Bi-Monthly Progress Reports To iDigBio Submitted By Active Thematic Collections Networks (TCNs)

November 2017

Reports included from the following **active** TCNs:

☐ InvertNet	☐ LBCC	☒ NEVP
☐ Paleoniches	☐ SCAN	☐ FIC
☐ VACS	☐ MHC	☐ GLI
☐ InvertEBase	☒ SERNEC	☒ MiCC
☒ EPICC	☐ Cretaceous World	☐ LepNet
☒ MAM	☒ SoRo (NEW)	☐ oVert (NEW)

Reports no longer included from the following **retired** TCNs:

TTD	MaCC	

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Submission #1229

Submission information

Form: TCN Quarterly Progress Report to iDigBio
Submitted by EPICC
Monday, October 23, 2017 - 17:06
128.32.154.17

TCN Name:
Documenting Fossil Marine Invertebrate Communities of the Eastern Pacific - Faunal Responses to Environmental Change over the last 66 million years

Person completing the report:
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Progress in Digitization Efforts:
As of 10/18/2017, the TCN has fully curated and computer cataloged 974,791 specimens (62% of goal) and made 53,705 of these specimens available in the iDigBio portal. The TCN has photographed 26,038 specimens (30% of goal) and georeferenced 21,554 localities (60% of goal).

Original source material digitized: At CAS scanning of their Geology Fossil ledgers is 90% complete. Localities continue to be added to their database and they have surpassed their original estimate of the number of localities represented in their fossil collection. At UCMP, we are transcribing locality descriptions for California localities from the former USGS Menlo Park collection.

At the Cooper Center, specimens have been sorted for photography and set aside for students.

Share and Identify Best Practices and Standards (including Lessons Learned):
During the EPICC annual meeting in Sept., we agreed upon guidelines for serving the DarwinCore georeferencing fields.

18 months into the project, LACM has started double checking earlier identifications for specific challenging taxonomic groups (i.e. Boreotrophon, Lirobittium, Ocinebrina, etc).

Staff at the Cooper Center (Cortez) has learned that when identifying specimens to lean on the side of caution. They will often list taxa as genus and leave presumed species under remarks.

Identify Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology:
At CAS, IT issues have inhibited their ability to feed database records via RSS to GBIF. They are working with CAS IT to resolve this now.

At the Cooper Center, they are having problems serving photographs due to the Specify attachment server.

UCMP has some additional lights on order that they expect will improve their specimen photographs.

Share and Identify Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts:
Clites and Pearson (UCMP) are doing a lot of informal training with individual students to help them identify specimens. Trained 1 new student in photography and 1 new student in label printing, cataloging and labeling specimens.

Share and Identify Collaborations with other TCNs, Institutions, and Organizations:
LACM and UCMP staff worked with the San Diego Museum of Natural History and University of California, Riverside on aspects of their ADBC PEN proposals.

PI Nesbitt shared a new annotated spreadsheet of all the formations relevant to this project in Washington, Oregon and British Columbia with EPICC partners. Nesbitt has submitted this for publication.

Hendy (LACM) uploaded a new version of the EPICC Taxonomic Dictionary. Graduate student Camilla Souto (UCMP) loaded the data she compiled for echinoids into this spreadsheet (~1000 rows).

Share and Identify Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability:
Volunteers continue to transcribe ledger entries at UCMP, which is especially helpful since many ledger entries are written in cursive or have other editorial notation unknown to students.

Share and Identify Education and Outreach (E&O) Activities:
Since August 2017, TCN staff has trained 14 undergraduate students, 3 recent college graduates, 10 graduate students, 5 teachers and 27 other volunteers.

The Educator, Glossary and Credits pages for the EPICC VFE webpage have been written. We are still awaiting final comments on the modules, glossary and teacher guides from our advisors before launching the site. The outreach team (L. White, R. Ross, D. Duggan-Haas) conducted fieldwork for the third Virtual Fieldwork Experience (VFE) with Hendy and Vendetti of LACM. Three modules have been proposed, with video clips gathered, for the VFE focused on the Purisima Formation of northern California.

The Cooper Center has recently created space at all of their outreach events describing the EPICC TCN and the importance of collaboration. At their most recent event, (Prehistoric OC, Oct. 14th 2017) they had a booth set up to talk about EPICC.

LACM is continuing to develop their Citizen Science activity - Project Paleo: Marine Invertebrate Fossils of South California. They have gained evaluation data and developed marketing products to support fossil kits to be used by LAUSD/LA homeschoolers. This work will be presented at the GSA Annual Meeting in October 2017.

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Other Progress (that doesn't fit into the above categories):
Held third EPICC annual meeting at the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks. Had participation from all 9 institutions: PIs Davis (UO), Dietl (PRI), Druckenmiller (UAM), Holroyd (UCMP), Marshall (UCMP), Nesbitt (UWBM), as well as Senior Personnel Clites (UCMP), Cortez (Cooper Center), Eng (UWBM), Hendy (LACM), Skibinski (PRI), Hollis (NMNH) and virtual attendees Finnegan (UCMP), Garcia (CAS), Little (NMNH), Vendetti and Estes-Smargiassi (LACM), White (UCMP). Three EPICC staff members (graduate students) from CAS attended the meeting as well. During the meeting we discussed many topics including suggested collaborations for

continuing to improve speed and accuracy of taxonomic identifications, contributing to PBDB and GBIF to improve backbone taxonomy, georeferencing standards, and progress updates.

Attachment 1

Attachment 2

Source URL: https://www.idigbio.org/node/564/submission/1229

Submission #1231

Submission information

Form: TCN Quarterly Progress Report to iDigBio
Submitted by jrallen99
Wednesday, October 25, 2017 - 17:29
128.138.130.206

TCN Name:
SoRo: Using Herbarium Data to Document Plant Niches in the High Peaks and High Plains of the Southern Rockies - Past, Present, and Future

Person completing the report:
james.allen@colorado.edu

Progress in Digitization Efforts:
Collectively we have entered 3,333 new records into databases, barcoded 15,578 new specimens, imaged 12,566 new specimens and georeferenced 993 new specimens.

Share and Identify Best Practices and Standards (including Lessons Learned):
Many of the collections are working through the process of setting up accounts to access funds for the project. Many of the collections have not been able to start because they have not been able to access funds for the project. It takes more time to get all of the financials setup at each institution than you would expect, especially when dealing with subawards where the grants offices of both institution need to work together remotely.

Identify Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology:
Many collections still need to purchase equipment to start the digitization process..

Share and Identify Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts:
(From UNM). Having an opportunity for student-employees to see what goes wrong, learning from their mistakes, eventually makes people more aware of their experience and the collective importance of maintaining order.

Share and Identify Collaborations with other TCNs, Institutions, and Organizations:
CSCN described the project and our participation in it to a group of botany students visiting from Oglala Lakota College recently and discussed ways of coordinating work toward building their herbarium.
UNM has recruited four volunteers. Two students from Central New Mexico Community College, one volunteer from the UNM Natural History Collections Club, and one UNM Biology Graduate Student.

Share and Identify Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability:
Nothing to report.

Share and Identify Education and Outreach (E&O) Activities:
FLD provided E&O for high school students from the local residential school “Colorado Timberline Academy” in September who visited the herbarium to learn about what a herbarium is and the basics of plant collecting.
UNM worked with the Stem Collaborative Center to recruit minorities, that effort, sent out digitally to over 600 people, but didn’t receive any response. Had we had the funding earlier that would have created a better opportunity for more diverse hiring.

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Other Progress (that doesn’t fit into the above categories):
Tina Ayers gave Nora Talkington (NAVA) a tour of the imaging facility at ASC and talked to her about designing a ruler with the NAVA image from letter head and barcoding. They are planning a training day for new student workers, Nora (NAVA curator), and Tina Ayers (ASC curator) to learn digitization procedures and get on the same page for starting NAVA digitization work.
FLD has had recent exchanges of specimens with SJNM, DBG, and ASC.

25 staff and students have now been hired to fill roles in the SoRo TCN. Several institutions are in the process of hiring candidates to work on the project.

Attachment 1

Attachment 2

Submission #1234

Submission information

Form: TCN Quarterly Progress Report to iDigBio
Submitted by psweney
Monday, October 30, 2017 - 11:29
130.132.173.218

TCN Name:
Mobilizing New England Vascular Plant Specimen Data to Track Environmental Change

Person completing the report:
patrick.sweeney@yale.edu

Progress in Digitization Efforts:
Digitization activities were conducted at seven digitizing institutions: Brown (BRU), The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), University of Maine (MAINE), University of Massachusetts (MASS), University of New Hampshire (NHA), University of Vermont (VT), and Yale (YU). During the overall project period (Years 1 through 5), 912,208 specimen-level records have been generated [36,190 skeletal & 876,018 full specimen- level records], and 969,337 specimen images have been captured. Town-level georeferences have been applied to records of all participating institutions resulting in over 564,267 georeferenced records. Flowering reproductive phenology has been captured into the NEVP vocabulary for 244,500 specimens. What follows is an institutional breakdown of digitization activities.

Share and Identify Best Practices and Standards (including Lessons Learned):
nothing to report

Identify Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology:
nothing to report

Share and Identify Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts:
nothing to report

Share and Identify Collaborations with other TCNs, Institutions, and Organizations:
We continue to collaborate with, CyVerse, the Symbiota team, and iDigBio.

Share and Identify Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability:
nothing to report

Share and Identify Education and Outreach (E&O) Activities:
Project wide many opportunities have been provided for training and professional development. Across all institutions, more than 140 undergraduate or graduate student herbarium assistants or herbarium staff conducted digitization tasks. These individuals received training in herbarium

curation, biodiversity informatics, and specimen digitization. During the course of their activities, digitizers were exposed to hundreds or thousands of herbarium specimens, which provided some botanical education. to report

Google Analytics

Other Progress (that doesn't fit into the above categories):
nothing to report

Attachment 1

Attachment 2

Source URL: https://www.idigbio.org/node/564/submission/1234

Published on *iDigBio* (https://www.idigbio.org)

Submission #1235

Submission information

Form: TCN Quarterly Progress Report to iDigBio
Submitted by rhbaldree
Monday, October 30, 2017 - 14:42
192.17.34.169

TCN Name:
The Microfungi Collections Consortium: A Networked Approach to Digitizing Small Fungi with Large Impacts on the Function and Health of Ecosystems

Person completing the report:
rnb@illinois.edu

Progress in Digitization Efforts:
• Indian Ascomycetous Fungal Database (IASD) collection added to MyCoPortal (7 September 2017)
• University of Kansas, R. L. McGregor Herbarium (KANU) collection published to iDigBio (13 September 2017)
• University of Nebraska (NEB) collection published to iDigBio (10 October 2017)
• University of Illinois, Illinois Natural History Survey Fungarium (ILLS) collection published to iDigBio (24 October 2017)
• University of Illinois (ILL) collection published to iDigBio (28 October 2017)
• MyCoPortal now has 3,587,932 specimen records from 83 institutions.

Share and Identify Best Practices and Standards (including Lessons Learned):
nothing to report

Identify Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology:
nothing to report

Share and Identify Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts:
• Trained two participants from Washington State University, Charles Gardner Shaw Mycological Herbarium (WSP) to continue digitization and georeferencing (05 October 2017)
• Trained three participants at USDA Forest Service, Center for Forest Mycology Research (CFMR) to continue digitization and georeferencing (17 October 2017)

Share and Identify Collaborations with other TCNs, Institutions, and Organizations:
nothing to report

Share and Identify Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability:
• Washington State University, Charles Gardner Shaw Mycological Herbarium (WSP) collection changed from Snapshot to Live

Share and Identify Education and Outreach (E&O) Activities:

• Continued activity on Facebook group to engage with members online about new research and project updates

Google Analytics

Other Progress (that doesn't fit into the above categories):

Attachment 1

Attachment 2

Source URL: https://www.idigbio.org/node/564/submission/1235

Submission #1237

Submission information

Form: TCN Quarterly Progress Report to iDigBio
Submitted by mwdenslow
Tuesday, October 31, 2017 - 19:22
76.120.67.210

TCN Name:
SERNEC: The Key to the Cabinets: Building and Sustaining a Research Database for a Global Biodiversity Hotspot

Person completing the report:
michael.denslow@gmail.com

Progress in Digitization Efforts:
All SERNEC:
There are 89 collections serving data through the SERNEC portal. There are currently 3,450,089 specimens records and 262,036 (8%) of those records are georeferenced. There are currently 2,788,949 imaged specimen images available. There are currently 33 collections publishing to iDigBio.

Florida: USF has begun publishing to iDigBio. Since our project start date (Sep 1-Oct 25), 2,331 specimens from the SERNEC region were added. The current sum total of USF vascular plant records fully digitized from the SERNEC region is 134,232.
FTG has had significant setbacks from the recent hurricane. However, they are actively imaging specimens but are not yet transcribing nor publishing to iDigBio.
FSU has had a full-time technician working to convert all images taken over summer 2017 and upload them to CyVerse. She has also imaged and created skeletal records for 3,251 additional specimens.

Georgia:
GA imaged 432 specimens during the reporting period (190,129 to date). Skeletal data (species name, state, county) for 13,593 non-Georgia specimens entered into Specify (31,698 to date).

COLG currently has 7,258 total specimens in their collection. All specimens now imaged and all images uploaded to the SERNEC portal and linked to records.

GSW currently has 13,061 total specimens in their collection; 12,276 (94%) have skeletal data.

GAS imaged 531 specimens during the reporting period (18,799 imaged to date). 1,720 images were associated with their existing Specify record (8,972 to date).

AASU imaged 1,722 specimens during the reporting period.

Kentucky:
EKU uploaded 192 images and MDKY uploaded 1200 images during the reporting period.

West Virginia:
MUHW currently has 41,800 specimens. WVA currently has 4,029. WV has barcoded and imaged 3,880 specimens.

Share and Identify Best Practices and Standards (including Lessons Learned):
All SERNEC:
The SERNEC – TCN protocols continue to be updated as needed and are posted on the SERNEC resources site (http://sernec.appstate.edu/resources).

We recently wrote a new protocol for integrating Notes from Nature data back into the Symbiota data portal.

Identify Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology:
Nothing to report

Share and Identify Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts:
Nothing to report

Share and Identify Collaborations with other TCNs, Institutions, and Organizations:
See WeDigBio event below.

West Virginia: Marshall University: Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies, which was not included in the original proposal (or revised budget) is now completely imaged and transcribed (all fields). Collection = ~500 sheets.

Share and Identify Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability:
Nothing to report

Share and Identify Education and Outreach (E&O) Activities:
All SERNEC:
SERNEC participated in WeDigBio with several events this year. Notes from Nature received over 19,000 transcriptions during the event from 21 different expeditions. 15 of the expeditions on Notes from Nature were specifically related to SERNEC. Two SERNEC onsite events completed over 2,000 transcriptions each during a single day (in Arkansas with PI Marsico and Florida with PI Mast).

SERNEC and Notes from Nature are collaborating with the Florida Museum for their 100th Anniversary. This is a special museum kiosk expedition being used for their special exhibition. This expedition is designed to be used as part of a special onsite exhibition.

The expedition has a phenology theme and consists of one question. The idea is to prioritize specimens for future scoring expeditions and to give visitors a sense of how citizen science projects work in a museum context. There is also interpretive material that goes along with the kiosks. In addition, we hope that these onsite visitors will be motivated to check out some of our more extensive expeditions on Notes from Nature. The exhibition will run from October 2017 through January 2018.

Florida: Big WeDigBio event! FSU hosted a classroom event in Field Botany (21 students), then two evening events involving 80 participants. FSU also posted a new HS lesson plan on WeDigBio.org.

West Virginia:
Marshall University: Our first Notes from Nature expedition (~2200 specimens), Ants Plants of West Virginia, is complete and all data have been repatriated to the MUHW collection and integrated within the portal. The student (now alumnus) who constructed and monitored our first expedition is now in the process of constructing another expedition to deploy.

Google Analytics

Other Progress (that doesn't fit into the above categories):
Nothing to report

Attachment 1

Attachment 2

Source URL: https://www.idigbio.org/node/564/submission/1237

Submission #1240

Submission information

Form: TCN Quarterly Progress Report to iDigBio
Submitted by cskema
Monday, November 6, 2017 - 14:05
165.123.74.113

TCN Name:
The Mid-Atlantic Megalopolis: Achieving a greater scientific understanding of our urban world

Person completing the report:
cskema@upenn.edu

Progress in Digitization Efforts:
Please see attached pdf.

Share and Identify Best Practices and Standards (including Lessons Learned):
Please see attached pdf.

Identify Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology:
Please see attached pdf.

Share and Identify Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts:
Please see attached pdf.

Share and Identify Collaborations with other TCNs, Institutions, and Organizations:
Please see attached pdf.

Share and Identify Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability:
Please see attached pdf.

Share and Identify Education and Outreach (E&O) Activities:
Please see attached pdf.

Google Analytics

Other Progress (that doesn't fit into the above categories):
Please see attached pdf.

Attachment 1
2017_10_MAM_Bi-monthly_Progress_Summary.pdf

Attachment 2

Source URL: https://www.idigbio.org/node/564/submission/1240

Mid-Atlantic Megalopolis TCN

Bi-Monthly Progress Report

September – October 2017

Progress in Digitization Efforts: The current numbers for progress of digitization efforts by specimen category are shown in Table 1. BALT and CHRB are still waiting for a light box to use with their imaging rig (see details in previous bimonthly reports), although CHRB has used one on loan from MOAR for some weeks. Digitization has not yet begun at SIM or TAWES, though we have begun looking for technicians to hire at SIM in anticipation of starting soon as imaging at MOAR is wrapping up and that light box will be available for use. MARY images, from the mass upload reported in last progress report, are still being sorted to category of completion.

Table 1. Digitization of specimens by stage of completion and herbarium for MAM TCN.

	HERBARIUM									
Specimen Stage	BALT	CHRB	DOV	HUDC	MARY	MCA	MOAR	NY	PH	**Totals**
# specimens imaged (no stage, not in Symbiota yet)	0	65	10,946	250	0	2,185	8,173	132,372	119,600	**273,591**
# specimens imaged, and uploaded to Symbiota along with skeletal data (Unprocessed Stage)	0	598	1,971	5,665	11,849	20,472	6,533	0	114,311	**161,399**
# specimens as above + completely transcribed and transcription reviewed (Stage 1)	0	1,441	225	378	9	2,464	5,266	89,769*	2,102	**101,654**
# specimens as above + georeferenced (Stage 2)	0	39	10	7	0	0	479	40,587*	0	**41,122**
# specimens that need special attention, e.g. go back to sheet, etc. (Stage 3)	0	36	0	0	0	0	234	0	0	**270**
# specimens as above + closed as complete (Closed Stage)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Totals	**0**	**2,179**	**13,152**	**6,300**	**11,858**	**25,121**	**20,685**	**262,728**	**236,013**	**578,036**

*Not uploaded to Symbiota yet as NY is using in-house workflow/database until later steps in process.

Share and Identify Best Practices and Standards: Nothing to report.

Identify Gaps in Digitization Areas and Technology: MOAR reports that the design work on the new light box is complete as of this week. Final construction on the first box is due in the next couple weeks, with the other three to follow within the month.

Share and Identify Opportunities to Enhance Training Efforts: Nothing to report.

Share and Identify Collaborations with other TCNs, Institutions, and Organizations: HUDC is working with Casey Trees (a non-profit organization based in D.C.) to train their volunteers in transcription through the crowd sourcing portal in Symbiota.

Share and Identify Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainability: Nothing to report.

Share and Identify Education and Outreach Activities: HUDC hosted a transcription training session for Howard University students on 15 September 2017. Anne Barber ran two transcription training events for Philadelphia-area volunteers, one in collaboration with PH and one at MOAR [omitted from previous reports].

Other Progress: HUDC hired Amber Durand as undergraduate research assistant. MOAR hired Caitlin Chapman and Christina Vercillo as remote transcribers, and Zhengying He and Caroline Erb as undergraduate imaging technicians at MCA.