Collections Digitization and Opportunities for International Collaboration – SPNHC 2014
Special Interest Group session, Friday June 27th, 2014

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As SPNHC is an international organization, the yearly conference is an ideal place to gather those individuals currently involved in digitization of our world-wide natural history collections (nhc). Everyone interested is invited to participate. In this one-hour special session, our aim is to initiate a conversation, a kick-off, to facilitate represented digitization projects world-wide in finding effective cooperative and collaborative strategies benefiting all parties going forward. *Please come with ideas in hand and methods that are working - ready to share*.

Invitees: Anyone involved in or interested in current nhc digitization efforts.
Format: Lead off with short introduction to the purpose of the meeting, followed by open discussion and closing with concrete next steps.
Comments / Ideas: email to dpaul@fsu.edu with Subject: SPNHC 2014 Digitization Collaboration

Seed Topics / Scope:
1. **Citizen Science / Crowd-Sourcing initiatives** as part of digitization.
    a. Opportunity for getting those who are building / using these tools - to meet.
    b. Georeferencing is part of this.
2. **Working Group outreach / overlap**: becoming members of each others working groups to facilitate ***horizontal communication*** for expertise sharing and creating shared resources. (Interoperability, Ambassadorship). Some *examples:*
    a. sharing digitization workflows and workflow documentation
    b. SPNHC - iDigBio representative
    c. CETAF - starting a digitization working group
    d. JRA - Synthesys3 + iDigBio representatives: expertise/knowledge transfer
    e. iDigBio and Synthesys3 both have *a **research use focus***. How do we work together on meeting researcher's data needs, gaps?
    f. iDigBio, Synthesys3, NHM, NYBG, and SI have citizen science components.
3. **Sustainability** – keeping narrow focus here to some manageable bit of this topic.
    a. How can large collections / large digitization projects help smaller collections?
    b. Workforce training for sustaining digital resources.
        i. courses, materials, trainers (what is available, where are gaps).
    c. Continuing the sustainability conversation.

Expected Outcomes.
A. Plan for continuing the conversations (Working or Interest Group).
B. Set up participation in each others working groups as first step (cooperation) to actual collaboration. Start with Working Group Discovery.
C. Discuss / develop plans / ideas list for how large groups can help small ones.
D. Discuss / develop concrete plans / ideas list for how to accomplish 2a above, for example.