

iDigBio's Public Participation Platform Survey

Thank you for taking the time to consider and respond to the following questions. iDigBio will make your responses available to the natural history collections community, both as an online resource available to anyone, and as a reference specifically for participants in our upcoming Public Participation in Digitization of Biodiversity Collections course.

Please return your completed survey to Michael Denslow (michael.denslow@gmail.com). And thank you for your time!

Questions:

1. Name and email of person responding to this survey:

Katie Pearson, symbiota@asu.edu

2. Name of public participation platform:

Symbiota

3. Website:

<https://symbiota.org/>

4. Company or group responsible for maintaining platform:

Symbiota Support Hub

5. Long-term funding structure for maintaining platform (e.g., grants, membership, private):

grants, TBD (current funding includes development of sustainability plan)

6. Brief summary highlighting the market niche for this platform:

Symbiota is an open-source software for managing and mobilizing biodiversity data. It is both a robust content management system (CMS) and a tool for biodiversity data exploration. As a CMS, Symbiota is specifically designed toward efficient, collaborative digitization with features including data entry from label images, data harvesting from specimen duplicates, batch georeferencing (even across collections), data validation and cleaning, generating progress reports, and additional tools. As a data exploration tool, Symbiota includes species inventories, interactive identification keys, integrated specimen and field images, taxonomic information, species distribution maps, and taxonomic descriptions.

7. Types of biodiversity specimens most common on the platform:

All (plant, animal, invertebrate, fossil, etc.)

8. Types of tasks supported by the platform (e.g., transcription, measurement, georeferencing):

Transcription, georeferencing, trait coding, duplicate harvesting, duplicate matching, species identification, creation and maintenance of checklists and inventory projects, creation and maintenance of a glossary

9. Other disciplines that utilize the platform (e.g., camera traps):

NEON (National Ecological Observatory Network) and other biodiversity monitoring and inventory projects

10. Example of the types of institutions/collections using your platform:

[Consortium of California Herbaria](#), invertebrate collections in [InvertEBase](#)

11. Any restrictions as to who can use the platform:

None

12. Primary language(s) supported:

English, Spanish, French

13. Primary volunteer base or core users of the platform:

Volunteers associated with specific biodiversity specimen collections

14. Brief description of method(s) for quality control/quality assurance available on the platform:

Symbiota portals include tools for data cleaning, duplicate harvesting, identification of identification conflicts, but few quality control measures are enforced.

15. Types of media supported by the platform (e.g., image, video, 3D):

web optimized images (typically JPGs), displayed through the browser and published via the DwC-Archive data packages

16. File formats supported by the platform. Indicate both input and output as appropriate:

Input: CSV, TSV, Darwin Core Archive, IPT imports

Output: CSV, TSV, Darwin Core Archive

17. Workflow customization available to the user:

Varies

18. Costs to collections to use the platform:

None currently

19. Representative for potential users to contact:

Symbiota Support Hub: symbiota@asu.edu

20. Best resources for additional information about the platform (e.g., presentations, brochures, recorded webinars, peer-reviewed papers):

Symbiota Docs website: <https://biokic.github.io/symbiota-docs/>

Symbiota Support Hub YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7glMVLrTA6ES3VTsci7iQ>

21. Data ownership or usage policies (e.g., publication, sharing of data, public access):

All data are publicly shared (with the option to redact locality data) and are presented under one of many creative commons licenses, as selected by the originating collection. Data are owned by the individual institutions.