

CollectionsWeb Update: Building a Community of Natural History Collections

A Research Coordination Network



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PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



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Goals of CollectionsWeb: Building a Community of Natural History Collections

1. Identify the institutions and people that define the natural history collections community and facilitate dialogue about how best to serve needs of collections and researchers
2. Identify major challenges and opportunities in the current environment and foreseeable future, and develop a strategic plan for the future of collections research
3. Determine how to strengthen and modernize the role of collections in education and outreach

Workshops | Symposia | Internships

Overview of Workshops of CollectionsWeb, 2008-2013

Completed:

- I. Opportunities and Challenges of Small Collections (MSU)**
- II. The Role of Natural History Collections in Contemporary Systematic Biology (Tulane)**
- III. New Research Opportunities Emerging from Integrating Data Across Different Taxonomic Collections (UA-F)**
- IV. The Digitization Challenge: Biology and Engineering (OU)**
- V. New Approaches to Specimen-based Education (Radford)**
- VI. Enhancing the Relationships between Collections and Stakeholders (Washington, DC - Smithsonian)**

White paper from each workshop; submitted manuscript (in review) from small collections workshop

CollectionsWeb Sponsored Internships

- Survey on natural history specimen digitization: Challenges and concerns
- Content development for SPNHC website on best practices
- The ticks (Acari: Ixodoidea) of Illinois: A WWW resource for specimen occurrence data, faunistics, and epidemiological associations
- A study of the utility of the GigaPan imaging system
- Developing best practices in genetic resource collections associated with natural history museums
- Life on a shell: An integrative study of diatoms and turtles in natural history collections
- Digital archiving of skeletal material using 3D photogrammetry

Other Activities of CollectionsWeb

- Survey of Natural History Collections
- TDWIG/GBIF Biodiversity Collections Index
- Year of Science
- One Voice Dialogue with AIBS, NSCA, other initiatives
- Systematics Workshop Series (Herendeen, McDade and others)
- NIBA Workshop Participation
- NEON Workshop on Collections
- **THIS Workshop, with iDigBio**

Emergent Themes and Opportunities

Best Practices
Networks
Distributed Expertise
Promotion of Collections
and our Discipline
Community Engagement
Internships
Symposia

