Minutes of Internal Advisory Committee Meeting on August 7, 2019

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 7 2019, 2:00-2:54 PM Eastern

Attendees: Allie Blackwell (iDigBio); Amy Kasameyer (PCC); Ashley Dineen (EPICC); Bruce Lieberman (Paleoniches/Cretaceous World); Cat Chapman (iDigBio); Deb Paul (iDigBio); Diego Barroso (MiCC); Jillian Goodwin (iDigBio); Molly Phillips (iDigBio); Petra Sierwald (InvertEBase); Shari Ellis (iDigBio)

Informational Items:

Summit 2019

- The planning team is looking for TCNs to submit abstracts for the 2019 Summit discussion sessions. There are 12 sessions that need to be filled at the moment. Each session is 75-90 minutes long. The goal of this new strategy is to help make the Summit more TCN driven. This move was based on feedback from previous Summit evaluations.
- **Some Discussion topics from previous feedback:**
  - Tools for working with students/volunteers
  - How to communicate complex technical info with non-technical people (curators/administrators)
  - Different ideas for mobilizing datasets/data management
  - Reviews of new imaging technology
  - Research related to biodiversity/conservation management
  - New TCN session
    - Where they will be able to ask questions about how to move forward with their project.
- Deadline to submit an abstract is Aug 26th. Submit an abstract here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeYRLpw6rD01hknMF0s5o8se2ROr3mbnRazIX9mXy0ZG_YVqg/viewform

Summit 2020

- Summit 2020 will be a larger event than usual. It will be a celebration of the last 10 years of effort and accomplishments related to the digitization of natural history collections. iDigBio is partnering with GBIF and the Smithsonian for the event. It will be held in Alexandria, VA. There will be an abstract submission process and we want to emphasize the accomplishments of TCNs and PENs.
- iDigBio is in the process of making a Summit 2020 promotional video. We are looking for photos and short video clips from TCNs and other partners to showcase work across the network. We would like to show as much diversity as possible within the video. This means diversity with people, institutions, and taxa. Send all photos and video to Jillian Goodwin (jvgoodwin@fsu.edu)

Discussion Items:

Summit 2019

- **Potential Topics for the Summit discussed at the IAC meeting:**
  - Important question for inverts/arthropods: how much data is needed to conduct meaningful analyses
    - What data do we have now, and what areas are we missing?
    - One strength of invertebrate collections data is here is often a large number of specimens per species for a given region. For example, there are many more specimens available for mollusks compared to large mammalian carnivores
    - How can we further improve on these robust datasets?
    - Is it realistic to say that we should digitize 100 percent of collections? If there is a collection of 4.5 million pinned insects, do we really need to digitize 100 percent? Would it work if we just digitize 20 percent or 30 percent of certain number of specimens per taxa from all regions/geographical areas?

  - Geo-referencing: needs and lessons learned
    - How much of it is actually done? Are our methods accurate? Are there certain areas that have more data?
    - What strategies could we use to improve accuracy?
      - Dividing georeferencing tasks my taxonomic or geographic familiarity
        - Example: What if the Germans geo-referenced all the German localities
        - Would it make sense to divvy it up by country? Will that be faster?

- R session workshop
  - R is for a powerful tool for data management and analysis for collections data. The majority of TCN representatives present agreed that an R session would be useful at the Summit. Several meeting participants expressed interest in a session specific to using the iDigBio API.
  - There was also discussion about how to have an efficient R session with limited time availability.