

Guided discussion: Challenges to Beginning and Sustaining a Digitization Program

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OBFS Field Station Digitization Workshop
September 21, 2016



iDigBio is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation's Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections Program. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

What are the challenges?

- Limited or no digitization experience
- Limited or no IT support
- Coordination among other collections, institutions, field stations, etc.
- Adjusting perceived value of Field Station collections
- Doing more with less in terms of funding and staffing
- Diverse collections in varying degrees of maintenance

What are the opportunities?

- Discoverability:
 - non-digitized = non-existent
 - not registered = non-existent
- Small collections can feasibly digitize their *entire* collections
- Dark Data: unique specimens; unexpected value; research trigger; richer data
- Community coordination and outreach
- Funding programs: ADBC, CSBR, IMLS

How can iDigBio help?

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

Next Steps...

- Get involved with iDigBio!!!
 - iDigBio Field Station Interest Group:
https://www.idigbio.org/wiki/index.php/Field_Station_Interest_Group
 - More webinars focused on Field Station digitization?
 - A few have already been done – check out the FS wiki page
 - Small Collections Network may provide additional useful information: <http://scnet.acis.ufl.edu/tags/webinar-series>
 - Field Station oriented TCN proposal
 - In process – slow and steady wins the race