8 M objects will be digitised in detail;
- Out of which 3 million in house (digistreets);
- 4 million objects outsourced;
- 30 million objects will be “registered” digitally on a high level.
Approach

• We start with Pilots for representative data;
• Detailed level: in house Digistreets, 3M objects;
• Large volume: outsourcing, 4M objects;
Digistreets

- Characteristics:
  - 100,000 objects per month;
  - Priority driven (policy, research, moving);
  - 70 fte temporary in designated housing;
- Detailed digitisation:
  - barcoding (datamatrix label, storage, location)
  - data-entry in registration application;
  - image; scan/photograph (when necessary);
- Incorporated in Collection Registration System;
- Linked to reference databases (like scientific publications or DNA-barcoding)
Digistreets (targets)

- Herbarium Duplicates  150.000
- Herbariumsheets  550.000
- Molluscs  400.000
- Alcohol  100.000
- Entomology  850.000
- Wood  130.000
- (E)Vertebrates dry  325.000
- (Microscopic) slides  1.025.000
- Paper/2D  200.000
- Geology  300.000
Outsourcing

• Characteristics:
  - Price/quality-ratio driven;
  - External handling;
  - Data and metadata control systems needed;
  - Photo’s, scans in large numbers.

• Outsourcing:
  - Herbariumsheets 4,000,000
  - Paper/2D 400,000
Access

• Generated collection data will be made available through GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility);

• Literature will be made available through BHL (Biodiversity Heritage Library);

• Selections of digitized content will be made suitable for and published in Europeana through OpenUp!;

• (Selections of) collections will be made available through different websites, like Dutch Species Catalogue, Geology of the Netherlands and many more.
Extra

• Crowdsourcing project for transcribing object labels;
• Digitization on Demand;
• LiveScience: a digistreet in the museum to bring scientists and museum visitors in personal contact with each other.