



Jointly sponsored by CSIRO National Research Collections Australia, iDigBio and the Atlas of Living Australia

Digitisation of Biological Collections Round Table Discussions

Education and outreach :

Specimen digitisation coupled with online deployment of the data provides global, internet-scale opportunities for specimen-based education and outreach. E&O can occur during data creation, as discussed in the WeDigBio roundtable, and after data creation, as will be discussed in this roundtable. We will think beyond scientists' research uses of the data—identifying constituencies that represent growth areas for data usage (e.g., informal educators, teachers, citizen scientists) and outlining potentially international collaborations to meet their specimen data and education needs.

Education and outreach has evolved and grown organically at idigbio - lots of things that have happened wouldn't have happened if they'd planned it from the beginning. In some cases post-docs and students have taken ownership and initiated programs. Hasn't been particularly coordinated, especially haven't been particularly coordinated with the other work of ADBC.

Example - girls' science summer camp (was that what it was called??).

They've reached a lot of audiences, but think that they can plan to reach target audiences by being a bit more targeted and coordinated as they plan the next stage.

Work with educators to date has been outreach, not helping educators develop curriculum.

Suspect that developing curriculum is a major job, might not formally be in scope. What's involved in working on curriculum material aimed at schools?

idigbio workshop aimed at broadening diversity of our sector - inspired by the lack of diversity in other professional idigbio workshops. Brought biology students/ other interested parties into the collections - surprised to discover that biology students had little familiarity with the availability and use of collections. Florida Museum of Natural History shadowing days - very successful.

Realised importance of getting people demographically closer to the students to do the talking.

ALA been working on teacher guides, including educational materials for K-12 classes, that are designed to work hand in hand with teacher guides. Encouraging teachers to modify materials to what suits their class.

<http://www.ala.org.au/education-resources/teachers-guides/>

ALA primary school resource : <http://www.ala.org.au/blogs-news/education-blogs-news/ala-educational-resources-for-primary-school-classes/>

ALA (Taryn) has been going out to teacher conferences and environmental outreach initiatives to encourage familiarity with the Atlas.