

IAC Meeting August 12 2020

Attendees: Cat Chapman, Gil Nelson, Jillian Goodwin, Erica Krimmel, Chris Wilson, David Jennings, Andy Miller, Norine Yeung, Petra Sierwald, Diego Barroso, Ryan Allen, Cindy Skema, Natalya Lopez, Katie Pearson, Jen Zaspel

Summit 2020

- Agenda is online; emails have been sent out with links to the agenda on the iDigBio wiki
 - Request for information, names (who is presenting?), etc

EODI Updates:

- Send us your news, products, and join our working group if you want to be in the loop for outreach activities!

COVID-19 - Persisting Challenges, Surprising Successes, Creative Solutions

- Most institutions have a formal process currently for reopening
 - Bureaucracy involved
 - Maybe centralize a reopening plan for institutions to use? So nobody has to reinvent the wheel
 - Put these reopening protocols on the iDigBio website for other institutions to use as a template?
- Abstract submitted in the Botany 2020 (virtual) conference for how collections based undergraduate research has adapted to the/a pandemic
- Is there room at the Summit for a lightning talk section for COVID-related procedures/products?
 - 3 day pre-conference webinar series based on this exactly!
 - Week before the conference
 - "Taking the Pulse of Natural History Collections during COVID"
 - Space where collections people can talk about the issues they are facing during COVID
 - Hope to have a follow-up webinar, perhaps beginning of 2021, to see where things are by then... hopefully better than things are now!
- Who is open?
 - WFH orders are being lifted in many institutions (e.g. BRIT); BRIT workers working on site since May 18
 - BRIT not as reliant on student workers (private institution), still suffering from lack of student workers due to shutdowns
 - Many workers doing transcription work in Symbiota since that can be done online
 - Imaging has resumed for those allowed back into the building in-person
 - Hoping to return to some degree of normalcy by the Fall
 - SBBG and UCD have staff working on site, doing imaging
 - Students doing transcription and georeferencing remotely
 - Money is an issue for supporting these students
 - Field Museum

- Very slow reopening
- Allowed back into the building July 17; closed since early March
- Previously access inside the building was extremely limited, working with specimens directly was restricted heavily
- Identifying what can be done remotely - uploading media as an example - was critical
- Currently thinking about how they can build up actions that are doable from home - what if something like this happens again? Need to keep this in mind; need to always have actionable items doable from home.
- Taking certain specimens home - this has its own liabilities and risks involved, including legal liabilities
- Image cleaning also doable from home, important
- Continuing to plan to work from home for the next several months
- MAM
 - Encouraged to WFH as long as possible
 - Most institutions are past the promised imaging quotas
 - Pandemic has effectively forced institutions to sit down and work on things that have been put off - 32% of georeferencing for MAM was done in the past 4 months
 - No drop-off in number of specimens coming into workflow
 - Largely due to the fact that people have a backlog of images to upload
 - Expect to see a plateau or drop-off of incoming specimens at some point
- MyCoPortal
 - Most people WFH
 - New implementation of policy - have to get tested twice to come back to work
 - Lots of transcription and georeferencing done in past months, need to get back to imaging
 - Pandemic definitely getting in the way of getting work done, also interfering with getting proposals done - institutions complain that they cannot go into their collection in-person to get estimates, calculate # of specimens, etc
- KU
 - Already submitted protocols for returning to work
 - Some employees already returned to collections, offices
 - Invert paleo still WFH
 - Students have not yet returned
 - Mandatory testing for everyone - staff, faculty, students
 - Mostly WFH but can return to collections if there is need/desire
- Bishop Museum (Hawaii)
 - Infection numbers started off good - until they weren't
 - Looking at another potential lockdown for Hawaii, institutions
 - People requesting WFH if possible
 - Cannot database at home; can only do so much from home
 - Norine rotating students, volunteers, and technicians
 - Social distancing, mask requirements on-site
 - Not enough tests to test everyone, but temperature checks are being performed
 - Previously students had a nice, discrete workflow - now things have changed due to current "rotational" nature of working on-site
 - Literature transcriptions for taxonomic authority file
 - Students getting burnt out on this work...

- Postdoc hired - some good news (finally!)
 - Starting in September
- Looking for good software for voice transcription to make work go a bit faster - Dragon Naturally Speaking?
 - Other TCNs have experimented with Dragon - varying degrees of success
- SoRo
 - Five or six collections now accessible in person
 - Collections still imaging are mostly collections that are open - good news
 - One-in, one-out - one person in a collection at a time, common policy for collections
- Online resources - outreach, education
 - CAP has created training videos, quizzes, modules
 - Online plant systematics course from Fort Collins College (SoRo)
 - BRIT - weekly “armchair botanist” meetings on Zoom
 - Extensive use of Notes from Nature platform
 - Started April 17
 - About 15 sessions
 - A way to engage volunteers
 - One of these webinars has been recorded; newbies are asked to watch the 1hr long video before joining to get oriented
 - “WeDigBio Lite”, weekly; there are games (find the oldest specimen), challenges, etc
 - Symbiota training sessions (not recorded)
 - CAP - online “office hours”, online training over Zoom
 - Students doing research using the portal for an online class, producing a research poster by the end of the class

Other Matters

- How many TCNs are also publishing data to GBIF?
 - Most... good :)
 - Questions with regularity of harvesting data from IPTs (for GBIF)
 - On what kind of schedule is GBIF harvesting data?
 - IPTs/DwC-As need to be manually refreshed... common mistake to assume they refresh automatically
 - Can you have separate resources on an IPT synchronize asynchronously? (Yes)
- Ingestions at iDigBio
 - Currently a manual process
 - Backlog due to a capacity issue with one of our servers
 - Manually ingesting a massive amount of records - about 2 million records, 8-10 months of backlog
 - Nearly finished! (At the time of publishing this minutes document, ingestions HAVE resumed!)
- Cretaceous World lead PI has shifted from Bruce Lieberman to Chris Beard - Bruce has taken an NSF position