



Sustainability of TCNs

Summit VI

November 1-3, 2016

Chattanooga, TN



NSF Collections Programs

- Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC)
 - https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503559
- Collections in Support of Biological Research (CSBR)
 - https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503651



Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections

- **Program Goals:**
 - Digitize existing, vouchered, curated specimens in nonfederal U.S. collections
 - Include ancillary material available
 - Build on existing resources
 - Innovate to improve process
 - Collaborate to increase numbers of specimens
 - Research grand challenges as rationale
 - Link to national resource (iDigBio)
 - Train next generation and inform public
- **Thematic Collections Network (TCN)**
 - Research justification for specimens
 - Assessment of importance of specimens for the chosen research theme
 - Innovative methods to increase efficiency, lower cost
 - Collaboration across institutions and across collection types
 - Management plan, task analysis, data management
 - 2-4 year awards
 - Integration with iDigBio (data, outreach)
- **Partner to Existing Network (PEN)**
 - Add information to existing network projects
 - Should fit the TCN – why appropriate
 - Fill in gaps for coverage and increase specimens to meet research theme
 - Enhance outreach/training/education
 - Improve data management of collection
 - Increase collaboration and accessibility
 - 2-3 years with active TCN



Collections in Support of Biological Research

- **Program Goals:**

- Enhancements that secure and improve existing collections
- Improves the accessibility of digitized specimen-related data
- Development of better methods for specimen curation and collection management
- Supported areas:
 - Established living stock/culture collections
 - Vouchered non-living natural history collections
 - Jointly-curated ancillary collections such as preserved tissues and DNA libraries

- **Funding provided for:**

- Improvements to secure and organize collections that are significant to the NSF BIO-funded research community
- Secure collections-related data for sustained, accurate, and efficient accessibility to the biological research community
- Transfer ownership of collections.

- **Solicitation Notes:**

- Digital data generated through the activities of funded Natural History projects must be integrated with iDigBio
- Letters of institutional support are no longer accepted for Natural History collections proposals
- Demonstrate clear and urgent need to secure the collection



Thoughts for Discussion

- Basics of TCN sustainability planning
- Partnerships
 - Critical mass of active cooperating TCN collections
 - Effective use of PENs
 - Collaborating with other TCNs and 3rd party projects
- TCNs beyond 2021