

## Proposal

### Biodiversity Informatics Management Working Group

#### Gil Nelson, on behalf of Flat Sheets and Packets (Droid 1) Working Group

**Abstract:** The role of biodiversity informatics management and biodiversity informatics managers is becoming increasingly important to digitization programs, biodiversity data management, and to museum organizational hierarchy. The most successful digitization programs visited by Nelson and Paul (2012) in preparation for their paper in *Zookeys* were directly dependent on the presence of strong biodiversity informatics managers with well-defined roles, supported from the top of the organizational hierarchy, and focused on providing guidance and service to digitization staff and initiatives. The institutionalization of this role will ensure the sustainability of digitization initiatives. Members of the Droid 1 workgroup recognized this need as an important component underlying successful implementation of digitization workflows and practices, and strongly suggested that iDigBio sponsor a working group focused on this issue.

### Initial Activities

Specifically, the working group would place iDigBio in a leadership position for steering this fundamental organizational role and rapidly developing profession by:

- surveying the greater bio- and paleo-collections communities regarding the biodiversity informatics management role within various types and sizes of organizations,
- defining the requirements and job dimensions of effective biodiversity managers and how these requirements underpin digitization,
- outlining the components necessary for post-secondary curricula related to biodiversity informatics management,
- producing guidelines, documents, and workshops for encouraging museum and academic administrators to include the role of biodiversity informatics in their organization charts and digitization programs, and
- reaching out to students who might be interested in following this emerging career path.

**Potential Initial Members (some of whom have already expressed interest):** Gil Nelson (chair), Anne Barber, Andy Bentley, Walter Berendsohn, Stan Blum, Margaret Cawsey, Linda Ford, Nico Franz, Larry Gall, Ed Gilbert, Rob Guralnick, Paul Heinrich, Les Landrum, Joanna McCaffrey, Paul Morris, Deb Paul, Katja Seltsmann, Andrea Thomer, Melissa Tulig, Greg Whitbread, Tim White, members of the Flat Sheets and Packets Working Group.

**Other Members:** The working group's first mission will be to survey currently practicing biodiversity managers and other interested parties to expand the working group's membership and build a strong collaboration of collections managers, museum administrators, biodiversity informatics managers, and students.

### Workshop

It is anticipated that the working group will host at least one workshop, the deliverables to mirror the activities outlined above.



Although this working group could be an extension of DROID, it will be better served and garner higher visibility as the Biodiversity Informatics Management Working Group.