

# May 3rd, 2023

In Attendance (add your name here):

Diego Barroso, TORCH TCN

Erika Tucker (MPM & BON) - TCNs: TPT, SCAN, iDigBees, Big-Bee

Jonathan Kennedy, All Asia TCN

Shyla Davison, iDigBio EODI Coordinator

Lindsay Walker, iDigBio Symbiota Support Hub

Regina Wetzer, NHMLA – DigIn TCN

Robin Delapena, FMNH - ESB TCN

Miranda Zwingelberg, GLOBAL Bryophyte and Lichen TCN

Pamela Horsley, Big-Bee TCN (SDNHM)

Katie Pearson, Symbiota Support Hub / iDigBio / Arizona State University

Vijay Barve NHMLA DigIn TCN

Brad Ruhfel, MICH

Kyle Lough, All Asia (MICH)

Reed Beaman, NSF

J Ryan Allen Univ Colorado

[Jose Leal](#), Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, ESB TCN

[Garth Holman](#) University of Michigan

Libby Ellwood, iDigBio EODI

Chris Whitt- Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, ESB

## Announcements

- Registration is open for the next Symbiota Portal Advancement Campaign **AZ-NM Chapter of SEINet** (June 5–July 11): <https://symbiota.org/portal-advancement-campaigns/az-nm-portal-campaign/>
- The annual Digital Data conference is happening at ASU in June. View the agenda: [https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/7th\\_Annual\\_Digital\\_Data\\_Conference,\\_Arizona\\_State\\_University](https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/7th_Annual_Digital_Data_Conference,_Arizona_State_University) [Register here]
- IDigBio social media announcement from Shyla

## Today's Agenda (subject to change)

- Digitization Protocols and Procedures
  - From Physical Specimen to Digitized Record
    - Best practices?
      - “Image first workflow” has worked well for CAP, can be followed by image transcription
        - Some +1s for an “image first” approach
        - Important to capture skeletal data as well with the images, e.g. locality, taxa
      - Crowdsourcing transcription data
        - Zooniverse, WeDigBio, Notes from Nature, Symbiota module
        - Working w/crowdsourced data can be very time-consuming
          - Could end up costing more money just filtering through and vetting volunteer-generated data
        - Risk of malicious/intentionally erroneous data
      -
    - What has worked, what has not worked?
    - 
    - Volunteer outreach
      - Anyone utilize WeDigBio?
    - Are you “quantifying” the “digitization stage” of your collection(s)?
      - E.g. “90% of records in Collection X are georeferenced”
  - Collections Management Systems discussion
    - What are you using, what have you tried?
      - Symbiota has an easier interface for volunteers to use, but Specify has better developed loan management features
    - Symbiota users: are you aware of the SSH?
  - Data archiving
    - How are you archiving/backing up your data? What is your “data backup” jotted plan? (you DO have a data backup plan, right?)

- Image Storage
  - How are you hosting your images?
  - WHERE are you hosting your images?
    - TACC,
      - TACC is good, but very locked down security-wise (which can be tedious adding new users)
      - Symbiota Support Hub offers image hosting for TCNs (TCNs started 2020 and earlier)
        - Moving forward there will be a “free tier” (~25GB) for collections that also live-manage their data in Symbiota
        - Contracting with ASU for image hosting (<10 MB/file) is new and in development, and is run through BioKIC Services: <https://services.biokic.asu.edu/>. These services do not currently include archival image storage or hosting.
  - Some collections, TCNs, have had to move images from one server to another. Are you part of this group? What issues have you faced in this process?
  - Are there any decent (affordable) options out there for image hosting and storage?
    - Symbiota has image hosting services available through BioKIC Services
- CMS-related bottlenecks
  - Are there issues you feel are “endemic” to your CMS of choice?
    - E.g. software idiosyncrasies that get in the way of goals
    - Updating existing data within Specify is evidently an issue...
      - “The list is long for Specify...”
      - Updating records from an external source
      - Duplicate matching is lacking
    - Symbiota is lacking in loan management systems?

## Looking Ahead

Meeting themes for the year - subject to change, open to criticism!

- ~~February: Collections Metadata~~
  - ~~See below :-)~~
- **May: Digitization Protocols and Procedures**
  - Including Collections Management System discussion

- Including archiving, image storage discussions
  - Including discussion of bottlenecks, roadblocks, and other issues
- August: Taxonomy Support
  - Discussion of available taxonomic resources
  - “Support group session” to discuss shared taxonomy issues, frustrations, and how to best approach them
- November: Education, Training, and Outreach
  - Best practices for training staff, volunteers?
  - Education and outreach success stories? Failures? Lessons learned?