

# Guided discussion: Summarizing the grand challenges confronting field stations and how digitization might influence overcoming these, despite limited resources

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**iDigBio/OBFS Field Station Digitization Workshop**

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## What are the challenges?

- Limited or no digitization experience
- Limited IT support
- Coordination among other collections or other field stations
- Value perception of Field Station collections
- Funding/staffing: doing more with less
- Diverse collections in varying degrees of maintenance

## What are the opportunities?

- Discoverability: non-digitized = non-existent; not registered = non-existent
- Small collections: you can feasibly digitize your entire collections
- Dark Data: unique specimens; unexpected value; research trigger; richer data
- Community coordination
- Digitization creates diverse outreach opportunities and can itself be outreach
- NSF funding programs: ADBC, CSBR, PFRB

## How can iDigBio help move things forward?

- Example workflows, protocols, equipment recommendations, etc.
  - Modifying the wheel, not reinventing it
- Training workshops & webinars:
  - Digitization expertise
  - Data & data management expertise
- Attribution
- Outreach resources, coordination, and promotion
- Community-building

## Next Steps...

- Get involved with iDigBio!!!
- iDigBio webinar series for Field Stations?
- iDigBio Field Station Working Group?
- Field Stations organize a TCN proposal?
  - Other collaborative proposal(s)?
  - Mobile digitization team?
- Create a Symbiota portal for Field Stations?