Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC)

SUMMIT VI

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ADBC:

The overarching goal is to increase access, visibility, and use of natural history collections data to increase awareness and support for natural history collections – as a resource to improve our understanding of biodiversity.
The single largest source of information on biological diversity (outside nature) is our natural history collections.

1600 collections in USA

1 billion specimens in USA

3 billion specimens globally
Biodiversity Collections are used by:

Taxonomists to study variation among individuals & populations to discover and describe species

Phylogeneticists and other evolutionary biologists to study history of life on Earth

Ecologists to understand interrelationships among species
Collections in U.S.A. are recognized as being extremely valuable
U.S. National Science Foundation

In response to the scientific community

Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections Program (ADBC)

- The goal of **ADBC is to remove the inaccessibility of data** through digitization: information online -- for researchers, educators, policymakers, etc.

$100 million over 10 years non-federal collections
Coordinating Center for the ADBC Program

- Engages the collections community
- Facilitates digitization and mobilization of data

- 3,084 participants from 482 institutions at 82 workshops
- 2,486 participants at 74 webinars
Coordinating Center for the ADBC Program

- Provides a search portal
- Facilitates research and outreach

Portal has 842 datasets with 73M specimen-based records, ≈220M specimens, and 16M associated media records
Thematic Collections Networks (TCNs)

Groups of non-federal institutions

- Digitize specimen-based data around a research theme

- Digitizing = databasing, georeferencing, imaging
- Provide data to iDigBio’s search portal
- Collaborate on research and outreach
Thematic Collections Networks (TCNs)

- 18 TCNs + 15 PENs
- 450 collections at 289 institutions
Vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, fossils, fungi, tissues, sounds, videos, 2D, 3D, ...

495 collections in 289 institutions in 50 states (18 TCNs + 17 PENs)
BIODIVERSITY

Thank you!

Photos: M. Jeffords & G. Paulay
Roland Roberts,
Program Director at NSF

Bright future for ADBC, CSBR, and the many programs at NSF that rely on data from natural history collections!